My Spot by Anni Matsick

In our chillingly cool Halloween issue, readers are treated to a generous supply of eye candy! We also offer a delightful opportunity for enjoying the fall season, haunting the area’s galleries where members are exhibiting in a wide selection of shows. Make your list from those shown on pages 2 and 3.

As the leaves turn, we are heading toward Fission of Form’s third and final event at Panza gallery, scheduled for Halloween night. Plan now to join in the fun and have a last chance to experience this unique show. A beautifully designed book documenting all of the entries is available for pre-order, using the form on page 5. It’s like holding the show in your hands! Pull out your holiday gift list now so you don’t miss anyone who would love having his or her own copy.

Special thanks to you tricksters who contributed to this month’s theme!

News Flashes From Our Members

Members are Doling Out Some Halloween Treats!

Art buyers everywhere are finding this hauntingly sweet postcard by Vince Dorse lurking in their mailboxes.

Ron Magnes created the image below for MarketSpace Communications who feature caricatures of their staff on their website. “I’ve been doing this for years adding new or deleting old employees,” Ron says. You can see them unmasked at www.marketspacecommunications.com/ourentalent/talent.php and click the flying bat to get the gang ready for Halloween!

John Manders’ illustrations in the gently creepy children’s book Where’s My Mummy?, written by Carolyn Crimi, got an enthusiastic, timely review this month at Madness by Mattie: www.madnessbymatti e.blogspot.com

While looking for his Mama Mummy during a game of hide and shriek, Baby Mummy instead finds Glob—one of the creatures of the deep, dark night. “You’re not my mummy!” he exclaims.

John shares a revised character design sketch for Mama Mummy—the art director had asked for more hips than the version previously submitted.
AG Invitational

George Schill recently returned from the 19th Annual Freelancer’s Classic golf tournament in Cleveland, Ohio featuring artists from the original Hi Brow Studios at American Greetings. Cities represented were Cleveland, Columbus, Akron, Pittsburgh and Baltimore. George was again presented with the Worst Score Award, but also received the Best Shot Award for sinking a 26 foot putt. Go figure. His brother-in-law’s clubs were returned unharmed.

Celebrating Every Day!

The theme for this year’s annual illustrators party at Highlights for Children headquarters in Honesdale was to come as your favorite day of the year.

Attendees were given a website listing official and unofficial observances but Anni Matsick came up with hers based on a wish to wear a crown! Here she is as “Queen for a Day”, with the magazine’s art director, Cindy Smith, portraying Regifting Day. Dave Klug (Veterans Day) and his wife, Patricia (All Saints Day) are shown in the 2009 photo keepsake. Dave appears again with Tim Gillner, art director for HFC’s book publishing branch Boyds Mills Press, during the portfolio sharing.

On Exhibit

Ron Thurston’s “Ghost Town Trail” was done in Dilltown, Indiana County right where the Ghost Town Trail begins. It will be seen in Locations, Locations, Locations at Pittsburgh’s James Gallery opening on November, Friday the 13th! Bill Vrscak’s “Glenwood Avenue, Hazelwood” will also be shown. They are among 12 invited artists participating. Each was assigned two locations in which to do four to five paintings, a Pittsburgh neighborhood and a county adjacent to Allegheny.

Ron, Bill and Kit Paulsen are included in the Pittsburgh Watercolor Society national juried show Aqueous Open 2009, opening November 7 at Borelli-Edwards Gallery in Lawrenceville. Shown are Ron’s “Window Shop,” Kit’s “Lining Up for the Demolition Derby,” and Bill’s “North Side Saturday.”

Joe Winkler has two paintings in the Pittsburgh Society of Artists 2009 Annual Member Show at the Borelli-Edwards gallery through October 17th. “Point of Impact,” a 14 x 11 oil on canvas, won an honorable mention.

continued on page 3
“Peaches and Peonies,” a pastel by Bernadette Kazmarski, won an award of merit at the South Hills Art League’s annual juried art show.

