

CONTACT:  
Susan Dunn  
818-762-4708  
Arotin Hartounian  
213/629-2787

Photos available upon request.

## **Ryman Arts' 2010 Graduates Showcase Artwork** **At California African American Museum**



Left image: Juliana Ouyang Right image:Seo Yubin

Los Angeles, CA (June 17, 2010)—The Sixth Annual Ryman Arts Student Art Exhibition is now on display at the California African American Museum (CAAM) in Exposition Park. The Exhibition, which features more than 200 of Ryman Arts' students' best works from the 2009-2010 school year, showcases the art of the talented young artists, who take part in Ryman Arts' intense training program. The exhibition will be on view through July 6, 2010.

"The Annual Exhibition reflects the depth of Ryman Arts' training and the breadth of the students' potential," notes Diane Brigham, Executive Director of Ryman Arts. "At the same time, the opportunity to have their best work displayed in public serves both as a tremendous learning experience and an exciting milestone for our students."

Sequoyah Madison, a recent graduate from Culver City High and the Ryman Arts program, will be attending the Rhode Island School of Design this fall. Reflecting on her experience at Ryman Arts, Madison says, "Ryman Arts not only gave me the opportunity to learn from teachers in the art field but also provided an environment to surround myself with others who share the same passion for art."

Brigham attributes the success of Ryman Arts' students to the program's philosophy of "nurturing talent, inspiring growth and changing lives," as well as to the passion and perseverance of the students themselves, who come from throughout Southern California—from the Los Angeles urban core, to the outlying Orange and Los Angeles county suburbs—to attend Ryman Arts' classes for 3 1/2 hours every Saturday.

Citing the students' tremendous talent and motivation, Brigham says, "These teens demonstrate remarkable focus, creativity and tenacity in honing their skills through the program, making them highly desirable to art schools and universities. Significantly, in a region where so few high school graduates

successfully pursue higher education, 98 percent of Ryman Arts' alumni go on to college, and the majority are the first in their family to pursue a higher education."

This year's graduates are headed to an array of distinguished institutions across the country and world including USC, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, Cal State Long Beach and seven of the UC schools; Art Center College of Design, California College of the Arts, Laguna College of Art and Design, Mills College, Otis College of Art and Design, all in California; Parsons The New School for Design, Cornell, and Pratt Institute in New York; Rhode Island School of Design, the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, and the Camberwell College of Arts in London.

Brigham added that by nurturing young artists in developing their creative gifts, Ryman Arts helps ensure growth of the arts, as well as a sustainable cultural future and healthy economy for Southern California. Many Ryman Arts students go on to employment in art careers including graphic design, architecture, film, animation, fashion and environmental design.

"It's always a wonderful experience to see the work of our community's emerging artists," says Charmaine Jefferson, Executive Director of CAAM. "We're proud to again have the privilege of showcasing the budding talents of Ryman Arts' remarkably talented and dedicated students."

This exhibition is presented in partnership with CAAM. Location: 600 State Drive, Los Angeles, CA 90037. The museum is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10:00am to 5:00pm and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Parking is located at 39<sup>th</sup> & Figueroa Streets - \$8.00 per vehicle. CAAM is a California State Museum, Arnold Schwarzenegger, Governor. Admission to the Museum is free and open to the public.

### **About Ryman Arts**

Ryman Arts provides gifted teens the opportunity to reach their artistic potential through high-level arts education in a rigorous and nurturing studio environment. In addition to artistic training, Ryman Arts students also build self-discipline and confidence, and receive college and career guidance that helps position them for success in their careers and lives. Ryman Arts is the only such program in Southern California that is totally free and that selects participants solely on the basis of their passion, ability and commitment. By doing so, Ryman Arts is able to serve talented youth from a wide variety of backgrounds without regard to their family's financial status. Ryman Arts currently teaches talented high school students from more than 200 schools in Southern California, 80 percent of who reside in low-income communities and have no other opportunities to develop their artistic gifts.

The program began in 1990 to honor the memory of legendary Disney artist and mentor Herbert D. Ryman and the vision of his sister Lucille Ryman Carroll to encourage young artists to reach their potential. The core program includes free out-of-school sequential studio courses that emphasize advanced drawing and painting skills. Courses, taught by professional teaching artists, foster students' artistic development and provide the knowledge they need to pursue higher education and careers in the arts. Ryman Arts aims to inspire, nurture, and challenge the next generation of artists to reach their potential.

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