

Banovich Now And Future

By Scott Mayer

The Banovich booth was packed Thursday afternoon as the renowned wildlife artist and hunter celebrated 20 years of exhibiting at SCI. There, he explained how he exhibited for the first time at an SCI Convention in a 10x10 booth with his sister and five paintings. "I had no idea how to develop a base," Banovich says, but develop a base he has. "I can't see a Safari Club without you," remarked Jerel Wooterich Thursday afternoon as he refreshed himself along with dozens of other art enthusiasts.

When asked what the next 20 years look like, Banovich replied that creatively he has more continents to cover and wants to dial down things and tell a subtle story that conveys the dramatic message of animals in the wild. To him, wild animals are "survivors" and reflected on how wild animals "beat all the odds" nature stacks against them.

When it comes to the next 20 years of conservation, Banovich says hunters "need to increase engagement" with sound, science-based conservation and that it's "not enough" anymore to simply talk about it and make donations.

"Hunters are on the front line of battle," he emphasized, and not for self-serving purposes because if hunting



Of all the animals he paints, Banovich likes the biggest animals the best. "If I have only one more painting in my life, it's an elephant or lion," he explained while gazing up at "Tusk," his favorite.

goes away, hunters will find other things to do. Instead, Banovich sees hunters and conservation fighting for the very existence of wildlife and for the people who live every day among the animals he loves. "Animals and local people will lose," he warned. "It's not important what we take, but what we leave behind," says Banovich.