



Graphic designer and artist drops in

“Photography is my passion,” confessed Rob McQuillan on a recent visit to The Eagle.

Originally from the Detroit area, McQuillan – who edits the paper’s sister publication, Gaycation magazine – lives in central Indiana, but is a recent transplant from Chicago, where his photographic and graphic design work has been exhibited in multiple galleries, as well as on postcards, greeting cards, corporate newsletters, and on various regional magazine covers.



We had a chance to chat with Rob about life in Indy, his work, and his upcoming projects.

What brought you to Indianapolis?

My partner had accepted a transfer to the Indianapolis area last year. We had been living in a highrise on Lake Michigan in Chicago, and I was at first reluctant to make the move. For me, this seemed like a big life change on so many levels, and honestly I did not know if I would fit in here. I should not have worried. On my first visit to Indy, I discovered this great city with a cool small town appeal. This city has this amazing creative vibe about it. Just walk down Mass Ave. on a warm summer night, and you will see what I mean. I can honestly say that everyone I have met since moving here has been warm and friendly. This has been a good experience for me.

What was the biggest change, compared to Chicago?

When I moved to Chicago 10 years ago, I quickly realized it is just too much work driving my car. First off, I drive like Mr. Magoo (seriously!) and for the life of me can not figure out how to parallel park. So I sold my car, got a bus/train pass and did not drive once in 10 years. So when I moved here, the first thing I had to do was buy a car, and get used to driving again. So next time you see some guy on I-70, driving like Mr. Magoo (some things never change), wave hello!

How would you describe your work?

I like to describe my style as whimsical. I like my work to be fun and interesting, not serious. I love taking pictures, but



Detail from one of Rob McQuillan's Indianapolis-inspired artworks

that is only where my process begins. The photograph is my canvas, and photoshop is my paintbrush. My first project was a collection of photographs of giraffes in Chicago. Giraffes are such gentle and graceful creatures and I had a lot of fun photographing them and then placing them in photos of famous Chicago landmarks. This led to a published collection and a series of postcards and greeting cards. For a while, at different exhibitons, I was known as “the giraffe guy.”

How do people react to your work?

It is pretty exciting for me when people see and comment on my work. My work is fun and playful and people seem to

really enjoy that. Over the past several years I have participated in multiple art shows and fairs. Often people tell me that they came to the event on the hope that I would be exhibiting. Wow! That is really cool.

What are you currently working on?

I am working on a series of images featuring Indianapolis, which I will expand into cards and postcards and possibly a coffee-table style book.

Also, I am completing a three-part series of a children’s book. I am having so much fun with this project. It is about the adventures of sweet and wonderful dog named Lola, (based on my own

sweet and wonderful dog, named Lola) and how she makes new friends, learns lessons and goes on incredible journeys of discovery.

Finally, I am completing a series with the city of Detroit as both my background and my inspiration. It is all very exciting.

Where can we see your work?

Hopefully soon, you will see it everywhere! But for now, if you are in Chicago this month, please stop by Imperial Brewery on Foster Ave, where a mini exhibition of my work is on display.

I also invite you to visit my webpage, robbdesign.net, and at any time feel free to contact me at rob810@aol.com. **E**