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Patrick Marcoux : Animals at Night, A Solo Show

November 29th- December 7th, 2008

Reception: Saturday, November 29th, 8 – 11 PM



Patrick Marcoux *Study for ring-tailed lemur*, 2008
Acrylic and colored pencil
on paper 13 x 9 inches

or forest spirits. [...]

ABOUT RING-TAILED LEMURS

“PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The Ring-tailed lemur, *Lemur catta*, is one of twenty-two species of lemurs. They share a common ancestry with Africa's monkeys and apes, but were isolated from those species probably 50 million years ago when Madagascar separated from the African continent. [...]

They, like their primate cousins, the monkeys and apes, have binocular forward vision, but must turn their heads to see ahead because their eyes have limited movement in the socket. This gives them a wide-eyed, staring aspect that sometimes startles viewers.

The word *Lemur* comes from old Latin, and refers to ghosts or spirits. The staring eyes, haunting sounds, and nocturnal ways of the lemur inspired early observers to think of them as ghosts

BEHAVIOR:

Most lemur species are arboreal. But the Ring-tailed is different in that it frequently uses the ground for travel, more than any of the other lemurs. It is diurnal and gregarious, living in groups of 5-30. Females are generally dominant to males.

Its long, bushy, black-and-white banded tail is used by the species as a visual signal. In aggressive encounters, the Ring-tail will wave its scent-covered tail in the direction of a rival. Loud calls alert other members of the social group to danger and help to maintain comfortable spacing between groups.

Ring-tailed lemurs purr and mew like house cats. It loves to sunbathe with legs and arms spread wide. Living in an arid habitat, it quenches its thirst with juicy fruits. Sitting on its haunches holding fruit in its hands, a lemur delicately bites off pieces with its back teeth so the juice runs into its mouth and not on its fur.

They communicate with short grunting sounds as a contact call within the troop, sometimes followed with a quick bark.”

(Online. http://www.honoluluzoo.org/ringtailed_lemur.htm October 9, 2008)

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