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Extra!

The Pittsburgh City Paper cover artwork was done by **Pat Lewis**, along with an interior spot (see page 7), for the February 24 issue's feature story on Uber. CP Art Director Lisa Cunningham is now doing a Q&A with cover artists for the City Paper BLOGH, as an extra promotion for illustrators who work with them. Read Pat's here.

Top Shelf

Hitchhiker Brewing just released the March edition of its 32 ounce, limited edition can labels. It's the third so far in a planned series of four done in collaboration with **Mark Brewer**, using his art from *Brewology, An Illustrated Dictionary for Beer Lovers*.



Fantasizing

Brian Allen created this sample illustration to attract work from young-adult fantasy book publishers, a market that he'd like to do more work in. "I chose a scene with an adventurer in an Aztec-like jungle temple so I could draw some funny and creepy totems, and I even got to sneak a skull in there too! I like to try different styles and themes whenever I can, keeps things from getting stale," he says. The design is available for licensing here.



My Spot

Anni Matsick

All eyes this way— big things have happened since our last issue! The launching of PSI's new official website

brought members a

major perk, the opportunity to manage and fill our online galleries with extensive samples, searchable through genres and keywords. Now in the works are plans for a landmark 20th anniversary exhibit set for 2017, the topic of January's Business of Illustration meeting, detailed on page 4. From our ranks, rating this issue's Spotlight is an artist who can be seen in her return to a national television series this season! The rest of these pages are crammed with reports on events, new work and accomplishments. It's a great time to be a member of PSI!

On Exhibit



7 Artists — A Collection of Works opened with a public reception on Friday, March 11, at The Bock-Tott gallery in Sewickley. The contemporary gallery recently opened at 507 Beaver Street. The show runs through May 31 and includes works by PSInside designer **Yelena Lamm**. Others in the show are Joyce Werwie-Perry, Tom Mosser, Nick Santillo. and Will C. White.



"Winter Pines and Lakeshore," 5"x5" acrylic paintings by **Jim Prokell**, sold at the closing of a private exhibit at Jack Tomayko's Filbert Street Gallery in Shadyside.



"New Yorker" was one of four new oil paintings by **Joe Winkler** included in *Upper St. Clair League for the Arts Spring Fine Art Exhibit 2016.* An opening reception took place March 12 and the show ran through March 20, at the Galleria of Mt. Lebanon. The latest in Joe's series of classic car hood ornaments were shown, and two new holiday-themed oil paintings.



Christine Swann has been invited to participate in the Second Biennial Suzhou International Pastel Exhibition, to be held this upcoming fall in Suzhou, China. The historic pastel exhibition will travel around China for 18 months.

Christine's work is featured in a chapter on composition in a book

published in France, 40 Pastel Masters, analyzing the structure of her painting, "Threads," and how it was designed. Christine's model was PSI Secretary **Molly Thompson**.



Out and About



Ron Thurston did this 19" x 25" painting as a workshop demonstration on March 25 for the Mahoning Valley Watercolor Society. The 2016 Touchstone Catalog lists Ron's watercolor workshop to be held June 20ff-24 at their campus in Farmington. Ron is slated along with Ted Nuttall to teach workshops at the Florida Watercolor Society's annual convention September 22-25 in Ocala. Find more info here.



A conversation with Pittsburgh City Paper's March 24 issue cover artist, **Rhonda Libbey**, can be read online here. Rhonda's art accompanies the article, "Allegheny County begins charging for courthouse weddings to generate revenue."

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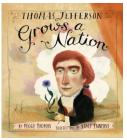
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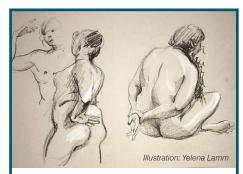
Kudos



The Society of Children's Book Writers & Illustrators has named *Thomas Jefferson Grows a Nation* a 2016 Golden Kite Award Honor Book in Picture Book Illustration. **Stacy Innerst** illustrated the book written by Peggy Thomas and

published by Calkins Creek. Stacy celebrated Dr. Seuss' birthday on March 2 with a visit to Seneca Valley School District.





