Welcome to our annual horrifying Halloween issue, a chance to parade your ghastliest efforts for an appreciative audience. It makes for a startling cover and more surprises as you dare to continue! Here's a warning of what you'll find inside:

Haunting Image
Keith Bastianini’s “Night’s Mistress” is one of two pieces included in the Art of the Unliving exhibit at Wyld Chyld Pittsburgh, which runs October 25 through November 20 at the shop in Brookline. The show is sponsored by owner Sarah Miller.

Goth Greetings
Gothically Griselda is a “cute little goth girl” character developed by Mark Brewer for American Greetings. You can purchase a little bit of Griselda’s sweetness at his cafepress shop.

Sweet Stuff
Vince Dorse comes through once again for our Halloween theme! This one is part of a personal project he’s working on.

My Spot
Anni Matsick
Welcome to our annual horrifying Halloween issue, a chance to parade your ghastliest efforts for an appreciative audience. It makes for a startling cover and more surprises as you dare to continue! Here’s a warning of what you’ll find inside:

This month’s Spotlight illuminates artwork done for all seasons on a website that attracts those not afraid to take a chance.

For members who need a web presence, PSI’s latest perk appears on page 4, a design offer at shockingly low rates. Don’t be haunted by regret, take advantage of this opportunity to materialize on the Internet!

PSI’s contending tattoo artist is murdering the competition on a weekly network reality show! Page 3 tells how you can vote online to help her toward capturing the big cash prize and gives a link to episodes you may have missed, like #201, “Tattooing the Dead.”

Thanks to those who contributed to the fun!
On Exhibit

“Study in Poppies,” a pastel painting by Mary Dunn, was juried into the Annual Regional Juried 17th Art Exhibition at the Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art at Ligonier Valley. The Opening Reception is November 17 and the show runs through February 10, 2013.

On Exhibit

Christine Swann, PSA won the Pastel Society of America Award in Memory of Flora B. Giffuni in the amount of $1000 for her painting, “Strands.” It was displayed in The 40th Annual Pastels Only Exhibition during September in the main gallery of The National Arts Club in Gramercy Park, Manhattan. The painting also won an Honorable Mention in the 14th Annual Pastel 100 Competition, sponsored by Pastel Journal. The image is slated to appear in the April 2013 issue. This is her second year to receive Honorable Mention.

Christine has two pieces in The Richeson Figure/Portrait 2012 online show, which can be viewed at: http://www.richeson75.com/portrait/fpwaterme-diagal.html

Christine’s “Ready For Red”? a 24” x 30” pastel, is on display in the Texas Pastel Society’s 2nd Biennial National Juried Show through November 2, in San Antonio, Texas.

“Dia de los Muertos II” is the second piece by Keith Bastianini included in the Art of the Unliving exhibit at Wyld Chyld Pittsburgh.

“An Explorers Map of Mars” by Keith Bastianini is included in the Pittsburgh Society of Artists 2012 Annual Exhibition at Fein Art Gallery, 519 East Ohio Street. The show opened October 5 and runs through November 2. Juror Dr. Vicky A. Clark is the gallery director and art historian at Clarion University. In the description, Keith states: The 24”x36” map is based on the telescopic observations of Mars made by Italian astronomer Giovanni Schiaparelli (1835-1910). The map also marks a number of anomalous structures gleaned from data returned by our space probes.

Kudos

Good news this month for Mario Zucca, who had an image selected for the next issue of Creative Quarterly, #29. It’s called “Dallas Showchart,” done as a part of his MFA Program through the University of Hartford. The Hartford Art School’s MFA in Illustration is a low-residency program directed solely toward the practice of illustration. It is run by illustrator Murray Tinkelman and some of its graduates include Scott Bakal, Q. Cassetti, and fellow PSI member Mark Bender.

Upcoming Meetings

Business of Illustration: October 26, 7:30pm
Social Gathering: November 13, 6:30pm

see our website for more info!
Kathy Rooney puts in a big plug for PSI while talking about her work and views in "Solving a problem," an interview with Kathy Rooney, on Creative Nonfiction’s website at: https://www.creativenonfiction.org/online-reading/"solving-problem"-interview-kathy-rooney

Ink Master Voting is On!

Over 100 people attended the premiere party held by Ink Master contestant Sarah Miller at her shop, Wyld Chyld Tattoo in Brookline. It was held the evening of Ink Master Season Two’s debut on October 9. A 50/50 raffle was held, raising over $200 for Pittsburgh Children’s Hospital. The Pittsburgh Tribune-Review alerted readers with an article the day prior: http://triblive.com/aaande/moreaande/2703375-74/miller-tattoo-says-ink-master-artist-tattoos-shample-season-pittsburgh#axzz292gPLMDf

The series continues on Tuesdays at 10 pm, Spike TV channel. Full episodes can be seen online or as reruns by checking the schedule at: http://www.spike.com/shows/ink-master

Your vote will affect the outcome of the competition in a major way! View the weekly elimination tattoos then vote for the one you feel most follows judging criteria (while keeping a special eye on Sarah’s work!). Click on “Voting is Open” box on the home page at: http://www.spike.com/shows/ink-master


Worthy Causes

George Schill has created two new holiday cards for PSC Partners Seeking a Cure. This organization is dedicated to patients living with Primary Sclerosing Cholangitis, a rare liver and bile duct disease for which there is no known cure. PSC is often associated with ulcerative colitis and Crohn’s disease. If you’re interested in helping a great cause, cards can be ordered at http://www.pscpartners.org/shop

The order deadline is November 6.

