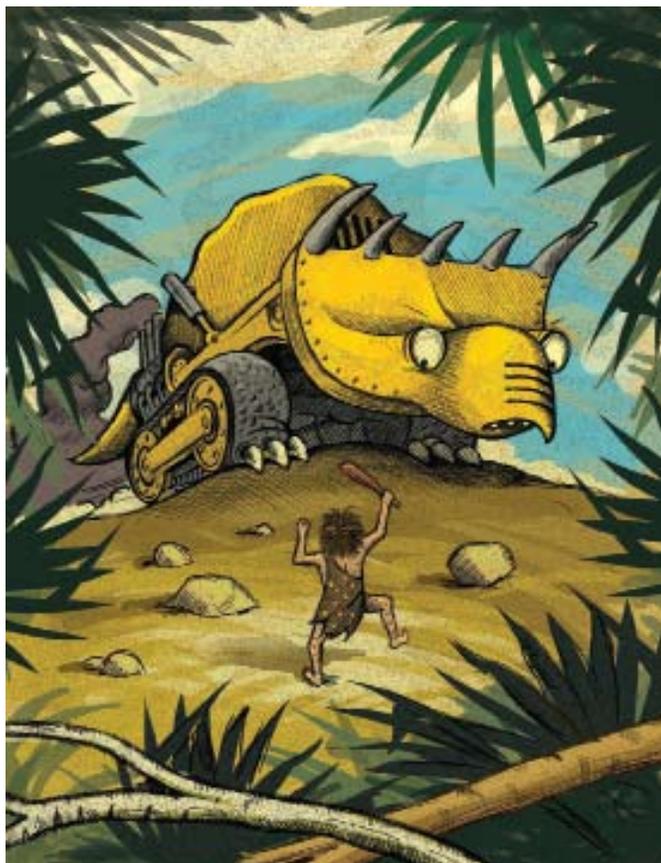


READ ME A PICTURE

TCA
GALLERY

July 8-Sept. 19, 2009

This exhibition highlighted nine contemporary Arizona children's book illustrators and featured original artworks, hands-on projects and reading centers for all ages. Artists were asked to display original artwork from one of their favorite books that they have illustrated. The artwork is as diverse in media (painting, drawings and digital art) as it is in themes, which include the natural



Chris Gall's *Dinotrux*

ARTISTS

Tanje Bauerle, Phoenix
Shonto Begay, Flagstaff
David Christiana, Tucson
Anne Coe, Apache Junction
Chris Gall, Tucson
Molly Schaar Idle, Tempe
Sylvia Long, Scottsdale
Paul Mirocha, Tucson
Baje Whitethorne, Flagstaff

Special thanks to

- Changing Hands Bookstore
- IKEA of Tempe
- Friends of Tempe Center for the Arts
- Friends of Tempe Public Library
- Tempe Public Library Youth Center
- Tempe Library Connections Café

environment, cultural heritage and imaginary creatures. The commonality between the artists is a love for children, reading and visual art.

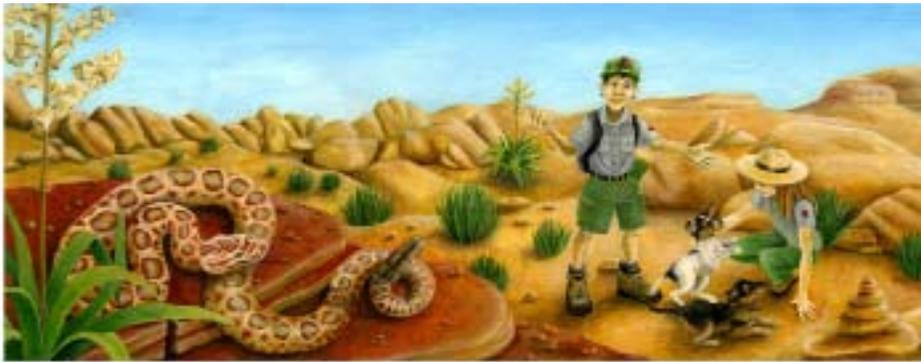
Children's books are an important and profitable part of the publishing industry. Today's illustrators have a wide array of creative freedom and reproducible media available. Contemporary illustrators still use the traditional printing, drawing or painting techniques, but they also can use new media such as digital photography and computer generated images through programs such as Adobe Photoshop.

