Member News

Super Art

This piece by Mark Zingarelli appeared in the Wall Street Journal’s Weekend Review/Books section for Saturday, May 26. “The accompanying story is a pretty good read on the current state of American Superhero comics,” he says. Mark also did the cover of American Splendor: Our Movie Year for the movie (as a prop) and then for the book, by Harvey Pekar, when it was released in print after the movie premiered.

Local Update

Pat Lewis did this timely cover art for the Pittsburgh City Paper, for the week of May 30.

Classic

Ron Mahoney was honored to create the artwork on this poster for the Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix to be held July 13-22. The event is celebrating its 30-year anniversary and honors the classic MG-TC shown in the illustration. The event is a vintage motor sports car race and multi-day motorsport festival that takes place annually in Schenley Park. With an estimated 200,000 spectators, it’s the largest vintage sports car race in the U.S and is the longest continually running vintage road race in the nation. This is a charity event which raises funds to help provide residential care, treatment and support for developmentally disabled individuals in the Pittsburgh region. The artwork will also be featured on limited edition lithographs, t-shirts, banners, billboards and advertising. For more information, go to www.pvgp.org.

My Spot

Anni Matsick

Attendance has picked up at the first-Tuesday-of-the-month socials, and it’s due to more than the free pizza. It’s a great chance for new members to be brought into the flow and some of the 14 new people gained this year have already taken advantage. Another chance to enjoy an evening with fellow PSIers is coming up at the last-Friday-of-the-month Business of Illustration meeting, with a very exciting featured artist. Look for details on page 4 and bring your swimsuit; our host has invited all to dive into her swimming pool if the weather is hot.

Speaking of hot, our spotlight focuses this month on someone who can’t work fast enough to meet client requests, for art they’ll wear forever! Read about her new shop and a theme exhibit you’re invited to enter, on page 5.

Our coverage of recent gallery shows makes it apparent that many of our illustrators are creating art that’s “frame-worthy.” Check the On Exhibit section to see what’s hanging.

And while you’re at it, make note of our three new members listed on page 2. You might be sharing pizza—or a cool dip—with one of them soon!
On Exhibit

Vince Ornato offered his paintings and prints at the Three Rivers Arts Festival June 6 - 10. Vince specializes in oil paintings of Pittsburgh and industrial scenes. Shown is “Beauty of Labor #3.” Info on the event can be found at http://www.3riversartsfest.org/

A show of Mark Zingarelli’s art was the inaugural exhibit at a brand new low-brow gallery, Stuff N Such Society, that opened June 1, as part of Penn Avenue Art District’s Unblurred gallery walk. It’s in the basement of Most Wanted Fine Art gallery at 5015 Penn Avenue. According to Mark, it's kind of a half gallery, half pop culture haven of vintage collectibles.

His framed art was on display and for sale, including a few splash pages of unfinished stories and a few more of the Urban Folktales series done in the mid-80s for Crumb. Mark was joined by his wife Kate (in photo) and PSI friends Wayno and his wife Kim, David Coulson and his wife Wendy Bennett and Rick Antolic. Also among the supporting visitors were Pittsburgh cartoonists Jim Rugg, Ed Piskor, Pat Lewis, Jessica Herberle and Wayne Wise. A Pittsburgh Post-Gazette article tells more about the gallery: http://old.post-gazette.com/pg/12153/1236214-437-0.stm

A 50”x67” charcoal on paper by Kelly Blevins titled “Self” won the Second Place Award in the Masur Museum of Art’s 49th Annual Juried Competition in Monroe, LA. The show ends July 21.

Kelly’s 50” x 78” charcoal on paper titled “Self II” was selected for the International Juried Exhibition of Works on Paper at the 1212 Gallery in Richmond, VA. The show runs June 24 through August 12. She will share details soon on a solo exhibit coming up in Lancaster.

