With over 20 years as an artist, naturalist and author, Carel Brest van Kempen’s artistic mission has always been to deepen awareness of the natural world and how it functions. His family hails from Indonesia, the land of the Biawak. His work has been exhibited worldwide in such venues as The Smithsonian, The British Museum and The National Museum of Taiwan. He was named a “Most Honored Artists of Utah” (2002) and a “Master Signature Member” of the Society of Animal Artists (2008). He has illustrated over a dozen books, including *Dinosaurs of Utah* (1998), *Biology of the Gila Monsters and Beaded Lizards* (2005), *Biology of the Boas and Pythons* (2007), *Urban Herpetology* (2008), and *Conservation of Mesoamerican Amphibians and Reptiles* (2010) and authored the popular coffee-table book, *Rigor Vitae: Life Unyielding* (2006). In addition to painting, he actively writes and blogs about natural history and conservation themes. It is important to Brest van Kempen that his overall body of work reflects the great diversity of nature, but he still finds himself favoring certain taxa, most notably lizards. He says, “There isn’t another vertebrate order or suborder that matches lizards for diversity of lifestyle and morphology. Among the lizards, the monitors are probably my favorite family to portray, because of their intelligence, intensity and wonderful movements.”

“Salvadori’s Monitor & Papuan Naked-tailed Rat”. 1993. Acrylic on illustration board, 20” x 30”.

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**ILLUSTRATIONS**

**CAREL BREST VAN KEMPEN**

P.O. Box 17647
Holladay, UT 84117, USA
Website: http://www.cpbrestvankempen.com/
E-mail: cpbvk@juno.com
“Gripping Tail - White-throated Monitor & Yellow Baboon”. 1994. Acrylic on illustration board, 30” x 20”.
“Green Tree Monitor & Lesser Bird of Paradise”. 2012. Acrylic on board, 9” x 14”. 
“A Kerangas Forest Floor - Hatchling Dumeril’s Monitor”. 2012. Acrylic on illustration board, 30” x 20”.