Children's books have a lengthy history from early fairytales and folktales by such notables as the Brothers Grimm (Hansel and Gretel and Cinderella) and Hans Christian Andersen (The Ugly Duckling and The Little Mermaid). Early illustrations in these books included simplified wood cut prints and detailed engravings based on ink drawings. Many children's books of the 18th Century were about strict morality and harsh consequences meant to inspire or "scare" children into good behavior, like the infamous oven the witch in Hansel and Gretel used to cook naughty children.

Color printing and photographic processes have developed over time, as has the content of many of the books, which have evolved to include lessons taught with humor and warmth. The evolution of children's books is a reflection of the culture in which they were created and the child-rearing methods popular for the time period. In the late 1920s A.A. Milne's beloved *Winnie the Pooh*, based on the author's favorite bear at the London Zoo and his own son Christopher Robin, became a prime example of a trend in bedtime stories for children after World War I. Current trends in children's books include themes about culture like in *Tar Beach* by Faith Ringgold and early literacy skills like in *Chicka Chicka Boom Boom* by Bill Martin Jr. and John Archambault.

An undeniable relationship exists between word and image in children's books. The two are connected in such a way that alone they each can tell a story, but together they create a magical world filled with color and the endless possibilities of the imagination.

Tanja Bauerle, Phoenix



Salt and Soap

© Copyright 2008 Tanja Bauerle

Tanja Bauerle is originally from Germany and has been working in the Phoenix Metropolitan area as a graphic designer and freelance illustrator for the past 16 years.

She studied art and design at the Box Hill College of TAFE in Australia and earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in media arts and animation from the Art Institute of Phoenix.

She was the 2008 recipient of the “Best Educational Children’s Book in English” from the International Latino Book Awards and the “Glyph Award for Best Cover Design for a Children/Young Adult Book” from the Arizona Book Publishing Association.

The Adventures of Salt and Soap at Grand Canyon is the true story about two lost puppies at the famous Arizona landmark. The author, Lori Rome, is the park ranger who gave them a new home. The puppies hiked the canyon, went river rafting and flew in a helicopter to safety.

Baurele says: “To me, there is something about creating images that touches that inner something that can’t be explained... . For the illustration to be truly successful it must be more than simply an image. It must convey the story, express emotion, transport the viewers and make them identify with what is happening.”

www.TanjaBauerle.com

Shonto Begay, Flagstaff

Shonto Begay was born in a traditional Navajo hogan in Shonto and attended Bureau of Indian Affairs boarding schools. His parents continue to live a traditional life on the reservation. His father is a medicine man and his mother weaves rugs and herds sheep.

Begay received an Associates of Fine Arts degree from the Institute of American Indian Arts in Santa Fe, N.M., and a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from California College of the Arts in San Francisco. He also worked as a park ranger at the Grand Teton National Park in Wyoming and at the Navajo Monument.

Begay's impressionistic paintings fill the pages of Alice Yazzie's *Year*, written by Ramona Maher. The story is set in poetic verse about a young Navajo girl and her experiences during a 12 month period.

Begay's artwork has been shown in exhibitions across the country, including The Wheelwright Museum of the American Indian in Santa Fe, N.M. and the Phoenix Art Museum. He is an artist, educator and student of the world. "Build bridges through the arts and stories of your culture, validate and share these visions and voices," he advised. "Celebrate your personal identity through the arts."

www.shontobegay.com



Shonto Begay and "Pony"

David Christiana, Tucson



PP Terebithia

David Christiana- David Christiana received a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Tyler School of Art at Temple University in Philadelphia and a Master of Fine Arts degree from Syracuse University in New York State. He currently teaches art at the University of Arizona and has illustrated more than 20 children’s books. He also has taught at the Orvieto Institute in Italy and shown in many museums, such as the Museum of American Illustration in New York and the Tucson Museum of Art.

Christiana’s featured book is called *Poppy’s Puppet* by author Patricia Lee Gauch. The story tells of a toymaker’s gift for creating marionettes from simple pieces of wood. Carolyn Phelan, reviewer for *Booklist* and *Publishers Weekly* described his illustrations as “an appealing combination of gossamer and homespun.”