Fe Gallery in Lawrenceville hosted this year’s GLSEN (Gay Lesbian Straight Education Network) art auction fundraiser. Steve Cup donated two woodcuts to support the group. Each piece met and exceeded their minimum bid in the silent auction and were sold to individual art collectors. The event, which featured work from over 15 different artists, snacks and cupcakes donated by Dozen Bakery as well as an open bar, raised $3000 to help GLSEN continue their work assuring that each member of every school community is valued and respected regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity/expression. Money collected from the auctioning of artwork was split with the artists 80/20.

Events

Alter egos Dave Klug and Anni Matsick appeared as their super hero selves at the Highlights Illustrators Party September 28-30 in Honesdale. Cerveza Fria’s special power is the ability to turn warm beer ice cold with one touch, and Wonder where-I-put-that? Woman’s magnetic cuffs attract missing objects. David Coulson provided sound effects. The trio enjoyed a high-spirited weekend of fun, catching up with illustrators from across the country, and attending a seminar updating them on Highlights for Children, Inc.’s current enterprises.

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photos: Dave Klug as Cerveza Fria with Chuck Dillon as Black & Blue (photo courtesy Liz Goulet Dubois); Anni Matsick with Lou Matsick as Retired Super Hero.
On October 2-4, several PSI members were painting in Mt. Lebanon among more than two dozen top professional artists from Western PA and beyond, in a new art event, Plein Air Mt. Lebanon. It culminated in a gala on Friday and Saturday, October 5-6. The artists competed for over $5000 in prizes with paintings done on location throughout the neighborhoods over the three days, then offered for purchase at the gala. Bill Vrscak won third place, and Kit Paulsen sold a painting. Also participating was Ron Thurston. Read about the event at: http://pleinairmtl.com/

Wayno and his wife Kim do Boris and Natasha at Barktoberfest, a Halloween benefit for Animal Friends held October 13. PNC will present Animal Friends’ 15th Annual Black Tie & Tails: Best in Show! on November 3. Since its debut, the event has delighted sold-out crowds and raised millions of dollars in support of homeless pets, humane programming and lifesaving work. This year features Honorary Chairs Christine and Jack Tumpson and welcomes back their Honorary Artists: Harry Giglio, Dave Klug, Liz Nicholas, Burton Morris, Martha Rial, Marc Tetro and Wayne. The party will take place at the Circuit Center & Ballroom, 5 Hot Metal Street, South Side. Purchase tickets at www.ThinkingOutsideTheCage.org

Rhonda Libbey is Art Director for Scream Park, an homage to 80s slasher movies shot in Pittsburgh and Conneaut Lake Park. It stars Doug Bradley (Pinhead in Hellraiser) and Kevin “Ogre” Ogilvie (founding member of the band Skinny Puppy). The film is almost complete and a small premiere is scheduled on Halloween night in Meadville, near its setting. Details at: http://www.screamparkmovie.com/2012/10/scream-park-production-update-premiere-time/

GPAC: Arts Loud and Clear

Here’s a not-to-be-missed op to get an overview of Greater Pittsburgh Arts Council’s functions and meet hundreds of other Pittsburgh art professionals! GPAC’s annual meeting will take place Friday, November 30, 8:30 am to noon, at August Wilson Center, 980 Liberty Avenue. Keynote speaker will be Robert L. Lynch, President and CEO, American for the Arts (AFTA) based in Washington, DC. AFTA is hosting their annual convention in Pittsburgh next June, coordinated locally by Ashley Paulisick. Register at: http://www.pittsburghartsinc.org/component/events/event/5

October BOI

Next BOI meeting: Friday, October 26, 7:30 pm at Mary Dunn’s home in West Mifflin. Featured Artist: Pat Lewis

Announcements

WPA SCBWI Fall Conference

The Power of Literature, Western Pennsylvania region of Society of Children’s Book Writers and Illustrators’ Annual Fall Conference 2012, will take place November 9-10. The brochure and registration form can be downloaded at: http://wpascbw.com/newsblog/2012/09/29/annual-fall-conference-2012/

Stacy Innerst will do a breakout session which will include a presentation followed by a Q/A session. Stacy has illustrated numerous children’s titles currently in print and a new book, The Beatles Were Fab (and They Were Funny), written by Kathleen Krull, to be released in spring 2013.

