

Press Release

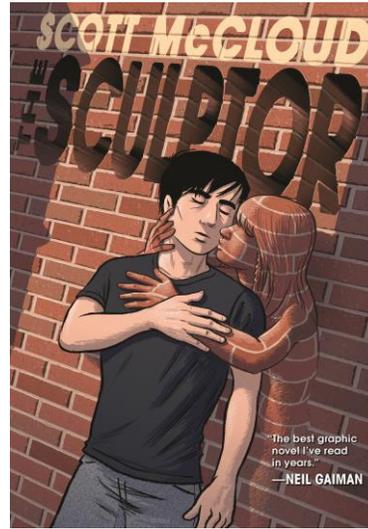
25 CHICAGO
HUMANITIES
FESTIVAL

Winter 2015

PRESS CONTACT: Anna Marie Wilharm
(312) 661-0317, annamarie@chicagohumanities.org

Download Photos: chicagohumanities.org/press

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Chicago Humanities Festival Presents Scott McCloud

Author of *Understanding Comics* to Debut New Graphic Novel
The Sculptor

Friday, Feb. 13 at the Art Institute of Chicago

CHICAGO, IL—Jan. 22, 2015—The Chicago Humanities Festival (CHF) presents leading comics theorist, cartoonist, and author **Scott McCloud** on **Friday, Feb. 13 at 6 p.m.** at the **Art Institute of Chicago, Rubloff Auditorium (230 S Columbus Dr)**. The author of *Understanding Comics* and *Making Comics* comes to Chicago to discuss his first full length graphic novel, *The Sculptor*, with Co-Editor of *Chicks Dig Comics* **Lynne Thomas**. The program will include an opening performance by Chicago cartoonist and filmmaker **Lyra Hill**, with a book signing following the discussion. Tickets range from **\$5-15** and are currently on sale at chicagohumanities.org or via the **CHF Box Office at 312-494-9509**.

Scott McCloud comes to CHF to speak about his first full length graphic novel: *The Sculptor* (Feb. 3), an emotionally dense and visually magnificent graphic novel that deals with life, love, and the price of artistic greatness. A washed-up artist by the age of 25, David Smith makes a deal with death to fulfill his childhood wish—the ability to create anything he imagines with his bare hands. Now with only 200 days to live, David struggles with what to create as his final piece and discovering his true love at the eleventh hour does not make it any easier. Author **Neil Gaiman** hails *The Sculptor* as, “The best graphic novel I’ve read in years. It’s about art, love, and why we keep on trying. It will break your heart.”

[Continued]

An award-winning author and internationally recognized authority on comics and visual communication, McCloud's non-fiction book *Understanding Comics* won three Harvey Awards and gave insight into the history, meaning, and art of comics. In addition to his success of his non-fiction books and comic series *Zot!*, McCloud has shared his knowledge and hosted visual lectures at such respected locations such as Google, MIT, and Harvard.

McCloud's Feb. 13 program will be moderated by **Lynne M. Thomas**. Thomas is co-editor in chief and publisher of *Uncanny Magazine*. She co-edited the Hugo Award-winning *Chicks Dig Time Lords* as well as *Whedonistas* and *Chicks Dig Comics*. She moderates the Hugo Award-winning *SF Squeecast*, a monthly science fiction/fantasy podcast, and contributes to the *Verity!* podcast. In her day job, she is the Curator of Rare Books and Special Collections at Northern Illinois University, where she is responsible for the papers of over 60 science fiction/fantasy authors.

"Like many other readers, I first *truly* understood comics as a unique storytelling medium through *Understanding Comics*," said Thomas. "It opened up a whole new world of sequential art to me. I'm absolutely thrilled to have the opportunity to talk to Scott about *The Sculptor* and the rest of his work for the Chicago Humanities Festival."

Lyra Hill will provide the opening entertainment for this program. A cartoonist, filmmaker, and performer, Hill created and organized the performative comics reading series Brain Frame between 2011 and 2014. Her 16mm films have screened locally and internationally, and her comics have appeared in alternative publications including *Lumpen*, *Happiness*, *Chromazoid*, and *The Ladydrawers*. Hill works as an educator at the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago, and continues to project and perform her film and comics work around the country.

EVENT DETAILS:

G=General Public, M=CHF Member, ST=Students & Teachers



Scott McCloud | Friday, Feb. 13, 2015 | 6 p.m.