Christiana is popular with fellow illustrators and former students who have described his work as “magical” and “inspiring.” He is low key and enjoys the simple things in life: “I live in a mud adobe house with a tin roof, which makes beautiful music when it rains and crackles when clouds float by in the summer.”

www.davidchristiana.com

Anne Coe, Apache Junction

Anne Coe is a fourth generation Arizonan and was raised on a ranch. She studied in both Europe and Latin America and earned Bachelor of Arts and Master of Fine Arts degrees from Arizona State University. Her works have been included in institutions such as the Whitney Museum of Western Art in Cody, Wyo., and the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. She also teaches painting and drawing at Central Arizona College.

Coe has combined her artistic endeavors with involvement with environmental activism. Much of her work is rooted in her greatest inspiration: the land that surrounds her studio outside of Apache Junction. She currently serves on several boards including the State Land Conservation Advisory Board.

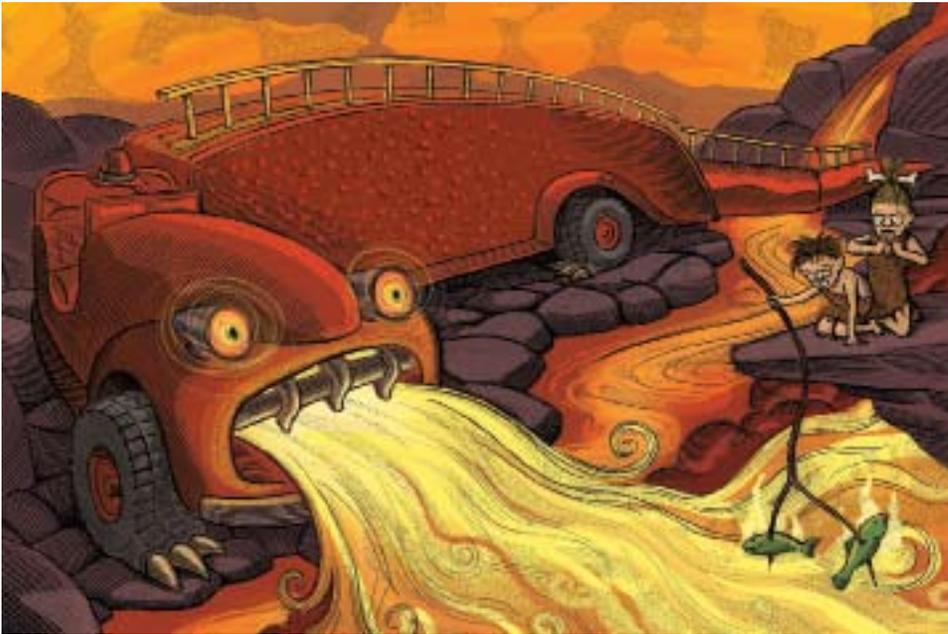
“My paintings often deal with the conflicts between the wild and tame worlds. It is filled with irony, humor, pathos and contradiction and as such represents the ambivalence we humans have always felt for the natural world,” Coe said. “We all have to be engaged in the world and work for those things that we truly value. These wild lands are filled with promise and infinite possibility.”