She donated a pastel painting to the Allegheny Land Trust’s Bounty in the Barn benefit in Sewickley Heights on October 3. “Evening on the Meadow” depicts the meadow habitat at Fern Hollow Nature Center in Sewickley Heights, a property which ALT helped to conserve many years ago. Bernadette was recently juried into membership in the Associated Artists of Pittsburgh.

Anita Alano sold her acrylic painting “Twilight Cat: Scenery Hill, PA”, at the Art In The Garden show in Washington, PA, sponsored by Washington County Historical Society.

Popular Culture: A Retrospective of Published Illustrations by John Ritter at Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art continues through November 7.

Monique Luck will be in Beverly Hills for the Affaire in the Gardens art show, October 17-18. Her space is 331. Three of her pieces will be part of the Carroll Harris Simms Biennial Exhibition at the African American Museum in Dallas November 13 - May 31, 2010. Here is one of Monique’s latest pieces, “Caught in a Daydream.”

Six-Time Super Bowl Champs
Here’s the awe-inspiring new Pittsburgh Steeler poster by George Gaadt, commissioned by the Rooney family to commemorate their amazing 2008 season culminating with the team’s sixth Super Bowl Championship. George says, “I’ve been very fortunate to have played a small role by creating paintings for three of the organization’s major historic events: The 50th Anniversary in 1983, the 75th Anniversary in 2008 and this most recent Six Super Bowl celebration poster, September 2009.”
The Power of Pastel

All levels are welcome in this weekend pastel workshop presented by Christine Swann, PSA, scheduled 9 am – 3 pm on Saturday and Sunday, November 14-15. Cost is $120. For more information and to reserve a place, call 724-444-8197 or email christine@swannportraits.com

Christine’s work can be seen at: swannportraits.com

Speak Up

The copyright alliance is asking for digital signatures on a letter going to President Obama asking him to pursue policies that support our rights as creators. Information and sign-up at: www.copyrightalliance.org/letter

New Member

David D’Incau, Jr.

David is a recent graduate of Savannah College of Art and Design with a B.F.A. in Illustration. He has studied and exhibited work in Lacoste, France and Savannah, Georgia. He is creating a new portfolio focused towards the music, editorial and book publishing markets.

Fission of Form Poetry Reading Enhances Show

Pittsburgh Poets leader Walt Peterson led 16 of the 20 participating poets in reading their poems to the assembled 100+ audience crowded into Panza Gallery on Saturday evening, October 3. The audience enjoyed the catering provided by PSI volunteers Dave Coulson, Judy Emerick, Fred Carlson, Lonesome Leroy (Paul Gehres), Anne Trimble, Rhonda Libbey and Yelena Lamm. The readings began at 7 pm with a break in between the sets of ten.

An appreciation of the lyricism of the poems was enhanced by hearing them read aloud. Like seeing our pieces in print, a further understanding is realized by seeing the original. Many of the poems reached our ears with a novel nuance that increased our enjoyment.

Many of the poets prefaced their remarks by noting how impressed and intimidated they were by the sculptures that prompted the poems, and the illustrations that came forward from the texts. Of particular note was Ellen Smith’s joyous appreciation of Bill Vrscak’s work. Other appreciations from the poets explicitly mentioned Judy Emerick, Rose Gauss, Chris Swann, Gina Scanlon and Yelena Lamm, although all the illustrators were admired and, to conserve time, long lead-in remarks were not encouraged! Mark Panza declared, “Fred, thanks for pulling off a great show. I thought everything went great!” in a giddy reflection of the warmth of the evening. Attendees stayed well past the 9 pm cutoff.

The event was punctuated by a successful drive to generate pre-sales orders for the Fission of Form book, priced at $15. The 92-page catalog designed by Dale McNutt has all of the works organized by the triad arrangements as they are presented in the exhibition. Pre-sales are vital to the underwriting of the printing costs and during the event 135 copies were pre-ordered for a total of $2025 toward that goal. We now are within $3000 of further fundraising necessary to guarantee a successful print run.

