



Alumna Megan Broughton ('06) and her mother Deena hang work while intern Zoe Axelrod ('08) offers some assistance!

SketchBook



2009 Graduation Launches Next Generation of Artists

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Ninety-three dedicated and talented young artists from throughout Southern California were celebrated at the Ryman Arts graduation ceremony on Monday, June 23, 2009 at the California African American Museum in Exposition Park. The new alumni were honored for completing the school's intense training program or for their participation in the program as they graduate from high school. The evening also marked the opening reception of the museum's showcase, featuring more than 200 of the Ryman students' best works from the 2008-2009 school year. The impressive exhibit was on view from June 16 through July 26, 2009.

This was the fifth year that the California African American Museum (CAAM) has committed to showcasing the budding talents of the Ryman Arts students. Charmaine Jefferson, Executive Director of CAAM, who joined Diane Brigham in leading the graduating ceremonies stated, "CAAM is honored to host this event to acknowledge and encourage the creative talents of this country's next generation of artists and art lovers. The entire showcase always reveals a range of skill and artistry that is well worth the visit."

Graduation was a springboard for other Ryman-related events at CAAM, including a sketchbook-making workshop (see page 3) and a charcoal drawing workshop taught by Ryman Arts faculty

member Robin Palanker. Volunteers, including alumni, current students, parents and community members, along with alumni interns and teaching assistants were involved with the exhibition from beginning to end. They installed and took down the display, collaborated on every aspect of graduation night, and taught the Target Sunday sketchbook-making workshop. We are grateful to Ron Antone and the team at Lexington Design & Fabrication for giving the exhibition its professional look. The graduation ceremony and the student exhibition are truly a group effort, with great results!

This year's graduates are headed to an array of distinguished institutions including Otis College of Art and Design, Art Center College of Design, Maryland Institute College of Art, Academy of Art University, California College of the Arts, School of the Art Institute of Chicago and Laguna College of Art and Design. Other destinations for Ryman's June graduates include Columbia, Scripps College, New York University, CSU Fullerton, CSU Long Beach, CSU San Diego, UCLA and USC.



Graduate Chris Burnett and his mother Carol with Rebecca Tuynman

Letter from Diane

As I write this, we are putting the finishing touches on the *Affair of the Art* show and sale, which will be history as you read this. What is most impressive is the dedication of the over 50 volunteers who take this event to heart and make it a reality. What a gift to Ryman Arts! We thank all of you, including Ron Antone and our friends at Lexington Design and Fabrication, Eric Elliott and Elliott Metal Fabricating, our tireless talented graphics designer Louie Lemoine, VoluntEARS coordinator Edith Saucedo, and most importantly Leah and Marty Sklar who host the event in their home. They, and so many others, make this event a unique evening of fun and fundraising, of camaraderie and commitment to the next generation.

At this time of thanksgiving, Ryman Arts has much to be grateful for:

- Our parent volunteers, who share our belief in the importance of art education for their sons and daughters, generously giving of their time, expertise... and snacks!
- Our partners at USC who open their campus to our students and foster their aspirations to achieve higher education.
- Our alumni who come back to work and volunteer, thus “paying forward” the gifts they received as students here.
- Our outstanding staff and faculty who work so professionally and collaboratively, allowing us to accomplish much more together than any of us could alone.
- Our supporters whose financial contributions have allowed us to maintain our full advanced art training scholarship capacity this year.
- Our students, who are so focused on and dedicated to making the most of their creative gifts. By so doing, they make all our efforts worthwhile. They inspire us!

All of us at Ryman Arts are most grateful for the opportunity we have had to be of service in our community by “teaching essential skills for art and life” for twenty years. As we head to our 20th Anniversary in 2010, I hope you will join us in celebrating all that we have accomplished together, and launching our next twenty years of growth and service.

Executive Director



Ed Nowak presents a symbolic Disney “check” to a surprised Marty Sklar at his retirement festivities.
©Disney 2009

New Fund Endows Class in Honor of Marty Sklar

To honor the retirement and 54-year career of Disney Legend Marty Sklar, the Ryman Arts Board of Directors announced the creation of the Sklar Legacy Fund, and The Walt Disney Company has taken the lead with a major challenge grant of \$250,000 to launch it. To receive the full grant, Ryman Arts must raise \$100,000 in contributions from individual donors. As of the end of September, we have raised over \$70,000 towards the match! (See page 4.) The \$350,000 total amount will endow an entire class of Disney Sklar Art Student Scholars at Ryman Arts. In addition, Walt Disney Parks and Resorts and The Walt Disney Studios will each host a Ryman Sklar Intern every year, selected from graduates of the program. The challenge grant was announced at Marty Sklar’s retirement celebration at “Martyland” (aka the Walt Disney Imagineering patio) on July 16.

