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Creative Critters

New member **Jeff Brunner** is showing numerous pieces, including "Black Fox Red Chair," at Wildcard on 4209 Butler Street in Lawrenceville. *365 Critters* is Jeff's first gallery show since 1999. Opening night on September 12 featured prints and a book signing. The show runs through October 26.



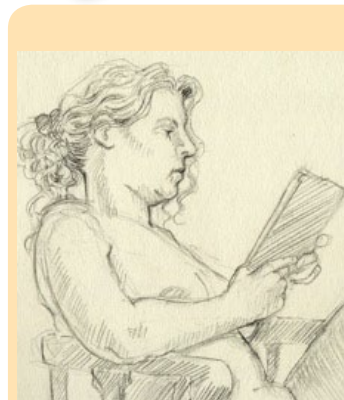
Early Start

Kurt Pfaff captured little Brynn at her first try behind the wheel. "Sunday Drive" is a 9 x 12 oil on canvas.



Black is Black

Mick Opalko's "A Tribute To A Hero" will hang in *Black*, at the Martha Gault Gallery on the campus of Slippery Rock University September 23 through October 11. The show's concept asks printmakers to explore black in all its shades, forms and meanings. In Mick's print, the houses and tippie are woodcuts, the type is laser cut and the handprints are those of the great, great granddaughter of Albert Johnston, the coal miner who crawled half a mile to save a friend in a coal mine roof fall. The substrate is 22x32 tar paper.



My Spot

Anni Matsick

That chill in the air makes one want to curl up with a glass of wine and good book, which could result in spotting artwork by some of our members. This month's Spotlight on page 7 focuses on an artist commissioned for oil paintings to adorn the labels on a series of new wines. Another member who has illustrated numerous children's books will be advising others attending an annual local conference on how to promote their own. Read about that event on page 5

and click on the link to see bookmark designs entered in a contest that will net free attendance for the winner.

More winners are pictured on page 4 in a report on the annual PSI Student Scholarship Awards, presented this month during their show in the Art Institute of Pittsburgh's Gallery.

Member News on pages 2-3 cites three projects gotten through PSI exposure. It also names five members selected for a prestigious juried open watercolor show, and tells who won three awards in one weekend at a conference in Pittsburgh. Intrigued? Start scrolling!

On Exhibit

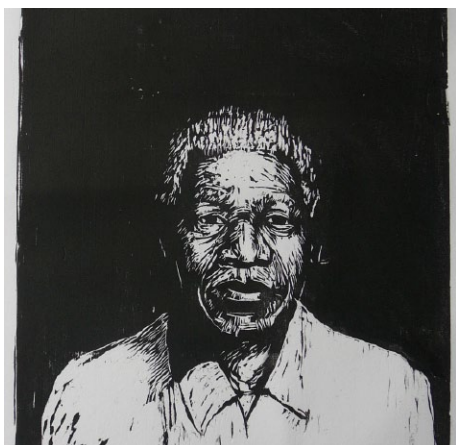
"Invisible," a pastel painting by **Christine Swann**, was accepted into *Pastels Chicago 2013 Fourth Biennial National Juried Exhibition*. Juror of selections was Richard McKinley, PSA-M. The show will hang in The Art Center In Highland Park, Illinois, November 8 through January 4. Opening Reception and award ceremony will take place November 8, 6:30-9 pm.



Nicole Ryan's "The Day Ends The Way It Began" will be shown in *The New Collective* at Pittsburgh Center for the Arts. It is a 30x47 watercolor on Yupo paper, painted vertically with foam rollers, towels, brushes and spray bottles. She refers to it as steel clouds.



Also in the show is **Mick Opalko's** entry, "Nelson Mandela," an 11x11 woodcut. The opening reception will take place November 22, 5:30 pm, and the exhibit will extend through January 19.