A favorable review by Kurt Shaw appeared in the Trib the previous week: www.pittsburghlive.com/x/pittsburghtrib/ae/museums/s_644709.html

Please join us at Panza on October 31 for the closing party, 6-9 pm. If you haven’t seen the exhibition yet this is your last chance unless another travel venue follows up at another site. Non-sold work MUST be taken down and removed by the artists so please plan on being there in person or designating in writing someone authorized to take your work.

Other details on costume themes might be coming via e-mail but we cannot confirm costume planning at this time. One suggestion was “Come as you art(t)come as your art!”

Fission of Form: The Book

A 92-page 6”x 9” softcover perfect bound catalog of the entire exhibition, Fission of Form, exhibited Sept 5 – Oct 31, 2009 at Panza Gallery Millvale PA.

continued on page 5
A internationally unique collaboration between 20 Pittsburgh Society of Illustrators members, 20 Pittsburgh Society of Sculptors members, and 20 Pittsburgh Poets. The perfect holiday present highlighting artists and literary creators from this region. Impress your out-of-town friends, and your yinzers too!

Proceeds beyond the cost of the printing production will directly benefit the treasuries of PSI, SOS, and the Creative Writing Program at Pitt.

"Of course, there are plenty more compelling combinations to explore, too many to list here. Nevertheless, this show truly is a stunning exhibit—even more so because of its collaborative nature, which was extremely difficult to pull together logistically."

–Kurt Shaw, Pittsburgh Tribune-Review

"When I saw piece after piece by the illustrators all hitting home runs, I was just blown away. For many of these artists, the pieces they did... were the greatest things I ever saw them stretch out for."

–Fred Carlson, Pittsburgh Society of Illustrators member and past president.

Participants in the show will get one (1) complimentary copy of this book.

Print out this order form ASAP, and mail with check payable to PSI for $15 per copy, memo: Fission of Form pre-sales order. Send to: Gina Scanlon, PSI Treasurer, 142 Harding Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15229. Orders are tax-deductible!

You will be notified as soon as copies are available for pickup. Please complete this form fully and include it with your checks to Gina. Thank you for your support of this important historical show and this book (and our society!).

**Fission of Form Book Pre-sales Order Form**

| Name ______________________________ |
| Number of copies _____ @ $15 each |
| Total order amount $___________ |
| Check enclosed:  o yes  o no |
| Address __________________________ |
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| Email _____________________________ |
| Telephone _________________________ |
| Mail to: Gina Scanlon, PSI Treasurer 142 Harding Road Pittsburgh, PA 15229 |

**Business Meeting**

**Come Out, Get Involved, Be Inspired!**

**Upcoming Business Meeting**

October 20, 7:30 pm at John Blumen’s home

**Fun Links**

**Seeing faces:**
http://facesinplaces.blogspot.com

**COMBO, a collaborative animation:**
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uad17d5hR5s

**PSI Webboard**

Have art related questions or comments? Share them at PSI’s online forum:

http://groups.google.com/group/psiblog?pli=1

**Halloween Potpourri**

**Kurt Pfaff** looks a bit spooked as he does some nighttime pumpkin carving.

**Another tribute to Pittsburgh’s Andy Warhol comes from Jim Mellett, who took the costume approach.**

**Ilene Winn-Lederer** holds up a warning with her “finger demons”!

Here are samples of the celebrity image pumpkins

**Anne Trimble** has been carving for about 12 years. “I find photos/images online, put them in ‘poster’ mode in my art software, then pin them to the pumpkin. Leave the dark values, cut out the bright values, and carve out the ‘medium’ values,” she instructs. “Trying to decide who I want to do this year...”

Anne got the inspiration from “Keith’s Pumpkins” and shares a link for details on his techniques:

www.carvingdude.com
A sense of familiarity is provoked by the characters Mark portrays so exquisitely in his pulp stories. The masterful brush strokes revive a skill not often seen in print today. A glance at his portfolio will have you nodding in agreement, the guy’s got style.

