



No. 1

www.paulerlandsonart.com

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Hard in the Paint comes from basketball slang. In the sport, *the paint*, also called *the key* or *free throw lane*, refers to the rectangular lane underneath the hoop on a basketball court. It's often shaded or painted, hence the name.

Because more shots are made closer to the net, *the paint* sees a lot of action in a game, so players going for baskets *in the paint* need to be aggressive in their efforts—or *go hard*, to use another slang phrase.

To *go hard in the paint* spread from the court to youth slang for “to give it one’s best” in the early 2000s, likely due to the role of basketball in youth culture.

For my art newsletter, I thought it would be appropriate to repurpose this phrase to refer to visual arts, especially painting. This newsletter is dedicated to all my fellow artist who go “Hard in the Paint”, and to those art aficionados who love them for it.

- Paul Erlandson, December 2022

◆◆◆ December Art Shows ◆◆◆

Scarab Club 109th Annual Gold Medal Exhibition
(through December 31)

217 Farnsworth St, Detroit, MI

Holiday Art Show – All Art is \$500 or Less
(through December 23)

46 N Saginaw St, MI

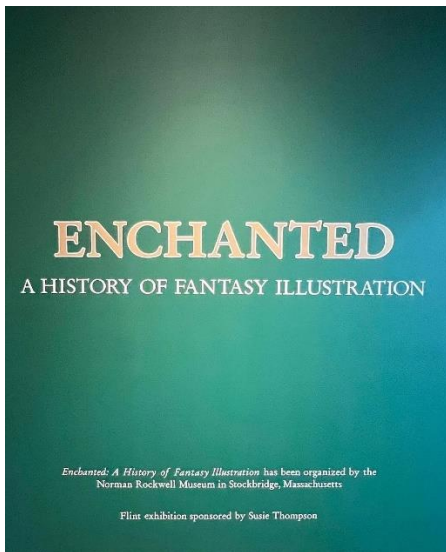
Enchanted: A History of Fantasy Illustration

Flint Institute of Arts

1120 East Kearsley Street Flint, Michigan

September 24, 2022 - January 8, 2023

I highly recommend this show to you! It's very rich and diverse, with fantasy art from past centuries up to 2022. Below are just a few images to get you interested enough to attend the show. Free parking. Admission is \$10 for Adults, children under 12 are free. Museum hours are 10am to 5pm daily, except for 8pm closing time on Thursdays.



(From Upper Left: (1) Exhibition entry sign; (2) *The Big Red Dragon* – Jeff Easley (1951); (3) *Allegory* (detail) – Omar Rayyan (2016); (4) *The Crypt of Cthulhu* (detail) – Bob Eggleton (2020); (5) *Pegasus Befriends the Muses* (detail) – Julie Bell (2018); (6) *The Brain* – Frank Frazetta (1967)

Whatever Things Are Lovely

This is the painting I currently have on display in the Scarab Club Gold Medal Exhibition.



By clicking on the link below, you should be able to see an Instagram video of part of my talk on this painting at the December 2 Gallery Talk:

[Paul Erlandson - Scarab Club Gallery Talk](#)

On the Easel

In each edition of *Hard in the Paint*, there will be an *On the Easel* feature, featuring a painting I'm currently working on. This month, I'll show you a 15" x 30" oil painting of a worn old Hot Wheels "Redline" car – the Evil Weevil. I took some golden hour shots of this beautifully decayed beast, sitting on a black velvet background. Here are my results so far:



A new discovery (and a key to the success of this painting) was the discovery of Marion Street Art Materials (Tampa, FLA) fluorescent oil paints. I've used a good bit of their fluorescent magenta in this painting (you can see the tube on my easel there). I tried every magenta available at the local Blick store and none of them made the Weevil's Mattel Spectraflame™ paint pop like this Marion Street magenta did. Wow!

Final Reflections - "See More Like Her"

A few years back, I started getting sidebar ads on my computer for "Mature Dating." There would be a photograph of an attractive woman (who looked to be around 40 or 45 years old), with the banner text: "Date Local Woman, 50+"

I guess I didn't mind seeing the ads, but some of them contained an additional line at the bottom which, if you clicked it, would take you to the pay site being advertised. The additional text was:

See More Like Her!

This struck me as naïve, reductionist, misogynistic, and anti-spiritual in a way. Why? Because ... there *IS* no one else like her! There is no one else like any of us. I suppose what they meant is "see more great-looking women who don't look their ages", but that's exactly the kind of reductionism I'm talking about – reducing humans to the way we look in a thumbnail photo on the internet.

As I was busy getting riled up about this, and thinking of writing a sternly worded letter of rebuke to the dating site, a Bible verse came to my mind:

There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars: for one star differeth from another star in glory. (1 Corinthians 15:41)

[Every human, like every star](#), is glorious. As each star has its own glory, so has each of us humans. All are different. All are glorious. And ... there are no "more like her!"