

DANIEL RYAN

"My work revolves around the pursuit of exploring the connection we have with nature." - Daniel Ryan

This past year has been a particularly devastating year for nearly extinct wildlife. Cecil, a male Southwest African lion, was killed by a sports hunter and Nola, one of the last four Northern White Rhinos in the world, died after being treated for bacteria.



Thankfully social media platforms rapidly spread this alarming news. In 2015 Cecil and Nola quickly became household names and much attention was brought to wildlife conservation.

However, we must all realize preservation takes more than just a few "likes" online. Artist Daniel Ryan, an avid outdoorsman and animal lover, has taken a personal vow to help with these issues and decided to get up close with his artwork.

The subjects of Ryan's most recent works have been chosen based on his interest in preservation. The resulting paintings are as universally inspiring as they are beautiful in their colorful backgrounds and masterful pointillism. Using a process known as stippling (the grouping of objects to create gradation), Ryan applies the idea that all things are fundamentally created of the same matter and therefore connected.

Gorillas, elephants, lions, and many other majestic creatures take center stage in Daniel's work. His labor-intensive process behind each piece involves up to 60 hours or more. Thankfully each one has contributed to his cause as local and national foundations have begun to take notice as well. In October of last year, one of Daniel's pieces *Quiet Contemplation* was donated to the Gorilla Doctors foundation for their silent auction. The following month, he teamed up with the African Wildlife Foundation and donated another piece, *King Among Monarchs*.

Donations and participation in charity events is just one of the many ways Daniel has recently raised awareness and started giving back. Often taking a portion of his proceeds and putting it directly toward a conservation foundation, Daniel is doing his part to ensure these majestic creatures can continue to roam free.



Originally born in Brunswick, Maine, Ryan moved with his parents to San Diego, California at a young age. As a child growing up in Southern California, he developed a connection to nature and attentiveness to the diverse creatures all around. After receiving a Bachelor of Fine Art from San Diego State University, Ryan began working diligently, observing majestic creatures and landscapes and taking a personal vow to raise awareness and advocate for preservation through his work.