Life Drawing at Panza Gallery

Long Pose Monday: Mondays 6-9pm \$10 Life Drawing: Thursdays 6:30-9:30pm \$10 Saturday Sessions: Saturdays 10am - 1pm \$10

Coffee, pastries & drinks served. Enter basement gallery on left side of building.

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Fred Carlson and John Ritter report on: Mentorship Update

Hey! PSI members! Did you know that you could sign up for an extended illustration work critique that draws upon the expertise of 6 of PSI's top illustrators with a combined work experience totaling more than 200 years in the field? It is called the PSI MENTORSHIP PROGRAM!

As our new website states, (check the PSI title bar under "About" >"Our Mentors") "The goal of the PSI Mentorship program is to provide support and insight to PSI members who are committed to developing a career in any given genre of the contemporary illustration field or those desiring to expand and enhance their established career.

The current PSI Mentorship team includes six PSI lifetime members who are all professional full time illustrators and who have developed their own distinctive voice and successful practice. The program is chaired by **John Ritter** and **Mark Zingarelli** and the mentorship committee includes **John Blumen**, **Fred Carlson**, **George Schill** and **Phil Wilson**. PSI Mentors have extensive experience in their specific fields, which include Advertising, Animation, Corporate, Children's Books, Comics, Editorial, Greeting Cards, Information Graphics and Publishing. Each mentor has 20+ years of professional experience.

The program is available year round on an appointment basis and is open to all full PSI members who feel they would benefit from an in depth, highly focused assessment of their current work and career by a diverse group of illustration professionals. Each session will include at least four mentors who will meet with two illustrators on the same evening. Mentorship sessions are held at Artist Image Resource on Pittsburgh's North Side on Thursday evenings from 6:00 - 8:30 pm or alternate locations/times that are mutually agreed upon and convenient for the whole group. The tone of these gatherings is relaxed and casual but we ask that artists come highly prepared to present a complete body of work and to articulate their professional goals as well as the current status of their illustration career. A discussion of the artist's portfolio, career history, setbacks, successes and aspirations will follow. At the conclusion of each session, the team will corporately discuss possible strategies with each artist to address their individual career goals. If you are interested in taking advantage of this unique and valuable resource which PSI presents at no charge, please contact: John Ritter or Mark Zingarelli to schedule a meeting.'

Our latest Mentorship session, held Thursday evening, February 18, included critiques for **Danielle Amiano** and **Genevieve Barbee**.

The critique began with Danielle presenting at 7pm for about an hour and concluded with Genevieve for about an hour ending at 9:10. The meeting was held in the staff conference area of AIR. John Ritter moderated and work was displayed on a Mac system in the office. Attending mentors in addition to John Ritter were Fred Carlson, Phil Wilson, and John Blumen. Danielle and Genevieve received advice concerning immediate creative direction, strengths and weaknesses to address, and marketing ideas. They were encouraged to circulate followup work to the Mentorship team in the near term for further review. The authors would agree we had a great

time reviewing the work of these prolific young illustrators!



Photo by John Ritter

GPAC Membership

As a member of Pittsburgh Society of Illustrators, you are eligible for a \$25 individual membership to the Greater Pittsburgh Arts Council (half the cost of artists not affiliated with a member organization). GPAC provides professional development that fine artists need at any stage of their career. With working fine artists on staff, GPAC's professional development is defined and initiated through collaboration across disciplinary lines with regional artists like Pittsburgh Society of Illustrators members. From accounting workshops to website clinics, networking salons to technical assistance with grants, GPAC hosts a range of opportunities designed to support professional fine arts practice. While GPAC events and workshops are open enrollment, GPAC Members receive free enrollment or a heavy discount. To review the current list of professional development opportunities and events, please visit www.pittsburghartscouncil.org/events-andworkshops-etc/gpacevents.

Click here to like PSI's Facebook page!



