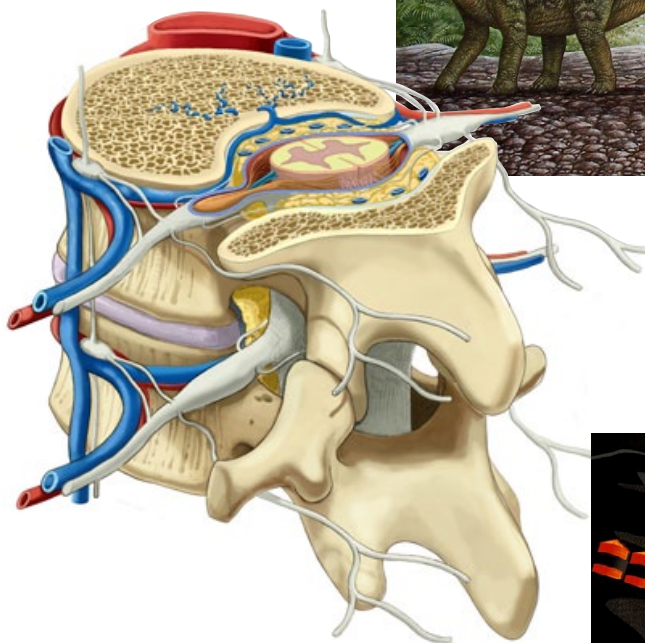


## Formal Portrait

**Phil Wilson** recently completed this painting of a 50 ft. long dinosaur named *Ampelosaurus*, discovered in France in 1995, done in acrylic, measuring 18" x 24". The painting was completed in three and a half days. Phil says, "Almost as much time was spent on detailing the pebbled shoreline as was spent on the dinosaur. I don't know what I was thinking!!"



## Bare Bones

New Member **Joel Boyer** did this cross section of a thoracic vertebra. Read more about Joel on page 4.

## Showdown

For *Globe and Mail*, **Taylor Gallery's** "High Noon" is for a feature story about two investors battling over a small grain storage company in Canada.



- This issue:
- Member News p.2
  - Meeting Recap p.4
  - Spotlight p.5
  - Announcements p.6
  - Behind the Brush p.7



**Editor:** Anni Matsick  
**Design:** Yelena Lamm  
**Production:**  
Beth O'Neill  
Zach Beresh



## My Spot

**Anni Matsick**

Banners are up in Art Institute of Pittsburgh's gallery windows, declaring the run of PSI's show, *Art For a Hire Purpose*, running through August 27. A report on page 3 of this month's issue thanks all who made it

possible. You'll see photos taken at the July 11 reception, including one recording the rare occurrence of all five PSI Presidents, past and present, converging same place, same time! Art sold that night and the buzz is on, it's the go-to show of the season in Pittsburgh! See whose art sold so far and who's scheduled for noontime talks during August.

This month's Spotlight reveals the efforts of a member whose view encompasses Pittsburgh's entire art scene. She was recently instrumental in a national arts conference hosted here in the 'Burgh that attracted arts and community leaders from around the nation. See photos of the event and a sample of her own work on page 5.

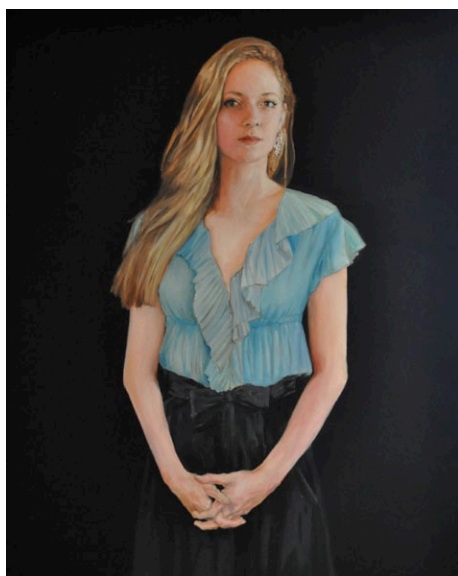
The report on June's Business of Illustration meeting shows a packed house, gathered to hear one of PSI's most respected members as Featured Artist reveal details on the collaboration project he's kept under wraps until now. See page 4 where a glimpse of what they learned is shared.

Two new members, introduced on page 4, have jumped right in with others sharing fresh work in Member News and Behind the Brush. It's like a mini-exhibit, right here on your screen! But do venture out, if you haven't already, to see the real stuff on display at AIP.



