

MMA News

FALL 2018

Drawing Together

The Spirit Awards Honors Raul the Third

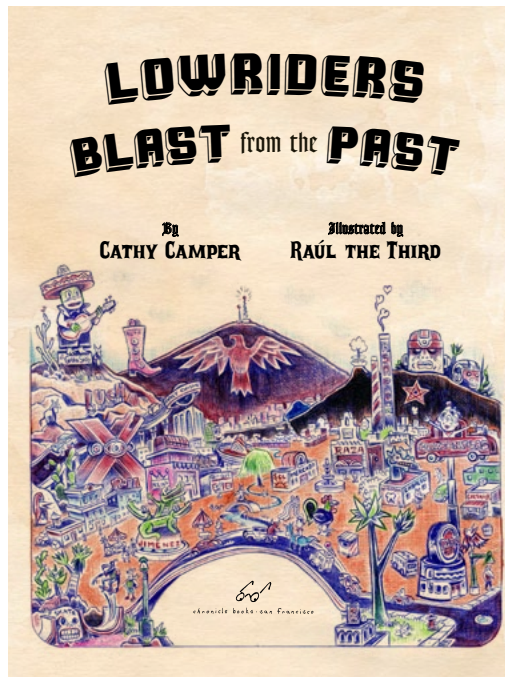


Honoree Raul Gonzalez teaches comicbook drawing in the Fay Chandler Gallery

In his career thus far, Raul the Third has not only embodied the spirit of Maud Morgan the artist but also that of Maud Morgan Arts. His history here has touched almost all of our programs - from being the first instructor for MMA, to teaching in Agassiz Baldwin's Afterschool and Outback summer program. As this year's Spirit Awards honoree, Raul will be recognized not only for his many contributions to our community but to those all over Boston and beyond.

"It is such an honor to be awarded a Spirit Award, and I look forward to continuing to uphold the legacy of Maud and her commitment to introducing youth to the arts," Gonzalez said.

Outside of his work in our programs, Raul has been exhibited in cities from New York to Los Angeles, has been honored by the Artadia Foundation for Arts and Culture and was voted 2010 Best Visual Artist by Boston Phoenix readers. His talents have even taken him to opportunities like contributing to Spongebob Squarepants comic books



Raul the Third's forthcoming book from Chronicle Books

and designing posters for bands such as Mates of State and Shepherdess. Of all his accomplishments, though, Gonzalez still holds his work as a teacher near and dear.

"I love when students feel at home in my classroom to create and speak freely about their passions," he shared. "I have seen students' confidence grow when they realize that they are not alone in their interests and that there are others out there just like them whose footsteps they can begin to follow."

Gonzalez's values of giving young artists a space to safely grow and explore echoes the very mission of the Spirit Awards', which is to help MMA increase its impact on the community through scholarships and expanded programming. Our staff and volunteers work tirelessly to create a night that both recognizes artists who have made their mark while looking to the future at those artists who have yet to. This year's gala will take place Sunday September 23rd at MMA (20 Sacramento Street, Cambridge).

Spirit Awards 2018

Sunday, September 23

6:00 pm-9:00 pm

20 Sacramento Street
Cambridge, MA

A celebration to support of Maud Morgan Arts scholarships, programs, and partnerships.

Purchase your tickets today:
www.MaudMorganArts.org

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Additional contributors to the Spirit Awards are listed on our website.



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MaudMorganArts.org

Q&A with MMA Faculty Julia Talcott



Julia Talcott (left) is something of a printmaking legend. In 1996, she created the Christmas stamp for the US Postal Service and has been honored by such institutions as the Danforth Museum, the Concord Art Association and the Museum of Fine Arts. This fall, she'll be passing on some of her infinite wisdom in her Relief Printmaking course at MMA.

What do you love about teaching art?

I love seeing students “get it” and be pleased with their results. I love the community that grows up as we work together using different styles with the same medium. I love the way students learn from each other, and I from them.

How has being a faculty member at MMA impacted you?

Teaching at MMA has been a joyous occupation. I feel privileged to be teaching in such a well-designed light-filled studio, meeting interesting people from all around the Boston area. I am a believer of the mission of community at MMA, and their commitment to Arts for All. Teaching at MMA has helped me to become a better teacher, and meeting and helping people of all ages who want to make a commitment to learning woodblock printing has been great fun, and has also helped me to learn more about the medium and how to convey its challenges.

What do you hope students will get out of your upcoming Relief Printmaking course in the fall? Why do you like teaching this course?

I used to try to pack three methods of printmaking into a course before I realized that one method with all the extra considerations and fun detours was more than enough. Printmaking is absorbing and mentally challenging, it can be free and loose or it can be like unpacking a puzzle, or best of all, somewhere in between. As I say in class... people spend their entire life learning to be master printers, perfection will not be reached in 10 weeks... the point is to have fun, and find your style.

I love the community that grows up as we work together using different styles with the same medium.