Five PSI members' works have been accepted in Pittsburgh Watercolor Society's 67th Annual Exhibition, *Aqueous Open 2013*. The opening reception will be held October 5 at 5pm at Third Street Gallery, 220 Third Street, Cranberry, and is open to the public. Awards will be announced that evening. Works by 50 artists will be on display through October 25. Juror for the show and awards is Frank Webb. Here are the PSI members' images and their comments:

Bill Vrscak's "Muse" is 18x24 on paper. "I never do still life, just wanted to do something different for *Aqueous*. The subject (Raggedy Ann) is something I used as a subject for a drawing class a couple of years ago because she was so much fun to draw. Since then I have often gone to it when I didn't have anything particular in mind as a drawing or sketching subject. So she has served as a kind of muse just to get me started. I've never really painted it seriously until now."



"Footloose," a 19x25 painting by **Ron Thurston**, "Attempts a slight departure from the reality of correct perspective," he says.



"Bull Riders Wear Plaid" is a 27x31 painting by **Kit Paulsen**, who says, "Fascination with a crowd scene is what drew me to this one and, speaking of drawing, the drawing took longer than the painting. This one arranged itself into

three layers: background, middle ground and foreground with, respectively, not much detail, more detail, and lots of detail. It seemed to paint itself, I just enjoyed being along for the ride."

"The Quartet" by **Nicole Ryan** is 26x20, done on Yupo paper. "It was created by traditional watercolor methods until the end where I pull out my whites, drawing in reverse so to speak, and then encourage the pigments to run by adding a lot of water and then tilting the paper."



"I had just returned from a trip to Arizona with my family. Maybe that is why I unconsciously choose this southwestern-themed subject for my painting," says **Beth Hovanec** about her 28x28.5 work, "Bye Quality." "I often try to challenge myself with subjects that contain a lot of detail. This not only has the detail, but I used several different watercolor techniques to complete the painting. I feel honored that it was chosen for the *Aqueous Open*."



Kudos

Sarah Miller was a Featured Artist at Steel City Tattoo Convention, September 13-15, at David L. Lawrence convention Center in Pittsburgh. Her work placed Best in three categories, Color Portrait, Large Color and Small Black and Grey.



continued on page 3...

Out and About

John Manders will be drawing caricatures at *Applefest* in beautiful Victorian Franklin, Friday through Sunday, October 4 - 6. "Before a year and a half ago I hadn't drawn caricatures at fairs since I was a kid under the tutelage of AIP's mighty John Johns," he says. "It is fantastic exercise for an illustrator—strictly black and white, you have to capture a likeness in just a few minutes. No time for fussy shading. Every line is a commitment! It's almost pure design." John hopes to see some of you there and predicts it will be a gorgeous autumn weekend in a lovely setting. The photo shows him at the Kennerdell Art Festival earlier this summer.



Photo by Baylee Elizabeth



Pittsburgh City Paper chose **Nora Thompson** as one of ten people who will paint CP street boxes in their ArtBox Project. The ten finalists will be voted on by the public October 16 through November 22 with the winner being announced December 4. Here is Nora's sketch for the back of the box (the side that will face the street). Here's a link to the [CP announcement](#).

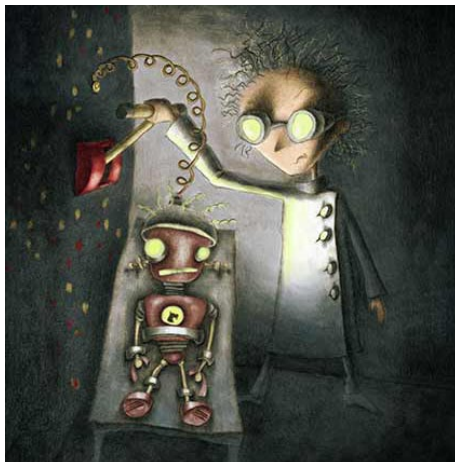
Ron Thurston snapped this photo of artist

Sherrie Plonski looking on as artist **Kit Paulsen** gives a watercolor demo September 13 at Cuttings Flower & Garden Market in Sewickley.



PSI Worked for...