## On Exhibit

*Julia*, Paintings by **Sonja Sweterlitsch** will be shown August 20 - September 14 at Box Heart Gallery in Bloomfield. A reception Saturday, August 24, 5-8pm is free and open to the public. The series of oil paintings celebrates Julia Erickson, Principal Dancer with Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre and Creator and CEO of Barre, LLC. "I had asked Julia to be part of my first show, *Beautiful Dreamers*, and getting to know her through the process of painting her portrait was truly an inspirational experience for me," says Sonia. "Not only is Julia a wonderful person, but her dedication to her art, ballet, as well as her entrepreneurial acumen in starting and growing Barre is truly impressive. Getting to know Julia inspired me to approach my painting with the same commitment and passion as she brings to dance."



**Nora Thompson's** gynecologist is moving to a new office, and she will be displaying her figure drawings there.



**Rob Sassi** has a show with RAWPittsburgh coming up August 1 at Cavo on Smallman Street. He will be screening a few of his animated shorts and offering paintings and prints for sale. Advance Tickets, available from Rob at \$10 dollars, offer a savings of \$5 off the door price, plus an incentive. For anyone who buys a ticket from him, Rob will create a small pencil/ink/watercolor caricature to give to you at the show. It's dress attire, 21+ and there will be a lot of other cool artists and performances throughout the evening, he promises. Go to <http://www.rawartists.org/stopsassi> to buy tickets from Rob directly.



## Books

As of July 7, a Kickstarter project proposed by **Ilene Winn-Lederer** was fully funded. Her book, *An Illumination Of Blessings*, thirty-six blessings illustrated with original Hebrew and English calligraphy, is now in process. Eight blessings have been completed to date and may be seen at the Kickstarter site: <http://www.kickstarter.com/projects/1330347473/an-illumination-of-blessings> and at her blog: <http://www.imaginarium13.wordpress.com> If you missed the opportunity to pledge your support, you can now pre-order the books and choose your blessings for gicleé prints to be custom made. Go to: <http://winnleder.com/blessings/index.htm> Ilene thanks all whose support and encouragement made this possible.



**Keith Bastianini** has been commissioned to provide cover art and interior illustrations for a new, as yet untitled, book by UFO Researcher and author Stan Gordon. The book will detail reports investigated by Mr. Gordon of alien entities and strange creatures reported during the last forty years in Pennsylvania and the tri-state region. The book is a follow-up to his 2010 title *Silent Invasion* for which Keith also provided work.

## Out and About

**Bill Vrscek** was one of five jurors for this year's 47th Annual Central Pennsylvania Festival of the Arts Sidewalk Sale, featuring 300 artists' booths. The nationally recognized event brings over 125,000 people to downtown State College and the Penn State campus. Almost 1,000 artists from the United States and several foreign countries submitted digital images of their work. In February, jurors reviewed the images and the artists receiving the highest scores were accepted into the Sidewalk Sale & Exhibition. Jurors visit each exhibitor during the Festival in July and subsequently award over \$17,000 in prize money. Bill is shown with **Anni Matsick**, Chair for Rules and Jurying, after the awards ceremony on July 13. Past jurors include PSI members **Fred Carlson, Rick Antolic, Mark Bender** and **Ron Thurston**.



Anni was a featured speaker at *BookFestPA*, in conjunction with the CPFA on Saturday, July 13. The annual event sponsored by Schlow Centre Region Library highlights local authors, talks by bestselling writers, and an array of book-related activities. She presented a slideshow on a children's title she illustrated, *Eat It! Food Adventures with Marco Polo* by Gracie Cavnar, and attendees were invited to work along with her in a brief drawing lesson. A promo video filmed by WTAJ-TV for CentralPA.com is online at: [http://wearecentralpa.com/fulltext-centralpalive?%20nxd\\_id=478272](http://wearecentralpa.com/fulltext-centralpalive?%20nxd_id=478272)

Bill (left) is shown talking to participants at the Morgantown Art Association's spring workshop in April. Waites Run Studios blogger Kristen Colebank wrote very favorably about the four-day experience at: <http://waitesrunstudios.blogspot.com/2013/06/bill-vrscek-workshop-in-morgantown.html>



Photo Courtesy D. Byron Witt



# Art for a Hire Purpose Exhibition



**Opens July 8, Reception Rocks on Thursday, July 11!  
Show Runs Through August 27**

The long-awaited PSI Exhibition *Art for a Hire Purpose* opened the week of July 8, capped with the opening reception on Thursday evening, July 11. Over 150 attendees enjoyed food offered by City Deli and underwritten by the Art Institute of Pittsburgh and beverages coordinated by PSI, including donations of craft brew from Sean Casey's Church Brew Works. For their hard work in covering all loose ends related to the reception, PSI gives thanks and kudos to **Kit Paulsen**, **Ashley Cecil** and **Frances Halley**, who also created the eye-catching table florals.

