

An exhibit by the
Finger Lakes Chapter of the Guild of Natural Science Illustrators
<https://www.gnsi-fingerlakes.com>

Weird and Wonderful



January 10 - March 31, 2024
Hurst Gallery - Cumming Nature Center
6472 Gulick Road - Naples, New York

Meet and Sketch with the Artists
Saturday, Feb. 24; 12:30 - 3:30p

Weird and Wonderful

An exhibit by the members of the
Guild of Natural Science Illustrators Finger Lakes Chapter

This planet is weird and wonderful – from its geologic formations to the plants and animals that inhabit it. The members of the Finger Lakes Chapter of the Guild of Natural Science Illustrators would like to share with you, through their artwork, some of Nature’s wonders. Art is one of the earliest forms of communication, and illustrations continue to be an excellent way to share knowledge. Our artists hope you can appreciate the weird in this wonderful world.

NOTES:

Art sizes throughout the catalog are in inches high x inches wide

Pricing and availability of each work only as of the catalog date

See page 41 for our Meet and Sketch with the Artists event

See page 47 for more information about our organization

Front cover illustrations:

“Shaggy Mane Ink Cap” by Shannon Eustice.

Background: Enlargement of “Two Webs and a Barn Spider” by Frances L. Fawcett

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Chocolate Tube Slime Mold (*Stemonitis splendens*)

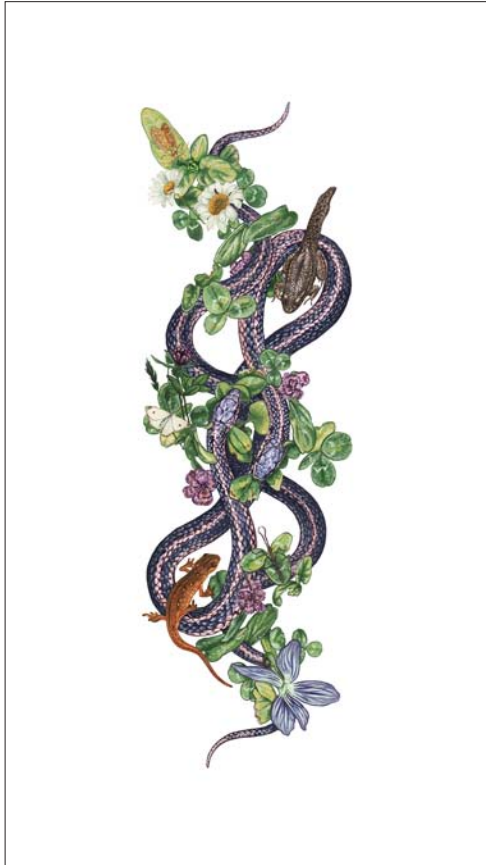
©2023 Marla Coppolino

Watercolor

Art size: 4.75 x 3

\$65

Related to amoebas, not fungi, slime molds take on different forms as they go through their life stages. During their creeping stage, they move over the forest floor and settle on rotting wood, where they feed on microorganisms. Fruiting bodies develop next. In the chocolate tube slime mold species, the fruiting bodies are elongated sporangia that grow and release spores.



Hunter, NY (*Various species*)

©2018 Travis DeMello

Gouache

Art size: 13 x 6.5

Not for sale

This painting is a portrait of an ecosystem of plants and animals who live in and around a small pond in the Catskills of eastern New York. This is a tribute to their lives, and my gratitude at being present to observe them.



Man O' War (*Physalis physalis*)

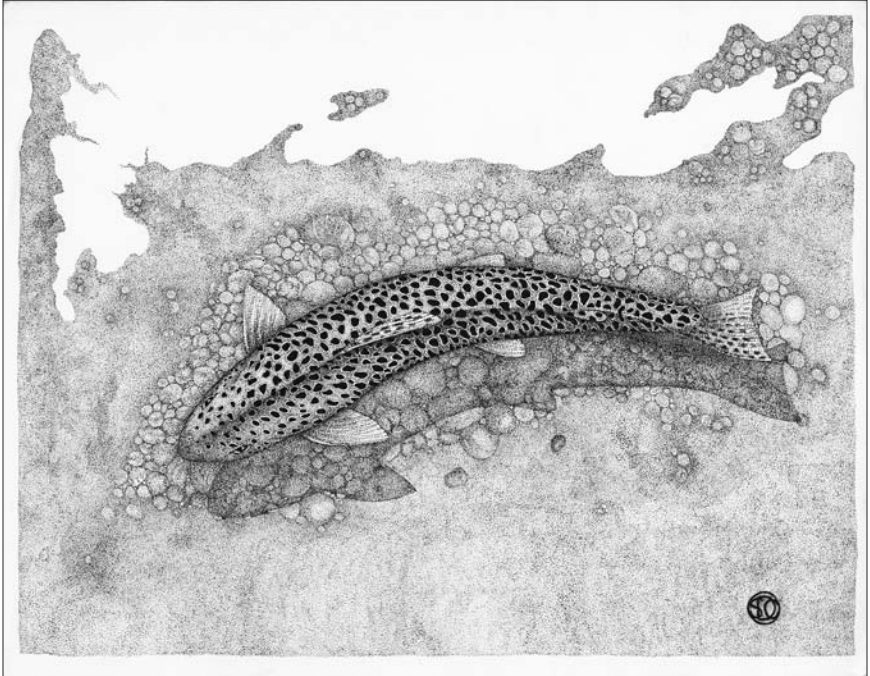
©2021 Travis DeMello

Gouache

Art size: 13 x 6.5

Not for sale

Physalis physalis is a colonial organism composed of individual zooids who each perform a critical function: Hunting, feeding, movement, reproduction. This arrangement, where many are also one, reflects the interconnected nature of larger ecosystems.