Nora Thompson



Nora got a commission from the CMU Computer Science Alumni magazine, *The Link*, for a [cover](#). The client found her gallery on the PSI website. "The story is about how Computer Science majors don't just code; they also have to build things, like prototypes," Nora says. "They have to learn to do things you might not expect. One example is someone who would have to learn to cut glass to build a touch screen. I thought a scientist bringing a robot to life would be fun, so I sketched it out, and they loved it. The editor, Jason Togger, said he was looking for an illustrator who could do something humorous, so I think defining ourselves in different categories helped the client out a lot."

Fred Carlson



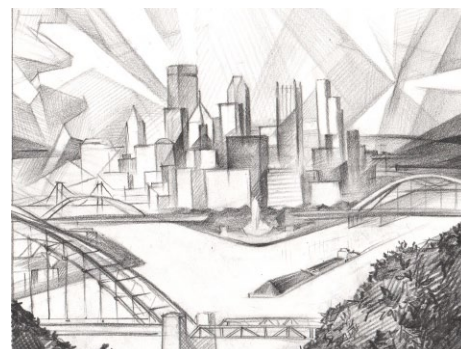
Not only were some artworks sold at the recent *Art for a Hire Purpose* exhibition at the Art Institute of Pittsburgh, but the reproduction of Fred's Nature category piece "Pennsylvania Wetlands" (featured in Kurt Shaw's August 11 [review](#) in the Pittsburgh Tribune-Review and the Trib chain's associated suburban newspapers) drew the interest of Patrick Kopnick of the Friends of Harrison Hills Park. Patrick saw Fred's piece featured in the review in the Valley News-Dispatch, and decided he had found the perfect art to be pictured at an interpretive educational exhibit being planned for this park overlooking the Allegheny River near Freeport/Natrona Heights. Patrick found Fred's contact information through art director Stan Mamula at Bally Design who had originally commissioned the art for an educational exhibit permanently based near Moraine State Park. After obtaining the required permissions from the Pennsylvania Department of Natural Resources, Patrick negotiated a re-use fee with Fred and made a brand new scan file for production by borrowing the original 15x28 piece which was still in Fred's inventory at his studio.

Yelena Lamm



Photo by Nickolay Lamm

When Renewable Manufacturing Gateway Inc. inquired about finding an artist for two large-scale paintings, Yelena was one of six PSI members referred to them by **Fred Carlson**. "I received an email describing the project and knew this was something I really would like to do," Yelena says. "They were looking for two Impressionistic views of Pittsburgh for their new company office." It was perfect timing for her to extend an invitation to visit her booth at the Three Rivers Arts Festival. The company's CEO, Peter Dailey, accompanied by two other gentlemen from the office, stopped by her tent. "They showed up at the worst possible moment," she says. "I was in the process of rearranging things to recover after a torrential rain, both my booth and myself were in total disarray. Despite the poor presentation, they loved my works, especially a piece from PSI's *Pittsburgh Recast* exhibit which I knew would grab their attention." Sketches for both paintings were approved by the client. The first piece is finished, and the second painting is underway.



PSI AIP Student Scholarship Awards

Pittsburgh Society of Illustrators presents awards each year at the Art Institute of Pittsburgh's *Annual Student Show* in addition to those presented by the school. Students are very appreciative of this extra recognition coming from professionals in the field, particularly the Thomas J. Ruddy Award, given to students who demonstrate excellence in figurative art.

Rhonda Libbey, PSI Scholarship Committee Chairperson, said, "This year's is a very impressive show, lots of great work. Every student with a piece in the show should be tremendously proud of their work."

Rhonda presented the awards at the 5 pm ceremony on September 4 in the Gallery. This show is the students' one opportunity annually to display there. Students from all programs submit their work for entry which results in a wide variety of styles, media and types of art. At the opening reception, a variety of prizes totaling over \$1000 are awarded to both individual pieces of art and collective bodies of work.

Comments from AIP professor **Mark Bender** appear under the students' photos.



First Place \$150

Nathan Doverspike / "The Kraken"

"Nathan has a diverse array of skills. Accomplished in both digital and traditional illustration, he used colored pencil on Canson paper to create his detailed version of a Kraken."



