

THE WORLD'S MOST IMPORTANT CONSERVATION
PUBLIC ART PROJECT

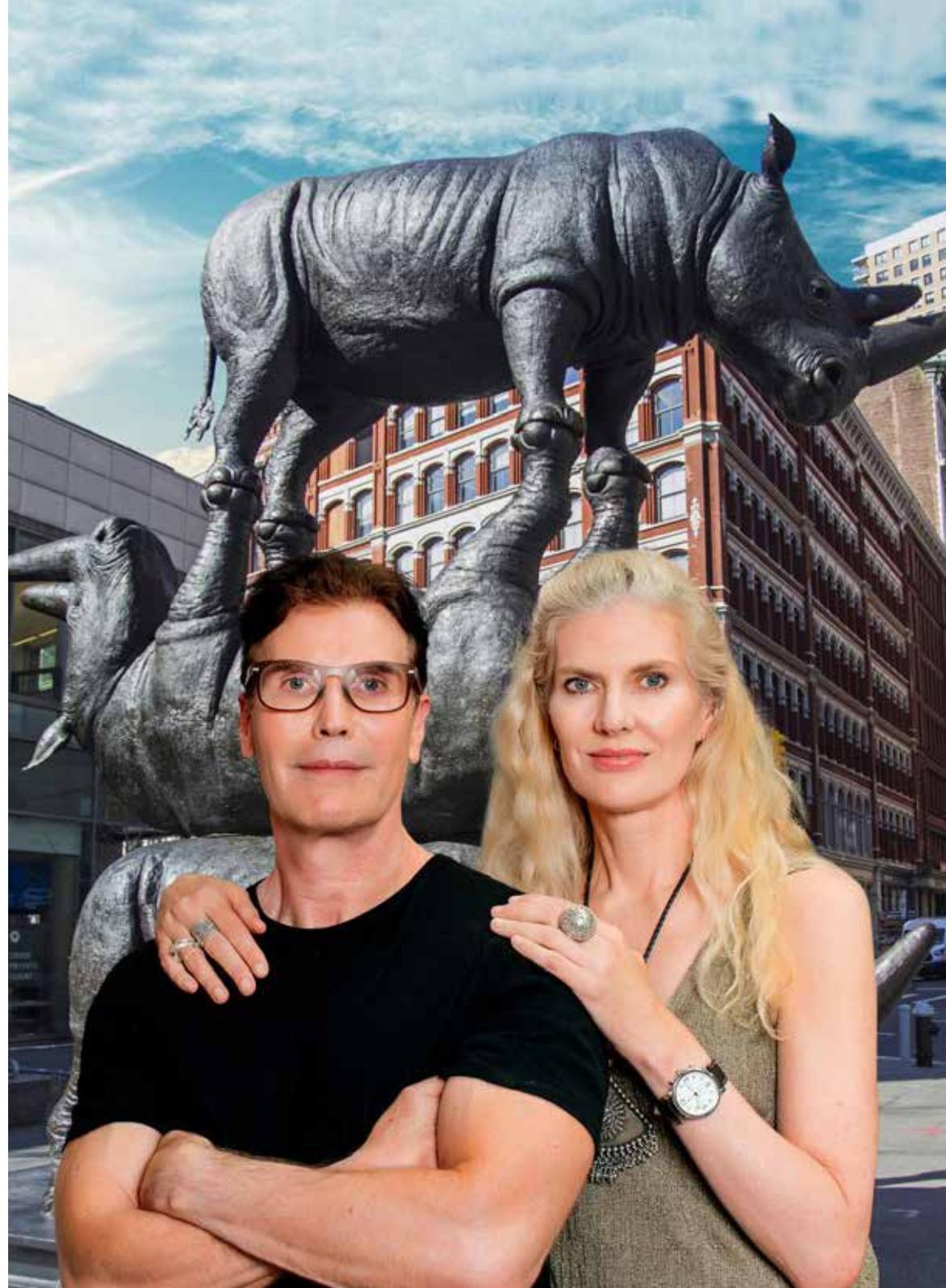
WILD ABOUT BABIES



ABOUT GILLIE AND MARC

Gillie and Marc have been coined “the most successful and prolific creators of public art in New York’s history” by the New York Times. The renowned artist and conservationist duo have been instrumental in redefining public art as a tool to reconnect people with nature and ultimately help transform society towards sustainability. Their highly coveted sculptures and paintings articulate the richness and diversity of the relationships between people and their natural environment and can be found in art galleries and public sites in over 250 cities around the world.

Gillie and Marc enjoy a special spiritual connection to the world and its animals and have always been passionate eco-warriors. Having grown up against the colourful backdrop of Zambia, Gillie realised her love for art by sketching all the wonderful wildlife that surrounded her, falling more in love with the animals with each drawing she created. Tragically, Gillie witnessed an elephant being brutally shot in an event that had a profound impact on her as a young child. From this moment forward, she vowed to dedicate her life’s work to protecting nature. Similarly, Marc fell in love with conservation in his twenties whilst on a trip to Tanzania to see the phenomenal work of Jane Goodall with chimpanzees. Having learnt from this incredible woman and the chimpanzees, Marc gained a deep appreciation of the interconnectivity of all living things and the importance of wildlife conservation as a response to the global environmental crisis.