Opening remarks were offered by AIP President George Sebolt and AIP Gallery Director Maura Doern-Danko, as well as current PSI President **Evette Gabriel** and Exhibition Coordinator and Past PSI President **Fred Carlson** who were both in the exhibition. Fred noted that the current exhibition marks the seventh major show using the AIP gallery facility over our 16-year existence. Creative teams from around the city were in attendance and works by **John Hinderliter**

and **Kit Paulsen** sold off the wall the opening night! PSI plans to continue promoting and driving attendance to the gallery as well as the virtual online gallery produced by **Carly Schonberg** that can be found at <http://pittsburghillustrators.org/artforahirepurpose/>

Other exhibitors attending included three other PSI Past Presidents **John Manders**, **Rick Antolic** and **Mark Brewer**. Former VPs and Category Leaders **George Schill** (Humor) and **John Blumen** (Fantasy) as well as current Treasurer **Gina Antognoli**, current membership secretary **Jim Mellett**, and current VP **Ashley Cecil** enjoyed the evening as well. Exhibitors **Keith Bastianini**, **Mark Bender** (who also served as Advertising category leader and show hanging conceptualizer), **Mike Faria**, **Molly Feuer**, **George S. Gaadt**, Technical/Medical Category Leader **Rick Henkel**, **John Hinderliter**, **Karl Huber**, **Craig Jennion**, **Yvonne Kozlina**, **Yelena Lamm**, **Patty Lipinski**, **Ron Magnes**, **Ron Mahoney**, **Vince Ornato**, **Kit Paulsen**, Signage Designer **Kurt Pfaff**, **John Ritter**, **Kathy Rooney**, web show designer **Carly Schonberg**, **Ron Thurston**, **Phil Wilson**, and Editorial Category Leader **Ilene Winn-Lederer**. Non-exhibitors supporting the show included **Vi Scarpone**, **Vince Dorse**, **Bill Mitas**, new member **Joel Boyer**, **Mick Opalko**, and PSI intern Sean Smith.



"She Had these Scapular Wings" by John Hinderliter was sold.



"Ruby, Evangeline and Agnes" by Kit Paulsen was sold.

were under budget since Maura enlisted the AIP copy center to create everything except the show postcard. Treasurer **Gina Antognoli**, using the design supplied by Evette, coordinated the printing of the show card and a regional postal mailing to 220 clients. **Ashley Cecil** arranged show publicity outreach to the arts and media community from PR material created by **Kit Paulsen** and the group leaders. Maura Doern-Danko circulated 250 cards throughout the AIP faculty and student community, and **Fred Carlson** distributed cards to most of the exhibitors for their own use. Illustrator promos were also displayed for circulation on the gallery center table, and the "PSI Store" of Directories, Baseball Cards, and books is also available at the Gallery. Thanks to Goldie Ziskind of ZBrand Marketing, and illustrator/social media creative Joseph Daniel Fiedler, who connected 2000 clients with our show publicity materials on Facebook. ZBrand Group on Facebook featured 19 PSI members in ZBrand's "Pittsburgh Artist of the Day" Facebook campaign between June 7 and press time. They are: **Ron Magnes**, **Jim Zahniser**, **Pat Lewis**, **Mark Bender**, **John Ritter**, **John Manders**, **Phil Wilson**, **Nora Thompson**, **Dave Klug**, **Christine Swann**, **Jim Starr**, **Fred Carlson**, **Rose Gauss**, **Molly Feuer**, **Kathy Rooney**, **Kurt Pfaff**, **Ilene Winn-Lederer**, **Rhonda Libbey** and **Taylor Gallery**. A schedule of Wednesday noontime guest presentations by exhibitors is being organized by Maura Doern-Danko for the AIP students. Scheduled for the 12:30pm presentations are: August 1 - **Karl Huber**, August 15 - **Anni Matsick**, August 20 - **Ashley Cecil**, August 21 - **Kit Paulsen**.



