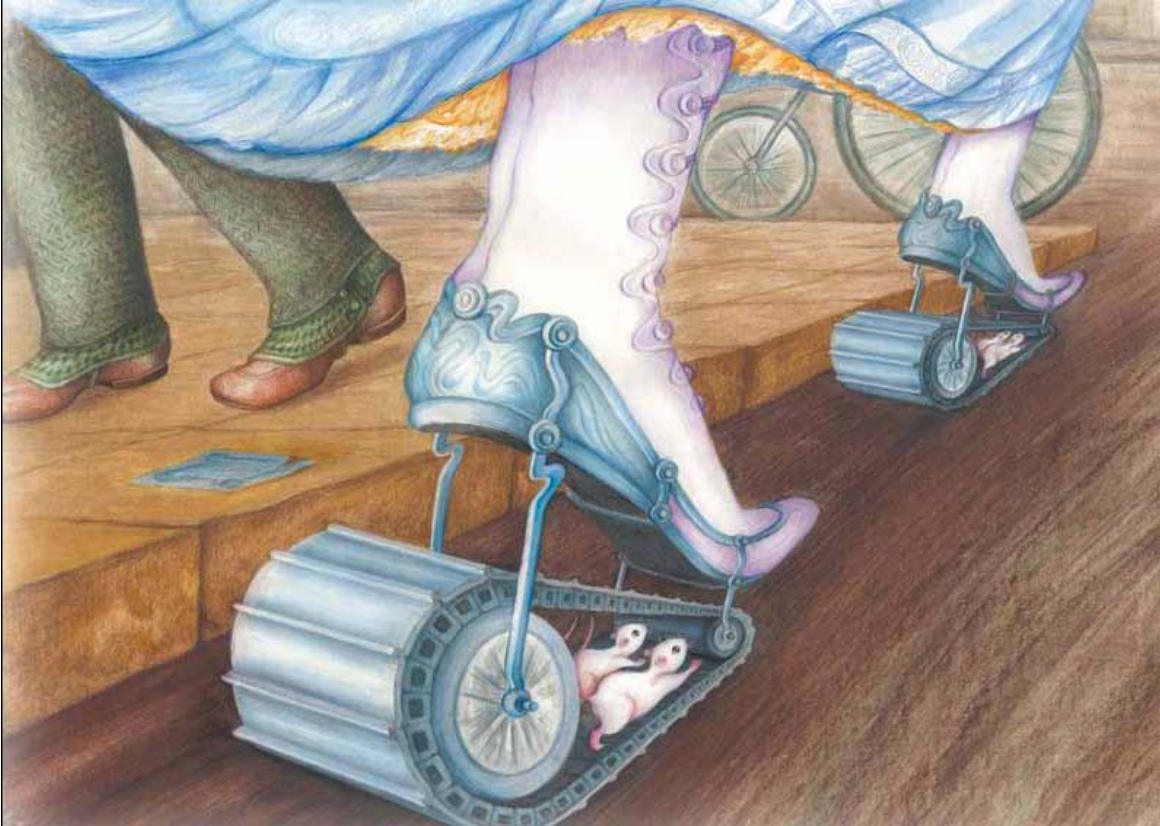


THE GALLERY: SHELI PETERSEN, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF ART

Jennifer J. Liskow '02G
(From: *Rivier Today*, Fall 2010)

"*The Skates* humorously portrays the symbiotic relationship of domesticated animals and humans." — Sheli Petersen



The Skates, colored pencil (©)

Sheli Petersen, Associate Professor of Art, developed the drawing, *The Skates*, for the Maine Illustrators' Collective June 2010 Steampunk Exhibition at The Green Hand bookstore in Portland, ME. MEIC is a professional organization that provides a venue for illustrators in the northern New England area to network and display their art.

The theme of the exhibition, Steampunk, is a genre of young adult fiction and animated film that combines Victorian technology with fantasy and a punk edge. When developing the concept for the drawing, I considered the theme and my own focus as illustrator, which explores the relationship of nature and culture. *The Skates* humorously portrays the symbiotic relationship of domesticated animals and humans with the invention of the mice-powered roller-boots. To emphasize the animals' point of view in this scenario, I designed the scene from a low vantage point.

After the exhibition, I began to consider the potential story that could evolve from *The Skates*. I imaged what life for the mice might be like outside of their work. In response to these musings, I developed a companion illustration, *The Wardrobe*, in which one of the mice, Steampunk Willie, befriends a wild mouse. ■