Art Institute of Chicago, Rubloff Auditorium (230 S Columbus Dr) | G \$15, M \$10, ST \$5

In *Understanding Comics* **Scott McCloud** made it cool to take comics seriously. Now the man hailed by graphic icons from Neil Gaiman to Alan Moore is back with a brand new graphic novel, five years in the making! *The Sculptor* reworks the classic tale of an artist willing to do anything to succeed, including making a deal with Death. **Lynne Thomas**, author of *Chicks Dig Comics*, joins McCloud on the CHF stage to discuss life in and outside of comics. **Lyra Hill**, former Brain Frame cartoonist and filmmaker, will kick off the program with a performative comics reading.

TICKETS:

For more information about the **Scott McCloud** program, visit chicagohumanities.org. Tickets range from **\$5-15** and are on sale now [online](#) or through the **CHF Box Office** at **312-494-9509**, Monday–Friday, 10 a.m.–5 p.m. Discounted tickets are available for CHF members and students/teachers. To become a member, visit supportCHF.org. A **\$6 per order processing fee** is applied to all pre-event sales.

ADDITIONAL WINTER PROGRAMS:



Dinaw Mengestu | Wednesday, Jan. 28, 2015 | 7 p.m.

Old Town School of Folk Music, Szold Hall (4545 N Lincoln Ave) | G \$15, M \$10, ST \$5

Born in Ethiopia and raised in Illinois, global citizen **Dinaw Mengestu** is one of the bright young voices redefining contemporary fiction. Over the course of three novels he's developed a distinct exploration of identity and belonging, and earned comparisons to Chinua Achebe and V.S. Naipaul. He'll discuss his latest novel, *All Our Names*, a moving meditation on the personal and political dislocations wrought by love and war. **Alex Farha**, musician and faculty at Old Town School of Folk Music, will open the

program with a performance on the oud.



Kim Gordon | Thursday, Feb. 26, 2015 | 7 p.m.

Music Box Theatre (3733 N Southport Ave) | G \$18, M \$14, ST \$8

Book and ticket package: G \$38, M \$33, ST \$33

Is there anyone cooler than **Kim Gordon**? The founding member of the seminal band Sonic Youth is also a talented musician, artist, writer, and, oh yeah, role model to a generation of women. Now she's written a memoir recounting her life as a musician and artist, including her partnership and eventual professional and personal breakup with Thurston Moore. *Girl in a Band* takes us back to the post-punk scene of New York in the 1980s and '90s, when Sonic Youth helped create a musical revolution. Come spend the evening with Gordon, a trailblazing lady of rock and roll, with a special opening performance by Girls Rock! Chicago alum **Alex Lund**. *This program is presented in partnership with the Music Box Theatre.*



[Cristina Henríquez](#) | Wednesday, March 18, 2015 | 6 p.m.

Instituto Cervantes of Chicago, Auditorium (31 W Ohio St) | G \$15, M \$10, ST \$5

Cristina Henríquez's *The Book of Unknown Americans* follows the journeys of two families—one Panamanian, one Mexican—from Latin America to their adopted homeland of the United States. At its heart, though, this is a love story, one by turns suspenseful and wry. Henríquez returns to the CHF stage with a story that offers a resonant new definition of what it means to be American.

###

ABOUT THE CHICAGO HUMANITIES FESTIVAL

For 25 years, the Chicago Humanities Festival has celebrated the questions that shape and define us as individuals, communities, and cultures. For the intellectually curious, CHF's vibrant **year-round programming** and robust **Fall Festival** offer the opportunity to engage with some of the world's most brilliant minds. Collaborating with leading arts, cultural, and educational organizations, it presents scholars, artists and architects, thinkers, theologians, and policy makers that change how we see the world, where we're from, and where we're going. CHF also presents the spring **Stages, Sights & Sounds** international children's theater festival.

The Chicago Humanities Festival has grown from **eight programs in one day at a single venue in 1990**, to **160 programs year-round at more than 25 venues** in and around Chicago. Over the past 25 years, CHF has put on more than 2,600 programs and performances, and presented more than 3,300 speakers and artists, including: 10 Nobel Prize winners, 70 Pulitzer Prize winners, 52 MacArthur Award recipients, 16 Tony Award winners, 10 Grammy Award winners, and seven Academy Award winners. Visit chicagohumanities.org for more information.