I had been exploring the scratchboard technique as a new illustration style and I was getting more and more requests for it from existing clients (almost all for publications of one sort or another). I was getting quite adept at the style and was very happy with the results. Fortunately, I developed Carpal Tunnel Syndrome at some point with the repetitive action of using the scratchboard stylus. I say fortunately now, but at the time it was heartbreaking. I tried wrist braces and therapy to alleviate the pain…everything short of surgery, but nothing worked for long. I didn’t want a surgical solution as I had talked to some that found surgery less effective. So, eventually, I started using a brush and ink to simulate the scratchboard look so I could continue, at least for a time, doing illustrations that looked like scratchboard.

Eventually, I became much more adept at using the brush instead of a croquill or other dip pen and my comics inking style was born out of this situation that at first seemed like a monumental setback.

I learn something about myself from just about every job, even the seemingly small, inconsequential jobs. I’m often struck by how something I’ve done on one assignment sets up a learning experience or enhances one on the next assignment. I’ve observed this weird type of synergy over and over again!

I was always amazed at the diversity of the assignments I get. Even if some jobs seem similar in content and execution, they’re all different. I also like that assignments have a beginning, middle and end. I get a great feeling of accomplishment in completing jobs, especially the big ones.

Along the way, many people have contributed to making me a better artist and a creative. The Artist’s Way by Julia Cameron was eye opening. However, some of the most memorable comments (or criticism, if you wish) came from Robert Crumb reviewing my published and unpublished work in my studio over a period of a year or so. These were pages for comic books and his observations and comments mainly involved rudimentary elements of design and drawing…light and shadow, folds in clothing and pacing of picture stories.

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What is the one aspect of illustration that most inspires or motivates you?

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What advice would you offer to those who admire your work and want to learn from you?

Hah! Study the work of people who are a lot better than I am. That is how I’ve learned my craft. Nothing that I do in illustration or in my own art reflects anything I was taught at art school or college. I am completely self-taught.
Q: Does the artwork that you do for yourself differ from the artwork that you do for your clients? If so, how?

A: Yes. Mostly in subject matter. The work I do for myself always seems to involve storytelling of some sort. I like to write and fashion imagery that fuses both art and writing into a single narrative. For this reason, I am happiest doing graphic novels and comics.

Q: What do art directors like about your work?

A: Art directors enjoy working with me because I never forget that basically, I’m working in a service industry. I have been told over and over again throughout the years that I am easy to work with and do not suffer a case of inflated ego. In other words, don’t act like an ass of a prima donna. You’re hired to do a job. So do it.

Q: Who or what has been the biggest influence on your work?

A: My father was probably the biggest influence on my early work. He was my greatest supporter and most ardent fan while he was alive. Beyond that, however, comics, comic book illustrators and book cover artists have probably been most influential in my career.

Q: What would you do with ten million dollars?

A: Travel more, build a new studio and just work on my own books. Maybe move to Italy…

Q: What do you enjoy reading?

A: Genre fiction (mystery, espionage thrillers, social commentary like Bruce Jay Friedman’s work), books on cartooning, comics, illustration and the artists that have gone before me in the field. I’m also kind of a foodie so I also like cookbooks and food travelogues. Southern Belly by John T. Edge is an old favorite.

Q: What one thing would you like to learn to do?

A: Write and illustrate a bestselling graphic novel or two…or three. That and paint in oils.

Q: Share an interesting work related anecdote about a tight deadline, dream assignment, or favorite art director.

A: When I was doing a lot of work each month for the New Yorker (under Tina Brown’s editorship) I got a call on a Monday morning from Francoise Mouly, the New Yorker’s cover editor and designer. It was a request to do a Memorial Day cover for the magazine! A cover for the New Yorker! They had a rough concept they had already given another artist the previous week, but after several tries, neither Francoise nor Tina were happy with the results. I had about two hours to come up with an alternate version of a Memorial Day cover in rough form, which I rushed through and turned in before noon. Francoise got back to me within a half hour with NO changes. I had gotten a go-ahead. The only problem was that I had to finish the art by the end of the day and this was before we were sending scanned art files over the Internet. They had to have the original art in hand before midnight. I finished the art, and they sent a courier to pick up the art as soon as it was completed. At the time, I lived in a small town an hour north of Seattle. The courier had to be dispatched to my house, an hour drive, pick up the art (the gouache was still a little tacky in one area when I was packing it!) then walk it onto a plane bound for New York. He arrived in time, the work was scanned on a drum scanner and the cover appeared in time. On top of everything, it turned out to be a slightly controversial cover with “patriots” crying foul. Like many controversial covers before mine and since for The New Yorker, the editor stood by my work and defended the image. And I finally had a cover for The New Yorker in my portfolio!

