



ANDREW LOLY

Atheris ceratophora - 24cm × 32cm, watercolor/gouache on paper
Rhacodactylus leachianus - 48cm × 32cm, watercolor/gouache on paper
Trimeresurus insularis - 24cm × 32cm, watercolor/gouache on paper

Born in Dublin, Ireland, Andrew Loly was drawing and painting from a young age. In his 20s he started with oils and later acrylics, teaching himself to paint in layers by copying Old Master paintings and working from life producing portraits and still lifes. Some of these were exhibited in competitions at the Mall Galleries in London. When backpacking in Australia in 2012 he took along watercolors, as other paints were too bulky to carry, and has since focused mostly on watercolors and oils.

Vipers are one of his favorite wildlife subjects along with other reptiles, hornbills, and parrots. He paints mostly *Bothriechis*, *Trimeresurus*, *Atheris*, and *Bitis*. He uses multiple photos as references. The compositions come from his imagination and the photos are used to better understand the scale patterns and colors.

Atheris ceratophora was painted after a suggestion from an online viewer of his artworks (he often makes notes of such ideas and paints them when he can). The colors and form were striking and simple so he took a looser approach and painted a bit thicker than normal, with slightly less detail. The painting was as much about the branch as the snake, giving the composition an overall sense of realism.

Partly for the look of the vegetation in some of his viper paintings he was commissioned to paint *Rhacodactylus leachianus* on a mossy tree trunk. The client sent a rough sketch of the composition he wanted and asked that the theme be camouflage. Following the

sketch closely, it took many layers to render the patterns of the gecko's skin and the look and feel of the moss. Asked to include a moth and a spider in the painting, these lie hidden on the tree trunk to emphasize the theme of camouflage.

The *Trimeresurus insularis* was one of his own projects. To achieve the blue color, he underpainted the snake in warmer tones, which contrast and help the blue to look more intense. The application of the paint is more subtle and thinner than in the other two above-mentioned paintings, which he finds works better for stronger colors. Again, the branch played a big role; the painting didn't look balanced until he added the strong yellow/green patches of moss.

He is currently working on more reptile and bird paintings and has donated artwork to raise funds for vulture conservation in South Africa. He would like to do something similar for reptile conservation. He takes commissions (which can be anything from vipers to dogs). To learn more about the artist online, his work may be viewed at andrewloly.wixsite.com/paintings and [facebook.com/andrew.loly.7](https://www.facebook.com/andrew.loly.7) and [instagram.com/andrewloly](https://www.instagram.com/andrewloly).