If you'd like to read more about some of the members featured in this issue, look for their interviews and Spotlights in past newsletters, available on PSI's website. Click on a name to open.





Mark Brewe

Rhonda Libbey

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NEXT PSI SOCIAL



Tuesday, April 11 Beginning at 6:30 pm

Church Brew Works*
3525 Liberty Avenue, Strip District
*Featured in the New York Times

Free parking! Free appetizers!

PSI StoreOpen for Business

Drawing Under the Influence:

An Illustrator's Guide to Mixing Drinks

only \$5

Spiral bound, soft cover, 128 pages. PSI's 2011 Directory featuring 59 illustrated recipes.

Introductions by mixmaster Craig Mrusek, Kathy Rooney and brief history by George Schill. Concept: George Schill & Ron Magnes. Design: Steve Cup

Play Ball!

PSI Illustrated baseball card sets of 12

less than 10 sets left!



\$10/set

Printed originally to promote

Printed originally to promote the 2001 Play Ball! show of baseball illustration at AIP.

Illustrators represented in the set of 12: David Biber, Fred Carlson, George Schill, John Manders, Ron Thurston, Larry Tinsley, Greg Valley, Ilene Winn-Lederer, Ilena Finocchi, James Mellett, Kathy Rooney, Lynn Cannoy.

Sales benefit PSI general treasury.

Please contact Fred Carlson 412.856.0982 or fred@carlsonstudio.com

Molly Thompson reports on:

January BOI Meeting

Happy New Year! PSI kicked off 2016 with a Saturday Business of Illustration meeting at **Illene Winn-Lederer's** home, exploring an exciting, new topic — our 20th anniversary show. Members were pleased to learn more about the proposed show theme, discuss their ideas for entries, and to hear the latest reports on some of our society's key objectives.

PSI Treasurer **Fred Carlson** shared his up-to-date information on our membership numbers and treasury, and President **Pat Lewis** announced that PSI's new website, pittsburghil-lustrators.org, would go live in just a matter of days. Everyone welcomed the good news and expressed their appreciation for the hard work of the board, the Web Team and all of our volunteers that contribute to the maintenance, growth and professional standing of PSI.

Buoyed by the announcements, attendees did their best to settle down for a brief description of the proposed Art of Facts show at the Heinz History Center, slated to start in the summer of 2017. President Pat Lewis handed out copies of the Member Prospectus, and Secretary Molly Thompson read the summary statement of the show theme (in 50 words or less, per the History Center's proposal format):

Art of Facts (a play on "artifacts") examines the rich history of Western Pennsylvania by uncovering compelling stories through the art of illustration. Beyond the major landmarks, groundbreaking discoveries, celebrated achievements and famous locals, there are captivating details that have seldom been shared. Digging deeper educates and delights.

Before transitioning to group discussion, the Heinz History Center's mission statement was read, the geographical reach of Western Pennsylvania was clarified, and some examples of possible show entries (stories) were given. Topics such as Pittsburgh's multitude of city steps (complete with an official Inspector of Steps) and various celebrities, events and trivia had been quickly compiled by yours truly after an easy search online. This had the desired effect of prompting a spirited brainstorming session!

So the rest of the meeting was pure PSI; attendees got into an exuberant, sometimes loud conversation around their ideas for illustrated stories and the ways they could be exhibited. There were tales of heartbreak, triumph, gangsters, ghosts, invention, war, progress and calamity. **Kathy Rooney** brought her artwork-in-progress of Nellie Bly — a Cochran's Mills native who became an investigative journalist and world traveler — and a few members offered enticing glimpses of stories near and dear to their hearts, relating to their own family history. Just taking in the commentary from those present was an energizing experience that got us all thinking.

Since the meeting, several illustrators have begun sharing their chosen stories on Basecamp to receive group feedback and to reduce the potential for duplicate entries. Members are encouraged to begin their research and develop their stories with sketches to share at our next **Art of Facts** meeting in late spring/early summer. More information on that meeting and updates on the show details will be shared with the group as they become available. Anyone interested in volunteering their time and talents to support the show may contact **Molly Thompson** for the categorized list of activities associated with show planning and execution. Thanks again to llene and her husband Jeff for hosting our lively group!

