



NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release
November 7, 2014

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It's a Picture Book **The Art Behind Graphic Novels**

November 8 to March 29 at Joslyn Art Museum; Free Admission!

BAM! It's a Picture Book: The Art Behind Graphic Novels was organized by National Center for Children's Illustrated Literature, Abilene, Texas. At Joslyn Art Museum, the exhibition is sponsored by an anonymous donor and Cynthia Epstein and David Wiesman.

(Omaha, NE) — *BAM! It's a Picture Book: The Art Behind Graphic Novels* presents a collection of pen and ink, mixed media, and computer-generated illustrations; preliminary sketches; storyboards; and cover art created by five of the leading contemporary artists/authors working in the graphic novel format: Mark Crilley, Matthew Holm, Jarrett J. Krosoczka, Lincoln Peirce, and Raina Telgemeier. The exhibition opens in Joslyn's Mind's Eye Gallery on November 8 and continues through March 29. *BAM!* is included in free general Museum admission.

Popular among young readers, graphic novels are known for their comic format. They are generally described as "sequential art," where a series of illustrations tells the story, but, unlike newspaper comics, they are the length of a novel and include narrative development. From cave paintings and hieroglyphs, to tapestries and illuminated manuscripts, storytelling through pictures has existed for

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BAM! It's a Picture Book: The Art Behind Graphic Novels

millennia. The dawn of the Industrial Age marked the publication of *The Adventures of Obadiah Oldbuck*, which, with its sequential pictures and captions, many consider to be the first comic book. The twentieth century saw DC Comics' *Superman* and *Batman* and Marvel Comics' *Fantastic Four*, *Spider-Man*, and *X-Men* and the superhero phenomenon. Today, graphic novels are more varied in content than their earlier counterparts and they have a new level of respectability, their impact and popularity the topic of scholarly research and discussion. Notably, in 1992, Art Spiegelman's Holocaust survivor's tale, *Maus*, was awarded the Pulitzer Prize (Joslyn's *Visualizing Literature: Book Club for Art Lovers* will read and discuss *Maus I: A Survivor's Tale: My Father Bleeds History* and *Maus II: A Survivor's Tale: And Here My Troubles Began* at its sessions on Tuesday, November 11 @ 10:30 am and Thursday, November 13 @ 6 pm; college students and members are free; general public may attend for \$5 at the door).

BAM! Featured Artists/Books



Raina Telgemeier

Smile, a #1 New York Times bestseller, is a humorous — and true! — coming-of-age story about the dental drama that ensues after a trip-and-fall mishap.

LEFT: "Mom??" from *Smile*, 2010, India ink, graphite, blue pencil, © Raina Telgemeier



Mark Crilley

The **Akiko**, **Miki Falls**, and **Brody's Ghost** series come from this master of manga and YouTube's most popular art instruction guru.

LEFT: "'Hooded figure" cover art from *Akiko #12*, mixed media, © Mark Crilley



Lincoln Peirce (pronounced purse)

Published in 25 countries, the **Big Nate** series features the adventures and misadventures of Nate Wright, a rebellious and energetic sixth-grader, and his classmates and teachers.

LEFT: "Wearing Coach John's" from *Big Nate in a Class by Himself*, 2010, pen, ink, © Lincoln Peirce

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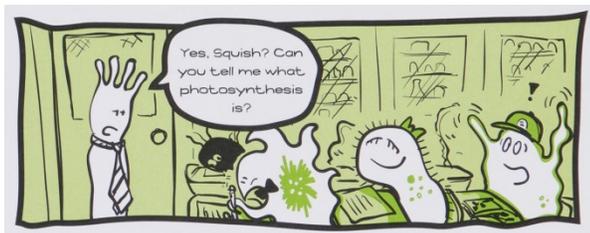
BAM! It's a Picture Book: The Art Behind Graphic Novels



Jarrett J. Krosoczka

"Serving justice and serving...lunch!" Accolades abound for the ten books in the **Lunch Lady** series, now in development to be a feature film.

LEFT: Page 71 from *Lunch Lady and the Mutant Mathletes*, 2011, pen, ink, © Jarrett J. Krosoczka



Matthew Holm

One of the first graphic novels for children, the **Babymouse** series features a plucky young mouse who fears only dodgeball and Felicia Furrypaws, her nemesis. **Squish** follows a grade school amoeba trying to find his place in the pond.

ABOVE: "POOF!" from *Squish*, 2011, computer generated, © Matthew Holm

Books illustrated by *BAM!* artists are available for purchase in Joslyn's Hitchcock Museum Shop (open during all regular Museum hours). Joslyn is offering a number of comic-based art classes this fall and winter. Visit www.joslyn.org/education/classes for complete details. For exhibition images, contact Amy Rummel, director of marketing and public relations, at (402) 661-3822 or arummel@joslyn.org.

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Our Mission – Joslyn Art Museum collects, preserves, and interprets the visual arts of the highest quality, fostering appreciation and enjoyment of art for the benefit of a diverse audience.

Our Vision – To be cherished and respected as a premier art museum.

Joslyn Art Museum showcases art from ancient times to the present. The Museum was a gift to the people of Omaha from Sarah Joslyn in memory of her husband, George, who made his fortune as president of the Western Newspaper Union. The Museum's original 1931 building is one of the finest examples of Art Deco architecture in the nation, with 38 types of marble from seven countries. The Walter and Suzanne Scott Pavilion, a 58,000-square-foot addition built in 1994, was designed by renowned British architect Norman Foster as his first U.S. commission. The Museum features galleries, a 1,000-seat concert hall, fountain court, education technology gallery, lecture hall, classrooms, sculpture garden, café, and shop.

General Museum Admission: Free (the *BAM!* exhibition is included in free general Museum admission).

Regular Museum Hours (includes exhibition): Tuesday through Sunday, 10 am–4 pm; late 'til 8 pm on Thursday; closed Monday and major holidays.

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