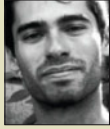


ARTIST NEWS, SOFTWARE & EVENTS

ImagineNation

AT THE CORE OF THE FANTASY ART COMMUNITY



ANTHONY PALUMBO

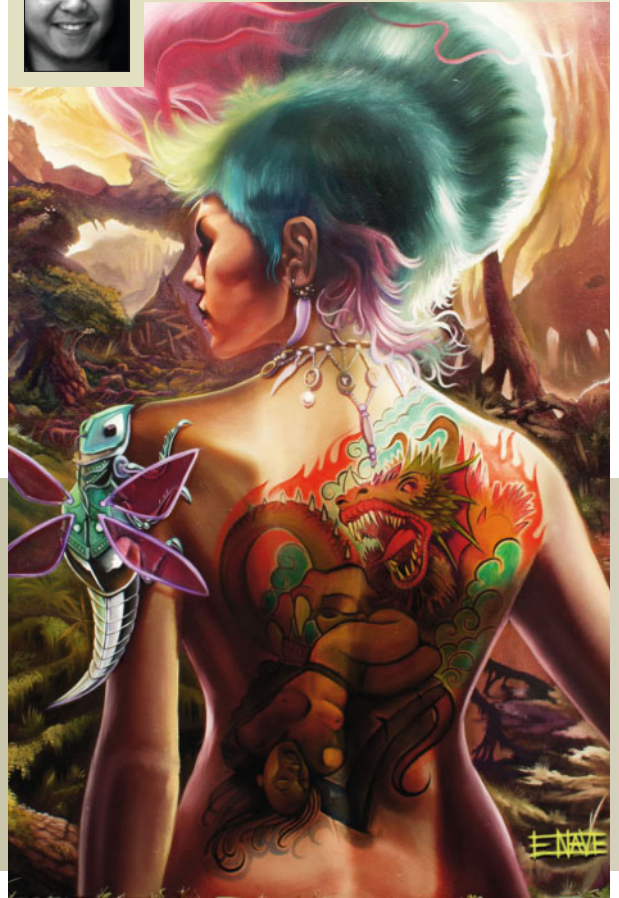
"One highlight was getting to watch Greg Manchess paint a book cover from start to finish. He painted 95 per cent of the piece in one long evening, so I got to see just about the whole process unfold."

anthonypalumboillustration.com



ERNESTO NAVE

facebook.com/ernesto.nave



Top of the class

With nearly 100 students attending this year's IMC, the quantity of artworks produced matched the quality. Here are ImagineFX's cherry-picked top-five favourites and the artists who created them...

Thus endeth the lesson

IMC 2011 Now in their fourth year, the Illustration Master Class brought art legends and the new generation of great artists together again

Back in June, students and teachers of the annual Illustration Master Class started



their week-long venture with the usual excitement. "The first day is always electric," says organiser Rebecca Guay.

"We jump into the first critique with some serious energy and things get bigger from there."

In fact, the whole thing has got bigger, with 99 students increasing the total of attendees by 12 from last year, and Iain McCaig, Adam Rex, Jeff Mack and Scott Allie strengthening the faculty ranks. This promise of an all-star art cast, including and

Julie Bell, Boris Vallejo, Donato Giancola and world-class special guests like James Gurney, has hooked in many a student over the years. But IMC has also become known for the way these stars of fantasy and sci-fi art interact with their students. "The faculty astound me," says Rebecca. "They're not formally scheduled for after-hours, but almost everyone stays late." This can result in 10-hour sketch critique sessions and impromptu late-night conceiving boot camps, like the one Iain McCaig led this year.

The general topic options that students worked within were fantasy, comics and children's books - the last two being new for



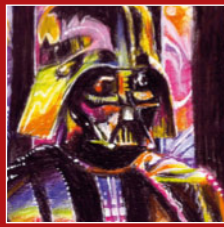
The Illustration Master Class 2011 faculty, which includes a rolling list of special guests, clockwise from left: James Gurney, Greg Manchess, Dan Dos Santos, Irene Gallo, Scott Allie, Jeff Mack, Donato Giancola, Boris Vallejo, Julie Bell, Rebecca Guay, Iain McCaig, Scott Fischer and Alex Rex.

2011. For Kim Kincaid, who has attended all four IMCs, the possibility of exploring children's book illustrations was inspirational. Having resumed her art career after a 30-year hiatus, she's now working on her first children's book and IMC has helped her gain the confidence to pursue an illustration career. "Rebecca and her faculty create ➔"



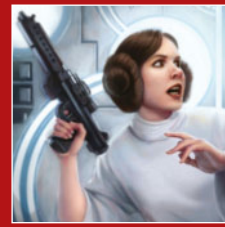
"THAT'S NO MOON..."

...it's our round-up of this year's San Diego Comic Con, which featured more artists than ever before displaying their work and meeting fans.
Page 23



"STAY ON THE LEADER"

The Dark Lord of the Sith's iconic visage is the muse for countless artists over at deviantART. Here's the multi-coloured work from just one of them.
Page 24



"THIS IS SOME RESCUE!"

The feisty Princess Leia is just one of the pieces of card art that long-time Star Wars fan Toni Foti has painted for Fantasy Flight Games's latest product.
Page 26



KIM TAYLOR

"When you spend time with so many artists on so many different paths and journeys, you get a better idea of where you are on your own journey and what you still have to learn."

pencilsandjam.blogspot.com



STEVE ARGYLE

"At IMC you get to work through your process with the best artists around and some of the most passionate young artists, who are full of ideas and energy. By the time you go home, you're turbocharged with inspiration."

steveargyle.com



KIM KINCAID

artbykimkincaid.com



Best of the rest

And yet more brilliant art! Here are tasters of five more fantastic images created at IMC 2011. For the full paintings go to the artist's website.



