



BOB BICKERS

July 3 - 30, 2019

An artist's interpretation of the exploration of the lunar surface by Apollo 11 and the missions that followed

Elaine Biondi Gallery Space
Monroeville Public Library

Free Lecture **Thursday, July 11th, 7-8:30pm**
"Apollo 11 - Fifty Years a Memory"

Public Reception **Saturday, July 20th, 6-8pm**

Exhibit Guide

Gallery Hours: 9am - 9pm Mon-Thurs
9am-5pm Fri & Sat; Closed Sunday



Bob Bickers has been creating art professionally for over 40 years but he has been a committed follower of the space program for over half a century. While he has celebrated prior anniversaries of the Apollo 11 mission with his art before, this show represents new artwork inspired by not only the first manned lunar landing, but the subsequent five Apollo landings on the moon that followed.

With a background in photography and working in acrylics and oils, most of Bob's work is a balance between realism and expressionism that can resonate with almost any viewer. Preferring oil or alkyd on canvas, and sometimes digital photography, Bob's art includes rural and urban scenes of Western Pennsylvania as well as images from his varied travels across other regions of America. Besides landscapes and portraits, his other paintings are as varied as his many interests, including ancient American Indian artifacts and pottery as still lifes, aircraft, astronomy and paintings of manned and unmanned spacecraft.

Originally from Tennessee, Bob has lived in Murrysville, Pennsylvania, the last 25 years. A retired attorney, he produces art from his studio there with the help of his wife, Diane.

More about Bob Bickers can be found at his website, **bobbickers.net** and his art blog, **fineartbybobbickers.blogspot.com**

FINE ART BY BOB BICKERS
fineart@bobbickers.net
724-325-4951



1. **Tranquility Base - Apollo 11**; oil on canvas, 25 x 25. While Neil Armstrong busies himself with the scientific instruments, Buzz Aldrin explores the various ways to get around in 1/6 gravity.



2. **Neil Armstrong - First Lunar Explorer**; oil on canvas, 25 x 25. This portrait of Armstrong is at the farthest point of his wanderings around the lander as he stops to closely examine a moon rock.



3. **Reunited with Surveyor 3 - Apollo 12**; oil on canvas, 25 x 25. The second landing on the moon (Nov. 1969) involved visiting an old robotic explorer that had been there since April, 1967.



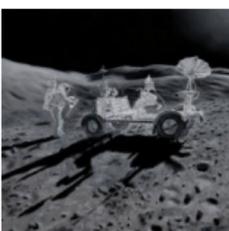
4. **Old Glory on the Moon**; oil on canvas, 25 x 25. The flag was planted on the moon, not as a claim of territory, but as a statement of national pride of what the United States had accomplished.



5. **Apollo 14 at Fra Mauro**; oil on canvas, 25 x 25. Alan Shepard, America's first man in space, was commander of this mission to the lunar highlands, the mission that was to be performed by Apollo 13.



6. **Scouting from the High Ground - Apollo 15**; acrylic on canvas, 25 x 25. This was the first and only mission to start by opening the top hatch and surveying the lay of the land from the high vantage point of the top of the lunar lander.



7. **Chariot of Light**; oil on canvas, 25 x 25. Apollo 15 was also the first mission to make use of the lunar rover, greatly expanding their range of exploration.



8. **Hadley Rille**; oil on canvas, 25 x 25. This collapsed lava tube provided an interesting landscape. I chose to paint it in burnt umber, though it's actual color is - you guessed it - shades of gray.



9. **Kicking Up Some Dust at Hadley Rille - Apollo 15**; oil on canvas, 25 x 25. Exploring the other end of Hadley Rille. Dust cannot form a cloud on the moon; it follows ballistic trajectories when kicked.



10. **Apollo 16 in the Lunar Highlands**; oil on canvas, 25 x 25. Back to the mountains, the crew explores even more interesting terrain.



11. **Orange Soil**; oil on canvas, 25 x 25. The only *real* color on the moon, this volcanic soil was actually discovered by the crew of Apollo 17, but it *could* have been found anywhere on the moon. Besides, I liked this setting from the Apollo 16 mission better.