Freestone Brown (*Salmo trutta*)

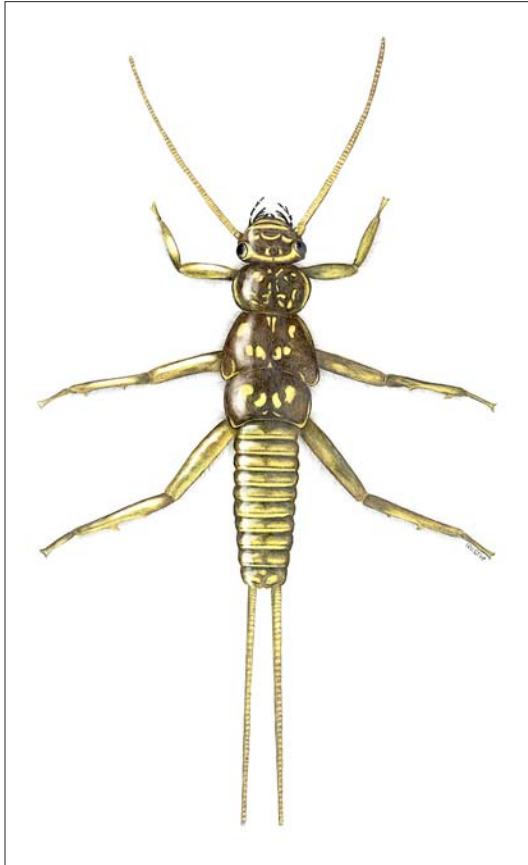
©2022 Stephen DiCerbo

Pen and ink

Art size: 10.5 x 13.5

\$600

The Brown trout is a popular game fish found worldwide. Not endemic to North America, 80,000 brown trout eggs arrived in New York City from Germany in 1883. The eggs were sent to hatcheries in Northville, Michigan, and Caledonia, New York. Since then, they have become common throughout the US. Variable color and markings aid them in remaining camouflaged.



Golden Stonefly (family Perlidae)

©2005 Stephen DiCerbo

Coloured pencil on Mylar film

Art size: 10.5 x 8

\$750

Golden Stonefly are prolific, predaceous aquatic insects. There are 15 Genera and 600 species in the US. The nymphs live on the bottom of moving freshwater streams from 1-3 years, molting through 10-50 stages (instars) until finally crawling out onto rocks or vegetation to emerge as winged adults.



Coconut (Veined) Octopus (*Amphioctopus marginatus*)

©2023 Maureen Dunphy

Watercolor

Art size: 10.5 x 13.5

Not for sale

Octopi are the most intelligent of all invertebrates. They have a brain, yet two thirds of their neurons are in the tentacles, which can operate independently. The suckers in each tentacle can smell and taste. With three hearts, blue blood, and the ability to change skin color and texture in an instant, octopi are indeed weird and wonderful!



Solitary

©2023 Carla Elizabeth

Gouache on beads and sculpted paper

Frame size: 11 x 14

Not for sale

The Nosy Be Panther Chameleon (*Furcifer pardalis*) is a tree dweller, native to the tropical forests of Madagascar where it spends most of its life in isolation. When two males come into contact, they try to intimidate each other until the loser retreats, its bright colors fading to drab, dark shades. “Chameleon” comes from Greek words meaning ground lion.



Leaf Sheep (*Costasiaella kuroshimae*)

©2023 Carla Elizabeth

Gouache on sculpted paper

Frame size: 14 x 11

\$400

This sea slug has the unusual ability to photosynthesize through kleptoplasty (“stealing” algal chloroplasts) while eating algae. It can grow up to 5 millimeters (1/4 inch) long. Leaf Sheep live on reefs off the coasts of Indonesia, the Philippines, and Japan.



Shaggy Mane Ink Cap (*Caprinus comatus*)

