



SMOOTH AS *Silk*

Erick Sahler's nostalgic and colorful silkscreens add "Regional Pop" to the Shore

WRITTEN BY ROBBIE TARPLEY RAFFISH

At 16 years old, Erick Sahler took a job at Chesapeake Screen Printing, where for six years he learned the art of serigraph, or silkscreen. After graduating college, he found success in the newspaper business, serving for many years as a political cartoonist and managing editor of the *Daily Times*.

POP ART: HAVING DEVELOPED A SIGNATURE STYLE THAT HE CALLS "REGIONAL POP," ERICK SAHLER IS KNOWN TODAY FOR CREATING SILKSCREENS THAT COMBINE THE NOSTALGIA OF THE 1930S AND '40S WITH A MODERN, EASTERN SHORE VIBE.

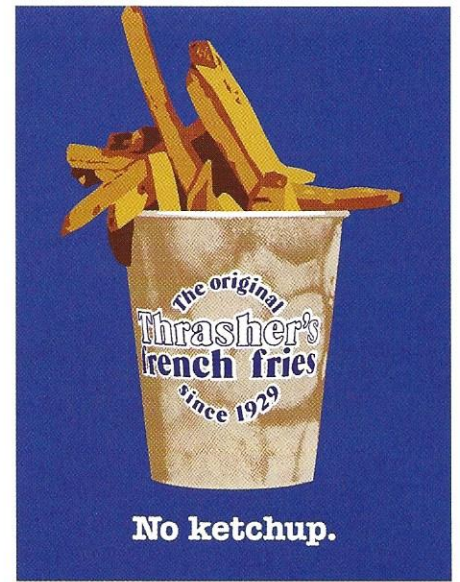


In 2009, Sahler began to reflect on what he'd like to do next, recalling that the happiest he'd ever been was back as a teen and 20-something, when he was creating the bright, saturated color prints at Chesapeake Screen Printing.

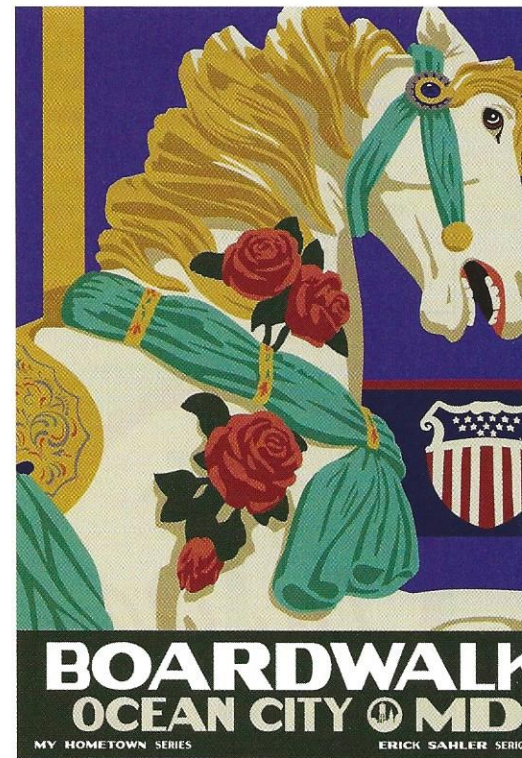
After spending two years developing a business plan, gathering equipment and building a studio, Sahler made the jump in 2011 and has never looked back. He's honed an immediately recognizable style he calls "Regional Pop" — a blend that evokes the nostalgia of the 1930s and '40s (think the old WPA National Parks posters) with a bright, contemporary vibe that reflects the energy of the Eastern Shore.

Honors have followed. In the fall of 2015, after a rigorous portfolio review and personal interview, he was offered membership in the prestigious Society of Illustrators in New York. About the same time, he was approached for a commission by BoatUS (Boat Owners Association of The United States) — his first national commemorative piece.

Yet for all the acclaim, Sahler's heart and art are deeply rooted in Delmarva. Peninsula Regional Medical Center just purchased eight pieces for its new café and Salisbury University another 15 pieces for the Guerrieri University Center. The new Salisbury Symphony Orchestra's 30th Anniversary commemorative poster? His, too.



This summer, Sahler will release two new silkscreen prints depicting places in Ocean City that are close to his heart. *Trimper's Carousel* showcases a children's favorite, the "Rose" horse, while *Rule No. 1* offers an insider's take on Thrasher's Fries — captioned *No Ketchup.*



ERICK SAHLER
ErickSahler.com