In Attendance: President Pat Lewis, Vice President Amanda Zimmerman, Past President Rick Antolic, Treasurer Fred Carlson, Past VP George Schill, Past VP David Biber and daughter Evelyn (who brought homework), Secretary Molly Thompson, Screening Chairman Kathy Rooney, members Genevieve Barbee, Frances Halley and husband John Halley, Karl Huber, Hanna Luoni, Violet Scarpone, Gregg Valley, Ilene Winn-Lederer and husband Jeff Lederer.



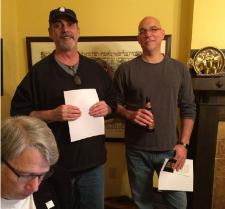












Hannah Luoni reports on:

February



Members gathered at the Art Institute of Pittsburgh for the February 26 Business of Illustration meeting. The topic was Setting Career Goals. Kathy Rooney brought a draft of her plan for the Heinz show to share before the meeting began. President Pat Lewis brought some research he did, which included a SMART goal agenda. The acronym stands for specific, manageable, achievable, realistic, and time sensitive goals. Other members also brought up their own ways to stay organized. Kathy, for example, uses steno tabs to keep track of her to-do list. People who write things down and set goals for themselves will statistically achieve more. Elizabeth Rose said she likes to write things on a calendar as a constant reminder of upcoming deadlines. The group agreed consistency was key to staying on track, especially in the illustration world. Joel Boyer said creating work everyday and writing down why we do what we do is a great way to keep ourselves on track. The conversation also shifted into various ways we can selfpromote, including traditional and digital marketing on social media platforms. This included setting a timeline of when to send out material.

In attendance: President Pat Lewis. Vice President Amanda Zimmerman, Screening Chairman Kathy Rooney; members Kelly Ackerman, Joel C. Boyer, David Coulson, Rick Henkel, Dave D'Incau Jr., Hannah Luoni, Vince Ornato, Jim Prokell, Elizabeth Rose; affiliate members Kate Bureman, Hilary Schenker.

Photos by Amanda Zimmerman



March Social Meeting

Attending the Social at Church Brew Works on Tuesday, March 8: President Pat Lewis, VP Amanda Zimmerman, Secretary and Exhibition Coordinator Molly Thompson, Treasurer Fred Carlson, Past President Rick Antolic, Past VPs George Schill and John Blumen, Mentorship Chair John Ritter, Program Committee Member Danielle Amiano, ASIP rep llene Winn-Lederer and husband Jeff Lederer, Fran Halley and husband John Halley, Geneieve Barbee, Chris "Chance" Brown Jim Prokell Violet Scarpone, Hillary Schenker, Autumn Seybert, Gregg Valley and Phil Wilson.

Upcoming BOI Meetings:

All meetings are scheduled 7:30-9:30 pm on last Friday of each month, unless otherwise noted.

APRIL 1 (note date change due to Easter holiday): "So...You Want to Have an Exhibit of Your Work" Location: Room 13, Wilkins School Community Center in Regent Square Speaker: Lisa Rasmussen

APRIL 29

Ashley Cecil's residencies at Phipps, CMNH and local places

Location: Home of Ashley Cecil, Highland Park

Heinz History Center show planning, with a focus on feedback on individual pieces in-progress, etc. Location: Home of Fred Carlson, Monroeville

JUNE/JULY/AUGUST: TBA

SEPTEMBER 30

Side Gias — caricatures, art fairs, etc. (tentative) Location (tentative): Home of Kathy Rooney, Mt. Lebanon

OCTOBER 28

Client Horror Stories (tentative) Location: Art Institute of Pittsburgh

NOVEMBER: No meeting (Thanksgiving)

DECEMBER: No meeting (Saturnalia)

Affiliate Member

Kathy Neiswanger, Pittsburah



take better care of the earth.

