

NEWS



from the Worcester Art Museum

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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ARTISTS RACE AGAINST TIME TO DRAW ONE MONTH OF WORK IN ONE DAY AT WORCESTER ART MUSEUM

WHO: Worcester Art Museum

WHAT: 24-Hour Comics Day

WHERE: 55 Salisbury Street

WHEN: Saturday, October 18 – Sunday, October 19

3 p.m. – 3 p.m.

3 – Hour Challenge: Saturday, October 18, 3 p.m. – 6 p.m.

8 – Hour Challenge: Saturday, October 18, 3 p.m. – 11 p.m.

(WORCESTER, Mass., October 16, 2008) – Hosted for the first time at Worcester Art Museum (WAM), this comic marathon challenges artists of all ages to produce a completed 24-page story within a 24-hour period. Developed by Comics Professional Retail Organization (Comics PRO), 24-Hour Comics Day is an international event that attracts comic artists worldwide. Photographs of completed works will be submitted to Comics PRO for consideration in their annual 24-Hour Comics Day Anthology.

This Saturday, thirty artists will pack into classroom studios at WAM's Higgins Education Wing and race against the clock with one common goal: for their work to be good enough for inclusion in 2008's 24-Hour Comics Day Anthology. In a drawing marathon that challenges artists' creative and physical energies, studios will transform into comic-galleries as vibrant displays of cartoon characters on multiple easels decorate the walls. For those who cannot last for the full 24 hours, artists can participate in the 3-hour or 8-hour challenge, also starting at 3 p.m. From October 19 – 26, all completed works will be exhibited in the Higgins Education Wing.

Participants consist of children and adults of all ages, and also several WAM faculty members, including noted local artist and author Andy Fish. In addition to teaching youth and adult art classes at WAM and at Emerson College, Fish's work includes storyboards for film, television and commercials, most recently Stephen King's *The Mist*.

Media interviews and photo opportunities with faculty participants Andy Fish, Brett Herholz, Christopher Whitehead, Veronica Hebard or Assistant Curator of Education, Katrina Stacey, can be arranged by contacting Allison Berkeley at (508) 799-4406 ext. 3073.

About the Worcester Art Museum

The Worcester Art Museum, which opened to the public in 1898, is world-renowned for its 35,000-piece collection of paintings, sculpture, decorative arts, photography, prints, drawings and new media. The works span 5,000 years of art and culture. View paintings by Cassatt, Gauguin, Goya, Monet, Sargent and Whistler; admire floor mosaics from the ancient city of Antioch; see cutting-edge contemporary art; and discover the Museum's many other treasures. Special exhibitions showcase the masterworks, seldom-seen gems, and important works on loan. Enjoy a delectable lunch in The Museum Café, and browse the The Museum Shop for unique gifts and mementos.

Dedicated to the promotion of art and art education, the Museum offers a year-round studio art and art appreciation program that enrolls over 7,000 adult and youth students each year. Public tours are offered Saturdays at 11am and Family Tours on Sundays at 1 & 1:30pm, September through May. Audio tours are also available in English and Spanish.

Museum hours are Wednesday through Sunday, 11am-5pm, Third Thursdays of every month, 11am-8pm, and Saturday, 10am-5pm. Admission is \$10 for adults, \$8 for seniors and full-time college students with current ID, and FREE for Members and all youth 17 and under. Admission is also FREE for everyone on Saturday mornings, 10am-noon (sponsored by Fidelity Investments and The TJX Companies, Inc.).

The Museum is located at 55 Salisbury St., Worcester, Mass., easily accessible from the Massachusetts Turnpike (I-90), Route 290 and Route 9. Free parking is available near entrances on Salisbury, Lancaster and Tuckerman streets. For more information, call (508) 799-4406 or visit the Museum web site at www.worcesterart.org.

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