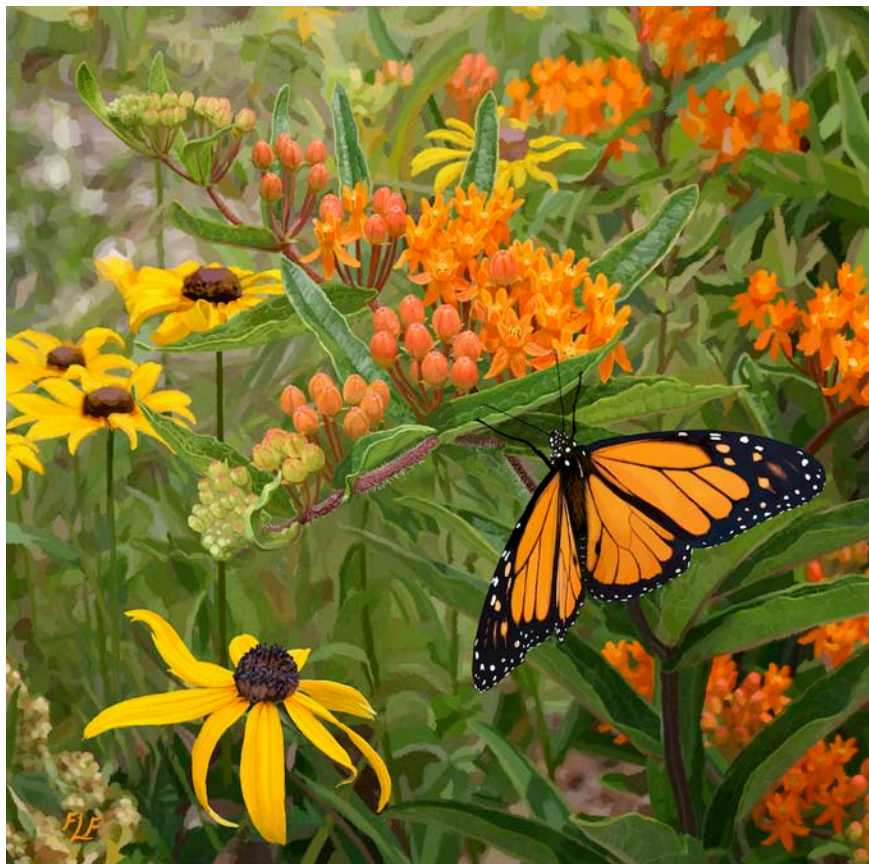
©2023 Shannon Eustice

Ink and watercolor

Art size: 14 x 11

\$350

Shaggy Mane mushrooms are common throughout the northern hemisphere. As the fungus ages or is picked, the fruiting body deliquesces, and the gills transform into a messy, inky goo. This mushroom is edible when young and can indeed be used to make non-archival ink.



Male Monarch on *Asclepias tuberosa*

©2019 Frances L. Fawcett

Digital (archival ink on canvas)

Art size: 21 x 21

#1 of an edition of 15

\$525

This newly emerged male monarch (*Danaus plexippus*) was found drying his wings on common milkweed (*Asclepias syrica*) in the field above our pond. I thought he would look quite fine placed on butterfly weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*) accompanied by black-eyed Susans (*Rudbeckia hirta*).



Two Webs and a Barn Spider

©2019 Frances L. Fawcett

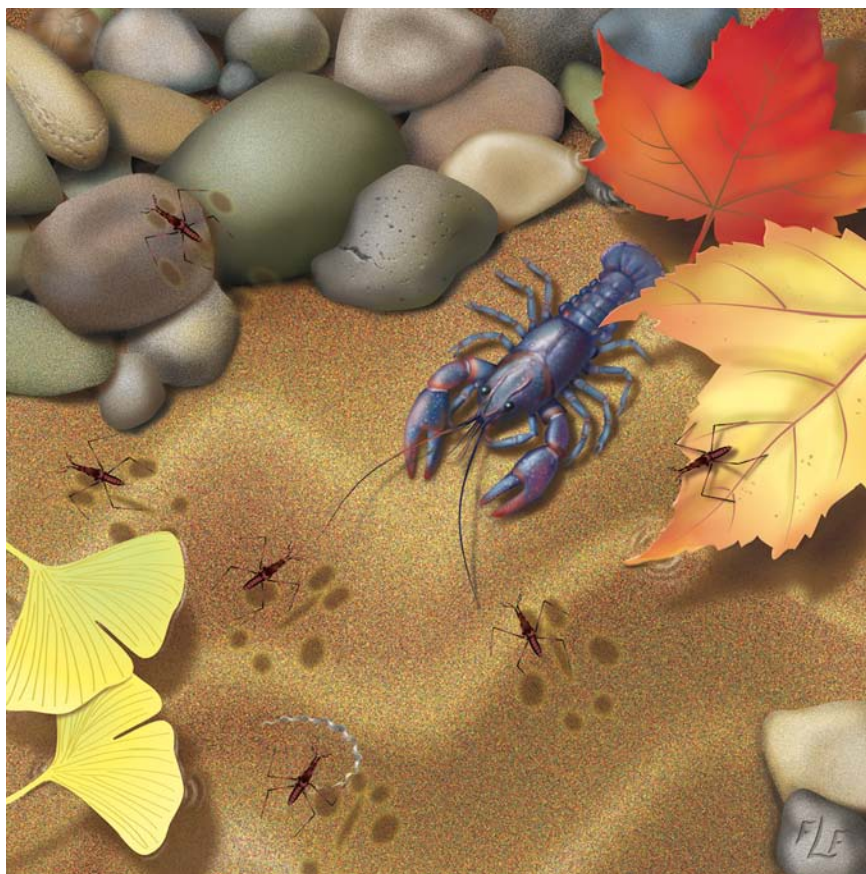
Digital (Ultrachrome ink on canvas)

Art size: 13 x 13

#2 of an edition of 15

\$295 framed; \$250 unframed

The Barn spider, *Araneus cavaticus* (aka Charlotte), is a common native spider throughout North America. It frequently inhabits man-made structures such as barns in the rural countryside.



