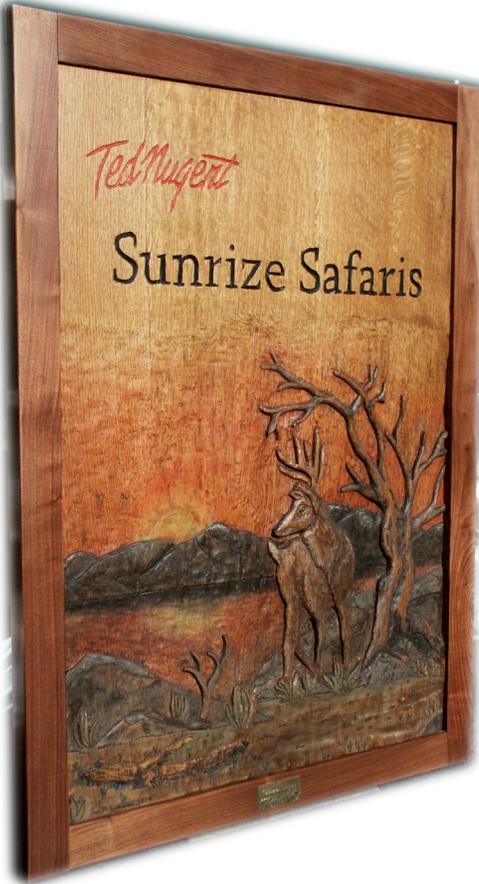


# "Whitetail Sunrize"



How do you capture the essence of a moment, a feeling that takes hold during a specific point in time where time actually feels like it stops? This is quite the common creative artistic goal; painters, photographers, sculptors, sketch artists, and yes carvers all can seek towards achieving a freeze frame of reality.

The goal of this carving was to capture a hunter's morning, the timeframe just before sunrise, almost everything is seen as a silhouette, until one point in time that you may not even perceive took place but all of the sudden color appears, often a golden hue. Anyone that has spent their share of time in a blind knows that this is often when that amazing buck you were watching for the past fifteen minutes suddenly and magically morphs itself into a bush with a fallen branch as antlers; but every now and then the transformation doesn't take place and what stands before you actually is a mature, defined, and majestic creature. This is a point in time relished by every hunter, men, women, and youth alike whether it is the first time, or even for those with a lifetime of experience.

This piece is a birthday present for musician, outdoorsman, and author Ted Nugent, the inspiration for this wildlife scene comes from my personal experience as well as the descriptive nature of Ted's many writings and speeches. The whitetail was selected as it remains his most cherished game, a trait we have in common.

This piece is actually the first one that I formally titled, previous works being furniture, or scenes carved within bar fronts, chests, or other functional forms. The title comes from the obvious whitetail deer, Sunrize is derived from "Sunrize Safaris" which is the

Nugent family's hunting guide and expedition service.

The pattern is a composite modified from a Lora S. Irish sketch, which is a common practice within our shop. We employ various components from different patterns, especially the wildlife and detailed trees, with our own backgrounds to scale the scene to fit the desired panel size. The pattern is the key to a carving's outcome; spend as much time in this phase as it takes to develop your scene. Recreate the scene multiple times, change subtle items in the background and the foreground, adjusting it until it feels right.



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Information about Sunrize Safaris and Ted Nugent can be found at [www.tednugent.com](http://www.tednugent.com)  
Carving patterns by Lora S. Irish can be found at [www.carvingpatterns.com](http://www.carvingpatterns.com)

I can also offer some advice for carving scenes, select your material first, lay out the planks, but don't glue anything together right away. Lay your pattern on the material; watch the flow of the grain and the natural patterns within the wood. Adjust the order of your planks and the layout of your pattern until you find a match. Don't rule out swapping out planks until you get the right grain pattern.

You'll find natural flows for water, clouds, streams, mountains, and sunsets or sunrises within the natural flow of grain. Take advantage of knots and other "defects" in the material that may actually turn out to help develop the carving. Think about it, what better to make an old crooked tree look real than an actual natural feature of the wood panel?

The material is solid quarter sawn white oak for the panel with a solid American black walnut frame. The relief is approximately 1/2" at the deepest point. Tinting is acrylic wash, golden oak stain, with a tung oil finish. The carving is by hand using 18th century cast steel tools. Detail such as fur and grass, shadows, and ripples in the pond are burned.

The panel was presented to Mr. Nugent at his 58<sup>th</sup> birthday hunt in December of 2006 at the YO Ranch in Mountain Home, TX by myself my fiancée Theresa. The presentation was in thanks for his work in wildlife preservation, education of youth, and efforts to preserve our rights and freedom's as Americans.

Ted is shown with his wife Shemane, accepts Whitetail Sunrize & a theme walking stick carved by Stanley D. Saperstein. While taking the photograph featuring the bounty of our hunt, it seemed appropriate for Uncle Ted to hold the antler's and present my 8pt whitetail!