12. **Fifty Shades of Gray**; oil on canvas, 25 x 25. The gray lunar soil can play tricks on a camera, especially when it sticks to and covers a spacesuit so easily.



13. **The First Step - Apollo 11**; oil on canvas, 30 x 48. Neil Armstrong is the first to place his foot on the moon.



14. **That's One Hard Rock**; oil on canvas, 25 x 25. Apollo 16 did indeed encounter some really impressive boulders.



15. **Harrison Schmitt - First Scientist on the Moon**; oil on canvas, 25 x 25. Of the 12 people who have walked on the moon, all were pilots or engineers but one. My portrait of the only geologist to go to the moon, and then on the last mission.



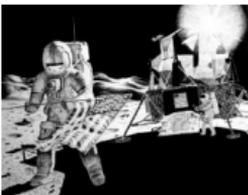
16. **Really Big Moon Rocks - Apollo 17**; oil on canvas, 25 x 25. The last mission stayed longer, traveled further and accomplished more than any of the other missions.



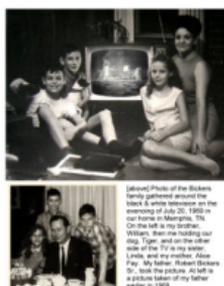
17. **The Last Step - Apollo 17**; oil on canvas, 25 x 25. It would have been nice to return to the moon. Hopefully, it will be soon. And maybe, it will be an American that goes back...this time to stay.



18. **He Who Orbits Alone Also Serves**; acrylic on canvas, 25 x 25. This is dedicated to the third man of the Apollo crew who circled the moon alone while his companions walked on the surface. Without his skills and assistance, the mission would not have been possible.



19. **Salute to Challenger**; pen and ink on paperboard, 16 x 20. I drew this after the Space Shuttle *Challenger* exploded in 1986. The Apollo 17 lander was also named *Challenger* and here the flag is dipped in solemn respect.



20. **The Bickers Family in 1969**. As a 13-year-old who was all caught up in the space program and wanted to be an astronaut, I vividly remember that night on July 20, 1969 as our family watched the moon landing and men actually walking on the moon.

[Above] Photo of the Bickers family gathered around the black & white television on the evening of July 20, 1969 in our home in Memphis, TN. On the left is my mother, Wilma. She is holding our only TV set, and on the other side of me is my sister, Linda, and my mother, Alice. To the right is father, Robert Bickers Sr., both the picture. All set in a picture taken by my father earlier in 1969.

PRICE LIST

1. *Tranquility Base - Apollo 11*.....\$400
2. *Neil Armstrong - First Lunar Explorer*.....\$700
3. *Reunited with Surveyor 3 - Apollo 12*.....\$700
4. *Old Glory on the Moon*.....\$700
5. *Apollo 14 at Fra Mauro*.....\$400
6. *Scouting from the High Ground*.....\$400
7. *Chariot of Light*.....\$500
8. *Hadley Rille*.....\$800
9. *Kicking Up Some Dust at Hadley Rille*.....\$900
10. *Apollo 16 in the Lunar Highlands*.....\$500
11. *Orange Soil*.....\$600
12. *Fifty Shades of Gray*.....\$900
13. *The First Step - Apollo 11*.....\$1900
14. *That's One Hard Rock*.....\$900
15. *Harrison Schmitt - First Scientist on the Moon*.....\$900
16. *Really Big Moon Rocks - Apollo 17*.....\$800
17. *The Last Step - Apollo 17*.....\$600
18. *He Who Orbits Alone Also Serves*.....\$800
19. *Salute to Challenger*.....NOT FOR SALE
20. *The Bickers Family in 1969*....NOT FOR SALE

Please see the front desk for sales. A portion of each sale benefits *Friends of the Monroeville Public Library*.

**BE SURE TO SEE BOB'S
APOLLO 11 MEMORABILIA
IN THE DISPLAY CASE
OUTSIDE THE GALLERY**