



**LESLIE H. EVANS ("CHISAI")**

Resides: Temple, Texas  
b. 1952, Japan, AFB

*Silverback*  
Western lowland gorilla  
Colored pencil  
15.5 x 20

*There's an undeniable hubris among humans when it comes to other primates. Humans like to believe that they alone own the rights to self-awareness, abstract thought, and emotion. Accordingly, apes are man's evolutionary punching bag: comic relief sidekicks who never quite made the grade. Perhaps because their appearance intimidates us the most, gorillas have en-*

*dured the brunt of man's scorn and unreasoned loathing the longest, from the ridiculous machinations of Hollywood spectacle to the genocidal campaigns of poachers, developers and warring armies. I want my art to demonstrate a different point of view. Gorillas are sentient beings. They do matter.*