Another of her works was accepted in the South Arkansas Arts Center 2012 Juried Art Competition in El Dorado. “Fabric” is a 36” x 48” charcoal on paper that will hang in the show July 6 through 31. More about the competition can be found at http://www.saac-arts.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=279&Itemid=315

New Members

Bill Breneisen
wbreisen@gmail.com
www.billbreisen.com

Bill is a cartoon illustrator and animator relatively new to Pittsburgh. He has four years in the field since graduating from Edinboro University, and is employed at the This Is Red agency. His freelance clients include Carnegie Science Center, Jamgang and Quanti Standards. In addition to creating t-shirt designs, educational illustrations, live caricatures, and flash animation, Bill is currently writing and illustrating his first graphic novel. He was referred by Frank Harris.

Abby Diamond
finchfightillustration@gmail.com
http://cargocollective.com/Finchfight
http://finchfight.tumblr.com

Abby has had a strong interest in wildlife and the natural world since childhood. Her time spent at Edinboro University pushed this fascination, where it has grown through a wide variety of drawing and biology classes. “Because my passion lies in drawing science and nature, I worked in and outside of my classes to develop technical and observational abilities for a career in natural science illustration,” Abby says. “In recent months, I have strived to incorporate my imagination into my work, to give it fictional and narrative life. Wolves, beasts, and birds are among my favorite subject matter, and I let them run rampant through my drawings with color and gestural lines.”

Mike Faria
mike@mfaria.com
www.mfaria.com
www.behance.net/mike-faria

Mike is an illustrator born and raised in Pittsburgh and trained at the Cleveland Institute of Art, receiving a BFA in illustration with an emphasis in creative writing. Mike learned of PSI at a young age that details were everything, excitedly noting that adding two points on the head of a stick figure transformed it into Batman, and has been joyfully sweating the small stuff ever since. Mike is trained in many fields including both digital and tactile illustration and design, and is always looking for new ways to expand his horizons and further his lifelong passion for outstanding illustration, art and design. Mike learned of PSI through George Schill’s talk in Cleveland this spring.

Upcoming Meetings

Business of Illustration: June 29, 7:30 pm
Happy Hour: July 10, 6:30 pm

see our website for more info!
This new still life by Joe Winkler is titled “Mini-helmet Commemorative Edition.” It’s 14” x 10”, oil on canvas and made its debut in his solo exhibit at the Shaw galleries last month. “Red Wine and Bleu Cheese,” an 8” x 10” oil on canvas, sold in that same exhibit.

A new mural was revealed May 30 at the Pittsburgh Zoo & Aquarium. An interactive display features a 10 foot puzzle by Dave Klug, where you find varied sea life and learn while doing it. Thanks go to Garrison Hughes and PPG for making it happen, along with the zoo staff.

Naked in Pittsburgh 2012 opened on June 1 to awed crowds at the Red Door Space. The impressive show featured nearly 50 local and national artists and photographers, including eight PSI members. Rick Antolic’s “Lauren” is an 11” x 14” study from life done from a 30 minute pose, in graphite pencil on paper. “Kiss in the Sepulchre” is a digital piece by Keith Bastianini. Also showing were John Hinderliter, Yelena Lamm, Jeff Outlaw, Kurt Pfaff, Jane Popovich and Jack Puglisi. Crowds arrived again on June 2 for the Naked the Next Night ticketed event, resulting in lots more canned food collected for their ongoing charity drive. Photos of the reception can be viewed on Outlaw Artisans’ blog at: http://www.outlawartisans.com/nip2012/nip2012-opening/

Jeff Outlaw’s solo show at Fein Art Gallery on the north side kicks off on June 22 with a reception beginning 6 pm. Making Silly Faces at Girls features works from his latest series, Layers. Layers is a different take on watercolors, using the separation of different layers to get movement across the work. You must see them in person to enjoy the full effect. Also included in this show will be selected works from Jeff’s previous shows, such as Brash!, Cows Where They Ought Not Be, and Portraits from Bald Hills. More details will be available at OutlawArtisans.com

Keith Bastianini recently exhibited this piece titled “Dia de los Muertos III: Jaloj-Kexoj” at the 39th Annual Hoyt Regional at the Hoyt Fine Arts Center in New Castle. “In Latin America Dia de los Muertos or the Day of the Dead is a time to honor and celebrate deceased loved ones. This is the third in a series of four I’ve produced to date. Jaloj-Kexoj is Mayan for changes,” Keith adds. He currently has a work titled “Atomic Hellcat” in the Westmoreland Art Nationals on display at the Westmoreland Community College in Youngwood. About his method, Keith writes: “I generally sketch out a concept for my artwork and then set about looking for the elements I need in order to photograph them. I typically employ friends, family, (some professional models)—any hapless soul basically who’s willing to pose for me as a subject—whom I then photograph in the studio against a neutral background for my works. The other elements in my pictures come from toys, plastic models, junkyard scrap, sundry architectural features, etc. I’m always taking pictures of strange or unusual objects that I might one day find a use for in my art. I blend the diverse elements together in photoshop and filter/paint as appropriate to blend them into a finished piece.”

