

Main Menu

- ▶ Home

---

- ▶ 2012 June 5-6  
Witness the spectacle!

---

- ▶ History  
Centuries of Discovery

---

- ▶ Eye Safety  
Viewing the Sun

---

- ▶ **Education**  
Lots of resources

  - ▶ **The Arts**
  - ▶ Science & Math
  - ▶ Music
  - ▶ Video & New Media
  - ▶ New Discoveries
  - ▶ Teacher Resources

---

- ▶ Store

---

- ▶ Misc.

---

- ▶ Site Map

Education ▶ The Arts



Literature and fine arts have celebrated the transit of Venus through the centuries. Here we compile the Arts--from poetry to stained glass windows--all inspired by a celestial dance of the planets.

See also [Links: The Arts](#)

## Transit of Venus in Pastel

MAY\_SHORT 07 | 18:33

Cathy McCormick

LAST\_UPDATED2



Art exhibit by members of Northern Indiana Pastel Society based in South Bend.

Harris Branch, Mishawaka-Penn-Harris Public Library  
51446 Elm Road, Granger IN 46530

**May 1 to June 9, 2012**

Reception 7 to 8:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 9  
Library hours: Monday - Thursday, 9 a.m. - 9 p.m.  
Friday, Saturday, 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.  
Sundays - Closed

Members of the Northern Indiana Pastel Society invite guests and the public to their exhibit of space-themed art May 1 to June 9 at Harris Branch, Mishawaka-Penn-Harris Public Library, 51446 Elm Road, Granger IN 46530.

Ideas such as sun, moon, stars, planets, new worlds, or Venus will be featured. The show includes 25 works by 19 artists all working in soft pastel. Pastel is an art medium in the form of a stick, consisting of pure powdered pigment and a binder. The pigments used in pastels are the same as those used to produce all colored art media, including oil paints. The color effect of pastels is closer to the natural dry pigments than that of any other process.

The exhibit is inspired by the heavenly event, June 5, 2012, when the planet Venus passes between Earth and the sun. The art show is one of [many events](#) marking the Transit of Venus in South Bend and the surrounding community. Below are four pieces from the exhibit.



[Read more: Transit of Venus in Pastel](#)

## PHM Transit of Venus Art Contest

LAST\_UPDATED2

Chuck

The Penn Kingsmen Art Gallery in Mishawaka, IN, invites all students within the Penn-Harris-Madison (PHM) School Corporation boundaries to create art for the **PHM Transit of Venus Art Exhibit** in celebration of the 2012 transit of Venus. A maximum of 30 pieces will be selected for display in the Gallery, open to the public, for the month preceding the June 5 celestial phenomenon. Students are invited to submit works related to Venus, the sun, astronomy, exoplanets, transit math, historical expeditions, the black drop effect, and other notions with a connection to the transit of Venus experience.

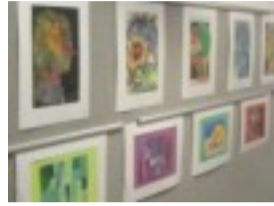


A \$25.00 prize will be awarded for the top entry from each level--grades 1-5, grades 6-8, and grades 9-12. Homeschoolers may enter under their equivalent grade level. Artists whose work is selected for exhibition will receive certificates acknowledging their contribution to the 2012 transit of Venus experience.

### Call for Art

Art may be of any medium, preferably matted, with a size limit of 18 x 24 images. Please drop off your art on Monday, April 30, at the Penn Kingsmen Art Gallery between 2:00 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. Enter through Door A of Penn High School. The work that does not get selected should be picked up 2:00- 4:40 p.m. on Wednesday, May 2, in the gallery. Artists whose work is exhibited may pick up their art on Friday, June 1, from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. While it tries to care for all art, the Penn Kingsmen Art Gallery is not responsible for loss or damage, or for artwork not picked up on schedule.

Each piece should have a title. Include on back your name, school, grade, teacher, and contact info (home address, home phone). Limit of five 2-dimensional pieces per teacher and one 3-dimensional piece per teacher due to space limitations.



### Exhibition

The show opens Thursday, May 3, and will be open to the public from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on all school days through May 2012. Visitors may enter Door A at Penn High School, 56100 Bittersweet Road, Mishawaka, IN.

