

ART OF THE HUNT

Imagination cast in bronze by Walter Matia.



▲ A POINT OF HONOR

Subjects: English setter and English pointer

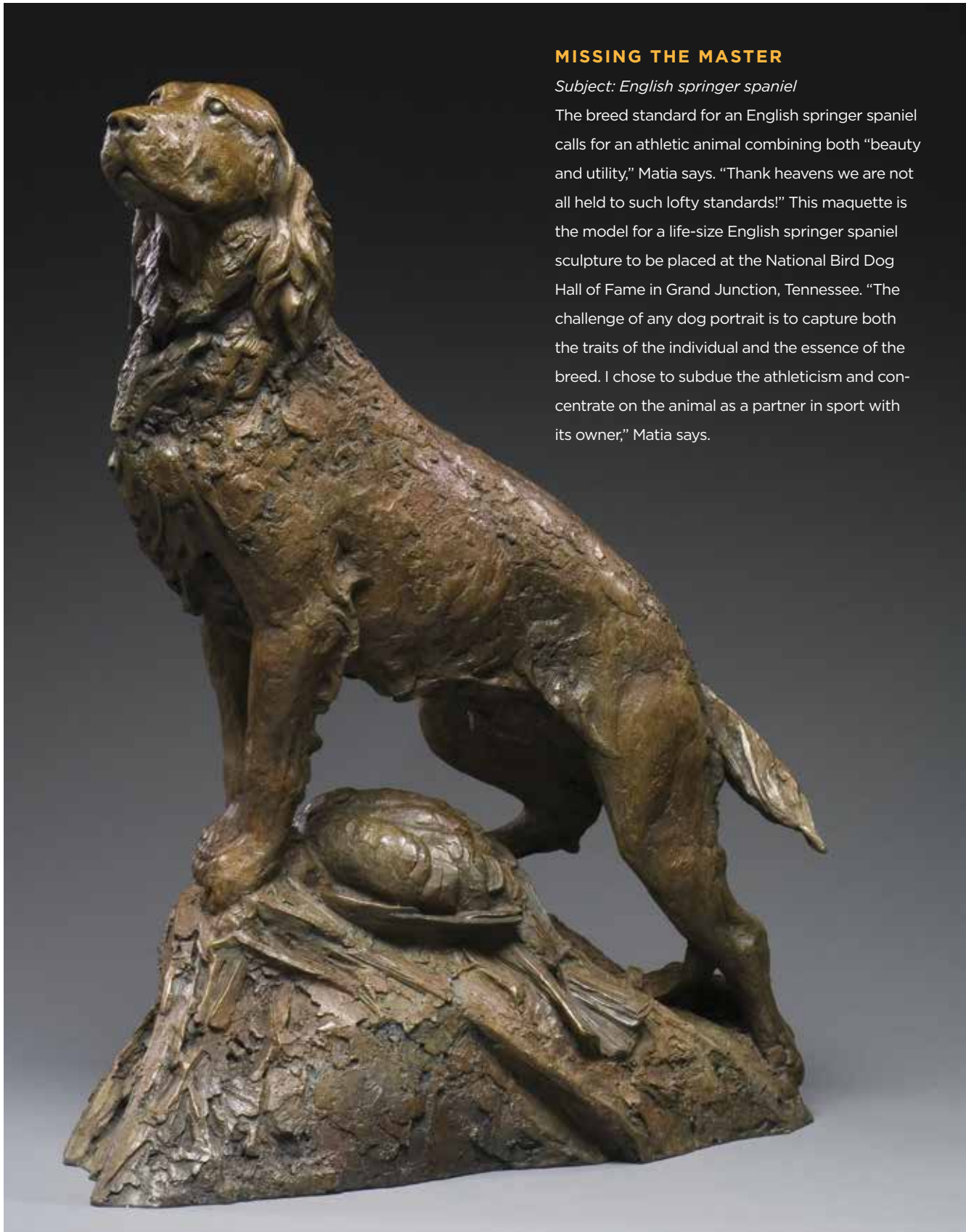
Bird hunters know this as a mark of great training: one dog automatically freezing at the sight of a brace mate on point. The composition and tension of the pair really make this sculpture.



