



The Spring 2006 Advanced class refines their paintings for the exhibition and graduation.

Photo: Rebecca Tuymman

# SketchBook



## Annual Graduation and Exhibition Reception Celebrates Young Artists

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Photo: Petrina Mina

Families gather at the California African American Museum to celebrate their teens' accomplishments.

African American Museum (CAAM), which graciously welcomed Ryman Arts and our students for the evening's festivities. The evening also marked the opening night of CAAM's exhibition of more than 200 of our students' best works from the 2005–2006 school year. In addition to the thrill of having their best work exhibited in public, being part of the CAAM exhibition's two-month run is a tremendous honor for our students.

The passion, dedication and achievements of young artists from throughout Southern California were celebrated at our recent June 13, 2006 graduation ceremony. A total of 52 students were honored at the ceremony for completing Ryman's intense training program, plus another 37 were recognized for their participation. The ceremony was held in Exposition Park at the California

### Excellence Personified

There are three elements essential to the ongoing success of Ryman Arts and each was personified at the ceremony with three prestigious awards that recognized an outstanding student, high school art teacher and a Ryman Arts faculty member.

"At our core are the students—the next generation of artists and art patrons," says Diane Brigham, Executive Director of *continued on page 2*



Christa Lee

Photo: Don Millic



Photo: Petrina Mina



Photo: Don Millic

Delia Palacios



Photo: Don Millic

Valentin de la Cruz

Kimberly Beswick, recipient of the Lucille Ryman Carroll Scholarship stands before her self-portrait.

Ryman Arts. “Equally vital are the high school art teachers who provide invaluable support to their students and help us in identifying those young artists who have the passion and perseverance to pursue a career in the arts. Completing the circle of success is our extraordinary faculty, which is why we honor one of our own teaching artists in a manner that affords the opportunity to focus on their own professional development.”

It was with these values in mind that the first Lucille Ryman Carroll Student Award of a \$1,000 college scholarship was presented to Kimberly Beswick, who graduated from Quartz Hill High School this year and will be attending the University of California, San Diego for art this fall. The award commemorates Lucille Ryman Carroll, who shared a deep love for the arts with her brother, Herbert D. Ryman. As a way to pay tribute to “Herbie,” she founded Ryman Arts to carry on his conviction that the fundamentals of drawing are essential to becoming a fine artist. The generous contribution of Martin and Leah Sklar initiated the student scholarship, which will be awarded annually to support the pursuit of higher education for an outstanding Ryman Arts and high school graduate. Future awards will be underwritten each year by a different Ryman Arts board member.



Photo: Petrina Mina

It was an honor to have Councilwoman of the 9th District of the City of Los Angeles, Jan Perry express her encouragement and admiration of our young artists at graduation.

Kimberly was selected from a small group of students who were nominated for the new award, based on their exemplary records of participation and strong bodies of artwork. It was Kimberly who stood out to Juror Penelope Jones, Executive Director of Student Services at USC’s Roski School of Fine Arts, and not just because of Kimberly’s three-hour round trip from Lancaster every Saturday. What impressed Penelope was the breadth of work in Kimberly’s portfolio, along with her “willingness to push herself beyond her comfort zone in unfamiliar media.”

Crucial to each Ryman student’s success is not only the recommendation of a high school art teacher for admission, but also the guidance and inspiration that the teacher provides in the classroom. Doreen Barsky, art teacher and coordinator of the Humanitas Program at Manual Arts High School in Los Angeles, reflects these qualities, which is why she was selected as this year’s recipient of the Herbert D. Ryman Mentor Award. Ryman is still remembered for his dedication to mentoring young artists at Disney and other Hollywood studios where he worked, always insisting that traditional drawing and painting skills are essential tools for success.

Doreen, who has taught at Manual Arts for her entire 30+-year career, displays a deep commitment to her students as a mentor and ardent advocate for art education. She is also a long-time partner of Ryman Arts and facilitates a three-session drawing course at Manual Arts, taught by Ryman faculty member David Schoffman, to help prepare students for the demands of Ryman’s high-caliber classes. And, despite myriad obstacles, Doreen makes it possible for deserving Manual Arts students to apply to Ryman, where four students currently represent the L.A. high school that is just around the corner from our USC Roski School of Fine Arts campus.