in Anthropology and spent over 30 years studying human genetics and evolution. Her artistic nature has led her to develop several creative projects over the years. The image shown is from a current project for a children's picture book, which relates the history of the planet in a folk-tale style, with a hopeful message about how people can

Anni Matsick reports on:

SCBWI Winter Conference 2016

This year's most memorable keynote at the Society of Children's Writers & Illustrators 17th Annual Winter Conference had the audience of over 1.000 attendees cheering along with a video showing residents of Shreveport, Louisiana, home of William Joyce, as they watched a broadcast of him accepting an Oscar for best animated short film for The Fantastic Flying Books of Mr. Morris Lessmore during the 84th Academy Awards. William Joyce is a consummate artist who earned a BFA degree from Southern Methodist University's Meadows School of the Arts in 1981, with a major in broadcast-film and minors in art and journalism. He had considered other schools' programs but was disappointed with the emphasis on abstraction. "I did that when I was three," he said. His list of accomplishments is stellar but he remains an approachable "nice guy," as evidenced by this selfie with Jayne M. Rose-Vallee, author of Dinosaurs Living in My Hair!, which I illustrated.



The weekend event was held again at New York

City's Grand Hyatt, February 12-14. It began with Friday's Intensives for writers and illustrators who wanted additional focus and a chance to hear from industry "stars" in a smaller setting. The Illustrators' Intensive: Work Long and Prosper: Building and Sustaining Your Illustration Career offered presentations from esteemed illustrators and children's book professionals including Sophie Blackall, Mike Curato, Holly McGhee, William Joyce, James Ransome, David Saylor, Paula Wiseman, and Paul O. Zelinsky. The 200 illustrators in attendance displayed work that night in the Portfolio Showcase, which has become a popular event, well attended by the city's art directors, editors, agents and other art buvers.

The two days of the main conference, which included keynotes and numerous breakout sessions, were split by an evening of socializing at Saturday's Gala, where members could find others from their regions at tables bearing names of locales. Illustrators had their own social following that, where all were occupied in lively conversation going well into the night.



The event is an excellent opportunity to learn, get inspired and network with others in the children's book industry. Read full coverage on the conference bloa.

SPOTLIGHT

Spotlight on... Sarah Miller

Catapulted to national fame through her appearance as a contestant on the second season of Spike TV's show, Ink Master, Sarah remains down-toearth, hard-working, and still a proud

member of PSI (since 2007).

Following enormous visibility through her nearwin on Spike TV's Ink Master, Sarah's client list has lengthened and has a two year waiting period. Sarah spoke at Chyld, her tattoo studio in Brookline. shortly after her return from the prestigious Milan attoo Convention in Milan, Italy, held February 5-7. This year marked its 21st anniversary, and included 800 artist's booths, welcoming over 50,000 visitors. "The artist's booths were 25 feet apart," says Sarah, "and through the entire convention, the visitors were standing shoulder-toshoulder between those booths; that's how crowded it was!"

Sarah did roughly thirty conventions per year for three straight years, judging and participating as an artist, taking her to Rome, Frankfurt, and many other cities around the world. She now limits the trips to twelve, annually. "I didn't want to go beyond a two-year waiting list, because if I need to make changes due to something coming up in my professional life it would require too much rescheduling; I can handle shuffling customers in a two-year time frame."

Sarah grew up in Middletown, Orange County, New York. She attended Art Institute of Pittsburgh where her teachers were fellow PSI members Mark Bender, Michael Malle, and Mick Opalko. Sarah's studies focused on oil painting and graphic design. At AIP, she learned everything that she's used thus far to evolve and build a solid career, including branding, color, composition, typography, and design. Some of Sarah's traditional influences include Jaques Louis David, Raphael, and Alphonse Mucha.

Sarah's roommate at AIP urged her to try her hand at tattoo art. "I came from a very Christian family; very conservative. Finally, I caved in and tried it, and I was hooked immediately!" While she learned a lot in each place she worked, she also learned what she didn't want to do. "There are some tattoo places where a customer walks in and tells the tattoo artist what they want and walk out in an hour or two with their new tattoo, and there's no connection made between them." Sarah wanted more. "I love working with the customer to come up with an image that is customized, and to take the time to give them something beautiful."

