

# sketchbook



Katherine Guzman (Ryman '16) sketches and paints from a live model in Intermediate class. As our endowment grows, we will ensure that Katherine and future generations of Ryman Arts students will continue to receive a tuition-free fine arts education.

## Ryman Arts Receives \$1 Million Gift Recognizing Our 25 Years of Service

**The Sharon D. Lund Foundation's generous gift includes \$500,000 to strengthen endowment as a matching challenge.**

The Sharon D. Lund Foundation's long-time support helped build this organization to its present capacity. Sharon Lund co-founded Ryman Arts 25 years ago, along with Anne and Buzz Price, Lucille Ryman Carroll, and Leah and Marty Sklar. It is hard to believe it all started with a dozen kids in a warehouse studio, and Sharon helping founding executive director and sole employee Marshall Ayers to acquire a computer!

"My mother really believed in the way Ryman Arts transformed young lives with art. Today, I see how much this program means to the students and alumni I meet here. We want to keep it growing, and challenge others to get involved, too," says Michelle Lund, Ryman Arts Board member and daughter of Sharon D. Lund.

A \$500,000 gift will support Ryman Arts' operations. Another \$500,000 has been set aside as a challenge that must be matched by others.

Our most pressing need is to ensure that Ryman Arts remains free of charge to the next generation of artistic youth. Enrollment has doubled over the past two years; with increased enrollment comes increased costs. The Ryman Arts Board envisions a future with additional expansion to serve even more talented youth. Our team is rapidly building traction as a national model of excellence in programming for artistic youth.

Ryman Arts' core values—excellent programs, close personal connections with each student, and belief in the potential of young people navigating the path to adulthood—remain as strong as ever and are directly aligned with the values of Sharon Lund, our other founders and the inspiration of Herb Ryman. We are grateful to the Lund Foundation for its continuing investment in the students who participate in Ryman Arts.



Over 3,100 community members attended Ryman Arts Presents: Make Your Mark in the Park – the highest number in all six years! Our students led ten art workshops including tape drawing, weaving, figure drawing and more! See page 7 for more Community Events.



# Alumni Artists Exhibit Their Artwork this Fall

Ryman Arts' impact extends beyond the fine arts core programming. During our 25th Anniversary, we made more strides to give our alumni opportunities to show their artwork, to reconnect with one another, and with Ryman Arts.



RaeAnne Guidry-Smith (Ryman '15)

Opening on September 3, 2015, RAWsalt Gallery in Laguna Beach presented "Back to School" a one-month juried exhibition featuring 22 current students and alumni of Ryman Arts. The jurors include art consultant and founder of Cartwheel Art **Cindy Schwarzstein**, Ryman Arts Board Member **Robin Kalota**, art writer and editor **Evan Senn**, along with gallerists of saltfineart/RAWsalt **Carla Arzente** and **Suzanne Walsh**.

Even with the success of the RAWsalt show, we are not done. Plans for the **25th Anniversary Alumni Art Exhibition** are being finalized by a group of Ryman Arts Alumni, led by alumna and Board Alumni Representative, **Christina Saucedo**. This exhibit will showcase the artwork of almost 60 Alumni Artists from the past 25 years. The exhibit will be on view from November 21 through November 28 at **Maker City LA**.



Diane Brigham welcomes guests at RAWsalt Gallery



Carla Arzente, Sally Deng (Ryman '11), and Diane Brigham



# Notes from Diane

It is a joy to be surrounded by works of art like these in my office:

This self-portrait drawn by one of our original 12 participants in 1990, Lars Sahanaja, inspires me with its technical skill.



Lars Sahanaja



Glynnis Reed

Glynnis is profiled on page 5. I can't wait to see this piece on display at our upcoming alumni show.

Drawing with Tape! An amazing ephemeral piece on the sidewalk from Make Your Mark in the Park 2015.



Yvonne Lee

Yvonne Lee's still life from Advanced class with Sergio delights me each morning with its colors.



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### Teaching Assistants

- Hertz Alegrio (Ryman '09)  
Jamie Ang Lee (Ryman '13)  
Stephanie Burtner (Ryman '09)  
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Ariel McKay (Ryman '09)  
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Francisco Palomares (Ryman '07)

### To learn more about Ryman Arts, please contact us:

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## sketchbook

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# Summer Interns Explore Creative Careers



## *Ryman Arts Sklar Intern at Walt Disney Imagineering, Linda Jean Jaramillo (Ryman '08)*

As the Set Decoration Intern, Linda worked on projects for the upcoming Shanghai Disneyland Park and on a new hotel for Hong Kong Disneyland. She learned everything from buying, modifying, to making props.

"My job at Walt Disney Imagineering has been most eye opening. I never realized what a team effort building one little bug, book, or a dwarf's shoe could be. I've gotten the chance to create, design, and collaborate with some of the most innovative people on Earth." Linda's supervisors liked her work so much that her internship was extended a few more months longer than her original contract!