Third Place \$75

Kayla Speciale / "Self Portrait"

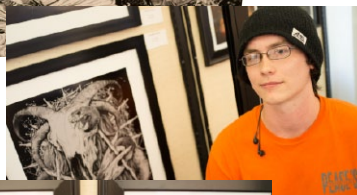
"Kayla's traditional self portrait in wet media showed her accomplished brushwork."



Honorable Mention \$50

Melanie Hratko / "Evolution of Facts"

"Melanie's Jackie and JFK graphic digital illustration created a provocative editorial illustration."



Tom Ruddy Award \$250

Tim Hastings / "The Rhythm Maker" and his body of work

"Tim has started his own company, Mindkiller-INK. Really worth checking out on [Behance](#). He uses a detailed almost calligraphy line to create elaborate striking images for band t-shirts and CDs. Quite a prolific talented young artist already working with clients and building a brand."



Second Place \$125

Sarah Parker / "Jack the Ripper"

"Working in layers of cut paper, Sarah created an eerie graphic of Jack the Ripper – just one of a number of her pieces on display."



Photos by Alexander Patho Jr.

WPaSCBWI Annual Conference

Lots for Illustrators!

"If I told you an agent wants to see your illustrations..." **Nora Thompson** began in an email to western Pennsylvania region members of Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators, as enticement for the annual conference coming up November 8-9 at the Doubletree by Hilton, in Greentree. Nora, Illustration Coordinator for the WPaSCBWI region, continued, "Agent and art rep Rachel Orr from Prospect Agency has asked us to please forward her the website addresses of illustrator conference attendees so she can review portfolios prior to the conference." Website addresses should be written on your **registration form**. They will also be forwarded to attending editors.

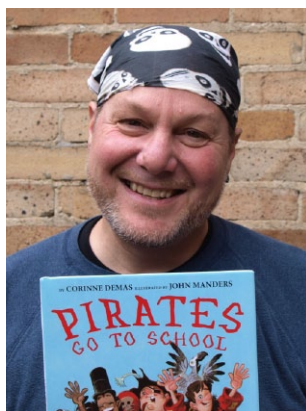
If that isn't enough to make an illustrator quickly fill out a registration form, there's also a chance to show faculty (editors and agents) and the rest of the conference attendees what you can do. In the popular **First Looks** segment, sets of three illustrations per illustrator will be projected for immediate feedback from faculty in the ballroom after lunch.

Portfolio displays will be in the main ballroom where faculty will be directed to peruse. Attendees may bring a portfolio and promotional materials (postcards, business cards) to be included in the display.

A bookmark challenge posted on the WPaSCBWI **Illustrators blog** will award one lucky artist a free conference and 100 bookmarks. Each attendee will receive a bookmark as well. The deadline for entry has passed but entries are posted anonymously online (including some by PSI members) and WPaSCBWI members can vote for their favorite! Voting continues through October 5.

Breakout Session with John Manders

"Let's Get This Show on the Road" is the choice you'll want to make for Session 3 of the WPaSCBWI conference, where you'll hear PSI's own **John Manders** share some dos and don'ts about school visits, staging a performance and selling your books!



SATURNALIA 2013

PSI's 16th annual holiday celebration will take place **Saturday, December 14, 8 pm** at the home of John Blumen in the Brentwood area. This is a do-not-miss occasion, eagerly anticipated by our members each year! We encourage all members to come, and invite your clients as well.

Mark your calendar and watch for details to come via email!

New Members

Jeff Brunner, Pittsburgh
heybeast.com
heybeast12@gmail.com

Jeff is an artist and librarian living in Pittsburgh. As an illustrator he produces work as Hey Beast Studio, which started in 2010 when he "got tired of being art lazy and decided to make an alphabet book for my then-new niece." That book, *Armadillo to Zebu: an Alphabet Book for You and Me Too*, was self-published in October 2012. Since releasing the book Jeff has completed a yearlong illustration/mail art project called 365 Critters. Currently, he is working on commission and other self-directed projects.