www.annecoe.com



Coyote

Chris Gall, Tucson



Dinotruxfire

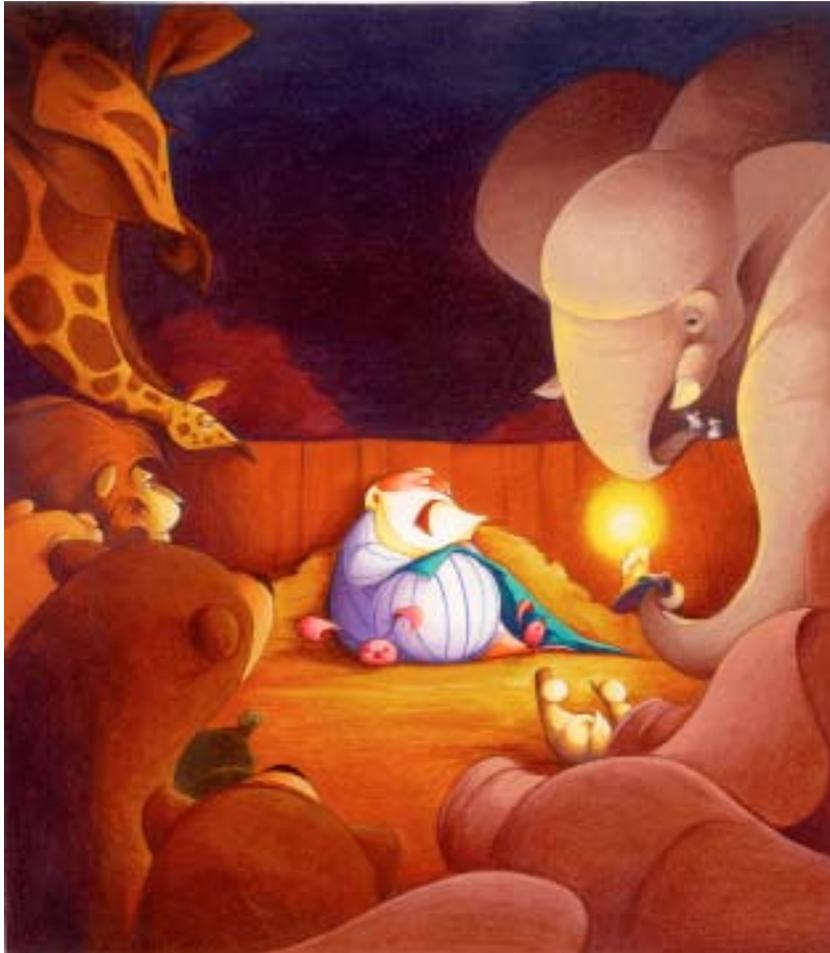
Chris Gall has been drawing and writing for as long as he can remember. Besides being an active illustrator and author, he has a variety of interests and has taught at the University of Arizona, restored classic cars, built an airplane and spent four years as a professional stand-up comedian.

Gall has been hired to illustrate special projects like the 2008 Rose Bowl poster and a commissioned print for subway cars in New York City. His work has appeared in publications like Time and the Washington Post, and he has received recognition from organizations such as Kirkus Book Reviews and the Society of Illustrators. Recently, DreamWorks Animation acquired movie rights to Dinotrux for a 3-D animated feature film.

“It was important to me for the artwork to capture the energy of these rambunctious creatures,” Gall said about Dinotrux. “I created art that I would have wanted to see were I still a young boy. I want kids to take away a special feeling. If they look and see a great big garbage truck, I want them to think, ‘Is there a little bit of dinotruck still alive in there?’ ”

www.chrisgall.com

Molly Schaar Idle, Tempe



Nighty Night Noah

Molly Schaar Idle grew up in a suburb of Los Angeles and has been drawing since she could wield a pencil.

She received a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in drawing from Arizona State University and went to work for DreamWorks Animation Studio working on feature films such as "The Road to El Dorado." After five years in animation, Idle made the leap into the world of children's book illustration. She has written and illustrated nine children's books since, including Nighty Night, Noah. She is a board member of the Picture Book Artists Association and a member of the Animation Guild for the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators.

As a mischievous child, Idle says many "unfortunate snails met their untimely demise 'neath the soles of my eager little toes." She said: "Many years (and many snails) later, it is my goal to set the karmic scales in balance and leave the world's backyard a kinder place for snails (and people) big and small." On her website, little happy snails roam freely.