### Other Transit of Venus Art Opportunities

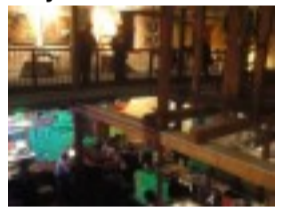
Multiple venues are celebrating the transit of Venus in art, including:

[Read more: PHM Transit of Venus Art Contest](#)

## Transit of Venus (TROVE) Art Exhibit

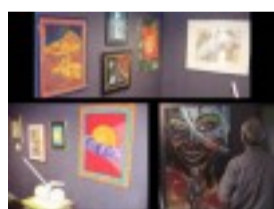
Chuck

Destined to be a highlight of 2012 is the *TROVE Art Exhibit*, which celebrates the transit of Venus experience, past and future. Artists working in any two-dimensional media are invited to create works that have relevance to the transit of Venus, a celestial phenomenon both with a rich history in the quest to understand our place in the solar system and with a modern role in the hunt for new worlds around distant stars. The 2012 alignment of earth, Venus, and the sun on June 5 is the last transit of Venus in our lifetimes, not occurring again until December 2117.



**TROVE** (for **TR**ansit **Of** **VE**nus) is a [collection of regional attractions](#) that complement this historic astronomical event. The venue for the *TROVE Art Exhibit* is the mezzanine gallery at [The Livery](#), a microbrewery in the Arts District of Benton Harbor, Michigan. Enjoy this unique art space while quaffing a hand-crafted *Venusian* ale. The exhibit will be open seven days a week from May 6 until June 30, with a special party after sunset on June 5, 2012. Please join the multiple [TROVE celebrations](#), whether by sharing your vision through the creation of art, or by embracing science and math in action as a supporter of the arts.

### Call for Art



Artists are invited to create works related to Venus, the sun, astronomy, exoplanets, transit math, historical expeditions, gods and goddesses, the black drop effect, and other notions with a connection to the solar spectacle. Please state your intent to participate by April 15, and deliver your artwork to the site on May 5. Art must be ready to hang and may be sold with no commission. Insurance is the artist's responsibility. There is a \$5.00 entry fee. Please fill out one entry form for each submission (limit two):

[2012T0V-Call-for-Artists.pdf](#) (PDF)

[2012T0V-Call-for-Artists.docx](#) (MS Word)

Dayle Brown, author and illustrator of [Skylore from Planet Earth: stories from around the world...VENUS](#), has generously stepped up to coordinate the *TROVE Art Exhibit*. You can contact Dayle Brown at 574-217-8557, or by email at [dayledavid@comcast.net](mailto:dayledavid@comcast.net) (with no spaces).

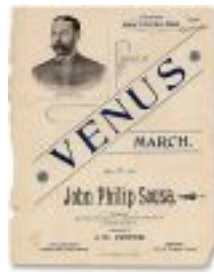
### Coming Soon: Beer Art

The history, mystique, and promise of the transit of Venus has a parallel storyline with beer. The brewmaster at The Livery is crafting a special golden ale to commemorate the 2012 transit of Venus.

[Read more: Transit of Venus \(TROVE\) Art Exhibit](#)



## Introduction to The Arts



Throughout the centuries, transits of Venus have inspired music, literature, and fine arts. For example, in the 19th century, John Philip Sousa composed *Transit of Venus March* (1883); Oliver Wendell Holmes, Sr., wrote *The Flaneur: Boston Common, During the Transit of Venus* (1882); and Eyre Crowe painted *The Founder of English Astronomy* (1891).

Some of the works invoke artistic license, such as a [stained glass window](#) on St. Michael's Church in Hoole, England, which shows Jeremiah Horrocks wearing clothes not of his era and looking at a large projection of the projected sun. In fact, Horrocks writes that he projected the image of the sun onto a 6-inch piece of paper. Another mis-depiction is the famous drawing of William Crabtree observing the 1639 transit of Venus, which Allan Chapman critically analyzes (see <http://analyzer.depaul.edu/paperplate/Transit%20of%20Venus/Internet%20caveat.htm>).

Other artworks are exquisite expressions of science depicted with passion. Johann Doppelmayr has a stunning illustration of personified Venus and earth in their respective chariots encircling a central sun character, thus showing the relationship of the celestial bodies.



[The Arts](#) section is a collection of music, art, literature, and more--from stained glass windows to glam rock--all inspired by a celestial dance of the planets.

