



Guest artist Dan McCleary works with painting students in Advanced class.

SketchBook



Ryman Arts and USC Students Design Together

This spring, Ryman Arts has partnered with the USC Roski School of Fine Arts in a new way. Design Collaborative is an experimental seminar introducing Ryman Arts students to the field of graphic design. The project is a partnership between USC Roski, Ryman Arts and the USC chapter of the American Institute of Graphic Arts (AIGA). This innovative partnership was made possible by a \$10,000 grant awarded by the National Endowment for the Arts. Six USC students, all members of USC's chapter of AIGA, have been teaching and mentoring a group of 25 Ryman Arts students. Haven Lin-Kirk, the head of Roski's Design Department, created the seminar and has been overseeing the classes.

Ryman Arts students normally progress through a core sequence of three courses in advanced drawing and painting. This new opportunity represents the first time students have been given the option to also study graphic design. To be eligible, students must have completed at least the Beginning Drawing class, and had to write a statement about their reasons for wanting to take the course. Motivation for applying was varied: some students have long dreamed of becoming professional designers, while others had never heard of graphic design, and simply wanted to learn more about it.

Students learn the fundamentals of design, working alongside USC undergraduates and

guest speakers, including Michael Lejuene and David Stolte, during five workshops offered over the course of the semester. The graphic design students also participated in the Norton Simon Museum field trip and Career Day with other Ryman students, and had a career Q&A session with Ryman Arts board member Wayne Hunt. USC Design faculty members Steven Child, Sherin Guirguis, and Ewa Wojciak have co-taught sessions with the undergraduate student instructors. There's a wonderful energy in the room as students try and outdo themselves and each other during the hands-on projects. The button-making project became especially lively as students tore through magazines, identifying images that would work well compositionally within a two-inch circle, then cutting them out and pressing them into buttons they could wear.

The Design Collaborative class officially ends in May, but Ms. Lin-Kirk and the team plan to continue the collaboration between USC undergraduates, faculty and Ryman Arts students both online and in print. A new generation of designers is already making its mark!

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Design Collaborative workshop

Alumni Voices

“It was one of the most cherished and special times of my teen years. It greatly contributed to who I am today. I never experienced such honest and helpful critiques, even through college.”

“Had it not been for the entire Ryman Arts program, my life would be heading into a totally different direction that possibly wouldn't include art. To have art as a hobby rather than a career would have been a constant reminder of things I could have done in life.”

“I loved the Ryman program because it helped me feel like I belonged somewhere; honing my skills in such a supportive environment with other teenage artists who were as passionate about art as I was really motivated me to pursue a career in art.”

“I liked how exclusive and special and unique it felt, but by the same token I wish there were a way to have more Ryman hubs in different locations around Southern California so kids from more places could attend. In other words, I drove from a long distance (totally worth it) and wish there was more access for other students.”

“I am so grateful for my experience at Ryman. I built my artistic skills and learned to manage my time, think critically and creatively, and work toward a goal. The college atmosphere also eased the intimidation I felt over my own transition to education at the university level.”

—responses from 2008 online survey of Ryman Arts alumni



Alumni Survey Reveals Powerful Impact of Ryman Arts

Over 150 alumni recently responded to an online survey about their experience in the Ryman Arts program and what they are doing now. We heard from graduates spanning each of the past 19 years, 1991 through 2008, with over half of the respondents having completed Ryman Arts in the past four years. Most of the respondents had completed the full Ryman sequence of classes, Beginning through Advanced.

Most notably, 98% of the respondents went on to college after Ryman Arts (not counting the respondents who just completed Ryman Arts and are still in high school.) Almost 40% are in college now and 48% indicated that they had earned college degrees ranging from an associate's to a master's degree (even one Ph.D.).

Ryman Arts alumni stay involved in art over the long term. A very significant number of the group (34%) work in an art-related career. A third of the respondents exhibited their own work in the past year. Most alumni cited visiting museums, galleries and cultural institutions as part of their lives.



How did Ryman Arts affect these young artists?

- Almost three quarters of the respondents said that Ryman Arts gave them the confidence and skills to pursue art.
- 61% said Ryman Arts influenced their decision to attend college by providing practical information about art school and college

Not surprisingly, the area in which Ryman Arts had the biggest impact was in improving drawing or painting skills. The next three top areas of impact are:

- Building self confidence
- Strengthening identity as an artist
- Improving self-discipline, time management and work habits.

Clearly, Ryman Arts has equipped many young people with the tools they need to succeed. The survey also garnered interest in Ryman Arts Alumni Association which aims to keep alumni engaged in the program and with each other. The survey was funded by the Los Angeles County Arts Commission.



Intermediate students created life-size self portraits.

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Dear Friends of Ryman Arts,

These are *extraordinary times*. Daily we witness the positive impact Ryman Arts has had on artistic youth, transforming lives, allowing their talent to shine. We are pleased to report that we had a record number of applicants for the Spring 2009 semester. With the semester nearing its conclusion, stunning artwork is being created by young artists in the studio each week, inspired by the instruction of our gifted faculty. Seniors have been emailing us with news of college acceptances throughout April. And just yesterday on a field trip several alumni shared stories of their emerging careers with current students and explained how Ryman Arts helped get them launched.

At the same time, all of us are faced with *extraordinary financial challenges*. Here at Ryman Arts, we have had to make difficult decisions as we have been forced to cut our budget in the face of reduced grants from some of our most faithful supporters at local foundations.

