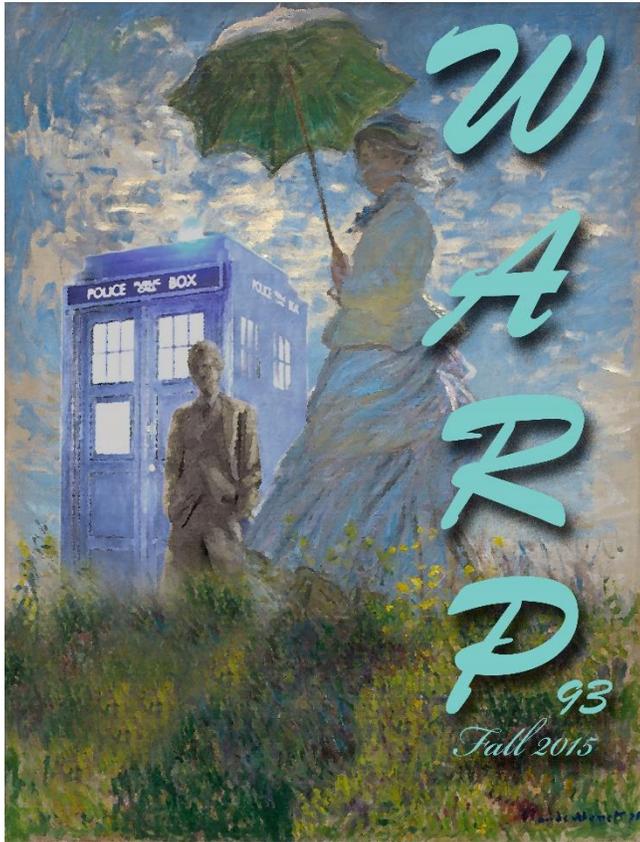


## BIOGRAPHY: KEITH BRAITHWAITE

A life-long sci-fi fan, Keith Braithwaite has exercised his creativity as an artist, writer, and fan-film producer/director for over 30 years. The fanzine cover for which he has received an Aurora-Award nomination this year is one of numerous he has created over the years for Warp, the principal publication of the Montreal Science Fiction and Fantasy Association (MonSFFA), the club to which Keith belongs.



Keith has been active in organized fandom since he happened upon an advertisement for a Montreal-based Star Trek club that was launching in the late 1980s. He joined that club, which quickly expanded its sphere of interest to become MonSFFA, a group dedicated to the exploration and enjoyment of SF/F in all of its myriad forms.

A former president, treasurer, and editor of Warp, Keith remains active in the club to this day, currently sitting as vice-president and editor of the organization's one-sheet news bulletin, Impulse. For a number of years, he also served in various capacities on the conglom of ConConcept, the local SF/F convention founded by MonSFFA in 1989 and run by the group for several years. As well, Keith wrote and directed several of MonSFFA's popular, award-winning fan films, including the FedEx Files series, Beavra, and MooseMan.

A fan of, in particular the 1950s and '60s sci-fi films he grew up watching on TV and in movie theatres, Keith is an admirer of such exemplary cinematic craftsmen as Willis O'Brien, Ray Harryhausen, George Pal, William Cameron Menzies, Peter Ellenshaw, Albert Whitlock, Matthew Yuricich, L. B. Abbott, Douglas Trumbull, Greg Jein, Steve Gawley, Phil Tippett, and Nick Park, to name a few.



**TOP: *The Doctor and His Companion***; Aurora Award-nominated fanzine cover, digital, 2015. Keith provided text to accompany his cover piece, declaring that this canvas was by Claude Monet and was "recently discovered in the attic of a house in Argenteuil in which Monet lived in the 1870s." Keith continued: "Little is known of the subjects depicted as the artist left no notes as to their identity or relationship to him. No particulars on the gentleman or lady are to be found, either, in the local historical records of the time and the odd structure beside which the gentleman is standing remains a puzzle. Civic records offer no indication that such a structure ever existed, as if this curious blue box simply appeared out of thin air, and then disappeared just as mysteriously. The title of the work gives us our only clue as to the two subjects, suggesting that the gentleman was, perhaps, a medical doctor travelling with a female relative, fiancée, or mistress."



**MIDDLE, LEFT: *Dinosaurian***; colorized marker-and-pencil sketch on paper vellum, 1989/2010 (Keith digitally tinted his 1989 black-and-white sketch for use in a sci-fi calendar in 2010). **MIDDLE, RIGHT: *Alien***; pencil and colored marker on paper vellum, 1989. **BOTTOM: *Star Tug***; rough sketch, marker on paper, circa 1990.



ABOVE: **The Fog Horn**; fanzine cover, charcoal pencil on watercolour paper, 1990. Keith chose a paper with a heavy tooth so that its coarse surface would enhance the grittiness of his pencil strokes, lending a sabulous quality to his atmospheric scene, which was inspired by Ray Bradbury's famous short story. This was the first of 20 or so covers Keith has produced to date for Warp.