## *Ryman Arts Sklar Intern at Walt Disney Animation Studios, Wesley Lin (Ryman '09)*

Wesley's experience as an intern at Disney Animation Studios exposed him to specific assignments as well as each step of Disney's pipeline and digital tools. He was given access to the Disney Animation resources including the library, archives, and movies. He attended workshops and met artists of all forms - technical directors, story artists, animators, and visual development artists.

"We were able to function so well and creatively as a team because we were willing to pick up multiple jobs, on the go, despite our specializations, while also respecting each other's roles and strengths...Everyday felt like an exciting adventure!"



## *Ryman Arts Exhibition Intern, Kelley Shim (Ryman '11)*

Kelley worked as the Exhibition Intern for Ryman Arts this summer, assisting with every aspect of our annual exhibition of student artwork at the California African American Museum (CAAM). She hung 289 pieces of artwork, coordinated the installation, artwork pick-up and drop-off and de-installation. Kelley did such a great job as our summer intern that she is now working part-time on the alumni art show at Ryman Arts as Exhibition Coordinator. She was selected as part of the Getty Multicultural Undergraduate Internship Program.

"From working at Ryman Arts, I learned that the staff truly cares about the students and makes sure that each student receives the best foundation skills and the support from their teachers and teaching assistants to build confidence to tackle college and future obstacles."

## *Ryman Arts Intern at BRC Imagination Arts, Ashley Cheou (Ryman '13)*

Ashley worked as an intern at BRC Imagination Arts, working on everything from hanging signs, filing, to referencing images. Her internship began just four days after her high school graduation. Being her first job, Ashley learned a lot about fitting into a work environment, making mistakes, and taking initiative.

Of her internship, she reflected: "I'm so glad I got this chance. BRC changed what I thought an office job is like...I loved doing this internship, I honestly wished it didn't end."



# 25 Years; 25 Stories

As a part of our 25th Anniversary, we wanted to learn about the journey our alumni have been on since graduating from Ryman Arts. Here is a preview of two stories from the collection. Look for more online in December.



**Glynnis Reed (Ryman '93)**

***"Ryman teaches certain qualities of an artist's mindset..."***

In the years since Glynnis Reed left Ryman Arts, she has forged for herself a very successful career as an artist, most recently showing at RAWsalt gallery (see page 2). She grew up in Los Angeles and relocated in 2010 to South New Jersey where she makes art and also teaches elementary school. She loves working with children of all ages, instilling in young people a faith in their own creativity.

Apart from her role as a teacher, Glynnis has focused her energy on her own art and building her career as a professional artist. She uses photography, mixed media, collage, and painting in her work to create powerful and multi-layered images that speak, she writes, "of love and loss, fulfillment and emptiness, shadow and light." Her art examines identity and place and the complexities of one's relationship with the self, others, and the surrounding world. She received her MFA in Studio Art from the University of California, Irvine in 2003. Since 2005, she has been exhibiting her work in numerous solo, two-person, and group exhibitions throughout the US and internationally.

Glynnis remembers, "at Ryman, I got great foundational skills: learning to draw from observation, gaining the beginning techniques in painting, and learning how to make a composition." She also credits Ryman Arts with developing in her the "artist's mindset," which she describes as "commitment to a project, believing in yourself, believing you can do it, no matter what it takes, no matter what you have set out to do."



**Chris Tachiki (Ryman '91)**

***"It gave me a creative edge..."***

Back in 1991, Chris Tachiki was a member of the second class of students at Ryman Arts. He recalls what it was like to be part of a diverse group of students from all over Los Angeles, none of whom knew each other. "It was intimidating," he said, "and a little bit competitive at first, but the instructors were very encouraging. Over time, we came to know and support each other."

After high school, Chris went on to study history and economics at Brown University. One of the alluring things about Brown for Chris, is that it was possible to take classes at the Rhode Island School of Design. "I would not have had the guts to cross-register at R.I.S.D. if not for Ryman." Chris is also aware of the advantage his art training gave him in his first job interviews. He is convinced that his ability to talk effectively about art made him stand out from other candidates in the financial industry, giving him a "creative edge."

Today, Chris is a portfolio manager for Blackrock, the largest asset management firm in the world. Throughout his work life, he has carried his creative spirit with him. As he points out, part of that creative spirit was fostered by having a mother who is a poet—she is the poet Amy Uyematsu—and part comes from the skills and attitudes that were firmly planted in him at Ryman Arts. "Being a student at Ryman touched me in many ways," he said, "It was really amazing to be a high school student and to get this incredibly rigorous education in the arts. Ryman helped me gain a lot of confidence."



# Why I Teach

From the Ryman Arts blog,

Visit [rymanarts.org/blog](http://rymanarts.org/blog)

By Mike Nguyen, Ryman Arts Faculty Member



Mike Nguyen joined Ryman Arts in Fall 2013. He received his BFA in painting and drawing from California State University, Long Beach and his MFA from Southern Illinois University, Carbondale. In his own work, he draws inspiration from the beauty and complexity of universal and particular forms found in nature. His work has been exhibited nationally and in China. In addition to Ryman Arts, he also teaches foundation drawing at California State University, Long Beach.