The hanging of the show went flawlessly on Friday July 5 over a period of about 2 1/2 hours. Hanging helpers included: Bender, Carlson, Hinderliter, Pfaff, Innerst, Schonberg, Wilson, Henkel, Brewer, Gabriel, Ornato, Winn-Lederer, Huber, Schill, Cecil, Paulsen, Zimmerman, Antolic, Blumen, Lipinski, Lauso, Maura Doern, and a surprise appearance by Ashley Cecil's mom!

**Report by Fred Carlson**  
**Photos by Jordan Villella**



PSI Presidents past and present, l-r: John Manders, Fred Carlson, Evette Gabriel, Rick Antolic, Mark Brewer.



Singer/songwriter Jay Hitt posed with Kathy Rooney in front of his music CD jacket she designed.



The work completed for the show included design and production of our window banners, contact program, wall posters, and show postcard by **Evette Gabriel** from the show title and graphic created by **George Schill**. **Kurt Pfaff** completed the signage system. PSI costs



Molly Feuer reports on:

# June BOI Meeting

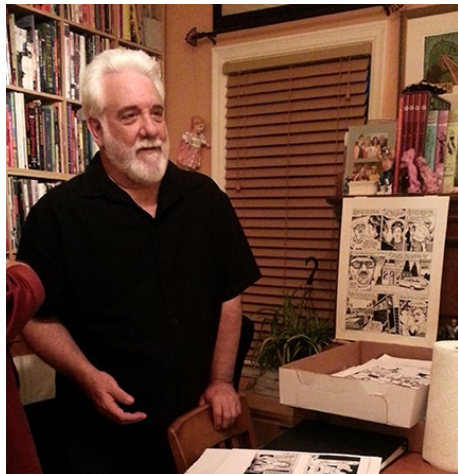


Photo by Molly Feuer

**Mark Zingarelli** was our host and speaker at the June Business of Illustration Meeting. The drive to North Huntingdon was a breeze, and so worth it to hear about Mark's latest work. Formatted a little differently than our recent talks, he put together a slideshow that focused on just one project, the creation of which is a story in itself.

Mark is working on a new graphic novel with Joyce Brabner, writer and widow of the late Harvey Pekar. Without giving away too much of the plot, Mark described this narrative as one I think will be simultaneously exciting and heart-wrenching. It is based on a true story, and the project has put Mark in a unique position to work with the living main character as well as with Ms. Brabner and their editor. Getting direction and feedback from multiple sources while putting his own artistic voice into each illustration is a challenge Mark seems to be handling beautifully. The evidence is in the artwork, which we're all eager to see finalized!

The amount of time that has already gone into character development, experimentation, storyboarding, drawing and preliminary inking is very impressive, and I know that I'm privileged to have had a front row seat to learn about the process and see Mark's work. By the time he finished speaking we were all eager for even more details



about this amazing collaboration, and he was kind enough to answer many of our questions. In fact I don't recall a group discussion. I think we all just sort of lined up for our turn to spend a few minutes one-on-one with Mark!

Attending in addition to myself and our host and Featured Artist were PSI President **Evette Gabriel**, Vice President **Ashley Cecil**, members **Rick Antolic, John Blumen, Fred Carlson, Steve Cup, Mike Faria, Rose Gauss, Rick Henkel, Stacy Innerst, Judy Lauso, Jim Mellett, Vince Ornato, Kurt Pfaff, Rob Sassi, George Schill, Carly Schonberg** and **Nora Thompson**.

**Next BOI Meeting: July 26, 7:30 pm at Mark Bender's home. Featured Artist: Mark Bender.**

Please remember to bring a snack to share!

A list of locations and speakers in this series is posted on PSI's website at [www.pittsburghillustrators.org](http://www.pittsburghillustrators.org)



Photos by Kurt Pfaff

## New Members

**Joel Christopher Boyer**, Wexford  
[Joel\\_cboyer@hotmail.com](mailto:Joel_cboyer@hotmail.com)

Joel graduated in 2012 with a BAA in the Technical and Scientific Illustration program from Sheridan College in Oakville, Ontario. Joel is a freelancer working with publishing, advertising and corporate clients to visually communicate technical information. His work includes technical, scientific and graphic design. "My work reveals hidden values, evokes new perspective and makes sense of an increasingly complex world," Joel says.



**Tim Miklos**, Bethel Park  
[tmiklos71@verizon.net](mailto:tmiklos71@verizon.net)

Tim is a 1992 AIP grad who immediately began working as an illustrator for a graphic design firm that specialized in medical brochures. He later moved into airbrushing, eventually owning his own business for ten years, where he created custom artwork specializing in portraiture. During this time he did a wide variety of work for private collectors, small business owners, and local recording artists. Some of this work included portrait collections, CD covers, business logos and large scale murals. Tim has trained approximately 15 apprentices over the years, many of whom continue to airbrush today. Since closing the retail store he works freelance, illustrating everything from greeting cards to fine art portraits.