Crawdad & Jesus Bugs

©2010 Frances L. Fawcett

Digital (Ultrachrome ink on canvas)

Art size: 13 x 13

#1 of an edition of 15

\$295 framed; \$250 unframed

The blue crayfish (*Cambarus monogalensis*) is native to Pennsylvania and West Virginia, and has been found recently in Ohio. The common water strider (*Aquarius remigis*) is found throughout North America.



Nature's Pest Control

©2023 Tarene Friedman

Mixed media

Art size: 11.25 x 8.25

Not for sale

Little Brown Bat: *Myotis lucifugus*. Size: 3-4 1/2"; wingspan, 8-10". Low zigzag night flight, consuming half its body weight daily in airborne insects.

Ermine: *Mustela erminea*. Size: 5-10" + 2-4" tail. Winter fur white except for black tail tip. Ferocious carnivore in nocturnal pursuit of rodents, killing them with a bite in the neck. In the UK they are called stoats and are used commercially to eliminate vermin from homes and businesses.



Snow Fleas - *Hypogastrura* sp.

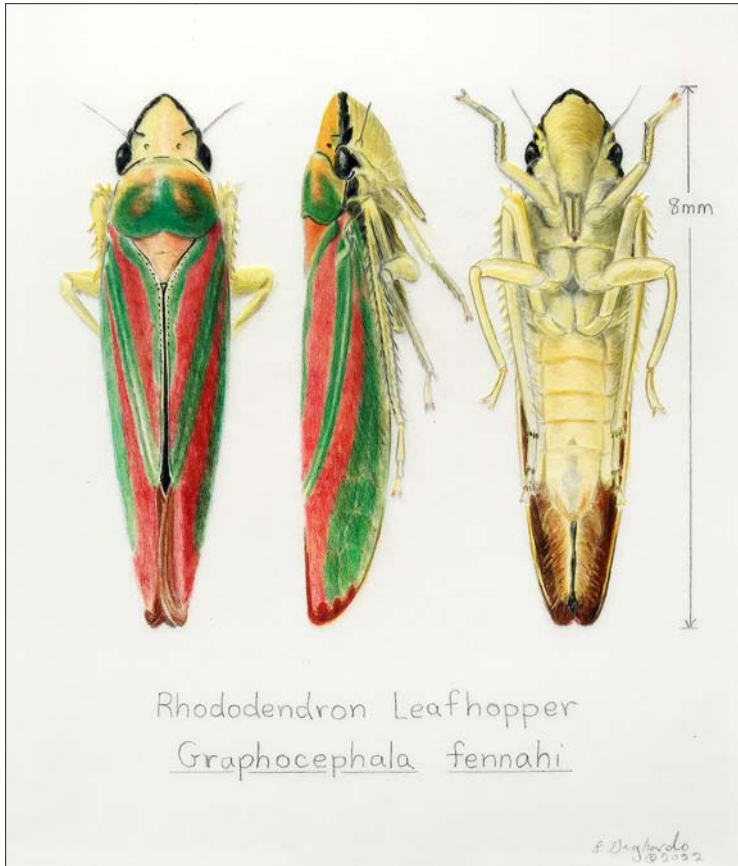
©2023 Lucy Gagliardo

Mixed media

Art size: 11 x 8.25

Not for sale

What are those tiny black specks on the snow? Certain springtails known as snow fleas are active at near-freezing temperatures and may appear in large numbers on snow surfaces. Snow fleas produce anti-freeze proteins that bind to ice crystals to prevent the ice crystals from growing. Springtails live in soil and on water, feeding on decaying vegetable matter.



Rhododendron Leafhopper (*Graphocephala fennahi*)

©2022 Lucy Gagliardo

Polychromos color pencils on Cronaflex

Art size: 6.75 x 5.75

Not for sale

Leafhoppers are in the order of insects called Hemiptera, or true bugs, which means they have mouthparts that are modified for piecing and sucking. The Rhododendron leafhopper and the Candy Striped leafhopper look similar. I have found both these colorful insects in my Brooktondale yard. Other leafhoppers are much better at camouflage, but they are all quick to hop away!



Beauty Within (*Danaus plexippus*)