Life Drawing Sessions
Thursdays 6-9pm • Short – 30min poses • $7

Panza Gallery
Sedgewick Street in Millvale off Route 28
Enter basement gallery on left side of building

website
Victoria Lavorini reports on: The Business of Illustration: May Meeting

For May, members met at the home of Kathy Rooney. Upon opening her front door, it became clear this was the perfect place to hold a gathering for creative minds. She and her husband, artist Ray Sokolowski, utilize their beautiful Mt. Lebanon home as their personal studio. Seeing their workspaces and artwork placed around the house allowed me to become inspired before the meeting even began. After viewing Kathy and Ray’s work, members enjoyed food and drink on Kathy’s scenic back deck where the meeting would be held.

Third Place in Juror Awards went to Jeff Outlaw in the Waterworks Members Annual Exhibition 2012 Fein Art Gallery, which ran May 11–June 15. Juror of Awards was artist and curator Adam Welch.

“This Butcher of Bald Hills” is a layered watercolor from Jeff’s latest series, called Layers. Each of these works is done on treated cold press, in several layers. The separation causes a visual parallax that perceives movement as you go by. Seen in person, the nose of the portrait moves further across his face. Jeff adds, “The subject of the work is a retired butcher named Cliff I knew when I lived in Bald Hills, Queensland, Australia. Cliff was a widower who lived alone with his dog Prudence. He was friendly to his neighbors and always up for visitors, but remained wistful all the time I knew him.”

This month’s featured artist was Rachel Arnold Sager. When I saw the top of a monster’s head peeking out of her bag, I knew we were all in for an entertaining presentation. Rachel is an illustrator, graphic designer, writer, and all around fantastic human being. Her latest project, a book entitled Monster Haiku Vol. 1, is not only impressive visually and content-wise, but benefited a good cause as well.

In 2009, Rachel set a goal of doing one illustration a week for the entire year. By December 31, she had achieved that goal and now boasted 52 illustrations. Some of the monsters that were born out of said 52 can be seen in Monster Haiku Vol. 1. In this book, reader’s can enjoy seeing vector images of mischievous monsters from Rachel’s clever mind paired with humorous haikus from poet William Rutherford. On February 1, the book went up for presale ordering. Four months later, with the help of creative social media campaigns through Twitter and Facebook and a show at Lawrenceville’s Wildcard shop, Rachel’s project had raised over $3000, with 100% of the profits going to March of Dimes. Monster Haiku Vol. 1 is a prime example of how art can be an extremely powerful tool when it comes to giving back. Visit www.52ills.com or follow Rachel on Twitter at @rasager to keep track of her latest projects.

After hearing from Rachel, the group took a break for some speed reviews, conversing, and snacks. Once we finished up reviews, members discussed this month’s question, “How do you know how much to charge when a potential client asks you for a price?” Members talked about the variety of factors that go into pricing a job, such as time, the size of the project, and the personal expenses that we must take care of. In order to avoid undercharging, Fred Carlson and Mark Brewer urged members to contact them or other experienced illustrators for advice in any time of uncertainty. In addition to consulting with fellow artists about pricing, Fred strongly recommended purchasing the Graphic Artists Guild Handbook: Pricing and Ethical Guidelines. This extremely informative book includes average prices that artists charge, sample contracts, and gives tips on negotiating with clients. It is certainly a must have for illustrators at all experience levels.

After the meeting, members socialized a bit more and Kathy kindly gave us all an opportunity to take home vintage Life Magazines for free. As a new member, I can’t say enough how happy I am that I joined PSI. Getting to be part of a diverse group of artists who share common goals is not only a way to be inspired, but a way to make new friends as well.