Spike TV's interest came as a surprise. "A couple producers of the show were scouting for talent at one of the conventions," explains Sarah. "They wanted me to do an online audition — instead of in person is almost unheard of. I thought it was a joke at first... but within two weeks of my online audition, I was in Newark, New Jersey filming the show." Sarah attests

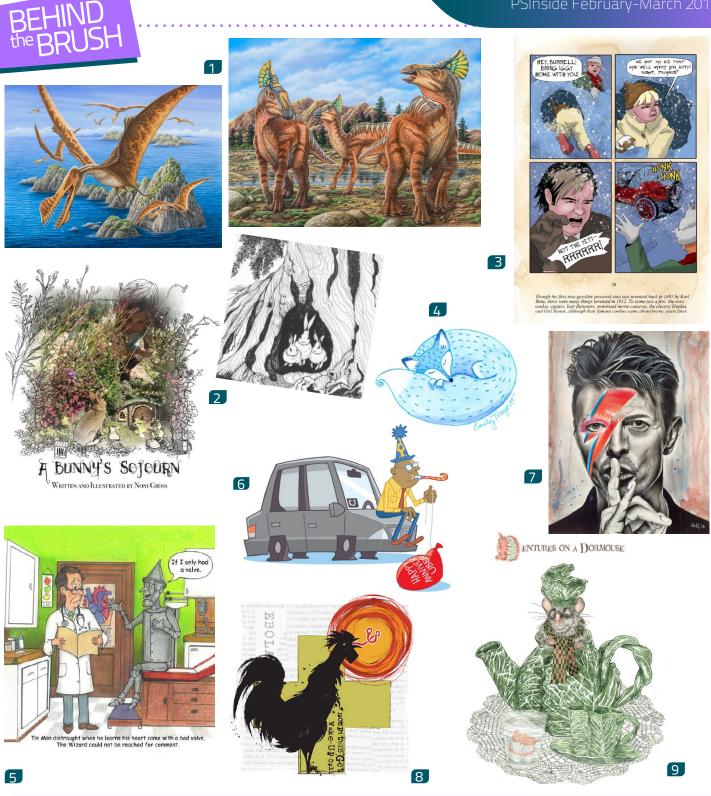
that the experience is

less glamorous than challenging, especially for artists who value solitude. "My tattoos are an intimate art project between me and my client; you're thrown into this environment where you're surrounded by other contestants, three judges, a tech crew, the audience, and you're expected to do your best work." All is done on very little sleep and food that is less than nutritious. "All they gave us to eat was Hungry Man frozen dinners. If someone requested something better and got it, they were voted off the show next episode. So I never requested anything."

So how has Sarah's life changed? "I can't go to Hoffbraughause without makeup any more!" And she is recognized quite often while walking around Pittsburgh. Her own line of tattoo inks is packaged in the Vah Portrait Set through World Famous, one of the industry's best brands. Fans are eager for her return to Spike TV in the new season of Ink Master: Revenge, premiering March 1 at 10 pm. "I've been riding this wave for the past three years, and I'm going to continue to ride it!" What keeps Sarah going? "A piece of art that I created that means something very personal and will remain on that person forever. I like making a meaningful difference in people's lives. This is how you make the world better one person at a time.