## Links: The Arts

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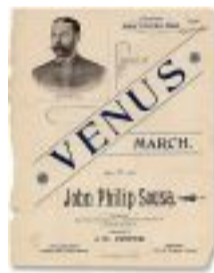
Art exhibits and contests to celebrate the 2012 transit of Venus:

- [TROVE Art Exhibit](#), featured transit of Venus art show in the mezzanine art gallery of The Livery microbrewery in Benton Harbor, MI; May 6-June 30;
- [Transit of Venus in Pastel](#), in the Harris Branch Library in Granger, IN, May 1-June 9;
- [PHM Transit of Venus Art Contest](#), for student artists in the Penn-Harris-Madison School Corporation, IN; May 3-31.
- [Transit of Venus Stained Glass Window Contest \(online\)](#), from JINA/NDeRC at University of Notre Dame; entry deadline: Feb. 18.



[http://soho.nascom.nasa.gov/hotshots/2002\\_08\\_29/](http://soho.nascom.nasa.gov/hotshots/2002_08_29/)

The Sun as Art exhibit toured during the 2004 transit of Venus.



[http://sunearth.gsfc.nasa.gov/sunearthday/2004/vt\\_edu2004\\_venus\\_back\\_mus.htm](http://sunearth.gsfc.nasa.gov/sunearthday/2004/vt_edu2004_venus_back_mus.htm)

Music and literature, with emphasis on John Philip Sousa. From GSFC Sun-Earth Connection.



<http://lcweb2.loc.gov/diglib/ihas/html/venus/venus-home.html>

John Philip Sousa's *Transit of Venus March*; includes score, audio, and sheet music. From US Library of Congress.



[http://www.archive.org/stream/transitvenus00sousgoog/transitvenus00sousgoog\\_djvu.txt](http://www.archive.org/stream/transitvenus00sousgoog/transitvenus00sousgoog_djvu.txt)

Complete text of John Philip Sousa's 1920 novel, *The Transit of Venus*. From Internet Archive.



[education/the-arts/147-moved-by-a-rapid-transit](#)

"Moved by a Rapid Transit" by Chuck Bueter; a paper from the Inspiration of Astronomical Phenomena V (INSAP V) conference, summarizes the many facets of art inspired by the transit of Venus; Chicago, IL; June 28, 2005.



[http://christiesinternational.com/LotFinder/lot\\_details.aspx?intObjectID=5379488](http://christiesinternational.com/LotFinder/lot_details.aspx?intObjectID=5379488)

John George Brown's 1883 painting *The Transit of Venus* sold at Christie's for \$122,500.00 in December 2010. The oil on canvas appeared in black and white on the cover of Harper's magazine, depicting children looking at the transit of Venus through a broken piece of glass that had been smoked.



<http://arvindparanjpye.blogspot.in/2012/02/sketching-transit-of-venus-8th-june.html>

Sketchings of the 2004 transit of Venus reveal visual highlights as Venus crosses solar limb; by Arvind Paranjpye.

[Read more: Links: The Arts](#)

## Moved by a Rapid Transit

[PDF ICON\\_SEP](#) [Print ICON\\_SEP](#) [E-mail](#)



Abstract: Enticing by virtue of its predictability, historical utility, and spectacle, the transit of Venus is a niche event among astronomical phenomena. Though the value of a transit for scientific purposes is now diminished, the brief appearance of Venus silhouetted against the background of the Sun in 2004 moved the artistic community to celebrate the rare alignment. Artists of all ages combined old traditions with fresh technology to create a 21st century tapestry of music, sculpture, paintings, glasswork, quilts, sky shows, and digital imagery. A full catalog of transit-related art generated over the centuries would feature the sampling of entries presented here.

[Read more: Moved by a Rapid Transit](#)

## More Articles...

- [Glance at Past Prepares for Future](#)
- [Poem: The Flâneur](#)
- [Art From Boys & Girls Club](#)
- [Paris Observatory-Ceiling Art](#)
- [Quilt: Transit Time, by Don Tuttle](#)
- [Moved by a Rapid Transit \(with thumbnails\)](#)
- [Monument Honors Jeremiah Horrocks](#)

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[Start](#) [Prev](#) [1](#) [2](#) [3](#) [Next](#) [End](#)