Who are your greatest teachers and influences in your art?

I have in the back of my mind at all times my teachers from school, the watercolor class I took the summer I was 13, the plein air painting I have tried to do (its hard), the fellow artists I have met and worked with. It is all in there. I am eclectic in my influences, and like all kinds of art. Being an illustrator in my earlier adulthood means graphic art, typefaces, book arts are staples: I love to read, I love words and ideas. But I also enjoy looking at architecture, sculpture, oil painting. I know it might sound a little diffuse, but there it is. If I had to pick a specific artists I would currently say Paul Klee, Karen Kunc, Charles Burchfield, Rockwell Kent, and Japanese art of all types.

Appearing in the Chandler Gallery



Prints as Sculpture

Prints as Sculpture opened to a packed house on January 18th, featuring sculptures that utilize at least one aspect of printmaking. Curated by artists Rhoda Rosenberg and Boriana Kantcheva, the exhibit explores how adding the dimension of depth can open up new possibilities for prints. In some pieces, printed designs serve primarily to activate the surface of the sculpture. Other works use the sculptural element to enhance the meaning of the prints.



Family of Origin

Merill Comeau explores community and identity through textile creations. In therapy, the term “family of origin” refers to the caretakers and siblings you grow up with, your first ever social group. In Merrill Comeau’s work, the term, like the material she works with, is deconstructed and reimaged.

A New Partnership Brings New Youth to the Center

There is something undeniably satisfying about working with clay... the feeling of it taking shape in your hands, transforming from lumps of gray mess into your creation. As part of our ongoing mission to provide visual arts education for all, Maud Morgan Arts has partnered with Gately Youth Center to give students an opportunity to experience this firsthand.

As one of the few specialized ceramics studios in Cambridge, we have a valuable service to offer those who otherwise might not have the space to try out clay-based art. This need was recognized years ago, when our former director Haley MacKeil was first discussing a collaboration with GYC.



Over time, we were able to outline a comprehensive plan to offer ceramics classes to GYC students. We received a grant from Cambridge Arts Council and Mass Cultural Council to fund the classes, with transportation and dedicated staffing already included in GYC's current operating budget. From January to June 2018, we served 40 students in afterschool ceramics class, with plans to expand the program until December.

Middle school youth are at a critical point of self-discovery in their lives. Having the opportunity to try different activities and modes of expression is important to build their identities. With access to certain materials, they might be able to find that hobby or passion that gives them a strong sense of self-worth.



In our partnership with GYC, more middle school youth have been able to develop a new path of creativity and deepen their love for the arts. We hope to give others a chance to grow their love of the arts guided by talented instructors with all the necessary space and equipment.



SWS '18 winner Ciny Lu and runner up Claire Wyzenbeek

Small Works Salon 2018

Juror Heidi Whitman, an artist and the teacher at the School of the Museum of Fine Arts at Tufts University, chose works that repurpose maps to address concerns beyond physical geography. Artist Cindy Lu won first prize.



The Life of Forms

The focus of Michelle Lougee's and Susan Heideman's art is the dazzling interplay of organisms swirling around and within us. Inside/outside; plant/animal/mineral; micro/macro; exploring and confounding the connections, contradictions, and borders among organic forms.

Upcoming Shows

Spirit Awards 2018

The Illustrations of Lowriders Blast from the Past by Raul the Third
September 23-October 19, 2017
Opening Reception at the Spirit Awards
September 23, 6:00-9:00pm

Cindy Lu

Small Works Salon 2018 Winner
October 29-November 23, 2018

Drawn from Within

All staff and faculty exhibition
December 4, 2018-January 4, 2019

The Beast and Me

Leslie Schomp, Mary Kenny, Andrea Olmstead
January 14-February 8, 2019

Creative Confidence

My goal at Maud Morgan Arts is to make every student that walks through the door feel that their creativity is appreciated and valued. Our studios spaces are a haven of learning, opportunity and community.

Earlier this year as I was standing in the ceramics studio with a group of students when one of them turned to me and said, "SO. Do you want to see what I made today?" Her willingness to share her creativity was contagious. I soon had several students pointing out their work, exuding confidence in explaining their artistic choices. The craftsmanship unmasked their focus and fine motor skills, in creating the smallest of details. Ceramics was just the medium that these attributes were funneled through.

What I loved most about the passion these students shared was that it reminded me no matter how old you are, that feeling of accomplishment never changes and presents itself in every aspect of our lives. Tom Kelley, the author of Creative Confidence put it best: "At its core creative confidence is about believing in your ability to create change in the world around

you." I believe wholeheartedly that MMA sets the stage for this exploration into one's creative side. I feel privileged to witness the blossoming confidence of artists in our studio spaces.

I thank you for being a part of our community of artists, whether you're a student, guardian, neighbor or donor. Your dedication to MMA enables our organization to carry out the important mission of supporting art education and spreading creative confidence throughout our community.

Cory Shea
Director
Maud Morgan Arts



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