Stacy Innerst

Read Stacy’s interview at http://wpascbw.blogspot.com/

A new spot for illustrators called First Looks will intersperse the annual First Pages readings, held after lunch in the main ballroom. This will be a great opportunity to have your work seen by the editors and agent on the faculty. Details appear on the WPa SCBWI blog at: http://wpascbw.blogspot.com/2012/09/first-looks-at-wpascbw-fall-conference.html

Another Lapel Pin Contest will be held this year and the winner will receive free tuition for next year’s conference. Past winners whose designs were chosen as pins in 2010 and 2011 are John Hinderliter and Anni Matsick. For details: http://wpascbw.blogspot.com/2012/09/lapel-pin-competition-at-wpascbw-fall.html

Jurors for the show were Kimberly Kollar-Jones, Director, The Hoyt Center for the Arts, Jack Haims, Butler Institute of American Art and Jesse Amar, Fine Arts Professor, Thiel College. The show will run through November 14.

Special Website Pricing

In a terrific exclusive offer, 464 media has set special pricing plans for PSI members to establish personal websites. They offer three plans, ranging from $125 for domain name and basic setup to a Self Sufficient Plan for $624. These are great rates! Details and contact info are at this link: http://www.464media.com/pittsburgh-society-of-illustrators-special/
Spotlight on... John Blumen

John covered day and night, all seasons of the year for the Pennsylvania Lottery website’s new masthead!

Late last year John was asked by Marc USA art director Dena Mosti if he’d be interested in working with her on the new Pennsylvania Lottery website masthead. Her concept was to have a fanciful skyline made up of various buildings to represent the different locales across Pennsylvania. She gave him a listing of the structures she wanted to include. “I put a rough together and sent it to her for her input,” John says. “At that stage we refined the concept and thought that doing a day and night version would make the masthead interesting by switching between them according to actual time. We also thought to push it a little further by suggesting to the client that the masthead could also change with the seasons.”

A tighter rough of summer was completed and the agency presented to the client. It was very well received. Unfortunately the project was delayed by some unrelated issues, but was given the green light a few months ago.

Using the original rough comp as a guide, and with a few of the original buildings eliminated and a few new ones added, John reworked the composition. Starting with the summer version, and working closely with Dena, a new finished version of the summer day and night scenes were presented to the client. With a few additional alterations requested, the summer illustrations were completed.

John then started work on the remaining seasons, building off the base art of the summer art. After the normal back and forth between John and Dena and she with her client, the remaining three seasons were completed for the fall 2012 launching of the Lottery’s new site. See the nifty results at http://www.palottery.state.pa.us/

Each season was rendered with its own seasonal changes, coloring, cloud patterns and seasonal detail. “It was a challenging project, but very enjoyable and one I was happy to be part of,” John concludes.

Behind the Brush

Here are three new pieces by Phil Wilson for the current children’s book he’s working on, The Adventurous Tales of Philip Wells. “About five more spreads plus a cover should just about wrap this one up!” he says.

Mary Dunn is working on this floral study in oils.

This eight inch square oil painting by Joe Winkler is called “Peeled.”
Lisa Rasmussen has written, illustrated and designed a pop-up book about a trip to France and a cello that follows her twelve year old daughter around the streets of Paris. The book is a prototype for an “interactive” book in which the audience walks through a life-sized version of the book and reads the story as they walk through the vignettes and among the characters. She has been working on this project for her MFA in Graphic Design at Vermont College of Fine Arts.

Victoria Lavorini established a Kickstarter to help fund a greeting card endeavor she’s working on. Here’s a link with photos and information about the project: http://www.kickstarter.com/projects/1153226312/deer-john-greeting-cards?ref=email

“Ron Magnes just revamped our animation site,” says George Schill. “As always, if any AD needs a cow rolling a bowling ball with its udder, we’re always here.” http://animarestudios.com/

Ron Magnes has also been busy working with Pipitone Group on twelve technical illustrations to be used in a consumer glass catalog for PPG. Two are shown.

Darth Maul and The Terminator are two of Sarah Miller’s latest subjects, using biceps as her canvas.

He is also working on a three-minute animation using the same character to walk through the proper way to fabricate and handle large glass units. Here’s a still of one of the frames.

Ron still found time to create this Zombieville Halloween greeting card.

These images are from a series of ten done by Taylor Callery for Macworld showing applications for the new technologies found in Google Glasses. The first would titled for use in “Hands Free Gaming,” in this case on a paintball course. The other would be used for “Finding Your Friends” in a crowd, in this case an amusement park.

Anni Matsick took snapshots of her watercolor portraits on the easel during Tuesday morning painting sessions in downtown State College. The group hires models for 3-hour weekly sessions.

Here is a new pastel portrait I am just completing,” says Judy Emerick. This view is cropped, finished size is 16” x 20”.

Art buyers everywhere are opening emails with John Hinderliter’s latest promo, wishing them a Happy Spooktober.

If you’re a subscriber to Mark Brewer’s newsletter, you got the alert on “Bird Watchers,” done for the September 15 Pittsburgh Tribune-Review. New subscribers can sign up at http://markbrewer.us5.listmanager1.com/subscribers?u=d5b3b713812fd8881fa9c506&id=f1966b4280

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 blast, 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