

FORM+CONTENT GALLERY

For release October 23, 2015

ILLUSTRATORS' STUDIO

the art of illustration

What

An invitational exhibition of seven highly recognized Illustrators: **Mary Bergherr, Linda Frichtel, Tom Garrett, Eric Hanson, James O'Brien, Anne Vagt, and Ulana Zahajkewycz**, curated by Form+Content members Jim Dryden and Jody Williams.

When

Thursday, January 14, 2016 – Saturday, February 20, 2016
Gallery hours: Thursday – Saturday, 12:00 – 6:00 pm
and by appointment

Exhibition Reception

Saturday, January 23, 2016 from 6:00 to 8:00 pm

The exhibition and reception are free and open to the public.

Where

Form+Content Gallery
Whitney Square Building
210 North 2nd Street, Suite 104
Minneapolis, MN 55401

Information

Gallery: 612/436-1151
formandcontent@gmail.com
<http://www.formandcontent.org>

Description

Form+Content Gallery presents **ILLUSTRATORS' STUDIO, the art of illustration**, an exhibition of seven prominent illustrators who all have ties to the Twin Cities. Focusing less on commissioned illustrations and more on their personal work, the exhibit will feature original works of art created in their studios with a variety of media. Using an array of materials and techniques, these seven artists draw upon a broad range of influences to address issues that span everyday occurrences to cosmic themes.

Mary Bergherr, Linda Frichtel, Tom Garrett, Eric Hanson, James O'Brien, Anne Vagt, and Ulana Zahajkewycz are all highly skilled illustrators, yet are also accomplished studio artists. Their personal work is informed and enriched by their ability to illustrate information and narratives supplied by others for commissions. Figurative work, both abstract and representational is a common thread between their two modes of working; it also links the **ILLUSTRATORS' STUDIO** artists. These figures often serve as subject matter, expressed using sophisticated artistic languages of mark-making and color, resulting in works that are grounded in storytelling and narrative that address much larger themes and content.

(description continues)

(**ILLUSTRATORS' STUDIO** description, continued)

Media and Process

While many contemporary illustrators use the traditional tools of pencils and brushes merely for initial sketches to be scanned and completed on the computer, Eric Hanson's drawings with watercolor and gouache have always been his finished pieces. Hanson sees little difference between his illustrations and personal studio work. "I draw and write whenever I have an idea... My work is my life, and my home is my workspace." Other artists, including Mary Bergherr, Linda Frichtel and Ulana Zahajkewycz use computers for their illustrations, but often return to drawing and painting when they are working for themselves in the studio.

Mixed media approaches will also be featured in the exhibition. Tom Garrett remembers making collages as a child, physically cutting up the *Sears and Roebuck* catalog to invent new pictures; he now creates collages on his computer. James O'Brien uses a similar collage-type approach, combining digitally-scanned found materials and traditional drawing and painting with computer-generated imagery. Anne Vagt expands on the collage approach with her materials - crayons, text markers, carbon copy, cardboard, flipchart paper, foam - as well as her process. "I use banal subjects, recite fragments from advertising and art, create my own texts, and combine all those elements like parts of a rebus, which, one would hope, did not belong together."

Influences

Illustration work often involves research to find specific sources of inspiration for a particular job. Studio work begins with broader influences. Ulana Zahajkewycz cites a long list of sources: "Ukrainian folk tales, Japanese toys, Swedish patterns, the Mexican Day of the Dead, American needlework samplers, Moroccan tilework, German woodcraft, Mid-Century design, Native American legends, Amish folk art, and the vastness of the supernatural world."

Linda Frichtel's search begins with direct observations of her immediate environment. She finds herself enchanted by details in the natural world: "the subtle colors in the algae of rock on a mountain path, the inky blue of deep water at night, the glimmer of sun light on my dog's fur." Tom Garret looks farther afield. On a sabbatical trip to Beijing, Xi'an, Guilin and Shanghai China, he "was stunned by the sheer energy, beauty and rich history," which has influenced a series of portraits over the past five years

Content

As for content, many of the *ILLUSTRATORS' STUDIO* artists are obsessed with opposites and dichotomies, clearly illustrated by Hanson's double portrait and Zahajkewycz's portrayals of good and evil. Anne Vagt gives a more detailed list: "Subtlety vs. stupor; gentleness vs. cruelty; elegance vs. failure; humor vs. despair," as does Bergherr: "Duality gets my blood flowing. Not everything is pretty. Not everything is beautiful. With every painting I strive to get one step closer to humanity. If something looks too perfect I get in and change it." O'Brien has more esoteric goals, stating that his "enigmatic imagery is a mix of symbol and metaphor presented through an eclectic montage of pencil, pixels, and paint."