Kindred spirits to the mentors at the high school level are the extraordinary master artists who comprise our faculty. This year, with the launch of the Sharon Disney Lund Master Teaching Artist Award [read more on page 4], Ryman Arts had an opportunity to recognize one of our exceptional teachers through a \$2,500 professional development stipend. David Schoffman, a valued member of our faculty since 2003, submitted the winning project proposal to study original masterworks in Rome and Venice in order to “teach drawing in a non-formulaic way that will sharpen students’ powers of observation and sensitize them to the fine points of aesthetics.” Juror Antonia Contra, an artist and executive director of Marwen, an art center providing high quality visual arts education for Chicago youth, applauded David’s proposed course of study as one that will “ignite his teaching with fresh energy and new insights.”



Photo: Petrina Mina

Over 50 students were honored during the Ryman Arts graduation in June.



Photo: Rebecca Tuynman

This summer Ryman Arts has partnered with HoLA! to teach drawing and painting with the theme of immigration. On a recent trip to LACMA, student Andrea Aquilar and teaching artist Dan McCleary inspect a bronze head together.

*“By teaching and guiding artistically talented youth on the path to college and career, Ryman Arts is helping to shape the future of California,” said **Assembly Speaker Fabian Núñez**. “The exceptional work created by these young artists demonstrates how a quality art education can prepare them for today’s global economy.”*



Photo: Mary Beth Barber, CAC

Assembly Speaker Fabian Núñez and California Arts Council Director, Muriel Johnson present a \$5,000 YEA! award to Executive Director, Diane Brigham.

## Letter from Diane

# Ryman Arts Has Lifelong Impact

Ryman Arts has a big impact on the young artists who participate. This June we graduated 52 artists and the accompanying exhibition at the California African American Museum received much acclaim for the quality of the students’ art. For another perspective, look at the results of some recent studies that explored how Ryman Arts has affected young artists in Southern California:

- In addition to advanced drawing skills, students cited the development of their self-confidence, time management and other “life skills” as positive outcomes of their Ryman Arts experience.
- 93% of respondents in an alumni survey indicated they went on to college after participating in Ryman Arts. Most pursued or are pursuing an arts-related major.
- Almost 40% of alumni respondents indicated that they earn their living in an art related career, and another third indicated that they continue to make art, but not as their primary employment.
- Students have been coming from a larger range of geographic areas and schools over the past 6 years, one indicator that the program is reaching a more diverse population over time. Last year, we served students from nearly 100 zip codes!

Ryman Arts is making a positive difference for talented youth. On their behalf, thank you. You—through your partnership with us as educators, community colleagues, parents, alumni, volunteers, and financial supporters—have made this success possible.

Recently, I returned from an international executive education program for arts leaders at the Stanford Graduate School of Business. (Thank you to the Los Angeles County Arts Commission for nominating and funding my participation.) Designed to strengthen our leadership and to challenge us to think in new ways about the impact of our work, I came home with a deeper realization that Ryman Arts adds substantial value to the community at large, and to the artistic community in particular. We are preparing the next generation of artists and individuals with a lifelong passion for art.

On September 9 we will welcome another group of eager students joining us from over 65 high schools. We need your continued help to sustain the quality program you have helped create, and to meet the increasing demand to reach more highly promising youth. Please consider supporting Ryman Arts now as we prepare for another dynamic year.

*Diane Brigham*

## Calendar of Events



Sharon Disney Lund



Photo: Petrina Mina

David Schoffman receives the first Sharon Disney Lund Master Teaching Artist Award from board president Martin Sklar.

## Major New Gift to Endow Master Teaching Artist and Award for Professional Development

When Martin Sklar presented David Schoffman with the Sharon Disney Lund Master Teaching Artist Award, it marked an historic initiative that will take Ryman Arts to a new level, and set a precedent in arts education. The Sharon D. Lund Foundation made a \$500,000 pledge that will underwrite the salary and expenses of one teaching position at Ryman. In addition, the annual award will celebrate one of our outstanding faculty. Providing this level of professional development support for a part time teaching artist may be unprecedented in our field yet it is invaluable for artists who hope to both inspire their students and maintain their own artistic practice.