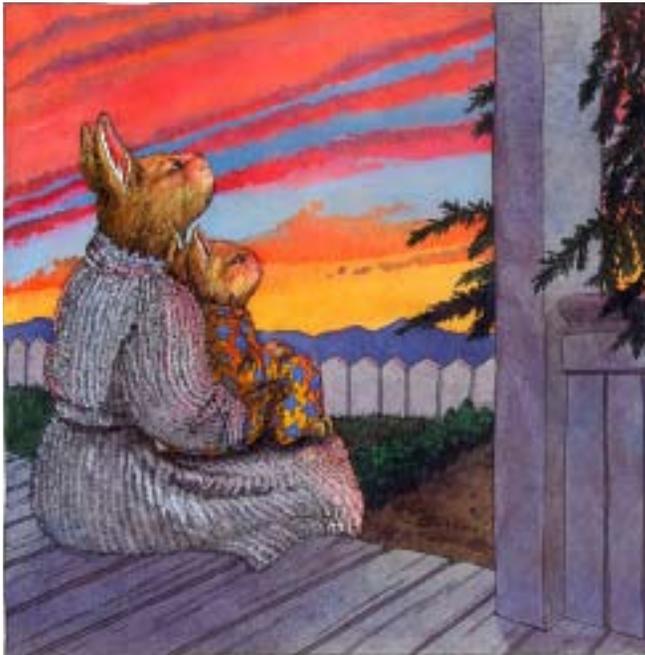
Today, Idle lives in Tempe with her husband, two sons and three cats. She enjoys playing with her boys, watching old black and white movies and scribbling at her desk.

www.idleillustration.com

Sylvia Long, Scottsdale

Sylvia Long has illustrated 18 children's books in the last 18 years. As a child, her family encouraged her to be curious and enjoy nature. She planned to be a veterinarian, but a scholarship to the Maryland Institute of Fine Arts helped jump-start her career in visual art. She has exhibited in galleries throughout the Western Region, but in 1990 she discovered what she says: "I should have been doing all along...illustrating books for children."

Long's love of nature comes through in her drawings of animals, such as birds, rabbits and bugs. Her book, *Hush Little Baby*, is a tender version of the well-known lullaby in which a mama bunny sings her baby to sleep with a story about a hummingbird and the magic of the evening sky and moon.



Hush Little Baby – The Evening Sky

Long's illustrations and books have been highlighted in the Original Art Show for the Society of Illustrators, Publisher's Weekly, Child Magazine's Best Book List and the Reading Rainbow. Today, Long enjoys illustrating and spending time with her two sons and their families.

"The greatest joy I get out of illustrating books for children is knowing the potential my art has to make a difference in a child's life," Long said.

www.sylvia-long.com

Paul Mirocha, Tucson



Bee Tree Cover

Paul Mirocha grew up in St. Paul, Minn., and graduated from the University of Minnesota with an interdisciplinary degree in art and biology. After relocating to Tucson, he worked for 12 years as a graphic designer for the Office of Arid Lands Studies at the University of Arizona. Mirocha trained in traditional drawing and painting but now almost exclusively works in digital media. He has illustrated more than 20 children's books and pop-ups.

Mirocha's illustrations have appeared in a variety of publications and his clients include the Desert Botanical Garden and the Wall Street Journal. He also has received recognition from the Tucson Pima Arts Council and the American Association of Museums, and his work has been included in the book, *The Very Best of Children's Illustration*, compiled by the Society of Illustrators in 1994.

Mirocha's illustrations in *The Bee Tree* highlight the story of a Malaysian boy living in a village near the rain forest. The book also shows the artist's love of nature and science. "The world is full of infinite details, and I'm fascinated with each and every one of them. I'm also obsessed with making pictures. Images are like magic to me," Mirocha said.

www.paulmirocha.com

READ ME A PICTURE



Baje Whithorne, Flagstaff

Baje Whitethorne grew up on the Navajo Reservation near Shonto. As a child, he was drawn into the world of storytelling while he and his brothers were taking care of the sheep. Today, Whitethorne is known for depicting the landscapes and rich culture of the Navajo people. He works in many different media including painting and sculpture. He is also the recipient awards including the Western Heritage Wrangler Award from the Cowboy Hall of Fame in Oklahoma.

This exhibition is the public's first look at Whitethorne's soon-to-be-released book. Fellow artist Ryan Huna Smith says of Whitethorne: "His paintings and illustrations are simply phenomenal. His application of watercolor using combinations of warm and cool color to portray depth is masterful and awe inspiring."

Whitethorne's grandson, Olin Smith, wrote in 2004 on the website myhero.com that his grandfather's art "fills the gap between people and their differences, so that we can all get along and live in harmony."

www.bajewhitethornesr.com