2023 - A Year to Dream and Create!

As you begin the year, stretching creative boundaries and opening up to your unique imagination, or experimenting with dynamic compositions, elusive, ‘almost-there’ characters or stories, or particularly challenging design briefs...

...are you asking yourself that inevitable question: “Is this going to work?”

The answer is almost always, “Yes,” though perhaps not quite as you first imagined it. I have breathed my way through this question many, many times over decades of work as a designer, fabricator, and educator.

Whatever the challenge, it seems to resolve itself when I stop struggling and open up to discovery, get curious, ask questions, and wonder - the way kids do. Then I take a breath (or two), and have another go at it.

This year my goal is to play more, and do a bit more wondering. How about you?

Kids discovering caterpillars at Whitaker Ponds

Best Wishes for a Wondrously Creative 2023!

Robin Chilstrom
Oregon Illustrator Coordinator
January 2023 Featured Oregon Illustrators

Heidi Aubrey

Deborah Hocking

Oregon SCBWI Featured Illustrators

Visit the feature page to learn about Heidi and Deborah, view samples of their artwork, and link to their websites and portfolios! (click below)

Artwork: Chamisa Kellogg

Would you like to be featured?

To be considered, you must have an SCBWI Illustrator profile. About those profiles: we want your work to be seen - available to editors, agents and other folks, so we've made it easier to find your profile through the Oregon Illustrator Gallery.

If you haven't set up a profile, why not do it now? It's good practice to keep your gallery fresh - with new images, social media and website links! HERE'S HOW!

To find out more or apply, contact Robin: Oregon-ic@SCBWI.org

Regional News - January 2023

SCBWI International rebranding sparks Regional Illustrator Design Opportunities

Current news from SCBWI headquarters: each region is being asked to update their imagery to help create organizational symmetry; this will coincide with the launch of the new SCBWI website.

Below (top row) are three Chapter Logo styles created by headquarters for this purpose. The bottom row shows examples of how regions are beginning to use these Chapter Logo templates.

In the near future, we'll be sharing design specs for Oregon's new logo, as well as redesign options for several of our chapter category headers. We hope you'll start thinking about a design you'd like to share during this redesign process!
Your Regional Team is now firming up 2023 Oregon SCBWI Events; we'll keep you updated over the coming months. In the meantime:

- National Illustrator Virtual Events are posted and updated bi-weekly on Oregon’s Illustrators Page. If you've not had a chance to check out what other regions are offering, take a look.

- February through March Highlights below...

**Tasty Colors** with ROBIN HA, Graphic Novelist
February 1, 2023

**Yakkity Yak**
Animal protagonists in Picture Books with literary agent RACHEL ORR for Authors and Illustrators.
February 7, 2023

**Picture Book Crossover**
Visual Thinking for Picture Book Writers with Literary Agent MARIA VICENTE
March 6th, 2023
How to Plot a Graphic Novel
With Graphic Novel writer and illustrator MIKA SONG
March 11, 2023

Mika Song-Illustrator Intensive on Graphic Novels
March 11, 9am -12 noon P.T.
Mika Song writes and illustrates children’s books about culture, fairy and folklore. She grew up in the Philippines and moved to New York. Her support classes, forums and talks are engaging and let you go deep into your work. She’ll share ideas and techniques for how to approach storyboarding and drawing on paper.

Picture Book Crossover
Finding your story as an Illustrator with Literary Agent CHAD BECKERMAN
March 16th, 2023

For Members New and Old and Everyone In-between,
If you’ve ever been challenged to find resources or information using the SCBWI full menu, here’s a Quick Link Page to essential SCBWI Resources, just for you!

Are You Thinking about Joining A Critique Group?
The coming New Year will be a great time to connect with other illustrators and share your work, insights and goals! You can find out about Critique Groups HERE. Check it out!

KidLit Illustrators Talk Podcast,
Oregon illustrators are featured in a new podcast available on many of your favorite podcast providers. New podcasts posted bi-monthly.
Produced by Dreaming Earth Press, you can listen to illustrator interviews HERE.

(KidLit Illustrators Talk is independently produced and not affiliated with SCBWI)