

Visions of Africa: Sculpture by Thomas D. Rees, M.D.
April 17, 2009 to May 16, 2009



Samburu Woman, Bronze,
edition of 8, 8 3/4 x 6 3/4 x 7 inches.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Santa Fe, New Mexico – The Gerald Peters Gallery is pleased to announce the opening of *Visions of Africa: Sculpture by Thomas D. Rees, M.D.* The exhibition runs from April 17th to May 16th, 2009. There will be an opening reception with the artist on April 17th, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. Gerald Peters Gallery is located at 1011 Paseo de Peralta. Regular Gallery hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Thomas D. Rees was born and raised in Utah, the son of a University professor and the grandson of Mormon pioneers who crossed the Great Plains in the 1880s. He spent much of his early years working on the family ranch, where he became interested in the local wildlife of Utah.

Rees graduated from medical school in Utah, after which he pursued his training at the Rochester School of Medicine and the prestigious New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center, where he specialized in plastic and reconstructive surgery. Following his training in New York, Rees was awarded a fellowship at the world-renowned Queen Victoria Hospital for Plastic Surgery in England and studied reconstructive plastic surgery under the direction of Sir Archibald McIndoe.

In 1956, Rees accompanied Sir Archibald on one of his annual trips to East Africa where he demonstrated and taught reconstructive surgery to local general surgeons.

During this trip, Sir Archibald, Dr. Rees and Dr. Michael Wood conceived the idea of providing free reconstructive surgery to the injured and deformed people of rural East Africa. They planned to establish a rotating system of plastic surgeons from America and Britain who would perform surgery on the needy. The result was the formation of the now famous Flying Doctors of East Africa and its umbrella organization, the African Medical and Research Foundation (AMREF). AMREF expanded into many other areas of health development to become the largest non-governmental health development organization in sub-Saharan Africa. In 2007 AMREF celebrated 50 years of continuous operation.

After a successful career as a practicing surgeon and professor of surgery at New York University, Rees and his wife retired to Santa Fe, New Mexico, where they have had a home for more than 20 years. The deep bond shared by Rees and his wife with Africa prompted Rees to pursue his interest in art, specifically sculpture. He now devotes most of his time to sculpting the wildlife and people of Africa. His work has previously been shown at the Shidoni Gallery in Santa Fe.

Dr. Rees has been a frequent lecturer at medical institutions, symposia and forums all over the world. He is the author of over 140 medical articles and six textbooks. His African memoir, *Daktari: A Surgeon's Adventures with the Flying Doctors of East Africa*, recounts many of his African experiences, and will be available in the gallery bookstore.

To view all the works please visit www.gpgallery.com

30% of the profits from sales at the Gerald Peters Gallery will be donated to Flying Doctors of East Africa, a division of AMREF.

For more information contact:
Maria Hajic, Director of Naturalism
mhajic@gpgallery.com or 505-954-5719