Mary Burgherr sums up why she, or any artist might head towards the studio: "The act of painting is a journey of self-discovery. And with every color, shape, mark, letter or word I make, I come to understand my true self a little bit more." Burgherr's experiences in her life and with her work, like the other artists in the show, form a narrative - pieces of which will be alluded to on Form+Content's gallery walls in January and February.

Press Images

Low resolution exhibition images are attached to this email and are listed at the end of this press release; high-resolution jpgs can be downloaded from this link:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/2egydmalqarshoy/AAzN22tU4t436GA19O3Ehc3a?dl=0>

Artist Biographies follow on the next page.

ILLUSTRATORS' STUDIO; Artist Biographies:

Mary Bergherr grew up in Bloomington, Minnesota and received her B.A. from the Minneapolis College of Art and Design in 1982. After feeling limited by her work as a freelance illustrator, Bergherr took time off to focus on fine art in 2003. Greatly influenced by her young children's art process and African-American folk art from the South, Bergherr uses acrylic paint and colored pencil on repurposed wood to create colorful works that express her inner child. Humor is very present in her artwork, as is the desire to be accessible, straightforward and simple. When Bergherr is not in her studio she is walking her two dogs, cooking, eating, wanting more dogs, or worrying. Her work can be seen in galleries and collections throughout the country. She currently resides in Minneapolis, Minnesota. <http://marybergherr.com/>

Linda Frichtel is a Minneapolis-based artist and illustrator. She began working as a professional illustrator in 1992. Her work has been commissioned for a diverse clientele resulting in a body of work that represents categories of illustration such as annual reports, book covers, packaging, surface design, posters, murals and editorial illustrations. Her paintings are in numerous in private and public collections. Frichtel is currently a Professor in the Illustration Program at the Minneapolis College of Art and Design. The work she will be exhibiting in *Illustrators' Studio* originates from the simple experience of observation, silence and the beauty found moment to moment in the natural world. <http://www.lindafrichtel.com/>

Tom Garrett is a Design Professor at the Minneapolis College of Art and Design. His collages have been recognized in Communication Arts, Print, Society of Illustrators of Los Angeles, Dimensional Illustrators, The Society of Publication Design, How, The Visual Club of New York, The New York Art Director's Club and American Illustration. His illustrations have been published in U.S. News & World Report, Business Week, HGTV Magazine, The Washington Post, Chicago Tribune, Fortune, TV GUIDE, Bloomberg, The Wall Street Journal, The Washington Post, Atlantic Monthly, Sports Illustrated, Good Housekeeping, McCall's, Kiplinger, The Chicago Tribune and National Geographic Traveler. Garrett's clients include: CBS, Scholastic, Cambridge University Press, Timex, Johnson Wax, Pillsbury, American Express, Hermann Hospital of Houston, New York University Law School, Torro, Geico, Simon & Schuster, Warner Brothers and The Food Network. Garrett is a contributor to *Educating the Illustrator* and *Teaching Illustration*, published by Allworth Press. <http://tomgarrett.us/>

Eric Hanson has been an illustrator and writer for more than thirty years. His artwork has appeared in the New Yorker, McSweeney's, Rolling Stone, Vanity Fair, Oprah, the Atlantic, Harper's, the New York Times, Travel & Leisure, Gourmet, and other publications. His work is regularly included in juried annuals from Communication Arts, Society of Publication Designers, Luerzer's Archive (200 Best Illustrators World-wide,) Print, I.D., A.I.G.A., and American Illustration. Design clients include Aesthetic Apparatus, Duffy, Robert Valentine, Fallon, Lucy Sisman, Paul Davis, Louise Fili, Kate Spade, Barney's, Tolleson, Landor, Williams-Sonoma, Barneys, Nordstrom, Target, Alfred A. Knopf, Farrar Straus & Giroux, New York Review Books, Chronicle, Random House and Pantheon. His fiction and satire have been published in McSweeney's, the Atlantic, Süddeutsche Zeitung Magazine, Smithsonian and elsewhere. He is the author of *A Book of Ages*, which was published by Harmony/Random House in 2008. <http://www.er-h.com/>