Mark’s website can be viewed at: www.houseofzing.com


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**PEGS 12th EDITION!**

The Graphic Artists Guild Pricing & Ethical Guidelines Handbook is the ultimate reference book for design and illustration professionals.

Read more at: www.gag.org
What would your “death row” meal be?

Ilene Winn-Lederer: “I’d like to go out munching my soul food—bagel and lox with lotsa cream cheese, tomatoes, cucumber and capers!

Oh yeah, and a nice hot grande Starbucks with two pumps of toffee nut and whipped cream...

And in case my pardon appeal doesn’t reach the guv in time, here’s my epitaph: To quote Douglas Adams, ‘So long and thanks for all the fish’! ’D’

Jim Mellett: “I would choose my mother’s meatloaf with mashed potatoes. I would never do anything to end up on death row while my mother is alive. So who would make the meal when she is gone? I’ll have to choose something else to eat if the time comes.”

Rick Antolic: “For an appetizer, I would start with a plate of potato skins. It doesn’t matter where from, I’ve never met a potato skin that I didn’t like! For the main course, I would choose the prime rib dinner from Mallorca on the South Side. Crispy and charcoal-ly on the outside, and juicy and tender on the inside. The yellow rice they serve with it absorbs the flavor of the juice dripping from the meat. It’s by far the best meal I’ve ever had—and I’ve gone back to have it a few times, just to make sure! For dessert, I would have chocolate chip banana pancakes from Pamela’s with a side order of homefries (I’ve also never met an order of homefries that I didn’t like). For my second dessert of the night (hey, if you’re on death row, you might as well get two desserts out of it) I would have a big slice of my homemade Apple Pie (the caps are intentional). Then, to chase it all down, I would have a huge shot glass of homemade amaretto, also from Mallorca. It’s the best damn amaretto I’ve ever had! After that, I wouldn’t mind dying because I know life wouldn’t get any better than that!”

Fred Carlson: “Why did I end up on death row? I hope is was a worthwhile offense...taking out the House Judiciary Copyright Subcommittee perhaps, for all their ridiculous lunacy regarding possible Orphan Works legislation? Here’s my menu:

- Caesar’s Salad a la Carlson
- Indirect method coal-grilled marinated chicken with combination of Corbin BBQ sauce and Sammy Davis Jr. sauce
- Pennsylvania summer corn on the cob grilled in the husks over coals
- Linguine with pesto a la Nancy (no pine nuts) and grated Swiss Waliser cheese
- Diced ripe cantaloupe (not cold)
- Rick Antolic’s apple pie (no ice cream needed—this would be intruding on excellence)
- 1985 Clos du Val Cabernet Savignon
- Gevalla Swedish coffee with kirsch (lots) and sugar cubes
- The background music would be the Brandenberg Concertos by any decent German group on period instruments. Interspersed with solo jazz guitar pieces by Joe Pass.”

Joe Winkler: “Huge slab of prime rib just dead enough to not move off the plate, coconut breaded shrimp, and some bread. No veggies. No potato. A whole lot of beer. Then something chocolate, covered in chocolate, with a chocolate covered cherry on top. And, finally, a diet Coke. (Basically I’d ask to be taken to Ruth Chris).”

Vince Dorse: “If I’m only hours away from the needle on death row, then my last meal is going to be the majestic (and government protected) American Bald Eagle, roasted to perfection with parsley and minced onions. Or maybe a baby panda. What are they gonna do—kill me twice?”

Kurt Pfaff: “I would like a steak. A big thick, juicy rib-eye steak, medium rare with all the fixings of garlic mash potatoes, Caesar salad and a nice crusty warm bread. Why I’m on death row? I don’t know! I didn’t do it, I tell ya’. I WAS FRAMED!!!”

