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**Alison Bechdel, Howard Cruse, Fiona Staples and Robert Williams
Headline 2014 MoCCA Arts Festival**

NEW YORK, NY (October 3, 2013)— The Society of Illustrators is proud to announce the 2014 MoCCA Arts Festival, featuring Guests of Honor Alison Bechdel, Howard Cruse, Fiona Staples and Robert Williams. The 2014 MoCCA Arts Festival will be held on the weekend of April 5 – 6, 2014 at the 69th Regiment Armory in Manhattan. Additional featured guests will be named in future announcements.

To further the Festival's mission of promoting and increasing the visibility of illustration, comic and cartoon art, the Society is also pleased to announce a change in admission cost for the general public. A flat fee of \$5 per day will grant all Attendees access to the Fest including the Exhibitors Hall, gallery space, and programming. Tickets will be available to purchase at the door.

Applications to reserve tables in the Exhibitors Hall are now online at www.societyillustrators.org.

ABOUT THE GUESTS OF HONOR

Alison Bechdel is an award-winning cartoonist who developed a loyal following for her long-running comic strip *Dykes to Watch Out For*. In 2006, Bechdel published *Fun Home: A Family Tragicomic*, an autobiographical graphic memoir chronicling her childhood and relationship with her closeted father. *Fun Home* was a National Book Critics Circle Award Finalist and was named Best Book of 2006 by *Time Magazine*. A second graphic memoir, *Are You My Mother: A Comic Drama*, was published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt in May 2012.

Howard Cruse emerged from the countercultural underground comix scene and, in 1979, began editing the pioneering *Gay Comix* anthology series, featuring work by openly gay and lesbian cartoonists and directly addressing aspects of queer experience. In the 1980s he went on to create *Wendel*, a strip about a gay man, his lover Ollie, and a cast of quirky surrounding characters, which appeared regularly in *The Advocate*. During the 1990s Cruse worked on the award-winning graphic novel *Stuck Rubber Baby*, published in 1995 with an introduction by Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Tony Kushner. Since then, Cruse has published numerous titles including *Wendel All Together*, *The Swimmer with a Rope in his Teeth* (written by Jeanne E. Shaffer), *From Headrack To Claude*, *Felix's Friends*, and more.

Fiona Staples is a comic book artist living in Calgary, Canada. She has illustrated numerous comics including *Mystery Society*, *Done to Death*, *Secret History of the Authority: Hawksmoor*, *Jonah Hex*, and *Northlanders*. She has contributed cover art to *DV8*, *T.H.U.N.D.E.R. Agents*, *Criminal Macabre*, *Superman/Batman*, *Archie*, and more. In March of 2012, Image Comics published the first issue of *Saga*, an ongoing series by Brian K. Vaughan, which received critical acclaim and for which she received two Eisner Awards, a Hugo Award, and several Harvey Awards.

Robert Williams is a prolific oil painter and cartoonist whose iconic detailed images depict naked women, death, destruction, booze and clowns. During the 1960s Williams worked under Ed "Big Daddy" Roth in the Hot Rod Culture, creating advertisements and graphics and developing his style. He later became one of the key contributors to *Zap Comix*, the flagship underground comix anthology that also featured work by S. Clay Wilson, Spain Rodriguez, Rick Griffin, Gilbert Shelton and Victor Moscoso. By the 1980s Williams had shifted his attention more directly to painting, and in 1994 founded Juxtapoz Magazine, creating an outlet for artists in the contemporary art world who identified with his "Lowbrow" style. He exhibits his work frequently, and has had several solo shows at the Tony Shafrazi Gallery in New York City (with one upcoming in 2014). He is the subject of the 2013 documentary film *Robert Williams: Mr. Bitchin'*.

About the Museum of American Illustration at the Society of Illustrators

The Society of Illustrators, founded in 1901, is the oldest nonprofit organization solely dedicated to the art and appreciation of illustration in America. Prominent Society members have been Maxfield Parrish, N.C. Wyeth and Norman Rockwell, among others. The Museum of American Illustration was established by the Society in 1981 and is located in the Society's vintage 1875 carriage house building in mid-town Manhattan. It is open to the public free of charge on Tuesday, 10 am-8 pm; Wednesday-Friday, 10 am-5 pm; and Saturday, 12-4 pm. To learn more about the Museum and the Society, visit www.societyillustrators.org or contact Executive Director Anelle Miller at 212-838-2560 or anelle@societyillustrators.org.

About the Museum of Comic and Cartoon Art

The museum's purpose has been the collection, preservation, study, education, and display of comic and cartoon art. Every genre of the art is represented: animation, anime, cartoons, comic books, comic strips, gag cartoons, humorous illustration, illustration, political illustration, editorial cartoons, caricature, graphic novels, sports cartoons, and computer-generated art. It is the mission of the museum to promote the understanding and appreciation of comic and cartoon art as well as to detail and discuss the artistic, cultural, and historical impact of what is the world's most popular art form.

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