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## Spotlight on... Ashley Cecil



*PSI's VP acted as an ambassador for Pittsburgh's art scene in welcoming arts and community leaders from across the country to a national conference hosted here.*

Since January 2012, PSI Vice President Ashley Cecil, has been working with the Greater Pittsburgh Arts Council (GPAC) to host the 2013 *Americans for the Arts Annual Convention* and three preconferences here in Pittsburgh that took place June 13-17. The Convention brought together over 1,000 arts and community leaders from around the country to strategize how to grow, enhance, fund and promote the essential impact the arts make in our communities. Ashley and the GPAC staff were especially proud of our own local arts scene, which had a lot to offer the convention attendees, including public art, "ARTventure" tours to nearly 40 of our cultural institutions and artists' studios, and over 100 local artists who performed throughout the convention.

Additionally, the convention drew such prestigious speakers as Jim Messina, the mastermind behind President Obama's 2012 re-election campaign; Paula Kerger, President and CEO of PBS; and Pittsburgh's own Bill Strickland, President and CEO of the Manchester Bidwell Corporation on the Northside.

All of the activity took place on an exceptionally lively weekend in Pittsburgh. While in town and in between workshop sessions and keynote plenaries, the convention attendees had the opportunity to explore the Three Rivers Arts Festival, partake in Pittsburgh Pride, see the Fiber International Exhibition at the Society of Contemporary Craft, attend any of three Pirates games, and more.

Ashley and the staff at GPAC were pleased to host this important annual gathering and look forward to next year's convention in Nashville, Tennessee. Enjoy some of the convention coverage on the GPAC Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/pittsburghartscouncil>



**PSInside newsletter items are due during the first seven days of each month for that month's issue.**

Send any new images you've completed or are working on for

### **BEHIND THE BRUSH.**

Send news on exhibits, awards, book signings, art donations and other announcements for **MEMBER NEWS.**

Got an assignment or commission through PSI's website gallery, PSI eblast, exhibit, or other PSI contacts?  
Send details for the new **PSI WORKED** feature.

Images must be low res jpegs 72 dpi, max 600 x 600 pixels.

Send your info to:

**animatsick@mac.com**

## Please note

that the correct address for PSI's Treasurer is:

Gina Antognoli  
439 Lark Tree Circle, Pittsburgh, PA 15017

Checks should be made payable to:  
Pittsburgh Society of Illustrators

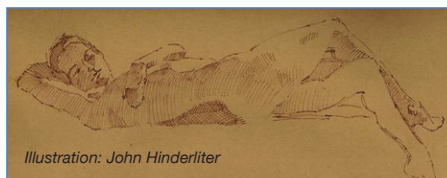


Illustration: John Hinderliter

## Life Drawing at Panza Gallery

**Thursdays 6:30-9:30pm \$10**

Coffee, pastries & drinks served.

Enter basement gallery on left side of building.

[http://www.panzagallery.com/Panza\\_Gallery/Life\\_Drawing.html](http://www.panzagallery.com/Panza_Gallery/Life_Drawing.html)