Anni Matsick: “Looks like I’m the only vegetarian-leaning person here and I’m holding out for a pardon. Meantime, I’d like to study a menu from the best nearby Asian restaurant, please!”

Thanks to Craig Mrusek for this month’s question. Got a good question for an upcoming issue? Please submit to: annimatsick@mac.com
A Look at What PSI-ers are Working on This Month

George Schill created two Holiday Cards for the PSC Partners Seeking a Cure Foundation. Proceeds from the sales benefits the research, educational and support programs for patients with Primary Sclerosing Cholangitis, a rare liver disease with no specific treatment or cure. More information can be found at:


This digital illustration was constructed in Photoshop by Kurt Pfaff, for an upcoming cookbook proposal.

Rick Antolic did this logo for the Ambridge Chamber of Commerce for the 45th anniversary of their annual Nationality Days, a four-day long celebration of all of Ambridge's ethnic cultures through food, craft and music. Ambridge has the largest main street in all of Beaver County, and half of it is closed off to house this event. Rick reports, “They’ve never had a logo or any merchandise for this festival, so many people in Ambridge will be surprised to see such professionalism hit their hometown!”

Ron Magnes just completed these nine icons for talCreative to be used for end client Mizuho in the sales rep section of their website.

Anne Trimble has been working on a series of young dancers; here is her latest work-in-progress.

Here is Kathy Rooney’s newly completed map for Point Park University. “It was my idea to include a downtown Pittsburgh map with points of interest since the campus is right within the city,” Kathy relates. “Students & parents can now see what a great city Pittsburgh is and I did score points on the idea but it was a lot more work!”

Lea Marie Ravotti has been working on illustrations for a poetry book about adoptions, promoting them as an alternative for unwanted pregnancies. “For the first time for me it means studying pacifiers, dolls, trains, etc. So far I have had fun doing this!” Lea says.

Christine Swann just finished this landscape of a client’s wife who is an avid gardener. The painting is called “In Her Footsteps”. “Me? Doing a landscape? scary!!!!” she quips.

Fred Carlson shows this image from the summer 2009 issue of Philips-Exeter Alumni Bulletin, done in graphite, watercolors and gouache. The illustration accompanies a biography of the wife of retiring principal Ty Tingley (Marcia BEHIND THE BRUSH continued on page 10
Tingley). She is reminiscing about moving on after spending decades at the high echelon prep school atmosphere. Fred completes four such montage portraits a year for this publication.

John Ritter’s “Rational Irrationality” was done for a New Yorker piece on why capitalism is so crash-prone.


Bernadette Kazmarski used her photos, her art and her sentiments to create animal sympathy cards for sale through her retail online store and to wholesalers. She remarks, “I hate to say I’ve had great response to them because that means people need to send sympathies for a loss, but there is very little in sympathy messages that is animal-oriented and it’s as if people have been waiting for these.

John Manders sent this “monster” in time for Halloween!

“Iowahawk, the one-stop blog spot for political satire and customized car appreciation, recently held an art competition: The Iowahawk $33.18 Steel Cage Art Death Match,” John says. “My submission is a celebration of Ed ‘Big Daddy’ Roth, the guy who designed so many of the Revell model car kits I assembled in my cav-ity-prone years. Roth designed a series of dragsters with various monsters in the driver’s seat. My homage has the iconic Iowahawk in a souped-up Smart Car.” Winning entries can be seen here: http://iowahawk.typepad.com/iowahawk/2009/10/to-the-victor-goes-the-3318-spoils.html

Eric Luden just finished this poster.

More of Mark Zingarelli’s work for AARP is shown here, from their Bulletin magazine.

This personal piece by Taylor Callery was inspired by a story concerning China’s solution to pollution control, the E Bike.

Dan Hart just finished this piece for the fall issue of CMU MechE News. The portrait is of CMU graduate Raj Kapoor to accompany a feature spread in the newsletter profiling him.

Valerie Orosz created this image in Photoshop for a poster to advertise Westmoreland County Community College’s spring registration event.