



Ali Cantarella

Chicago, IL // 248.622.8683
www.TheWetStain.com
Cantarella@TheWetStain.com

Education

Columbia College Chicago - Chicago, IL
BFA in Illustration
3.78 GPA with Honors
Emphases: Narrative Illustration, Sequential art, Comics

Graduated May 2013

Self-Published Projects

- “Repeat After Me” - All Ages Coloring Book December 2015
12-pages of hand-drawn artwork reproduced as a high quality book for coloring with any medium. Positive mantras and illustrated affirmations provide relaxation and stress relief.
- “DinoBugs!” - Coloring & Activity Book April 2014
10-pages of hand-drawn artwork, with 10 additional pages of activities for children 4 - 7 years of age. Dinosaurs and bugs that got merged together into new, fantastically fun forms!
- “The Hasty Pastry” - Graphic Novel September 2013
100 page, full-color, all-ages graphic novel, independently illustrated, printed and published. Created via support from The Weisman Grant and an extensive Kickstarter Campaign, the narrative centers around a success-driven young lady working in a Chicagoland bakery with her adorable French Bulldog.

Awards and Recognition

- Special Guest Artist February 2016
The Northwest Indiana (NWI) Comic Con 2016. Shererville, IN.
- Guest of Honor, “Drink & Draw & Color” February 2016
Special event, Pokro Brewing Company. Griffith, IN.
- Albert P. Weisman Grant Recipient June 2013
Awarded for her original graphic novel, “The Hasty Pastry.”
Columbia College. Chicago, IL.

Client Work

- “Monkey and Dragon” - Children’s Book March 2016
36 full-page watercolor illustrations, color cover, typography layout and prepress. Published by Indiana-based publisher, Story and Media LLC.
- Cars.Com - Corporate Caricature February 2016
Full-color group caricature, depicting Cars.com CEO, executives, Chicago skyline, and popular Chicago landmarks such as the public sculpture affectionately nicknamed “The Bean.”
- IzzySmallsComics.com - Multiple Comic projects November 2015
Work includes “The Grabber” (a 12 page comic), “Route 10” (a 5 page comic pitch and proposal), and “Winners” (a 13 page comic, digitally illustrated). All work written by Chicago writer and author Isaiah Smalley.
- “SCRATCHES” - Comic book October 2015
5 watercolor biography illustrations for locally produced horror anthology comic, published by local Chicago artists Cheeselord Comics, with cover art by Menton J. Matthews III of 44 Flood.
- “Our Fair City” - Podcast Episode Artwork October 2016/2015
Episode artwork for this popular, Chicago-based speculative fiction podcast.
- “Albert The Alien” - Graphic Novel May 2015
3 guest-artist comic pages illustrated for Harvey Award Nominated comic “Albert The Alien,” created by Trevor Mueller, and Eisner and Harvey award winner Gabriel Bautista.
- “Battle Pug” - Graphic Novel March 2015
1 Pin-up illustration for this highly-praised, on-going graphic novel series, written and illustrated by Mike Norton of Chicago’s 4-Star-Studio, published by Dark Horse.
- “Nigel and Pearl” - Independent Children’s Book Winter 2014
20 spot illustrations, full cover art, and final layout for a full-color children’s book centered around a young girl and a mouse.

Collaborative Projects

“Tyranny Of The Sun: Fool’s Mate” Pitch Proposal January 2016

One illustrated, toned, and lettered page, the first of a 12-page comic short story written by Chicago writer Wesley Sun, to seek funding via Kickstarter for publication in an anthology produced by Chicago-based comic company, Sol Comics.

Full Bleed - Comics Gallery Showcase December 2016 / 2015

Gallery showcasing local and underrepresented Chicago artists, hosted at The International School of Comics Chicago. Exhibited in artist gallery and co-hosted the event.

The Chronicle - Newspaper Comic Strips Spring 2013

A 15-week run of colored, printed, comic strips distributed in Chicago’s south loop, used as initial character and story development for The Hasty Pastry.

Charitable Contributions

C2E2 Charity Auction - Comic Book Illustration March 2016

Watercolor pinup illustration donation to be auctioned at Chicago’s premier comic convention, C2E2 (Chicago Comic Entertainment Expo) alongside colleagues and professionals in the comics creation field.

Chicago Loot Drop - Superheroine Illustration March 2016/2015

Charity piece for Chicago Loot Drop’s “Drawing Dreams” initiative. Paired with children from Comer’s Children Hospital to bring their superhero self to life. 2015 participation received mention in POLYGONonline.

Humane Society of Calumet - Button Illustrations January 2016/2015

Three designed and illustrated buttons for promotional purposes.

PAWSChicago - Official Caricaturist June 2015/November 2015

Donated time and skill as a caricaturist for PAWSChicago “Beach Pawty” event and “Fur Ball Gala” to raise funding and awareness for sheltered and fostered animals.