

Talmage Burdine

NEW MEXICO



ILLUSTRATOR INTERVIEW

1. What is your technique and medium of drawing and painting?

This varies. Lately, I am drawing on paper and taking it into a digital drawing/painting program to do the finished illustration. I then take that into Photoshop to add other graphic elements and/or other images. In Photoshop I also clean up the image and manipulate the image in different ways. This may mean adjusting color, adding texture, or strengthening line work, among other things. Otherwise, I use medium on a substrate, usually paper.

2. How do you get inspired to produce a piece of artwork?

I generally draw inspiration from 2 sources, other artists and my imagination. Sometimes I sit down to sketch and it becomes something I did not intend for it to be. Other times, I will see what another illustrator is doing and it will give me an idea, not only for a subject but also for a new technique or system of producing art.

3. What artist inspires you?

This is a difficult question. It goes from Da Vinci, Monet, Durer, Escher, up to some of today's illustrators. I find great pleasure in fine art but my direction is more the way of the illustrator. I was very inspired by Suess, Sendak, Potter, and Silverstein. My contemporary illustration heroes are Will Terry, David Catrow, Chris Van Allburg, and Thomas Fluharty, among many many others.

4. What do you do to overcome a creative block?

Looking at the works of other illustrators gives me the motivation to produce art. Draw, draw, and draw some more helps too.

5. When did you start illustrating?

I have been drawing since early childhood. I have been doing illustration, along with graphic design, for over 20 years. (Let just keep it at 20 years. Smile.)

6. What does art mean to you?

There is not enough room on this paper (screen) to contain the answer to that question. I don't have the time, in my lifetime, to tell you about it. It is one of my reasons for living. It inspires me, motivates me, directs me, pays me, challenges me, and gives me a purpose and goal to achieve. It brings things out of me that would have otherwise been unknown.

As an illustrator, too, it is important to ask, what does my art mean to my audience. My task, as an illustrator, is to tell a story that someone has created. I must do this in a way that my audience understands its meaning and how it is connected with that story. I can create all the marvelous pieces that I like but my mandate is to compliment the story.

7. Tell us an unexpected fun fact about you, that might come as a surprise to others.

I am a professional pianist. I like sauerkraut. I have hidden some things in my house so that thieves cannot find them. Now I cannot find them.

8. Where are you from and what places would you love to visit one day?

From my mother and father, and their ancestors.

I have lived almost my life in Indianapolis, Indiana but was hatched in Kentucky. And now reside in New Mexico.

Places I would like to visit: the inside of the pyramids, the bottom of the Mariana Trench, Mars, and a bank vault full of my own gold. And... maybe some of the worlds I have seen created in illustrations.

