

Regina Valluzzi, Guest Artist for Prick of the Spindle, Vol. 5.4

*Prick of the Spindle* welcomes talented artist Dr. Regina Valluzzi as its guest artist for the Winter issue, Vol. 5.4. Dr. Valluzzi often paints using ideas and inspiration from her decades of experience in the research sciences. She believes that we are all influenced by what we see, even in the sciences, where much of what is seen is either difficult to interpret or entirely in the mind's eye. Dr. Valluzzi's work dances around key concepts from the point of view of a physicist, touching on ideas, processes, and interactions in the disciplines of Soft Matter, Polymers, Nanotechnology, Physics, Chemistry, and the Biosciences.

Scientific imagery can be as impenetrable as it is intriguing and beautiful. Underlying many technical diagrams, presentations of data, and scientific images are a set of commonly accepted rules that are learned and internalized over years of study and publication. These rules and tightly codified visual metaphors help scientists communicate complex ideas reliably amongst themselves, but they can also become barriers to new ideas and insights. Because her images are abstracted and diverge from the typical rules and symbols of scientific illustration and visualization, they provide an accessible window into the world of science for both scientists and non-scientists. Her approach is often irreverent and mischievous.

The name "Nerdly Painter" describes Valluzzi's approach to her subject matter, while also providing a handy alternative to the myriad misspellings of "Valluzzi" that are common. There are number of numbers, mostly from apocryphal stories, describing the names Eskimos have for types of snow. Communities of Engineers and Scientists, notably the MIT community, have a large number of nuanced terms to describe variants of nerdity, which is as ubiquitous to peoples of the technical regimes as snow is peoples of the polar regions. "Nerdly" is a gentler, less hard-edged and more generally humanistic form of nerdity than the more common "nerdy", or the unwashed computer-tanned "geeky".

"[D-Branes](#)," debuting for publication in the current issue, has been selected for a Juror's Choice award by the Attleboro Art Museum Members' show. Among the awards given are two *Best* awards and 6 Juror's choices from roughly 170 exhibiting artists. "[Leafy Jewels](#)," (forthcoming in *Prick of the Spindle Print Edition, Issue 2*), was part of a competitive international show in Budapest. "Rite of Spring," also debuting in the current issue has appeared in two regional juried shows. "Green Function" was a finalist in the Next Big Idea Festival's international SMART in Los Alamos and was also selected for the Bridges Mathematical Art Organization's International Juried Show at the Joint Mathematics Meeting (in Boston, January 2012).

Dr. Valluzzi has won awards for her drawings and paintings at the National and International level. Her work is in private collections in the US and Canada, UK, Switzerland, Netherlands, Bulgaria, Japan, Germany, and Malta. She shows frequently through the Massachusetts and Eastern New England area. Many of her smaller works are available online (<http://NerdlyPainter.Etsy.com>), and giclee reproductions are also available (<http://regina-valluzzi.artistwebsites.com>)