We were inspired by special guest Danielle Brazell, General Manager of the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs, as she addressed the Ryman Arts class of 2015 and said "I'm looking forward to the stories you will tell. Use your artistic powers for good. We believe in you!"

Ryman Arts holds a special place in my heart because it is where I got my first teaching assignment after finishing graduate school. It is also a place that reminds me of how I didn't wait until I was an adult to decide that I was going to be an artist. It was a childhood dream that I kept alive with the encouragement of Mrs. Repp, my high school art teacher, who recognized a potential and bought my first print. In college, Professor Yu Ji gave his time so passionately with the belief that knowledge should be shared which is a major influence in why I teach.

Being a teaching artist gives me the opportunity to pass on the gift of artistic practice, based on the classical tradition, which for centuries has been and is still inspiring creative minds. At Ryman Arts, there is a conviction that classical drawing and painting skills are the keystone to art education, so when I started here in 2013, it felt like a natural fit for me. Being involved with an organization that thrives on giving is also nourishing for the soul. Giving students the opportunity to receive college level instruction prepares them for the demands of higher education. Giving professional artists a role in mentoring the youth is important and I am proud to be part of it.

Every semester, I am always inspired by the students and their brilliance in learning new skills. The concepts that I hope students take away when they advance to the next level are the ones that allow them to keep an open mind and look at the world with fresh eyes. I put a lot of emphasis on what one can carefully observe rather than on preconceptions of what one thinks the world looks like. I believe this encourages students to be lifelong learners.

As a Foundation Drawing instructor, my favorite part of graduation is the student exhibition. It's always exciting to see the artistic growth and development of our students on display as a result of completing the program. On graduation day, faces are filled with a sense of accomplishment through hard work. This is the true gift of a Ryman Arts experience as students continue to pursue art and other careers with confidence.

*Read more perspectives on Ryman Arts at [rymanarts.org/blog](http://rymanarts.org/blog)*

On June 17, over 500 people gathered for the Ryman Arts student graduation and exhibition held at the California African American Museum of Art (CAAM). George Davis, Executive Director of CAAM welcomed the guests.



# Ryman Arts in the Community

June 2-3, 2015  
501(c)onference



Three Executive Directors, **Rachel Caraviello** (Affordable Living for the Aging), **Diane Brigham** (Ryman Arts) and **Tony Brown** (Heart of Los Angeles (HOLA)) teamed up to make the case for funders to cover the full cost of organizational operations – so-called “overhead” – at the at the 501(c)onference - the Center for Nonprofit Management’s annual gathering of nonprofit professionals. Learn more about the issue at <http://realcostproject.org/>

June 3, 2015  
Day of Making Faire  
at Hawthorne High School



Ryman Arts was an exhibitor at the first annual Day of Making Faire at **Hawthorne High School**. Ryman Arts and Hawthorne High School Alumnus, **Oscar Juarez** (Ryman '15) volunteered his time to lead a craft table of masks and thaumatropes.

July 29, 2015  
Marty Sklar talk and  
book signing for  
“Dream It! Do It! at  
WET Design



At WET Design, Ryman Arts Co-Founder and Disney Legend **Marty Sklar** spoke about his career and offered advice to those hoping to enter the creative field: “If you’re not failing once in a while, maybe you’re not doing very much. Failure is part of the game...It’s part of the creative process.” The Q & A session was moderated by President and CEO **Mark Fuller** of **WET Design** and was followed by a book signing of Marty Sklar’s “Dream It! Do It!” All proceeds from this event benefitted Ryman Arts.

August 13, 2015  
Ryman Arts Open  
House



Ryman Arts opened its doors to office neighbors, friends, and supporters for its first public event at the new office in **Maker City LA** at **The Reef**. Visitors crowded our hall and office perusing our student gallery wall, taking an office tour, and participating in painting mini canvases led by our new teaching assistant, **Saskia Darnell**.

September 18-19, 2015  
Dapper Day Expo



Ryman Arts stepped out in style as Dapper Day’s charitable partner. Ryman Arts Alumni Artists, **Ariel McKay** (Ryman '09) and **Grady Williams III** (Ryman '93), created original portraits of Dapper Day Expo attendees. Dapper Day organizes fashionable outings to Disney Parks.

October 3, 2015  
The Big Draw LA  
at Maker City LA



Ryman Arts and **The Reef** teamed up to host a free Big Draw LA arts event. In the Lobby, attendees created colorful masks while on the 11th Floor, we had a still life drawing workshop. Ryman Arts faculty member **Robin Palanker** led this workshop, stopping by each individual to offer further instruction and assistance.





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*Ryman Arts:  
teaching young artists.  
transforming lives.*



Mira Prajapati

## Dates to Remember...

- November 21:** Opening Reception for Ryman Arts Alumni Exhibition at Maker City LA
- November 28:** Ryman Arts Alumni Exhibition closes at Maker City LA
- December 4:** Student Application Deadline for Spring 2016
- January 23:** Start of Spring Semester in Fullerton
- January 31:** Start of Spring Semester in Los Angeles
- March 20:** Ryman Arts Celebration at The Edison Downtown

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Makenna Gordon