However, we remain firm in our commitment to serve as many students as we can, believing that by giving a young person the skills and opportunity to succeed, we are making an investment in the future vitality of our community that will be repaid many times over. Through careful stewardship, we have thus far been able to sustain our capacity in terms of classes. This is thanks, in no small part, to the *extraordinary support* of many individuals, who made generous gifts large and small at the end of 2008.

I am writing to invite you to join us in supporting the next generation of young artists. We need your help now to sustain our classes for the Fall semester and beyond. Our goal is to continue to offer our full capacity of 10 classes to at least 150 continuing and newly selected students for the Fall 2009 semester, including the invaluable Fall college planning workshop. With so many cuts in the high schools, we do not want to pull back on these core educational programs just when young people need them most.

Ryman Arts is the premier incubator of artistic talent for high school students in Southern California. Since 1990, we have provided rigorous studio art courses at no charge to motivated students from over 100 high schools in Los Angeles, Orange, Ventura, Riverside and San Bernardino counties. We also provide specialized college counseling and an introduction to the limitless range of careers in the arts. By nurturing talent and building a strong work ethic, Ryman prepares students for the demands of higher education. **In 2008 we served 300 teens in our core Saturday program and over 2,000 more in our outreach programs at schools in some of Los Angeles' most low income communities.** Every accepted student receives top notch instruction, quality art supplies, eye-opening field trips, and ongoing college and career guidance—all free of charge.

Take a look at the stories and pictures in this issue of Sketchbook to see the very tangible results of your support. Join us at our student art exhibition and graduation reception on June 23, 2009 at the California African American Museum for an evening celebrating the accomplishments of these talented, hardworking teens. I think you will agree that Ryman Arts has an *extraordinary impact* on the lives of young people who may very well change our world through their artistic vision and voice.

Help us to nurture the potential of our next generation of artists with a gift to Ryman Arts today.

With great appreciation,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Diane Brigham".

Diane Brigham
Executive Director

Help Deserving Young People Realize Their Artistic Dreams



Donate an Art Bin

\$50 provides an art bin brimming with high-quality art supplies for 1 student. Please send your check for \$50 per bin, note “art bins” on the enclosed envelope, and an art bin will be

named in your honor for an incoming student.

Join the Ryman Arts Patron Circle

Patron Circle members help to ensure Ryman Arts’ financial stability as we grow to reach more students. Patron Circle members benefit from opportunities to deepen their relationship with us through invitations to special events and other benefits.

Friend—\$500–\$999: Gifts at this level may provide professional quality art supplies for 5–10 students.

Benefits include newsletters, the student art catalog, invitations to student graduation and reception, and two invitations to a special event during the year.

Advocate—\$1,000–\$2,499: Gifts at this level may provide college or career workshops to give teens the practical information, guidance and inspiration they need to plan their future.

Benefits include all of the above plus a copy of the full-color book on Herbert D. Ryman A Brush with Disney, and a special Ryman Arts class tour and luncheon with the Board of Directors.

Mentor—\$2,500–\$4,999: Gifts at this level may sponsor the cost of a semester of intensive art education with a dynamic professional teaching artist for one or more talented teens.

Benefits include all of the above plus two Patron tickets to An Affair of the Art, our annual art sale and fundraiser.

Founder—\$5,000–\$9,999: Gifts at this level sponsor a year of intensive art education for one or more talented teens.

Benefits include all of the above plus a limited edition handmade portfolio of Herbert D. Ryman prints and two invitations to a private dinner celebration.

Visionary—\$10,000–\$19,999: Gifts at this level are acknowledged as Ryman Arts class co-sponsors.

Benefits include all of the above plus a framed artwork by a Ryman Arts student and two additional Patron tickets to An Affair of the Art

Legends—\$20,000 and up: Gifts at this level are acknowledged as sponsors of a class or a special student program, such as a our collaborative courses in the community.

Benefits include all of the above plus a framed artwork by a selected Ryman Arts artist—an alumnus, guest artist, faculty or even the Legend, Herbert D. Ryman.

Join the Herbert D. Ryman Legacy Society

The Herbert D. Ryman Legacy Society recognizes those generous benefactors who have indicated their intention to include Ryman Arts in their estate plans, and allows us to show our appreciation for your generosity during your lifetime.

We would be happy to work with you and your financial advisor to explore the mutual benefits of a bequest or other type of planned gift. Please contact Diane Brigham at the Ryman Arts office (213) 629-2787 for more information.

To join the Ryman Arts Patron Circle, donate an art bin, or make a contribution of any amount, please:

- enclose a check or provide credit card information in the enclosed envelope and mail to Ryman Arts; or
- visit the Ryman Arts website at www.rymanarts.org to donate online.



Beginning students’ studies of an outdoor sculpture.



Learning to draw animals using chiaroscuro at the Los Angeles Natural History Museum.

Ryman-Carroll Foundation

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Esther Yang

Teaching essential skills for art and life

Calendar of Events

May 2, 2009

Last day of Spring Semester for Students

Friday, June 5, 2009

Deadline for Fall 2009 Student Applications to Ryman Arts

Tuesday, June 16–Sunday, July 12, 2009

Student Art Exhibition on view at California African American Museum

Tuesday, June 23, 2009, 6 p.m.

Ryman Arts Graduation and Student Exhibition Reception, California African American Museum

Wednesday, July 15, 2009, 6 p.m.

National Fantasy Fan Club (NFFC) Ryman Arts Benefit Wine Tasting and Silent Auction, Disneyland Hotel

Saturday, September 12, 2009

First Day of Class Fall Semester, Ryman Arts

Saturday, October 3, 2009

20th Annual An Affair of the Art 2009



Cindy Jin

Drawing at the Norton Simon Museum