James O'Brien is an illustrator and designer, creating conceptual, decorative art and designing for editorial, corporate, and publishing. He is represented commercially by Gerald & Cullen Rapp, NYC. His clients include AARP, American Express, Bloomberg, Delta Airlines, Entertainment Weekly, Hewlett Packard, Johns Hopkins, Kiplinger's, Microsoft, The New York Times, Rand McNally, Sears, Smithsonian, Sports Illustrated, Target, Time, and The Wall Street Journal, among others. His work has been recognized by American Illustration, The Society of Illustrators, Communication Arts, 3X3, Creative Quarterly, PRINT, The Society of Publication Designers, SBS Digital Design, AIGA, and SILA. <http://www.obrien-studio.com/>

(artist biographies continue)

(ILLUSTRATORS' STUDIO; artist biographies, continued)

Anne Vagt is an illustrator and artist based in Hamburg, Germany. She studied Illustration at University of Applied Sciences Hamburg and at Minneapolis College of Art and Design and is a Fulbright and DAAD alumnus. Her work encompasses magazine commissions as well as non-commissioned and collaborative pieces, such as books, performances, and installations. Anne's illustrations have been featured by Die Zeit, Der Spiegel, The New York Times Sunday Book Review, and Designers Digest, among others. Exhibitions include Kunsthaus Hamburg, Miami Fountain Art Fair, Shanghai Artists Associations, Museo internazionale e Biblioteca della Musica Bologna. Anne teaches illustration at Bildkunst Akademie Hamburg. <http://www.annevagt.com/>

Ulana Zahajkewycz is a native of New Jersey and former resident of Minnesota. She received a BFA from Montclair State University and an MFA from Minneapolis College of Art and Design. Her work has appeared in numerous publications and websites, including USA/Sy-Fy Network, Runner's World, Print, Diversion, New York Free Press, Top Shelf Comics, Girl's Life, International Tattoo Art, Sothebys.com, American Illustration, Los Angeles Society of Illustrators, CMYK, Minnesota History Center, City Pages, and The New York Times. Zahajkewycz has exhibited her work at venues such as the CBGB's gallery, Max Fish, Tin Man Alley, the Soo Visual Arts Center, the Westbeth Gallery, Twist Gallery, Montclair State University, the Minneapolis College of Art and Design, Lunar Boy Gallery, and at the Woodstock 99 Festival. Most recently, Zahajkewycz and partners opened an art and antique mall called the Carnival of Collectables in Sicklerville, NJ, which features over 100 vendors as well as a classroom space where Zahajkewycz teaches workshops. <http://ulanaland.com/>

Curators **Jim Dryden** and **Jody Williams**, both Form+Content members, previously worked together curating **Common Denominators, An Invitational Exhibition of Five Book Artists** this past summer, and on **Connections**, a collaborative artists' book and exhibition of the same name at the gallery in 2012.

Mission Statement

Form+Content Gallery will nurture diverse artistic practice and thoughtful dialogue. We value art as a catalyst for critical thinking. We value integrity and the artistic process. We aspire to link personal expression to broader social contexts. Form+Content Gallery is dedicated to moving the definitions and practice of culture forward in new and lively ways. Suggestions and ideas for cultural partnerships and programs are welcome.

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FORM+CONTENT GALLERY

210 N. 2nd Street + Minneapolis + Minnesota + 55401

[612/436-1151](tel:6124361151)

www.formandcontent.org

Form+Content Gallery is a member of NOLO (North Loop Arts), Minneapolis.



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Press Image List: The following exhibition images are attached to the email press release; high-resolution jpgs can be downloaded from this link:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/2egydmalqarshoy/AAAzN22tU4t436GA19O3Ehc3a?dl=0>

1. Mary Bergherr

Lifting Fog

acrylic and pencil on wood

22 x 24"

2. Linda Frichtel

Slide

oil on canvas

42 x 48"

3. Tom Garrett

Purple, from the series ***China With Love***

digital collage on Hahnemühle photo rag paper

30 x 30"

4. Eric Hanson

Double Portrait

pencil on Arches hot press

9 x 12"

5. James O'Brien

Patch Man

digital print; ink, gouache, computer

8 x 7"

6. Anne Vagt

Coach Top

crayon, marker, collage on paper

11.5 x 8.25"

7. Ulana Zahajkewycz

Zephyr

ink on watercolor paper, digital color

8 x 10"