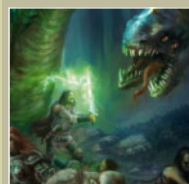
CARLY JANINE MAZUR
carlyjanine.com



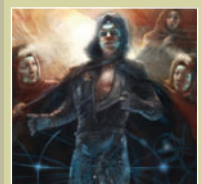
DREW BAKER
drewbaker.com



CHRISTOPHER BURDETT
bit.ly/chris-b



KARI CHRISTENSEN
karichristensen.com



MARC SCHEFF
marcscheff.com

Continued from previous page...



Rebecca Guay may be IMC organiser, but she also gets involved in creating new art with everyone else.

this atmosphere of positive energy, where you feel safe to try, perhaps fail, but always learn, and leave with a sense of achievement and a desire to improve," she says.

About 70 per cent of the students were new this year, including Julia Singh: "I learnt what a professional illustrator is,



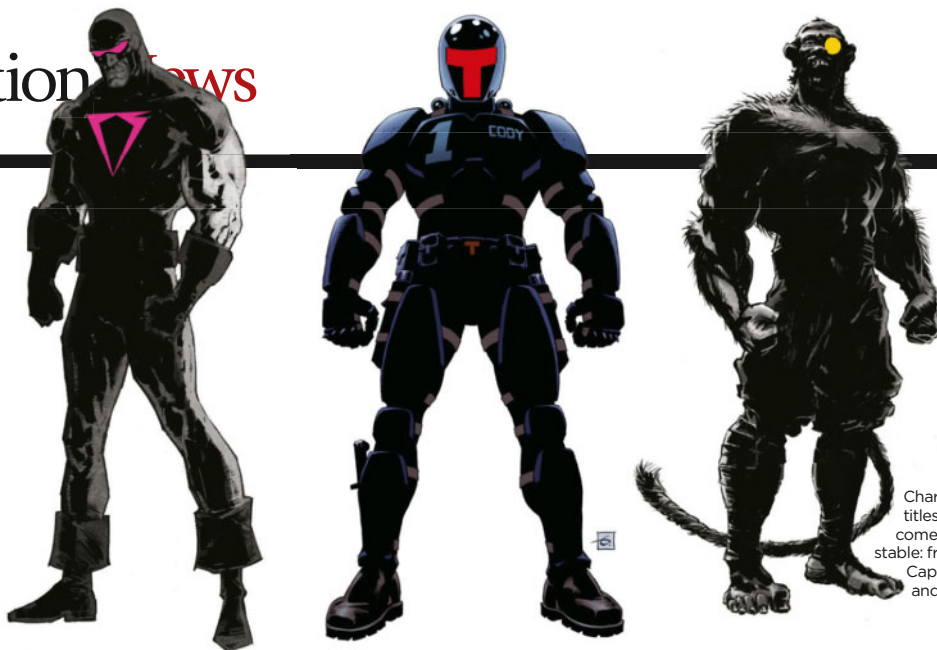
how they think, how they work, and how they think for themselves," she says.

But it wasn't all about the technical side of being a professional. "Overall it was like a religious conversion. We all bonded so well, the sharing and generosity between faculty and students was amazing."

Events included talks by Peter De Sève and Mo Willems, Irene Gallo's lecture on how to work with art directors and editors, Adam Rex on the art of the children's book and Iain McCaig's never-to-be-seen-publicly film trailer for Princess of Mars. Another first-time attendee Christopher Burdett has written about his experience and all the lectures he took on his blog at bit.ly/IMC-chris.

With several people already on the waiting list for IMC 2012, and enrolment officially opening up this autumn, the future of IMC is assured. And Rebecca tells us the event will continue to include a core of regular lecturers with a rotation of new faces, all providing their informative masterclasses. "And hopefully it'll continue to be like an ongoing creative fireworks display," says Rebecca. "It'll be hard to pick out a highlight."

Sign up for next year's IMC at illustrationmasterclass.com.



Characters from the three titles that will initially come out of the Madefire stable: from left to right, Captain Stone, Treatment and Mono.

Digital dawn

New priorities Artist Liam Sharp has embraced digital comics

Comic artist Liam Sharp and his old friend Ben Wolstenholme plan to lead the way in digital comics with their new company Madefire, which was unveiled at this year's San Diego Comic Con.

Having been at the helm of indie print company Mam Tor Publishing for years, Liam believes the future of comics is



digital and with the help of Ben, the man behind the new media company Moving Brands, he's unveiled plans to release new comic titles by top names on digital first and print second.

"The great advantage of publishing digitally is that it's still new territory," says Liam. "There are so many possibilities that companies and creators are only just starting to realise."

Liam and Ben aren't getting carried away, though. It's still the material that will lead the way, says Liam. Titles include Dave Gibbons's Treatment, Liam Sharp and Christina McCormack's Captain Stone is Missing and Ben's Mono. See more about the new company here: madefire.com.

Fantasy talk Explaining the inexplicable

"He may beat them in the pod races, but when it comes to stealing Cherry Winks, all bets are off."

Terryl Whitlatch thinks Sebulba should visit Sesame Street and take lessons from the Cookie Monster... Page 91



Life is Humiliation

by Matt Boyce