In addition to myself, the guest artist, and Kathy and her husband, those who attended were: Mark Brewer, Gina Scanlon and her son and daughter, Fred Carlson, Phil Wilson, Anna Brewer, Lisa Rasmussen, Bill Breinesin, Steve Cup, Evette Gabriel Villela and her husband Jordan, Josh Perry, and Karen Hanlin-guest prospective member.

NEXT BOI MEETING: Friday, June 29, 7:30pm, at the home of Frances Halley in Ross Township. Featured Artist: Dave Nelson

Dave Nelson is coming from New Hampshire for this presentation so let’s greet him with a full house! Don’t miss this chance to take away high level inspiration! His design work speaks for itself: http://www.dnelsondesign.com/portfolio/dnportfolio.html

A list of locations and speakers in this series through October is posted on PSI’s website at: http://pittsburghillustrators.org/

May photos by Kathy Rooney and Victoria Lavorini
Member At-Large

PSI member Greg Lyons keeps up his PSI membership though he moved to the West Coast for business reasons a half dozen years ago. Fred Carlson recalls, “Greg got some of his first commissions bolstered by the storyboarding samples he showed on the PSI website back in the day.” He now stays busy storyboarding for the film business. Greg’s work can be seen at http://www.creativeshake.com/glyons and he can be reached by email at: glyons@dslextreme.com

Fred recently communicated this to our Board: “The PSI crew is one thing I really miss about Pittsburgh. LA is nice, but the Society chapter out here (Los Angeles Society of Illustrators) just isn’t as open and sociable as you guys.”

Fall Election Update

PSI President Mark Brewer would like to announce his nomination of Evette Gabriel to assume the office of presidency he will vacate next year. Elections will take place in September to allow for a smooth transition. Current terms for the offices of President, Vice President and Treasurer end with 2012. All members are welcome and encouraged to run. See page 4 of the April issue of PSInside for more details. http://pittsburghillustrators.org/Newsletters/PSInside_Apr12.pdf

Spotlight on . . .
Sarah Miller

Sarah’s “collectors” carry her art with them everywhere. This month, she’s switching roles and inviting artists to fill the walls at Wyld Chyld Tattoos with their mythology themed artwork!

Sarah’s schedule is jam-packed with client appointments, many of them having “saved up” to have her decorate their skin with an image of special significance. She has been tattooing for over six years and the awards have been stacking up since she started. In March, she opened her own shop, Wyld Chyld, at 742 Brookline Boulevard in Pittsburgh, and the lines have formed daily, noon till nine, six days a week. Courtney Hayes (below) is a repeat customer.

As if she’s not busy enough, Sarah is opening the doors to others’ art as well. The deadline for entries in the First Annual Art Show sponsored by Wyld Chyld is June 30, with confirmation of accepted entries by July 7. The show will be juried with cash awards, and a People’s Choice award determined at the opening.

There is a $10 entry fee for one or two submissions. All art must deal with mythology as the main subject matter. Mediums acceptable are painting (digital or traditional), sculpture and photography. Submissions should be sent to wyldchyldpittsburgh@yahoo.com. An entry form to be attached to the art will be sent in return via email.

Behind the Brush

See what members are up to this month...

Pittsburgh based Eaton Corporation is hosting an event at Mt. Hood, Oregon. Ron Thurston’s artwork will be used for the invitation and all the guests will receive a small signed and numbered print as a gift. Ron says, “The client originally requested a photo but we submitted this digitally created art as an attempt to educate that art beats stock photography. And it worked.”

PSInside June 2012
David Biber completed four drawings for the upcoming issue of Dirt Rag Magazine. The illustrations accompany a story about a woman who worked hard to be as fast as her male riding companions, and the effort that it took to arrive at that goal.

“Man of the Sea” is the title of this work-in-progress by Donna Housel. It’s a 9” x 12” colored pencil drawing, number 2 of a series she is doing of homeless people and the poor.