Jeff earned a BFA from Edinboro University in 1999. His concentration was Printmaking with a minor in Art History. His MLIS was earned from the University of Pittsburgh in 2003.

Sean Dockery, Pittsburgh
www.seandock.com
www.closetnerd.tumblr.com
seandockery1@gmail.com

Sean is an illustrator and designer raised in Cleveland, Ohio currently residing in Pittsburgh. Sean's work has been recognized by the New York Society of Illustrators, **Weapons of Mass Creation Fest 2013**, and Adobe's very first **Ink Wars**. He is an Art Institute of Pittsburgh grad and a two-time winner of PSI Scholarship awards, capturing First Place in 2012.



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Fred Carlson reports on:

August BOI Meeting



Medical/technical illustrator **Molly Feuer** was the Featured Artis at the August Business Illustration meeting on August 30. PSI members in attendance included: former VP **John Blumen**, former President **Fred Carlson**, host **Frances Halley**, President **Evette Gabriel**, **Joel C. Boyer**, **Rhonda Libbey**, and affiliate member **Alex Patho Jr.** Molly recounted her education at the Rochester Institute of Technology, where she received her Bachelors in Medical Illustration. Her sharing of sketchbooks dating back to these days, including her anatomy lab sketchbooks, was very helpful in showing her artistic journey.

Molly outlined her professional interactions with her clients, and discussed managing established customers and educating new clients. If you go to her website www.feuerillustration.com you will see how she outlines her work process and usage rights management. She most often works directly for non-artistic people in the medical and medical device fields. Her biggest niche is the medical education market at this point in time, though she works in medical/legal and advertising markets as well. She discussed the pros and cons of the directory marketplace and her current use of the Medical Illustration Source Book and the Directory of Illustration. Both directories now include a keyword searchable web presence in addition to the hard copy volumes and have been her main source of new work.

Molly shared her technical process using reference photography, scanned sketches, vector illustration, and Photoshop. She guides her clients into choosing a rendering style before estimating cost by defining each with examples from her portfolio. This sharpens the decision process for her non-artistic client base.

The presentation was followed by speed

reviews and social time.

Next BOI Meeting:
September 27, 7:30 pm at
Art Institute of Pittsburgh, Room 432

Featured Speaker: **Valerie Voss** of Wilke & Associates

Advance registration is required for the October and November meetings.

Please remember to bring a snack to share!

A list of locations and speakers in this series is posted on **PSI's website**.

Photos by Alexander Patho Jr.

September 27th, 7:30pm

CRINGE-FREE ACCOUNTING

Deductibles. Quarterly reporting. Avoiding audits. Accounting is an essential task for every freelancing creative. Valerie Voss of Wilke & Associates has advised area small businesses for years. She reviews bookkeeping and tax fundamentals for freelancers. 60 minutes at this BOI meeting will save you hours next April. **Come with questions!**



Guest Speaker,
Valerie Voss
Art Institute of Pittsburgh
Room 432

Spotlight on... Rick Antolic

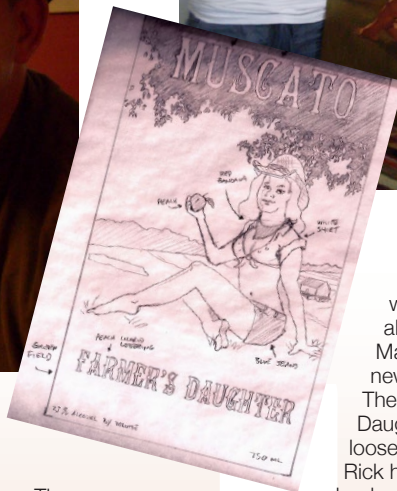
The client's conversation with a next-door-neighbor in his driveway, who is a friend from Rick's college days at CMU, led him to seek Rick's expertise in oils to bring a project to life.