“Ryman Arts has helped thousands of teens develop their talent into careers in the arts. We are proud to support its work and especially now to honor our colleague and friend Marty.” said Edward Nowak, a Disney Deputy General Counsel and Ryman Arts Board member. “We are delighted that Ryman has already almost reached the \$100,000 goal, and encourage the remaining vital \$30,000 in contributions that will trigger the company’s full matching gift of \$250,000.”

Marty Sklar and his wife Leah co-founded Ryman Arts in 1990, in memory of Disney artist Herbert D. Ryman, and he serves as President of the Board. Sklar began his career working for Walt Disney in 1955 writing for *The Disneyland News*, a themed newspaper that appeared at the park during its early days. He went on to fill numerous creative and leadership roles at Disney in the decades that followed, culminating in his senior leadership of Walt Disney Imagineering. Sklar worked closely with numerous Disney Legends, most notably Herb Ryman, who himself worked with Walt Disney on the original sketch for Disneyland Park.

“We are enormously grateful to The Walt Disney Company for making the lead challenge pledge launching the Marty Sklar Legacy Fund,” said Diane Brigham, Executive Director of Ryman Arts. “This will ensure that more incredibly talented young people can pursue their artistic dreams with quality studio art instruction and internships for years to come. It’s just in time, as the demand for Ryman Arts has jumped with the cuts to art programs in the schools. We salute The Walt Disney Company and know that others will want to join with them in supporting young artists in the critical early stages of their artistic journeys.”

Contributions to meet the Disney challenge for the Marty Sklar Legacy Fund endowment can be made to Ryman Arts online at www.rymanarts.org/martysklar.

Ryman Arts Around Town



Ryman Graduate Creates Community Art

Over the summer, Karinne Smith (Ryman '09) experimented with a new media, creating two glazed tile murals for a new youth facility at Alexandria House, a transitional residence for homeless women and children. "I've volunteered at Alexandria House for many years and was honored to be asked to take on such a large and significant project," says Smith. "It was a lot of hard work, but it feels great to know that I helped to make The Youth Center a special place for children." Smith contributed over 60 hours of community service researching, designing and painting the two 3' x 6' tile murals that now grace the front of the new building. Her efforts were recognized at the Youth Center's dedication on September 20th.



Ryman Arts Alumni Tour DreamWorks Studios

In July, DreamWorks talent recruiter Angela Lepito led twenty Ryman Arts alumni on a behind-the-scenes tour of DreamWorks' Glendale campus. Alumni had the rare opportunity to walk through the gardens, drop into working studios, learn about individual departments, see clips and artwork from upcoming productions, and view sample reels from recent hires. Alumni enjoyed lunch with Ryman alumni Golriz Fanai (Ryman '95), Project Supervisor in Research and Development, Steven MacLeod (Ryman '98), Story Artist, and Devin Crane (Ryman '95) and Shane Prigmore (Ryman '93), both Character Designers, all currently working at DreamWorks. Alumni shared Ryman Arts memories, and talked about their career paths.

Los Angeles Civic Art Mural

Ryman Arts participated in the mural dedication for the Rowan Dozier Bus Layover in East Los Angeles, including putting finishing touches on the mural itself. (L to R) Laura Zucker, Executive Director of the Los Angeles County Arts Commission; Pablo Huinac, (Ryman '09); Gilbert Perez-Aguilar, current Ryman Arts student; Claudia Reisenberger, Merge Conceptual Design.



Community Workshop at CAAM

Ryman Arts alumni and students taught a sketchbook-making workshop at the California African American Museum this summer as part of their Target Sunday festival. Workshop Instructors at CAAM were Michelle Cho (Ryman '08); Brittney Vasquez (Ryman '07); Christina Joseph (Ryman '08) and Ryman Arts' Getty Intern; Michelle Washington, current student; Zoe Axelrod (Ryman '08) and Alumni Intern.

Ryman-Carroll Foundation

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Jonathan Bout

Teaching essential skills for art and life

Calendar of Events

Saturday, October 31, 2009

College Day: All Students, Alumni and Parents welcome!

Friday, December 4, 2009

Deadline for Spring 2010 Student Applications to Ryman Arts

Saturday, December 5, 2009

Last Day of Class for Students

Sunday, January 31, 2009

Take Charge of Your Future! Financial Literacy Workshop and Fair, Disney Internship Opportunities, and a Special Presentation by Animator Andreas Deja. Sponsored by Partners Federal Credit Union. All Students, Alumni and Families invited!

For more information about these events, contact the Ryman Arts office or www.rymanarts.org

Christine Yoo



Still life with duck