Wayno worked with the design team at THIS IS RED Agency to develop the program for the Manchester Craftsmen’s Guild 2012-2013 Jazz season. Since the lineup is a mix of many different styles, the series was named The Jazz Buffet, and the program brochure was designed to recall a vintage cookbook. The front cover will feature the silhouette figures, and the interior includes ten spots combining the themes of food and music, two of which are shown.

This screaming child is a detail from Wayno’s illustration for the July PittGirl column in Pittsburgh Magazine. He has been doing this monthly spot since January.

Dan Hart recently finished for the spring-summer issue of ANSYS Advantage magazine. The subject matter was a feature on engineering simulation in the sports field and highlighting the company Speedo. Created digitally in CS6.

Dan Hart’s illustration for the July PittGirl column in Pittsburgh Magazine. He has been doing this monthly spot since January.

“Insider Trading,” and “Social Jet Lag” are two of three images Taylor did for the Money / Health / Tech section of Newsweek.

Here’s a new Icon from Jim Zahniser. His prints sold well at the Kool-kat Designs tent at Three Rivers Arts Festival earlier this month.

These images are from a series of portraits Susan Castriota is doing for Nemacolin Woodlands Resort in Farmington, of dogs, cats and some of the wildlife who live there. The framed pieces will be part of the wall art in the Woodlands Animal care Center, owned by Nemacolin Woodlands Resort and located near its entrance on Route 40. They also own Wooflands, a wonderful pet resort for all pets.

Catch up on Susan’s dog Wilson’s latest adventures, as he plays with White House pups in this new video:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k4xzYNGTIsYc

Shown is Taylor Gallery’s illustration for “You’ve Been Hacked,” a Village Voice cover story about hacking and a “revenge porn” website called Is Anyone Up that encouraged angry exes to send, anonymously, their former partners’ nudes.

“Insider Trading,” and “Social Jet Lag” are two of three images Taylor did for the Money / Health / Tech section of Newsweek.
Here’s a sequence showing stages in a recent self portrait by Kurt Pfaff. It’s 11” x 14”, oil on canvas.

Pat Lewis has started a web comic at http://patnlewis.tumblr.com/ titled Muscles Diablo in: Where Terror Lurks! “It’s about a tough guy with a shady past who punches a lot of things. It has mystery and violence and probably some sort of redemption or something. Oh, and a whole lot of crazy monsters,” Pat promises.

Here’s a gag from the Orlando Attractions Magazine strip Pat has been doing for about five years. Titled Bemusement Park, it covers lots of tourism information in the Orlando area (Disney, Universal, Sea World, etc.). “If it looks different than my usual stuff, it’s because I’m imitating the style of the original cartoonist, John Green, who I co-created the strip with. Originally I was just the writer and John did all the art, but about two years ago I took over both duties,” he explains.

This piece by Mark Brewer done for the Wall Street Journal ran Sunday June 3, on the cover of the Weekend Journal section.

Shown are Kathy Rooney’s most recent True Crime Issue drawings for Creative Nonfiction Magazine which is going into production now.

The Conair Group contacted Ron Magnes to create two wall murals and a video splash screen for their booth at NPE 2012, the world’s largest plastics show held this year in Orlando. The murals measured 8’ x 30’ and 8’ x 14’.

Direct Energy Business is inviting their clientele to a conference/banquet and wanted something to give them that reflected Pittsburgh. They commissioned Ron to create artwork in Warhol style that would be framed and given as a gift to each at the end of the banquet. A total of 25 were created.
Ron just sold 120 prints last month of his popular “Pittsburghese” poster here. He also sold 10 framed prints of his “Steel Life” artwork at: http://fineartamerica.com/profiles/ron-magnes.html

Stacy Innerst just finished these acrylic paintings for the book, *The Beatles Were Fab (And They Were Funny)* by Kathleen Krull and Paul Brewer, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, Spring 2013. These images show them as lads in Liverpool, and later pondering over names for their band.

George Schill created this full page illustration for Research Magazine for an article about strategies for affording college.

John Blumen created this portrait of Taylor Scanlon, Gina Scanlon’s daughter. John says, “It was done for a test sample of my portrait work, I outputted it to canvas, stretched and varnished it. I makes a very nice presentation of my digital painting.”

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 jpeg 72 dpi, max 600 x 600 pixels. Send your info to: annimatsick@mac.com