



Artist's sun illustration featured on CBS, DeKalb County wine labels

By FELIX SARVER - fsarver@shawmedia.com
Created: Thursday, August 8, 2013 5:30 a.m. CDT

[Comments \(0\)](#)

Recommend

Tweet

Text Size: [Aa](#) [Aa](#) [Aa](#) [Aa](#)

GENOA – Maria Shega's sun illustration will appear on wine labels at two DeKalb County locations next month after debuting on CBS Sunday Morning With Charles Osgood in July.

A regular viewer, Shega submitted the illustration to the show.

"I would watch the shows and each segment had an image of the sun before going to commercial," Shega said.

It's not the first time her work has captured a large audience. Shega, of Geneva, has worked on illustrations for McDonald's, Burger King and Coca-Cola. She always wanted to be an artist, which can be a life-consuming career that requires people to "eat, drink and sleep" their art, she said. But it's not without its fun.

"I can't think of any art director or creative people who I didn't like working with," she said.

Two of the people Shega has collaborated with are winemaker Rick Mamoser and his wife, Maria, who operate Prairie State Winery, 217 W. Main St. in Genoa, and Prairie State Wine Cellars, 322 W. State St. in Sycamore. They created six labels over the past seven years.

Their latest is Sol, a sherry wine that has Shega's sun on the label. For the illustration, Shega wanted to achieve a balance between two expressions.

"I wanted a serious look but a happy look," she said.

J.T. Anesi, who works at the Genoa wine shop and is Mamoser's brother-in-law, said Shega's illustrations on the bottles complete the whole package.

"We see a lot of people come here and what draws them into the wine is the labels," Anesi said.

The realism of artists such as Norman Rockwell and James Bama inspire Shega's own work, but occasionally she'll design whimsical illustrations for a wine bottle. The Bubblin' Blue sparkling wine has a picture of a heron bathing while drinking a glass of the wine.

Shega said she enjoys mentoring young artists, who will sometimes submit work for her to look at in the Strawflower Shop in Geneva. For artists hoping to have a career in a tough business, Shega said they should be persistent.

"Don't give up," she said. "... and perfect your style."



Maria Shega is surrounded by bottles of wine with her illustration on the labels Tuesday at Prairie State Winery in Genoa. (Rob Winner - rwinner@shawmedia.com)

HOBBY LOBBY EVERYDAY

Yes! We have School supplies!

- Thousands of items.
- Get what they want.
- Save 40% with our coupon.

40% OFF

Read it Anywhere, Anytime

Daily Chronicle e-Edition Online

Your Daily Chronicle sent to your inbox every morning!

REGISTER TODAY!

Sit. Shake. Roll over. Upload.

my photos

Click here to share your photos

Kickoff the 2013 Football Season in Style

Free 3-Day Shipping Over \$75

FANATICS Shop Now

Find us on Facebook

Daily Chronicle

6,295 people like Daily Chronicle.

Facebook social plugin