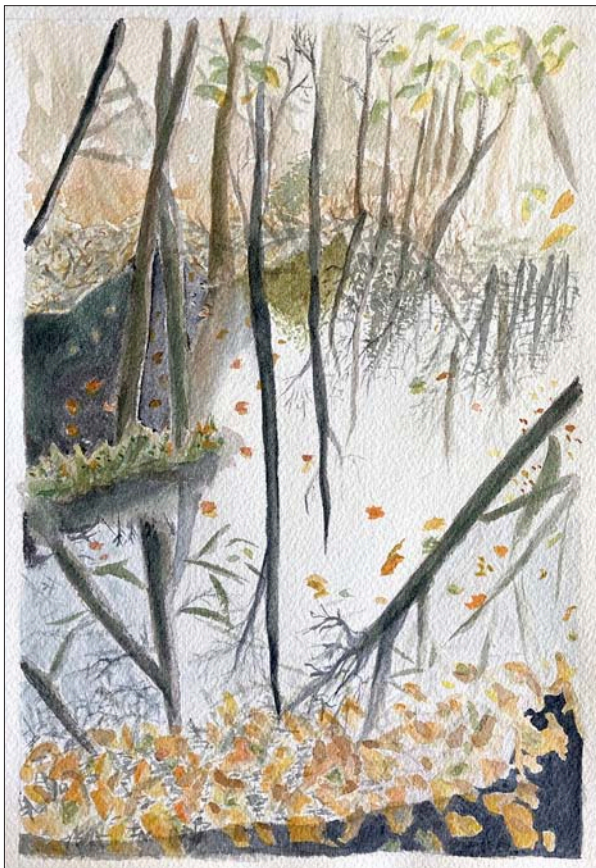
©2021 Fran Grasek

Watercolor, gold powder

Art size: 8 x 5

Not for sale

The Monarch mother lays her eggs on the milkweed plant because it is the only plant a Monarch caterpillar can eat. When I spotted the vase-shaped chrysalis on a patch of milkweed, I was drawn to the delicacy and gem-like quality of the case with its shiny golden spots. My painting is an attempt to capture the weird and wonderful stage of this cycle.



Illusion Confusion

©2021 Geraldine Keil

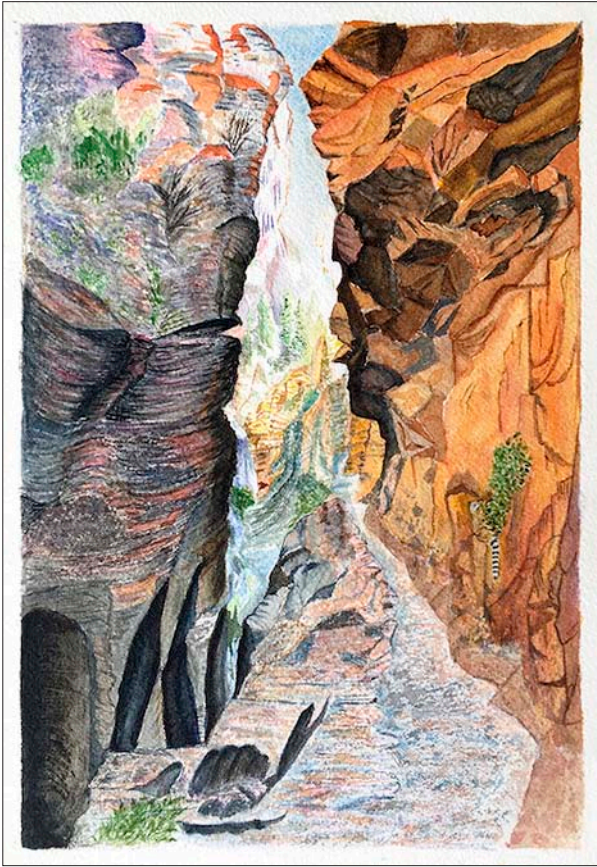
Watercolor

Art size: 9.5 x 6.5

Not for sale

An Adirondack hike
in cool October's
cruel misty rain
Slipping along tree lined halls
and around dams
built by beavers

Their stick stacked walls
collect fluid mirrors
reflecting tall trees
With barren branches
reaching downward
to touch the sky



Zion Conversation

©2019 Geraldine Keil

Watercolor

Art size: 9.5 x 6.5

Not for sale

Two mismatched rock walls face each other along the East Rim Trail in Zion National Park. Both were formed from sedimentary Navajo Sandstone. The dark smooth rounded exterior of one wall is coated with “desert varnish,” a metal dust carried by wind. The other was dynamited, to open the trail, exposing its red sandstone interior with blasted angular cuts.

MEET THE
Calligrapher Beetles
OF NORTH AMERICA



- | | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. MOON-MARKED LEAF BEETLE | 4. COREOPSIS BEETLE | 7. RUSSET ALDER LEAF BEETLE |
| 2. ELM CALLIGRAPHER BEETLE | 5. GLOBEMALLOW LEAF BEETLE | 8. COMMON WILLOW CALLIGRAPHER |
| 3. NINEBARK CALLIGRAPHIA BEETLE | 6. ONTARIO CALLIGRAPHIA | 9. DOGWOOD LEAF BEETLE |

Meet the Calligrapher Beetles of North America
(various species in genus *Calligrapha*)

©2023 Amy Maltzan
Watercolor and digital
Frame size: 18 x 12
\$250

I came across a tawny brown beetle with white script-like marks in my garden last summer; after identifying it as a Moon-marked Leaf Beetle (*Calligrapha lunata*), I researched other beautiful varieties of leaf beetles in this genus. Found throughout the Americas, they are commonly called Calligrapher beetles or sometimes Rorschach beetles for their ink blot-like patterns.



The Flight of the Spotted Ratfish (*Hydrolagus colliciei*)

©2023 Anna Mehlhorn

Chalk pastel pencil

Art size: 12 x 9

Not for sale

At 3,000 feet deep, the ratfish lives in complete darkness, swimming slowly and gracefully using their huge pectoral fins. Many think the ratfish looks like a combination of different creatures, just like the chimeras in Greek mythology. Its genus name, *Hydrolagus*, comes from the words “hydro” meaning water and “lagos” meaning hare, in reference to its strange rabbit-like appearance.



Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura*)

©2023 Liisa Mobley

Colored pencil on drafting film

Oval size: 10 x 8

\$325

It's time to revere the turkey vulture. While many consider vultures ugly, imagine, instead, your vulture friend as a reticent, retiring aristocrat, perched with a cloak of feathers pulled around its neck. It waits patiently in the treetops, occasionally soaring off to survey the surroundings. When needed, it swoops in to remove dead animals and disease. Superpowers!