One of the original founders of Ryman Arts, Sharon Disney Lund was deeply committed to the education of young people, so it is especially fitting to honor her memory with this award. We extend our deep appreciation to the Lund family and the Sharon D. Lund Foundation for their continued generosity.

**Alumni Charter Event**  
Tour of Rhythm and Hues  
November  
*Join the Alumni Association at the Charter level for an invitation!*

**Fall Semester**  
Saturdays,  
Sept 9–Dec 2

**Spring 2006**  
**Application Deadline**  
December 8

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RYMAN ARTS PRESENTS  
**AN AFFAIR OF *the* ART**  
2006

SATURDAY EVENING, OCTOBER 7, 2006

**Ryman's annual art show and sale will be held on October 7 at the Hollywood Hills residence of Martin and Leah Sklar.**

**A patron event will illuminate the *Artists Behind the Spectacle* featuring speakers Raul Rodriguez, the most prolific designer of the Tournament of Roses floats, who will preview his new creations for the 2007 Parade, and John DeCuir Jr., designer himself, who will present the designs of art director John DeCuir Sr. for some of Hollywood's greatest hits (*Hello Dolly, The King and I, etc.*).**

Please contact the Ryman Arts office for more information about these events.



Photo: Rebecca Tuymann

Daniel Monroe

## Ryman Alumni

### The RAAA's Leadership Board Kicks off the New Year with Alumni Party

On the evening of January 15<sup>th</sup>, Ryman alumni gathered at the Eagle Rock Center for the Arts for a holiday celebration. Party-goers represented the first class of 1990, the recent class of 2004 and years in between. Artsy door prizes and DJ Tokes' tunes enlivened the historic Eagle Rock venue. The Center's gallery space displayed contemporary sculpture of emerging artists and was an ideal setting to mix and mingle. The recently elected Leadership Board set the tone of their yearlong tenure hosting a wonderful event that they hope to be the first of many alumni gatherings! They look forward to expanding the association's membership and upcoming alumni events to socialize, exhibit, network, and support Ryman Arts. Check the upcoming alumni page at [www.rymanarts.org](http://www.rymanarts.org) to stay posted!



Alumni, including Oscar, Dalton, and Carlos, pose on the MoCA Board Room balcony where they held their summer meeting.

### Introducing our 2006 Ryman Arts Alumni Association Leadership Board.

In its first election, members of the Ryman Arts Alumni Association [RAAA] elected the following team as its 2006 RAAA Leadership Board.

**Oscar Magallanes (Ryman '93) RAAA Chair and Ryman Arts Board of Directors Alumni Representative**, works as a graphic designer, exhibiting painter, and recently designed the first Chican@ Art Magazine.

**Dalton Nunez (Ryman '95) RAAA Secretary**, works as a Visual Arts Specialist at Walt Disney Imagineering by day and as a fine artist by night. Among many other goals for the RAAA, he hopes to establish a plein air painting group for interested alumni.

**Carlos Nieto (Ryman '91) RAAA Member-at-Large**, whose professional experience ranges from storyboarding for Universal to murals, comics, logo design and portraits, is currently an art project coordinator at the Children's Hospital of Los Angeles.

Meet them at our next alumni gathering!



Alumni interns Kline Swonger, Melvina Wong and Vicki Lai are led by Diane Brigham in a panel discussion on their college experiences at a College Knowledge workshop.

### Young Creatives Energize the Office

This year's trio of summer interns is eager and productive!

**Melvina Wong (Ryman '03)** just completed her first year studying Character Animation at Cal Arts and will pursue a career in animation or story development. She is the teaching assistant for our summer drawing and painting class collaboration with HoLA (Heart of Los Angeles) assisting teaching artists Robin Palanker and Dan McCleary. Thirty Ryman Arts and HoLA student artists are honing their skills and exploring their artistic voices on issues of immigration.

**Kline Swonger (Ryman '02)** is currently pursuing a double major in Environmental Studies and Studio Art at Pitzer College and aspires to combine these disciplines as a landscape architect. As the College Knowledge Intern, funded by the James Irvine Foundation, Kline is coordinating this fall's College Day and two summer workshops under the supervision of Rebecca Tuynman. The college workshops included artwork photography, portfolio preparation, panel discussions by alumni art college students and critiques from art college representatives.