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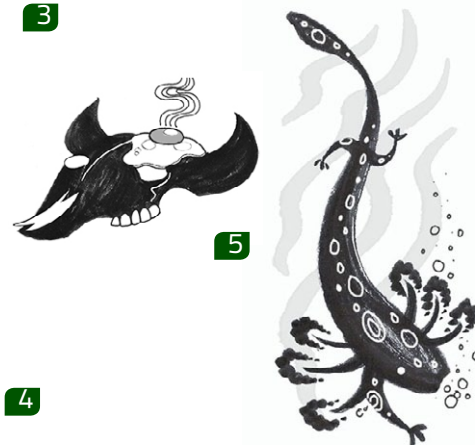
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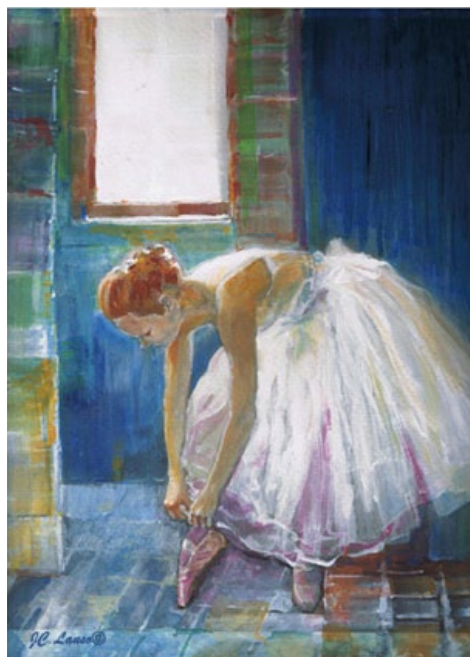
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1. **John Blumen** just completed this image for the paperback edition of *The Gate Thief* written by Orson Scott Cards and published by Tor Books. The book is second in the series, followup to *The Lost Gate*. **Mark Brewer's** son Bennon served as a model.
2. When Talk of the Nation ended its 21-year run on NPR in June, Highlights for Children Inc. commissioned this special artwork of host Neal Conan by **Dave Klug** as their salute to the show and its staff. Mr. Conan had earlier told a staff member that he always had trouble with their "Check...and Double Check" feature. Can you spot all the differences? <http://bit.ly/14TRHbR>
3. This latest promo card by **Nora Thompson** was sent to her children's book and magazine illustration mailing list.
4. "Four Generations," a 40" x 30" oil painting on canvas, is a recent commission completed by **Kurt Pfaff**.
5. **Beth O'Neill** shares two samples from a series of black and white cartoons she created to accompany a collection of essays her sister Eve O'Neill wrote for her blog. It's a work in progress and more can be seen by clicking on each essay at <http://waterchangeseverything.net/>.
6. This three-legged stool was done by Beth for EcoScraps, a Salt Lake City-based start-up that collects food waste from businesses and re-sells the compost. It's a digital painting with details and lettering done by hand in ink.
7. "Private Lodging" and "Dancer in the Hallway" are **Judith Lauso's** entries in Pittsburgh Watercolor Society's 67th Annual International Exhibition
8. This watercolor painting by **Ron Thurston** is a commission of "a friend and her horse and a rare type of barn they don't make anymore," he says.
9. Here is **Jim Zahniser's** latest piece in his Icons of Music series.

continued on page 7...



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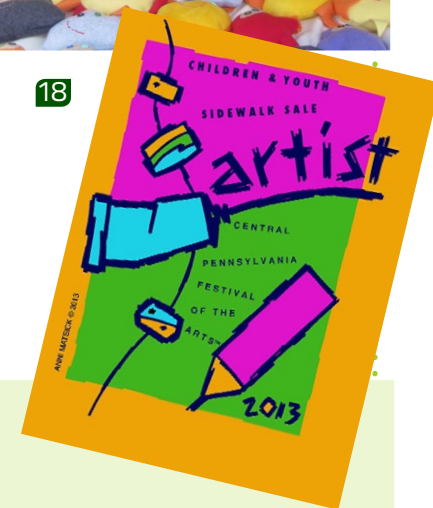
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10. **Sarah Miller** did this six-hour tattoo on herself while viewing it upside down.

11. **Taylor Gallery** has done recent artwork for numerous publications. This piece for the Wall Street Journal accompanied an article on how bidding wars are breaking out in many cities due to a relatively low inventory of homes for sale.

12. For Phoenix Magazine's Hot Topics, Taylor did this piece relating to how the Arizona valley art scene will survive the barren summer months.

13. For Variety's story about how Google is laying out more money on well-connected lobbyists in Washington as the tech sector outspends Hollywood in the attempt to influence government.

14. This new hand lettered/drawn studio logo will be used on redesign of **Fred Carlson's** website. The new site will also be featuring Fred's hand lettering projects, new retail offerings, as well as his illustration work, and also spouse Nancy Flury Carlson's printmaking.

15. This portrait was done lovingly by **Phil Wilson** of "Missy," his family's cat of almost 22 years gone to rest this month.

16. **Kit Paulsen's** latest illustration for the fall Table magazine goes with a story titled "Coyote Hit Man." "And yes, that is indeed our farm in the background, with the moon rising behind it," Kit says.

17. Here's a sample of new member **Tim Miklos'** latest work, titled "Warpaint."

18. For an eleventh year, **Anni Matsick** designed a tee-shirt available for purchase by participants in the Children & Youth Sidewalk Sale of the *Central Pennsylvania Festival of the Arts*. Their booths with handcrafted wares lined the streets of State College's downtown on Wednesday, July 10.