Apricot Jelly Fungus (*Guepinia helvelloides*)

©2023 Liisa Mobley

Colored pencil on drafting film

Art size: 7.5 x 9.5

\$130

The gelatinous, spore-producing fruiting bodies of the apricot jelly fungus arise from rotting wood. Curling, twisted, and sometimes funnel-shaped, the orange or salmon-colored fungus grows under conifers at the edge of forests across North America. I found these specimens on a damp, wood-chipped trail behind my home in Ithaca, NY.



Hoatzin - Strange Bird of the Amazon

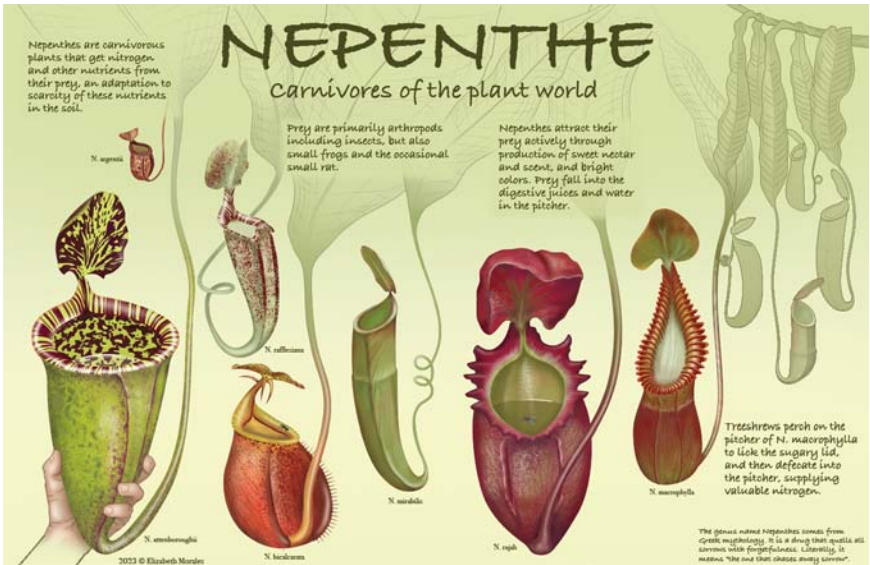
©2023 Elizabeth Morales

Digital (Illustrator and Photoshop)

Frame size: 20 x 16

Prints: \$100

The Hoatzin (*Opisthocomus hoatzin*) is a species of tropical bird found in the Amazon and the Orinoco basins in South America. The hoatzin is the only member of its order, family and genus. It is notable for having chicks that have claws on two of their wing digits.



Nepenthe - Carnivore of the Plant World

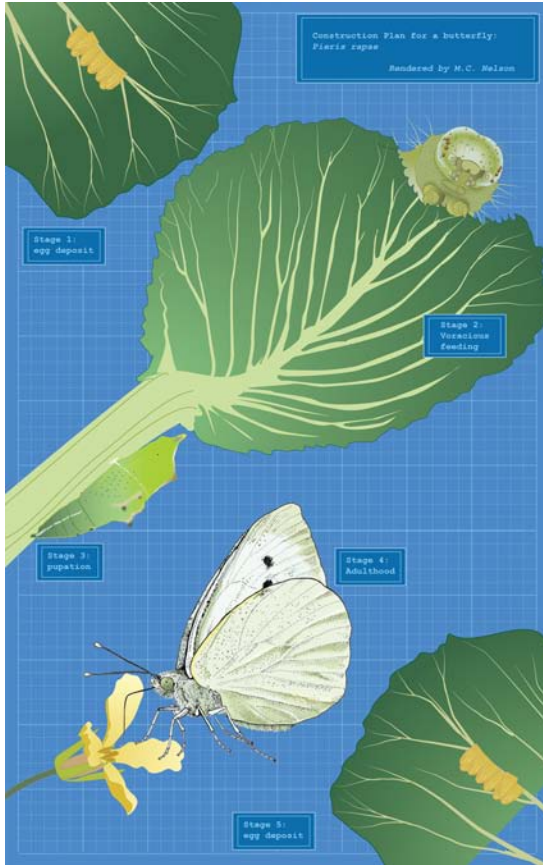
©2023 Elizabeth Morales

Digital (Illustrator and Photoshop)

Frame size: 16 x 20

Prints: \$100

Nepenthe is a genus of carnivores plants, also known as pitcher plants and monkey cups. These plants get their nitrogen and other nutrients from their prey, primarily insects, and the occasional reptile or small mammal.



Blueprint for a Butterfly (*Pieris rapae*)

©2022 Margy Nelson

Digital print

Frame size: 22 x 12

\$250

Pieris rapae, the cabbage white butterfly, is an amazingly successful predator on members of the *Brassicaceae* (see cabbage monoprint).

Their caterpillars are voracious feeders: a common agricultural pest. Perhaps because both humans and *P. rapae* share a preference for that plant family, this butterfly is now found all over the world, with the possible exception of South America.