**Vicki Lai (Ryman '05)** attends UCLA where she will return in the fall to a Biochemistry major and Art History minor, while continuing to draw in her free time. Vicki jumped right into our graduation press and communications project with the guidance of Letitia Ivins and has compiled our growing set of press clippings. Vicki has also organized the alumni membership mail campaign. All three interns are big believers in staying connected to Ryman. As Kline enthusiastically puts it, "The Alumni Association is great for networking and helping to keep contact with other amazing creative people!" Vicki adds, "Join the Family!"

Ryman Arts seeks interns throughout the year. E-mail your resume and cover letter to [alumni@ryman.org](mailto:alumni@ryman.org) for consideration and to receive position announcements.



Vicki Lai's (Ryman '05) latest illustration concept, Rhapsody in C(at).



Drawing from Melvina Wong's animation, Night's Labor

## Behind the Scenes

After 13 years of dedication to teaching the young painters of Ryman Arts, teaching artist, **La Monte Westmoreland** has retired this summer. The breath of his art-making and teaching career is vast, and Ryman Arts alumni are fortunate to be among the pupils who have been touched by La Monte's wisdom and inspiration. A recent graduate, **Stephanie Jazmines (Ryman '06)**, expresses her appreciation, "*LaMonte was able bring*

*energy and support, that is so necessary in a creative environment. He acted as a guide above everything else, giving us the tools necessary to express what we wanted to express, regardless of what anyone else wanted. He gave us the freedom to create, and for that, I thank him.*"

Board member, **Marshall Nalle Ayers**, makes waves in arts education as the first District Arts Education Consultant for the Pasadena

Unified School District. She plays a key role in implementing the Los Angeles County Arts for All Regional Blueprint which seeks to build a strong infrastructure for the delivery of sequential arts curriculum within K-12 schools and to support community arts organizations such as Ryman Arts.



LaMonte Westmoreland has been guiding Ryman painters for 13 years



Stephanie Jazmines combines the figure and collage assignments.

Photo: Don Millic



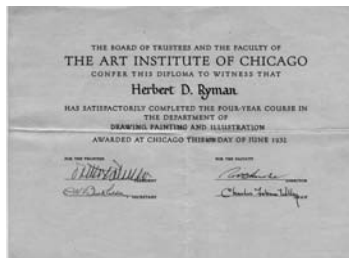
Tonie Zhu

## Teaching essential skills for art and life

### Herbert D. Ryman: Artist and Mentor



Ryman posing in front of the Chicago Art Institute. 1932



Portrait of a Blue Lady, 1932, Herbert D. Ryman, Ryman Arts Collection

*“By the age of 12, I was seriously interested in art. My mother, who wished her only son to be a doctor, like his father, did not encourage a career in art. Everyone knew artists starved. It was certainly no way to make a living. At nineteen, I was attending Millikin University when I became deathly ill with scarlet fever... I asked my mother, in my delirium, ‘If I get well can I go to the Chicago Institute?’ Mother said, ‘Any place you want to go, just get well.’ The next morning the fever was broken and the first thing I said was, ‘I’m going to the Chicago Art Institute.’”*

—Herbert D. Ryman on his art education from *A Brush with Disney: An Artist’s Journey*

With this miraculous recovery, Herbert D. Ryman was free to pursue his real passion: making art. About 20 years later, far from starvation, Ryman finished the first sketches of Disneyland and continued his prolific artistic career with much success.

While Ryman young artists do not need a life-threatening illness to propel their dreams

of higher education, they do need college and career guidance. Whether students pursue professional art school or the liberal arts, Ryman Arts equips them with drawing skills and practical help navigating the complexities of college applications and career exploration.

Ryman Arts honors artist Herbert D. Ryman (1910–1989), who championed traditional art training as the foundation for a successful career in the arts. *A Brush with Disney* celebrates Ryman’s art and life in a full-color compilation that covers not only his 50-year career with Walt Disney and many film studios, but also his own extraordinary artistic journey, including rarely seen artwork and photos such as those shown here. *A Brush with Disney* is available for purchase by calling 213-629-ARTS (2787); all proceeds support the Ryman Arts program.