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ADVENTUROUS AND BOLD *COMIC FUTURE* ALIGHTS AT THE WEX MAY 17–AUGUST 3



At left: Liz Craft, *Hairy with a Thought Balloon (green and black)*, 2005, Bronze, steel and stain glass, 72 x 48 x 24 inches, Courtesy of the artist. At right: Michael Williams, *Funk Bass for Beginners*, 2012, Acrylic and air brush on canvas, 70 x 90 inches, Collection of Virginia Lebermann, Image courtesy of Michael Werner Gallery.

Columbus, OH—March 24, 2014—***Comic Future***, an exhibition of work by contemporary artists freely mixing figurative painting and gestural abstraction with the visual strategies of cartoons and comics, will be on view **May 17–August 3, 2014** at the Wexner Center for the Arts. Appropriating subjects from mythology, advertising, print culture, consumerism, and children’s television, the fifteen artists whose work is on view in *Comic Future* employ discordant approaches that twist representations of their immediate environment into skewed, often apocalyptic visions of the future. Organized by Fairfax Dorn, co-founder and executive director of Ballroom Marfa, the exhibition showcases about fifty works created from the 1960s through 2013 in a variety of media, including painting, video, sculpture, and collage.

Notes Wexner Center Director Sherri Geldin, “*Comic Future* considers the highly inventive and disparate ways that contemporary artists have come to use the familiar visual language and tropes of cartoons and comics. A compelling exhibition in its own right, *Comic Future* is an ideal complement to *Modern Cartoonist: The Art of Daniel Clowes* and *Eye of the Cartoonist: Daniel Clowes’s Selections from Comics History*, which will be on view concurrently in the Wexner Center galleries.”

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Comic Future represents a wide range of artists and media, including career-spanning works on paper by Sigmar Polke, a comic-book collage by Walead Beshty, sculpture by Aaron Curry and Liz Craft, and a video by the always-provocative Paul McCarthy. The late Mike Kelley is represented by works from two series that bookend his influential career: an early grouping of doodle-like drawings and a selection of recent illuminated sculptures based on Superman's home city of Kandor. Also on display are paintings by Arturo Herrera, Carroll Dunham, Lari Pittman, Dana Schutz, and Sue Williams that explore the uneasy boundary between abstraction and figuration.

Comic Future was on view at Ballroom Marfa September 27, 2013–February 2, 2014; no further stops beyond its Wexner Center appearance are scheduled.

VISITOR INFORMATION

Comic Future will be on view **May 17–August 3, 2014** at the Wexner Center for the Arts, 1871 N. High St. (at 15th Ave.) on the campus of The Ohio State University in Columbus. Gallery hours are Tuesday–Wednesday and Sunday 11 am–6 pm;

Thursday–Saturday 11 am–8 pm; closed Mondays. Admission is \$8; free for Wexner Center members, college students, and visitors 18 and under; free Thursdays from 4 to 8 pm and the first Sunday of the month. ***Modern Cartoonist: The Art of Daniel Clowes*** and ***Eye of the Cartoonist: Daniel Clowes's Selections from Comics History*** will also be on view during this time. An **opening celebration, with Fairfax Dorn in attendance**, will be held on **Friday, May 16 from 6–9 pm**.

More info on bus routes, parking, and other visitor information:

<http://wexarts.org/visit/location-and-directions> or (614) 292-3535.

Cartoon fans can also visit the Billy Ireland Cartoon Library & Museum, located next to the Wexner Center, in Sullivant Hall, where two exhibitions, ***Exploring Calvin and Hobbes*** and ***The Irresistible Force Meets the Immovable Object: A Richard Thompson Retrospective*** will be on view March 22–August 3, 2014.

EXHIBITION SUPPORT

Comic Future was organized by **Ballroom Marfa**, Texas, and curated by its Executive Director Fairfax Dorn.

Presented at Ballroom Marfa with the support of the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts; the Brown Foundation, Inc., Houston; the Meyer Levy Charitable Foundation; Texas Commission on the Arts; Foundation for Contemporary Arts; and generous contributions by Ballroom Marfa members.

Support for the Wexner Center's presentation of *Comic Future* provided by **Paige and Michael Crane**.

The Wexner Center receives general operating support from the **Greater Columbus Arts Council**, **The Columbus Foundation**, **Nationwide Foundation**, and the **Ohio Arts Council**. Generous support is also provided by the **Corporate Annual Fund of the Wexner Center Foundation** and **Wexner Center members**.

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