Nursery Web Spider (*Pisaurina mira*) on Goldenrod

©2022 Margy Nelson

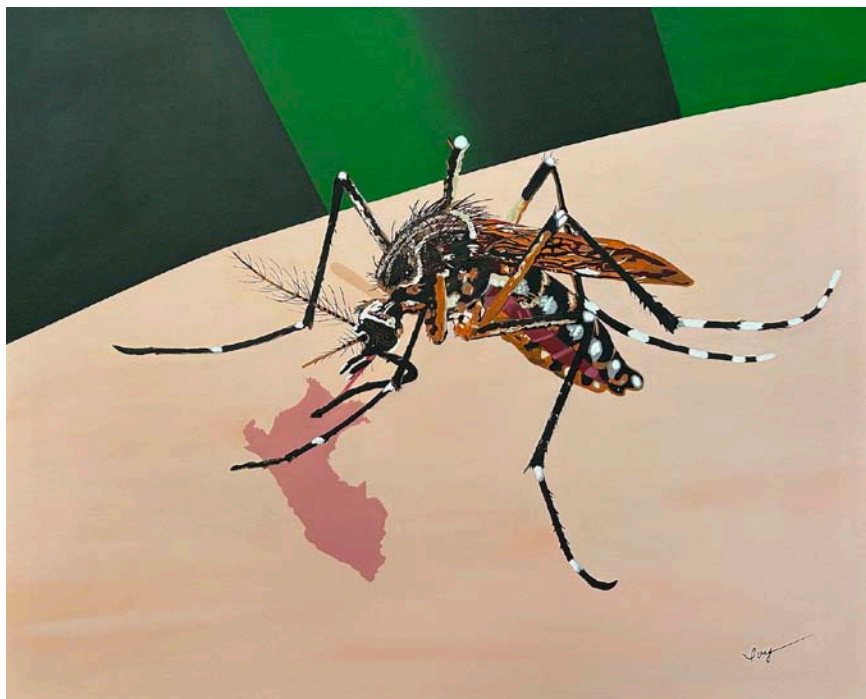
Digital (Ultrachrome ink on photo paper)

Art size: 12 x 12

1 of an edition of 17

\$200 framed, \$100 matted & unframed

A Nursery Web male hoping to mate must be cautious, as he may end up being dinner for the female. But when he approaches a female, he tosses out a silken “bridal veil” that entangles her legs, giving him time to mate and run before she can slip her bonds. (This spider has caught a Tephritid fly, (*Rbagoletis* sp..))



Yellow Fever Mosquito

©2023 Ivy Stevens-Gupta

Acrylic on canvas

Frame size: 30 x 24

Not for sale

Painting depicts an oversized female mosquito looming over the country of Peru sucking its blood meal. Yellow Fever Mosquitoes pose a significant health risk and are responsible for transmitting dengue fever to remote villages via shipping boats on the Amazon River.



California Flying Fish
(*Cheilopogon pinnatibarbatus californicus*)

©2022 Madeleine Wenger

Watercolor

Frame size: 8.25 x 9

Not for sale

The California Flying Fish dazzles with its wing-like pectoral fins that allow it to leap from the waves and skitter across ocean foam, resembling a hummingbird. This astounding adaptation to evade predation just below the surface makes for quite the show for any sailor posted as a lookout in the Pacific. A prized memory was witnessing a school, possibly 50-strong, vault simultaneously from the depths—I couldn't believe my eyes.



**Black Willow (*Salix nigra*) and Willow Pinecone
Gall Midge (*Rabdophaga strobiloides*)**

©2023 Susanne Williams

Watercolor and gouache on paper

Art size: 11.5 x 14

Not for sale

A willow pinecone gall occurs when a fly, the willow pinecone gall midge, lays an egg at or near the tip of the terminal bud of a branch. After hatching, the larva burrows into the soft tissue at the base of the bud. The branch stops growing but the leaves continue to form and produces what resembles a pine cone.



Hedgehog I - Simon (Erinaceinae family)

©2023 Annie Zygarowicz

Digital paintings

Frame size: 12 x 15

\$200

Wild African Pygmy hedgehogs have 6,000 sharp quills that protrude from their tiny bodies—a main defense mechanism against predators, such as badgers and large birds. They enjoy munching on bugs, slugs, snails, insects, frogs, reptiles, fungi and poisonous snakes. Interestingly, extreme heat causes them to hibernate during the summer.



Hedgehog II - Henrietta (Erinaceinae family)