WILD MOTHER EASTERN LOWLAND GORILLA

358 x 346 x 215 cm (H*L*W) 940 kgs

This 30-year-old gorilla has had many children in her time. Living in the forests of DRC, where civil war was all around her, she knew that the world needed love and protection, especially her babies. She didn't want to protect only her own, she wanted to protect every baby all over the world, but there was no way she could do this alone. She looked to her closest relatives, the ones who had caused so much destruction in her home but also the ones she had witnessed having an endless capacity for love; humans. She looks to them to become protectors alongside her and guardians of all wildlife.



WILD BABY GIRAFFE

179 x 219 x 150 cm (H*L*W) 380 kgs

It was a bit of a shock when this beautiful boy fell to earth, it was quite a drop! At three weeks old he prefers to stay close to the ground, using the tall grass of his African savanna home to stay hidden from predators. He is entirely reliant on his mother who protects him by kicking away any predators and nursing him the milk he needs to keep growing big and strong. Soon, he will be the tallest animal in the world, but his amazing height won't give back all the space he would have once been able to roam. All he can do is watch and hope that the humans will stop taking more.

The tallest living animal in the world, the giraffe tower over the savannas of Africa. It's good that they do because a group of giraffes is aptly named a tower! These groups usually are of 10-20 members who can come and go as they please. They move around, searching for mimosa and acacia trees where they get their food, spending only 20 minutes each day sleeping. The spotty pattern on their coat is unique to each animal, just like our fingerprints.



WILD BABY AFRICAN ELEPHANT

120 x 208 x 86 cm (H*L*W) 264 kgs

At 4 months old this baby African elephant is very playful. He loves exploring and chasing things and just cannot get enough of the bizarre swiny thing on his face, it's so much fun! But there is one thing he is very scared of, the people with guns. He had seen one of his aunties being shot down by them. He hadn't stuck around to see what happened but he had been told they took her tusks then left her there. He couldn't imagine what he would do if that happened to his mum, how would he survive without her?

The African elephant is the largest land animal in the world and wanders across 37 countries in Africa. There are two subspecies, the Savanna (or bush) elephant and the Forest elephant. Forest elephants are slightly smaller and live in the forests of the Congo Basin. African elephants live in herds led by a matriarch, the biggest and oldest female who looks after her herd and leads them to water holes. Adult males tend to live alone or occasionally join an all-male group.



WILD BABY BENGAL TIGER

118 x 205 x 95 cm (H*L*W) 242 kgs

This endangered Bengal tiger is completely reliant on her mother. She won't be able to hunt for another 6 months and will stay with the safety of mum until she is 2 or 3 playing and learning all she can. There are less than 2500 left of her kind with the main reasons being poaching habitat loss and fragmentation.



WILD BABY HIPPO

118 x 230 x 110 cm (H*L*W) 288 kgs

Being in the water is one of the nicest ways to escape the scorching sun of Africa. This 2-month-old baby hippo loves getting wet, a born swimmer even if she may not look it. She feels safe here but her family pool is starting to get a bit crowded. There aren't as many water holes for the hippos to choose from anymore so they have to share which can be scary for the baby when the adults start to annoy each other. She dreams that by the time she grows up there will be enough space for everyone.

The water-loving giants were given the name "river horse" by the Greeks and for good reason. The hippopotamus spends up to 16 hours of their day in the water, keeping cool from the baking African sun. They are very graceful swimmers and can hold their breath for up to minutes. This isn't surprising considering their closest relatives are whales and dolphins. They secrete an oily red substance to protect themselves from the harsh rays which act as a sunblock and moisturiser and may even protect them against germs. This red stuff sparked a few rumours that they sweat blood but we can assure you that this isn't true!



WILD BABY GIANT TORTOISE

123 x 187 x 128 cm (H*L*W) 302 kgs

It can be hard growing up without parents but it doesn't seem to bother this 5-year-old baby giant tortoise. She's been on her own as soon as she cracked through her egg and joined her siblings in the open air. She has the instincts to show her the way but there are a few things that haven't been hardwired into her. The people brought their own animals to her island long ago, cats and dogs but also cows. She has started to learn how to avoid the predators mostly but the cows are a big pain. They eat her food and she needs that if she is to make it into a grand old age!

These giants are a window into a pre-historic time. The biggest living tortoises by far, these species of reptiles give us an idea of the simply enormous ones that would have roamed our world. They now survive in two remote groups where they can live for a very long time, over 100 years. They roam around with their great shells which are attached to their ribs. These shells are not solid but made up of honeycomb-shaped air chambers.



WILD BABY JAVAN RHINO

121 x 187 x 85 cm (H*L*W) 256 kgs

This baby is only 4 months old and loves finding wonderful mud holes to jump in. There are so many exciting things to see in her protected home and she has a lot to learn from mum. She feels quite safe in her sanctuary, her mother told her what it was like before when people with guns would hunt them. But now her mum has another problem. As they walk through the trees together, her mum tries to show her what plants are good to eat. But there is one plant that seems to be taking over and it is not good to eat at all.

With only around 74 left in one national park in Java, the Ujung Kulon National Park, the Javan Rhino is one of the most endangered animals in the world. Once the most widespread Asian rhinoceros, ranging right through Southeast Asian to India and China it is now confined to the tropical jungles of its protected national park, the last sanctuary. The last Javan rhino in Vietnam was found in 2010, dead with its horn removed.