Rick was delighted to get an assignment for a series of wine labels for Ten Gallon Hat Winery, a new business in Chadds Ford, a stone's throw from The Brandywine River Museum. The client wanted 1950s pin-up style illustrations for three new wines: The Farmer's Daughter, The Sheriff's Daughter, and The Preacher's Daughter. Says Rick, "I took what he wanted and slightly transformed them into less of a traditional pin-up and more like the style consistent with my portfolio." Rick reports that the client was thrilled with the results and he, himself, was "pleased and humbled" to now have his illustrations mingling with the Wyeths' in the Brandywine River Valley. The first batch will be available in Chadds Ford this month, and the client hopes to take it national once the labels are approved by the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board.

When he began with The Farmers Daughter, Rick pictured a girl sitting on the ground with a farmscape behind her. Specifically, the farm owned by Reed and Danetta Soergel in Evans City. Reed is the CEO of Soergel Orchards in Wexford and has commissioned work from Rick for their projects. Rick had a photo of the farm, but he needed the girl! As he searched for a model, Rick sent a rough sketch to the client and it was approved with only one request — make the barn white with a red roof, like those common in eastern Pennsylvania.

Rick found a perfect subject through Model Mayhem, a networking site where he's been a member for almost ten years. It's for professional as well as amateur models, photographers, hair and makeup stylists, and artists. Jess Chernovet is one of the professional models listed and, since the client was paying the model fees, Rick was able to select one of the pros! Jess posed wearing a pink cowboy hat which Rick converted to straw and a measuring cup was substituted in her hand since he forgot to buy a peach.



The Sheriff's Daughter model was Haley Baril, also from the Model Mayhem website and new to Pittsburgh. The Preacher's Daughter was based loosely on a few photos Rick had taken years back of another model.

The original paintings are 18" x 24" oil on canvas. The client anticipated purchasing the original canvases, and requested that as maximum size because wall space in his winery is limited. The labels are a disproportionate 3" x 4" so a "live" area was cropped for them.

"I initially had one week to create all three illustrations after sketch approval. But for the first time in three years, my day job had me out of town for three of those days. So I asked the client for just a couple more days to work. It was tight because he wanted them ready for his grand opening, but he agreed," Rick recalls. "And as luck would have it, my day job took me back



out of town those days as well! So I was given nine days to work, but was home for only about four of them."

The client hopes to do more illustrated labels for other wines in this series or others he is planning, and Rick will be happy to comply. Look for more of his paintings on his [website](#).

Article by Anni Matsick

Photos courtesy of Rick Antolic



TEN GALLON HAT
Winery

Alc 11.4% By Vol

750mL



TEN GALLON HAT
Winery

Alc 11.5% By Vol

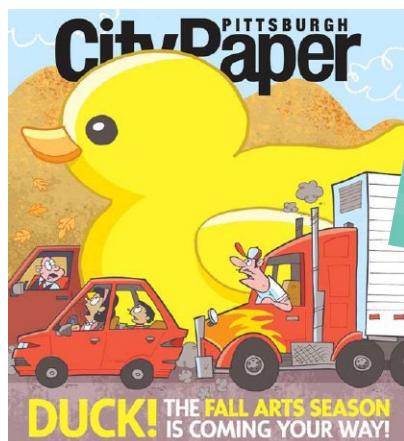
750mL



TEN GALLON HAT
Winery

Alc 13.3% By Vol

750mL



1. Art by **Pat Lewis** is on the cover and inside of Pittsburgh City Paper's **Fall Arts Preview 2013**. *Duck! The Pittsburgh International Festival of First* is just one of many arts events happening this fall. Coverage includes upcoming art, film, stage, dance, music and more.
2. This graphite finished art portrait by **Fred Carlson** of Joe Bain, Exeter alumni, is for his poignant article on retiring and living out his years near where he went to prep school in New Hampshire. Done for Fred's quarterly

FINIS column assignment for Phillips-Exeter Academy Alumni magazine.

3. An additional part of that quarterly assignment is Fred's sketch for the Table Talk column. Out for approval is this montage of writer Tarek Masoud who writes about the middle east for many famed publications.
4. Here's the layout sketch Fred did for Jorma Kaukonen's (ex-Jefferson Airplane, current Hot Tuna lead guitarist and acoustic guitar virtuoso) guitar workshops at his Fur Peace Ranch, Miegs County, Ohio. These 13

pictured bluesmen will be featured in the workshop taught by premier slide stylist Tom Feldmann. Fred hopes to show the finished art in next month's PSInside.