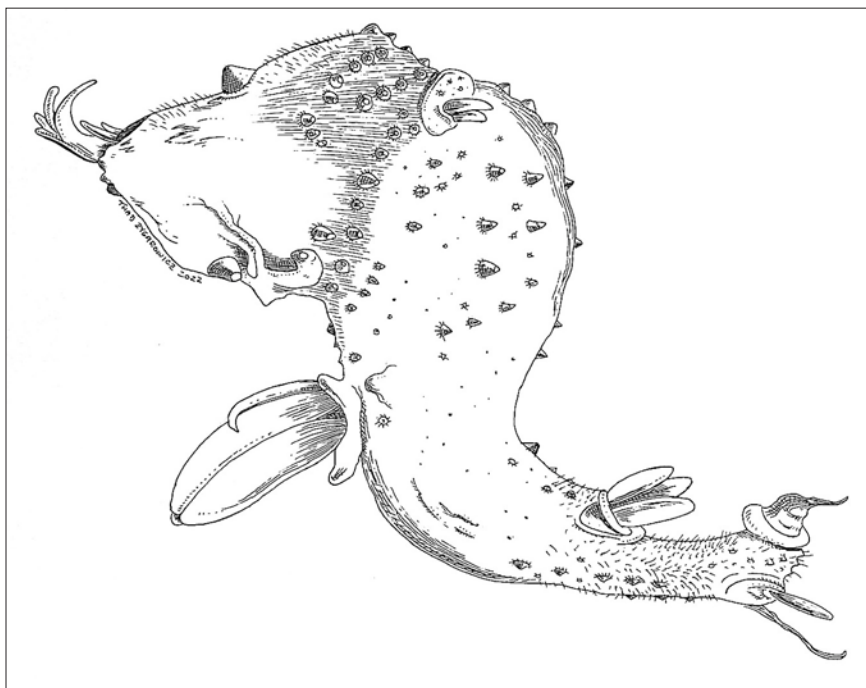
©2023 Annie Zygarowicz

Digital paintings

Frame size: 12 x 15

\$200

Wild African Pygmy hedgehogs have 6,000 sharp quills that protrude from their tiny bodies—a main defense mechanism against predators, such as badgers and large birds. They enjoy munching on bugs, slugs, snails, insects, frogs, reptiles, fungi and poisonous snakes. Interestingly, extreme heat causes them to hibernate during the summer.



One Potato (*Solanum tuberosum*)

©2023 Thaddeus Zygarowicz

Ink drawing

Frame size: 12 x 15

\$200

The Potato is a tuber cultivated in many parts of the world and is considered a perennial in the Nightshade family. They are planted underground but the kitchen pantry version under the perfect conditions—the humidity, temperature and light—synchronized to form these images. The “eye” takes on a very alien form which I found very weird and wonderful.



Two Potato (*Solanum tuberosum*)

©2023 Thaddeus Zygarowicz

Ink drawing

Frame size: 12 x 15

\$200

The Potato is a tuber cultivated in many parts of the world and is considered a perennial in the Nightshade family. They are planted underground but the kitchen pantry version under the perfect conditions—the humidity, temperature and light—synchronized to form these images. The “eye” takes on a very alien form which I found very weird and wonderful.

Meet and Sketch with the Artists

This event was co-hosted by Cumming Nature Center/RMSC and the Guild of Natural Science Illustrators—Finger Lakes Chapter (GNSI-FL), and coincided with the exhibit. It was held Saturday, February 24, 2024, from 12:30-3:30 p.m. in the lower level of the Cumming Nature Center. The exhibit was in the Hurst Gallery upstairs. The event was free with admission and drawing materials were supplied free of charge. A very large collection of specimens on display were available for drawing. This was an excellent opportunity to learn more about the Guild and its work in scientific illustration from local Guild members pictured below.



(l-r): Shannon Eustice, Norm Frisch, Lucy Gagliardo, Mary “Fran” Gracek, Elizabeth Andrews and Vanessa McCaffery in the lower level of the Cumming Nature Center during the Meet and Sketch with the Artists. Photo: Tom Formanek



Friends trying their hand at sketching (l-r): Linden (Elizabeth Andrews's daughter, Jess, and Lindsay. Dachshund Brownie enjoyed a day out while recovering from surgery.

Photo: Lucy Gagliardo



Just a few of the mounted specimens available to draw. Photo: Lucy Gagliardo

Meet and Sketch with the Artists

Right:
A sketch of an Elk started by a young attendee from a specimen on display at Cumming Nature Center.

Below:
Three sketches by various attendees.

Photos:
Lucille Gagliardo





Left:
The same Elk
sketch near
completion.

Below right:
A color sketch by
her younger sister.

Both photos:
Elizabeth Andrews



Exhibit Committee

Lucy Gagliardo

Lynn Bertoia

Carla Elizabeth DeMello

Margy Nelson

Norm Frisch (poster, catalog)

Exhibit Venues

Cumming Nature Center (RMSC)

6472 Gulick Road, Naples, NY

January 10 - March 31, 2024

Thanks to:

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Sarah Jacoby-Murphy, Marketing

Kathryn Murano Santos, Senior Director of Collections and Exhibits

Lois R. Shaffer, Deputy Director for Design / Exhibits Services

History of the Finger Lakes Chapter of the Guild of Natural Science Illustrators, Inc.

The Guild of Natural Science Illustrators (GNSI) was created in 1968 as a way for illustrators at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. to network. GNSI is now a global non-profit professional organization for all artists who work in the realm of visual science communication.

GNSI has many local chapters in the U.S. that build community and provide professional development opportunities. The Finger Lakes chapter was created in 2003.

We meet three times a year, and enjoy our camaraderie in artistry! We “show and tell” our current work, share advice about art techniques and professional tips, and develop plans for group shows. We also sponsor field trips and workshops for our members.

We currently have two group shows a year, and several drawing workshops for the general public.

In 2008, we hosted the national GNSI conference in Ithaca, NY.

For more information about the national Guild, please visit the website:

www.gnsi.org

If you are interested in the Finger Lakes Chapter, please email us at:

gnsi.fingerlakes@gmail.com

or visit our website:

<https://www.gnsi-fingerlakes.com/>

or visit our facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/GNSIFingerLakes/>