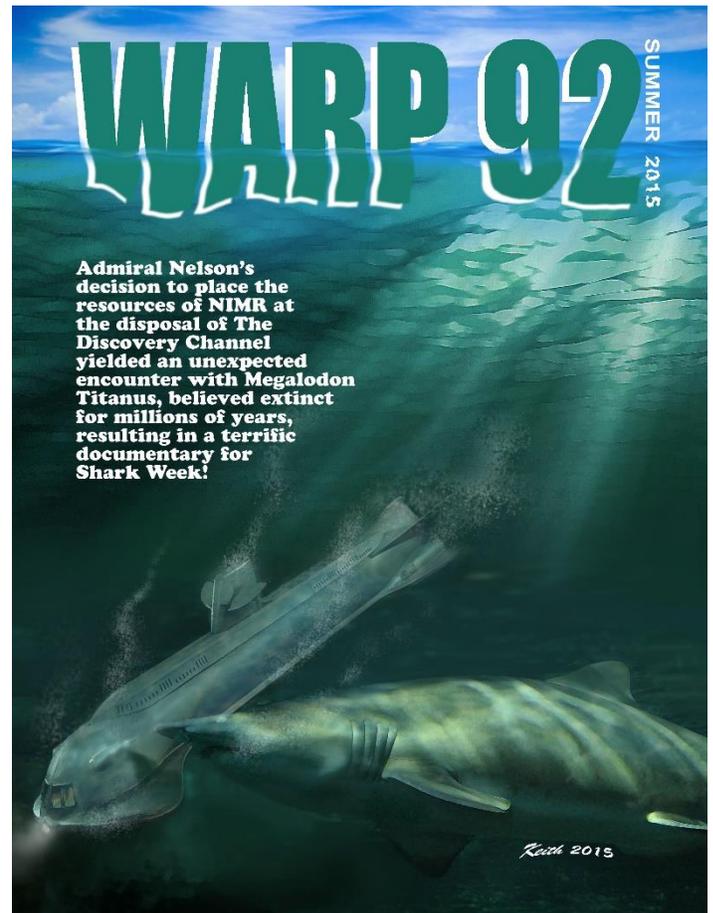
ABOVE, RIGHT: **Shark Week**; fanzine cover, digital, 2015. RIGHT: **Sasquatch**; fanzine cover, coloured marker on clear acetate enhanced with digital overlay, 2014.

BELOW: **Lonely Robot**; thumbnail sketch, coloured marker on paper, circa 2005.



Among Keith's most-read genre writers are Ray Bradbury, Arthur C. Clarke, Isaac Asimov, H. G. Wells, Stephen King, H. P. Lovecraft, Philip K. Dick, Harlan Ellison, and Richard Matheson.

He enjoys experimenting with different styles of illustration, employing a variety of mediums. Often favouring a sketch-like or painterly finish to his work, he has most recently been exploring Photoshop and the artistic possibilities offered by the virtual paintbrush.

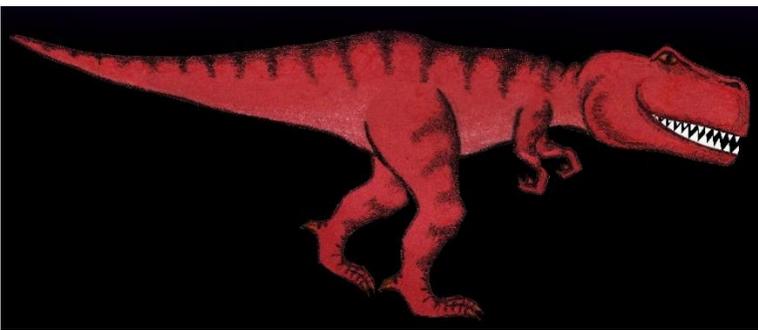


He is an aficionado of, and is influenced by many artists and commercial illustrators, from comic book and pulp-era sci-fi artists to book and movie poster illustrators to natural history and space artists. Keith maintains a library of books on artists; his list of favourites is lengthy and includes: Frank R. Paul, Norman Saunders, Margaret Brundage, Ed Emshwiller, Will Eisner, Alex Raymond, Wally Wood, Joe Kubert, Dave Stevens, Neal Adams, Frank Miller, Alex Ross, Frank Frazetta, Michael Whelan, Chris Foss, John Berkey, Robert McGinnis, James Bama, Drew Struzan, Bob Peak, Ralph McQuarrie, Ron Cobb, Gil Elvgren, Olivia de Berardinis, Charles R. Knight, Zdeněk Burian, Douglas Henderson, Eleanor R. Kish, William Stout, John Gurche, Robert McCall, Ron Miller, and Chesley Bonestell.

In addition to SF/F, Keith's interests include motion picture special effects, rock and roll, dinosaurs, the story of the Titanic, and World War II history. He is 57 and lives in suburban Montreal with his two children.



ABOVE, LEFT: **Warships in Orbit**; pencil and marker drawing, 1984. ABOVE, RIGHT: **Henry VIII**; coloured marker on paper and clear acetate, 1979. BELOW: **T-Rex** (left) and **Parasaurolophus** (right); mock-ups of paper-cut-out, stop-motion animated cartoon characters for upcoming MonSFFA film project, coloured crayon on construction paper, 2016.



LEFT: **On Horsell Common**; colorized charcoal sketch, 1979/2010 (original sketch digitally tinted for use in a sci-fi calendar). RIGHT: **The Red Planet**; coloured pencil on board, 1979.



**ABOVE:** *Rough Sketch for ConConcept Poster*; thumbnail sketch, coloured marker, gouache on paper, 1990.

**LEFT:** *ConConcept Poster*; coloured pencil, gouache, airbrush on board, 1990. Science fiction is represented by the spaceship hovering in the night sky over Montreal's

iconic Place Ville Marie tower. The sword held aloft, intercepting an energy bolt blasting from the ship, represents fantasy. These three symbols, then, combine in Keith's illustration to promote a Montreal-hosted science fiction and fantasy convention. ConConcept 1990 was the sophomore edition of this MonSFFA-founded general-interest sci-fi con.

PLEASE KINDLY CONSIDER VOTING FOR  
**KEITH BRAITHWAITE**

*for the 2016 AURORA AWARD  
in the Category of:*

**BEST FAN-RELATED WORK**

*in recognition of his fanzine cover illustration  
"The Doctor and His Companion"  
(Warp 93, Fall 2015)*

—Thank You