5. **Mark Brewer** did The Wedding Crasher for the Pittsburgh Tribune-Review.
6. Here is Mark's cover for the September 1-7 Pittsburgh City Paper. The feature story is on urban farming.
7. This art appeared in the Wall Street Journal's September 7-8 weekend

edition in Market Watch, "10 Things Your Personal Trainer Won't Tell You," by Elizabeth O'Brien and Renee DeFranco.

8. **Mary Dunn** completed a painting, "Deep Purple," and is working on a painting of her grandchildren she is planning to use as a Christmas card. Mary is also taking an online class with CCAC (Community College of Allegheny County), Introduction to Digital Graphic Design.

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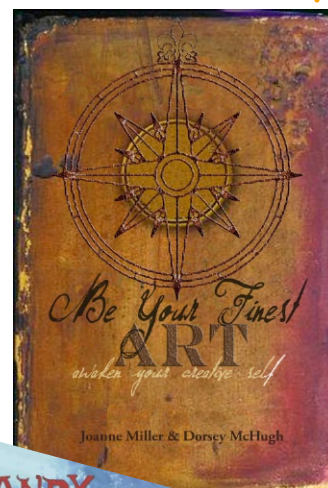
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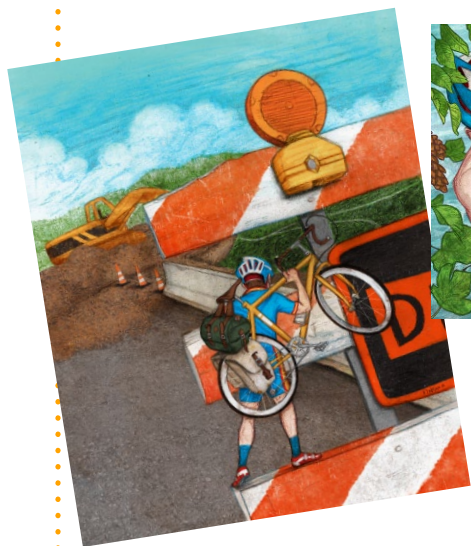
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15



16



14



9. This painting by **Charles Lucas** was recently completed to go with two prints his wife bought from **Vince Ornat** that were in PSI's *Drawing Under the Influence* show. The image size is 7 x 5-1/2, same as the prints, and was done on in acrylic on gessoed illustration board.

10. For *The Progressive*, **Taylor Gallery** depicted the former employee of TransCanada, Evan Vokes, blowing the whistle on the controversial Keystone XL pipeline.

11. For *The Pitch*, Taylor did this cover illustration for a feature story about cleaning out the blight burden in Kansas City.

12. **Anni Matsick** did this 30-minute drawing in charcoal and watercolor wash, in a weekly figure drawing session held at the Art Alliance of Central Pennsylvania gallery.

13. **John Blumen** just finished cover art for *Llewellyn World Wide*. The book is titled *Camelot Burning*, by Kathryn Rose. The novel combines King Arthur with steam punk.

14. **Dave D'Incau Jr.** recently created one full page and two spot illustrations for an issue of *Bicycle Times* released September 23. The art is for part one of an article about a cyclist's journey riding across the United States. He is currently creating more illustrations for part two in the following issue coming up in December, working in pencil and digitally.

15. **Untold Tales of Bigfoot**, written and illustrated by Vince Dorse, just hit a hundred subscribers to the site. To celebrate, Vince will be choosing one

name at random from the subscribers list and sending them a hand-drawn sketch card. Scout is shown here with his continued "ruffing" as he and Bigfoot make their way through the forest.

16. Here's a book **Rose Gauss** just finished illustrating and one she just started: *Andy Goes To The Aquarium* for 4mpress and *Be Your Finest Art* for Vitology Press.