

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### ARTIST PAINTS PORTRAIT OF JANE GOODALL'S FAMOUS CHIMPANZEE FIFI

*Renowned scientist honored with remarkable painting*

Vienna, VA – August 16, 2017

World-renowned ethologist and conservationist, Dr. Jane Goodall was recently honored with *Spirit of the Forest*, a painting from critically acclaimed artist, Bruce Lawes. The painting features Fifi and Flirt, two chimpanzees made famous by Goodall's landmark study with the wild chimpanzees of Gombe National Park and the waterfall that Goodall often visited in the park.

"When I first saw this painting, *Spirit of the Forest*, I was silent; completely in awe," said Goodall. "I was back in those days when I could spend hours observing and learning from chimpanzees like Fifi and infant Flirt, whose very essence is depicted here. It captures the magic of the rain forest and is symbolic of all that is most meaningful in my life. I hope for anyone who sees this painting that it too will open a window into this wonderful world."

Lawes drew inspiration for the painting after browsing through Dr. Goodall's extensive archive of chimpanzee imagery. Upon viewing a video in which Goodall was sitting by the waterfall in Gombe, he knew that would make the backdrop of his painting. It was after all, a place of chimpanzee play, wonder and contemplation according to Goodall's observations. As for the subject of his painting, Lawes came to understand that Fifi -- one of the most successful mother's ever -- was one of Goodall's favorite chimpanzees. So that made the decision to paint Fifi being the good mother she was to an infant Flirt. With the stage set and the stars determined Lawes began to create a composition that would be both scientifically accurate and artistically appealing.

"*Spirit of the Forest* was both, a journey of the past adventures of an incredible lady and a journey with great personal meaning," reflects Lawes. "Dr. Jane Goodall has been my hero since my early childhood and I was determined, not only to create a significant painting, but also create something that she would be proud to say represented a part of her life with fond memories."

Goodall concludes about *Spirit of the Forest*, "During my lifetime of exploring and learning from nature I have been saddened by the harm we humans have inflicted everywhere. But nature is amazingly resilient if we give her a chance. We must each play our part to help preserve life on earth - and this painting is just one example of all that Bruce does to bring nature into our lives."

*Spirit of the Forest* will be available for live auction during the Jackson Hole Art Auction, a recognized leader in classic western and wildlife art, which is held every year in September at the Jackson Hole, Wyo. Center for the Arts. Thanks to Lawes and the two gallery partners involved with the auction, the Gerald Peters Gallery, Mr. Gerald Peters and Trailside Galleries, partners Roxanne Hofmann & Maryvonne Leshe, one hundred percent of the proceeds from the auction sale of, the painting will be donated to the Jane Goodall Institute. Additionally, a second painting was created by Lawes, titled A

*Little Flirt*, which will also be made into a print to benefit the mission and programs of the Jane Goodall Institute and be offered at the online store: [shop.janegoodall.org](http://shop.janegoodall.org).

### About Jane Goodall

Jane Goodall was born on April 3, 1934, in London England. At the young age of 26, she followed her passion for animals and Africa to Gombe, Tanzania, where she began her groundbreaking study of chimpanzees in the wild—immersing herself in their habitat as a neighbor rather than a distant observer. Her discovery in 1960 that chimpanzees make and use tools rocked the scientific world and redefined the relationship between humans and animals. In 1977, she established the Jane Goodall Institute (JGI) to advance education, conservation and research around the world and for generations to come. Today, Dr. Goodall travels the world, speaking about the threats facing chimpanzees, environmental crises and her reasons for hope. In her books and speeches, she emphasizes the interconnectedness of all living things and the collective power of individual action. Dr. Goodall is a UN Messenger of Peace and Dame Commander of the British Empire.

### About the Jane Goodall Institute

Founded in 1977, the Jane Goodall Institute continues Dr. Goodall’s pioneering research on chimpanzee behavior started more than 50 years ago — research that transformed scientific perceptions of the relationship between humans and animals. Today, the Institute is a global leader (with offices in 30 countries) in the effort to protect chimpanzees and their habitats. It also is widely recognized for establishing innovative community-centered conservation and development programs in Africa, and Jane Goodall’s Roots & Shoots, the global environmental and humanitarian program for youth of all ages, which has groups in more than 100 countries. For more information, visit: [janegoodall.org](http://janegoodall.org).

### About Bruce Lawes

Bruce K. Lawes is an internationally collected artist with a passion for animal art and conservation. He is a signature member of the Artists for Conservation (AFC), The Society of Animal Artists (SAA) and The Oil Painters of America (OPA). He was born in 1962 in Toronto, Canada. International Artist Magazine wrote, “One of the first things you notice about the art of Bruce Lawes is the artist’s versatility; whether it be a figurative painting, a landscape or an equine his work always upholds a strong level of quality, craftsmanship and technical skill.” Art of the West Magazine recently praised Lawes as “one of the most versatile among today’s field of highly skilled representational artists, Lawes moves with seamless articulation between the genres of wildlife and equine portraiture, landscapes, and figurative renditions of historic events.” To learn more about Bruce’s work and view more of his art, visit: [bklawesart.com](http://bklawesart.com).

### Media Contacts

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