▲ **TALL COVER**

Subject: Bobwhite quail in cactus and reeds

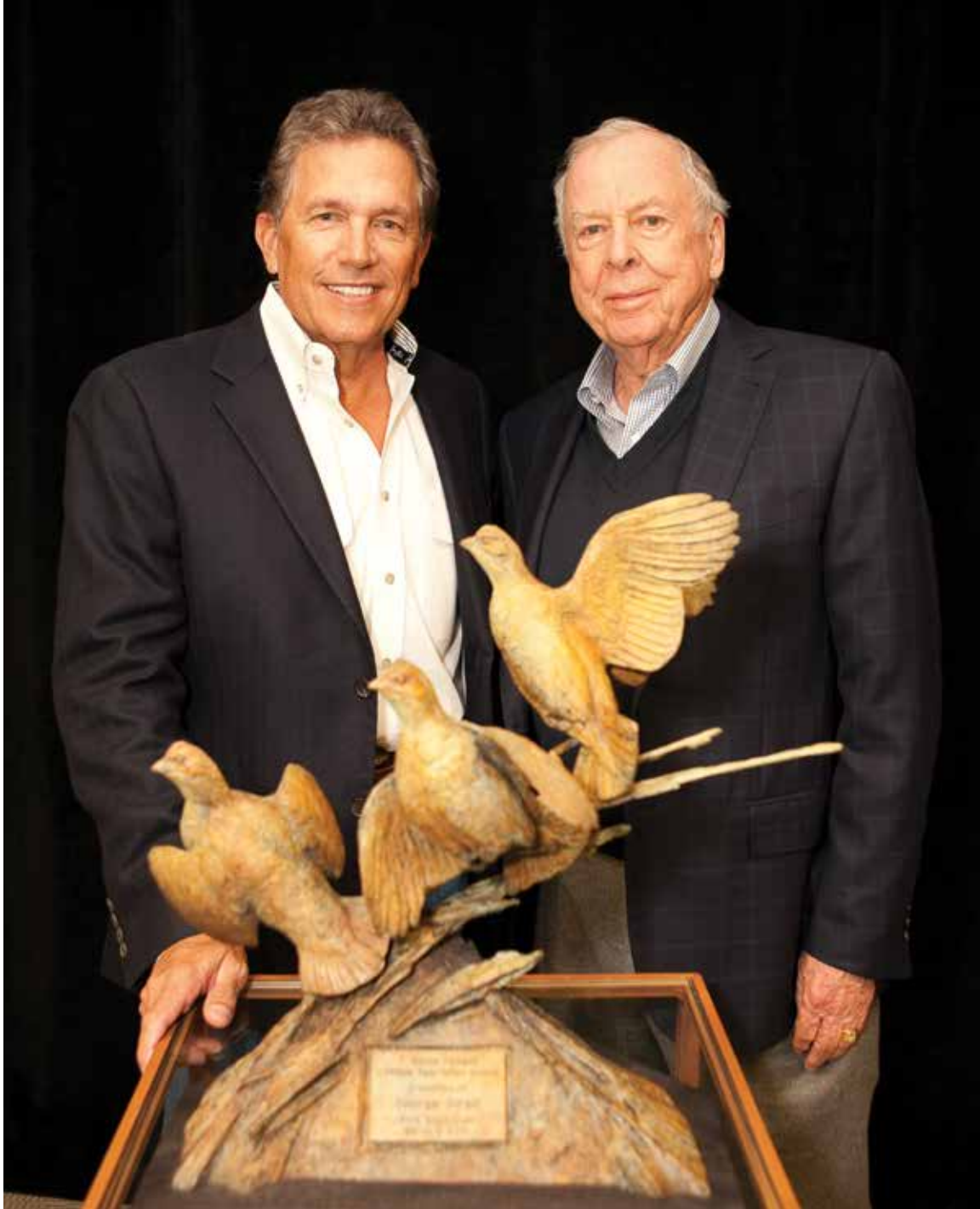
There is logic to the physics of a covey rise. After the first second, the birds' silhouettes against the distant horizon seem to slow down and allow the eye to focus. But in that first instant, there is only sound and a peripheral sense of movement in the confusion. A hunter's success is tied to gathering one's senses enough to edit the chaos. It's kind of the "Bobwhite Big Bang Theory": the rapid expansion from nothing to a universe of possibilities.



MISSING THE MASTER

Subject: English springer spaniel

The breed standard for an English springer spaniel calls for an athletic animal combining both “beauty and utility,” Matia says. “Thank heavens we are not all held to such lofty standards!” This maquette is the model for a life-size English springer spaniel sculpture to be placed at the National Bird Dog Hall of Fame in Grand Junction, Tennessee. “The challenge of any dog portrait is to capture both the traits of the individual and the essence of the breed. I chose to subdue the athleticism and concentrate on the animal as a partner in sport with its owner,” Matia says.



Sculptor Walter Matia of Dickerson, Maryland, began casting bronze sculptures in 1980 and operates the studio Curlew Castings. He graduated from Williams College in Massachusetts, where he earned degrees in Biology and Art Design, and had a long apprenticeship at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History. After leaving the Cleveland Museum, Matia worked for 11 years with The Nature Conservancy, serving as the organization's vice president in charge of land management. His work focuses on bird life and sporting dogs and other mammals. (ABOVE:) A Matia sculpture of quail was used in presenting the T. Boone Pickens Lifetime Sportsman Award to country music star George Strait this year, by the Dallas-based Park Cities Quail Chapter of Quail Coalition. Strait (left) and Pickens are shown above.



GHOST BIRD

Subject: Life-size wild turkey

There are those deliciously frustrating moments when out of complete silence the biggest gobbler of your life appears from nowhere. Then, just as silently, he is gone—a ghost bird leaving you to ponder a thousand things you wish you had done just a little differently.



▲ SUNBURST

Subject: Quail covey rise.

Over the past few years in his work, Matia has explored the traditional marriage of art to function. “The wonderful Samuel Yellin and Paulanship gates, Manzù’s doors, and Diego Giacometti furniture have all held a special fascination and have inspired many of these efforts,” he says. The Sunburst Screen, Bobwhite quail flushing from mature sunflower heads, is part of a series of works including other custom designed fire screens, wall sconces, andirons, and railing fixtures.

Artist Background: The Blair House Restoration Committee placed one of Matia’s fountains in the formal garden of the United States President’s Guest House, in Washington, D.C. He was commissioned by the Houston Texans of the NFL to design and sculpt “The Spirit of the Bull”, six bronze Spanish fighting bulls for the entrances to Reliant Stadium in Houston, Texas. His work is shown in museums, traveling exhibits, and private collections across the U.S. and abroad. Walter is a Fellow of the National Sculpture Society, a Master Signature Member of the Society of Animal Artists, and a Master Wildlife Artist at the Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum.

For more information on Walter Matia visit www.matia.com