Article by Rick Antolic Photo by Jackie McLellan Design by Yelena Lamm

PSInside February-March 2016



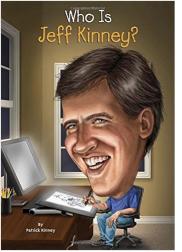
- 1. Here are two new paintings recently completed by Phil Wilson: "Olorotitan", a dinosaur discovered in Russia in 2003, and "Tropeognathus", a pterosaur with a 27-foot wingspan. Both are 18"x24" and done in acrylic.
- 2. Leda Miller just finished a picture book she is publishing in time for Easter, titled A Bunny's Sojourn. The story developed from her observations of a tiny bunny who wandered into her fairy garden and stayed for a month. "It became very accustomed to my presence and I was able to get a ton of photos of him interacting with
- elements of the garden," Leda shares. The illustrations are black and white ink drawings. Shown are the cover and an interior page.
- 3. The Niagara Falls History Museum is now carrying both of Leda's graphic novels, Hecock, The Last Hour and Jinx the Junket in their gift shop. Hecock is an historical fiction graphic novel set in 1912, on the Niagara Falls ice bridge. It celebrates the courage of Burrell Hecock, an ordinary 17 year old who is faced with the extraordinary decision of saving his own life or the lives of others when the ice bridge
- breaks free from the shores beneath the falls. Shown is a page from book 2.
- Emily Trainor sent this sketch.
- Frances Halley drew this cartoon while at home recovering from an aortic valve replacement in December.
- Here's the interior spot by Pat Lewis for the February 24 Pittsburgh City Paper's cover story on Uber, mentioned on page 1.
- Kelly Ackerman created this 11"x14" drawing of the recently departed David Bowie, called "Starman".

- The mediums used are charcoal, pencil, colored pencil, gel pen, and watercolor.
- Terri Adams created this editorial Illustration for a newspaper article entitled "Fierce Ebola: Hospitals get a wake-up call to be better prepared" in the style of Martin French as a class project at AIP. She used Adobe Illustrator and Photoshop.
- An illustration for the letter D, "Dentures On a Dormouse", is from Ilene Winn-Lederer's series of alphabestiary drawings for a proposed book

BEHIND the BRUSH

13























 Here are John Hinderliter's sketches from both the Stonehenge and Great Barrier Reef books he's illustrating for Penguin/Random House. Soon he will start on a book about the Coliseum.

16

15

- 11. Jeff Kinney's (*Diary of a Wimpy Kid*) editor at Abrams, Charles Kochman, phoned John earlier this month asking to buy originals from the book John illustrated, Who Is Jeff Kinney? "I had to tell him they were done in Photoshop but could send him some nice signed prints, which I did. In return they sent me several VERY expensive art books published by Abrams," John relates. "Also asked for an intro to their art director, so that was worthwhile."
- 12. This nearly finished 11"x14" oil on canvas mounted on masonite, "Saint Joan of Arc," was done by Vince Ornato. It will be part of a triptych inspired by the life of Vatican priest Hugh O'Flaherty, responsible for saving the lives of 6500 Allied soldiers and Jews during the Nazi occupation of Rome during World War II. His story is detailed in the film, "The Scarlet and the Black," starring Gregory Peck and Christopher Plummer. Vince plans to add another of Saint Francis of Assisi as well as one of Father O'Flaherty. His concept is "to make the point, using visual means, that there exist among us saintly people who have life experiences that border on the miraculous.
- Found on Facebook, Ron Thurston's painting and comment: "Morning Agenda" 19"x25" is attempting some color bridges.
- 14. **Mary Dunn's** "Guitar Man" is a 16"x 20" painting done in acrylic.
- 15. **Dave D'Incau Jr.** calls this personal piece "'boizz." He says the palette was slightly inspired by Jambi, the genie from Pee wee's Playhouse. It is available for sale on a variety of products including canvas/art prints, throw blankets, T-shirts and more at Dave's **Society 6 shop**.
- 16. **Jim Prokell's** 14"x18" oil portrait of "Trixie," an esteemed family cat,

- was done by commission for a noted regional art collector.
- 17. Jim did these editorial pieces for the Winter 2016 issue of PITT magazine.
- Mark Brewer's illustration was done for Chris Togneri's column, First Draft in the February 27 issue of Pittsburgh Tribune-Review.
- Yelena Lamm completed this 20"x24" oil piece, started during 3-hour Long Pose Monday at Panza Gallery. Inspired by works by Tamara de Lempicka, "Jasmine" is currently part of LUPEC Women's History Month show at Monk's Place, 3634 Penn Ave.