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 DIANE LANDIS BICKERS
 4029 BENDEN CIR
 MURRYSVILLE PA 15668-1332

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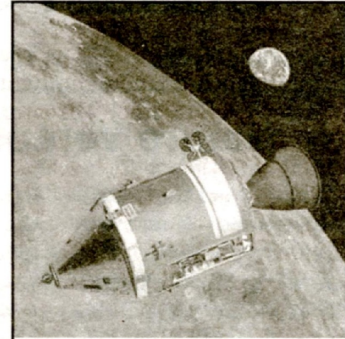
Exploring the moon is topic of art exhibit

An artist's interpretation of the exploration of the lunar surface by Apollo 11 and the missions that followed" by Murrysville, artist (and space enthusiast) Bob Bickers will be on display Oct. 1 to 31, at the Murrysville Community Library. The exhibition space in the library is sponsored by the East Suburban Artists League (esalart.org) and is free and open to the public.

Working mostly in oil and acrylic, Bickers has created a series of paintings that depict the Apollo astronauts exploring the lunar surface. From the first step by Neil Armstrong more than 50 years ago, to the final excursion by the crew of Apollo 17, Bob has created a vision of what it must have been like to explore in the hostile environment of the moon. By extracting detail from the astronauts' damaged, overexposed and misaligned photographs, and using an artist's eye, he has recreated scenes and vistas of stark beauty that are largely unknown to the public. Most of the artwork is available for sale. The exhibit lasts throughout the month of October.

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



He Who Orbits Alone



Old Glory on the Moon

travels across 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, Bickers has lived in Murrysville, 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, www.bobbickers.net and his art blog, fineartbybobbickers.blogspot.com.

The library is located on the second floor of the Murrysville Municipal Building on Sardis Road and is directly across the street from Sloan Elementary School. It is 3 miles north of the intersection of Sardis Road and Route 22. Library hours during the exhibition are: 9 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Monday-Wednesday; 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. Closed Sundays.