

CROCKER

12TH
YEAR!

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BY THE
SACRAMENTO
ARTS & CULTURE
SOCIETY

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FREE!
ALL
AGES!

TALES OF CROCKERCON

WHO? OR WHAT, MELTS
"POP" CULTURE AND HIGH ART
INTO THE MOST BREATH-TAKING,
MOST SENSATIONAL
COMICS FESTIVAL OF ALL...?

"CROCKERTRON!"

HEROIC!...
DEFENDER!...
OF THE
COMIC ARTS!



THE CROCKER ART MUSEUM, SACRAMENTO
SEPTEMBER 20TH, 2026
10-4PM, FREE FOR EVERYONE!

WISNIA?
(after KIRBY!)

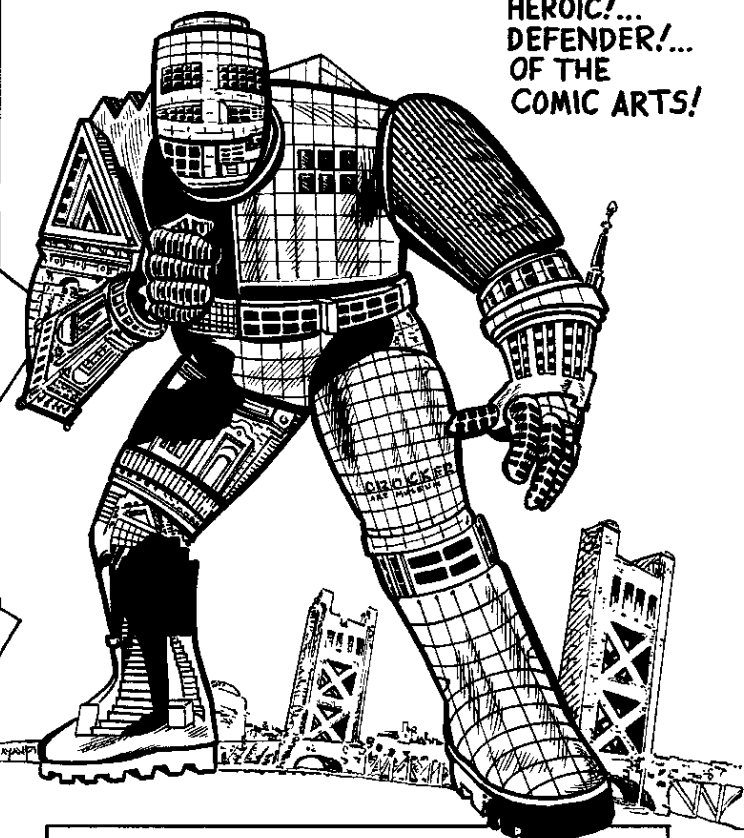
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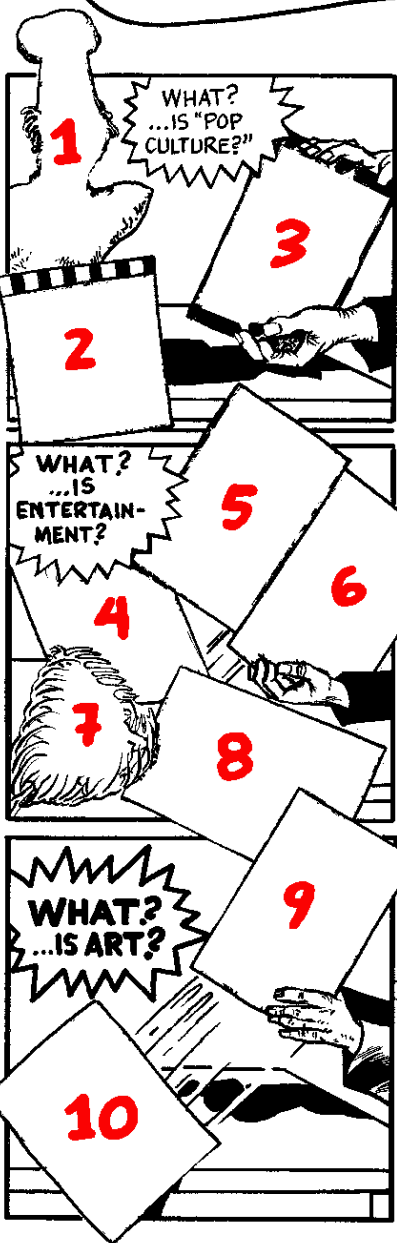


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Learn more
about this
year's poster.



1. Overcooked, 1973. Robert Arneson (1930-1992)
2. Flying Saucers, 1993. Suzanne Adan (born 1946)
3. The Maxx #1, 1993. Sam Kieth (1963-2026)
4. Missed Connection, 2004. Adrian Tomine
5. Batman #493, 1993. Kelley Jones

6. Doris Danger, 2023. Chris Wisnia
7. The Atom, 1962. Mel Ramos (1935-2018)
8. Pies, Pies, Pies, 1961. Wayne Thiebaud (1920-2021)
9. Silver Surfer #34, 1990. Ron Lim
10. Ladies Dance, 1975. Gladys Nilsson

Hello!

Welcome to the Crocker Art Museum and to the 12th iteration of CrockerCon, our beloved celebration of illustration, comic book culture, and creativity. Envisioned and developed as a Free Family Festival, this year's CrockerCon has a bit for everyone: illuminating conversations with professional illustrators and authors; engaging art activities; dozens of exhibitors catering to all ages; and exciting live performances. I'd like to especially thank Eben Burgoon and Kyrun Silva for their monumental efforts in producing and executing this year's event.

This year, the organizers are asking attendees to rethink how they have traditionally viewed comics. Encapsulating more than just the Sunday funnies or super-hero fare, comics now influence everything from movies and video games to contemporary literature. CrockerCon is our attempt to expand our collective understanding of what comics are and how they can engage a modern public.

As you walk around the Museum today, I encourage you to ask questions, to engage exhibitors, and to make connections between the comics you encounter and the artwork on the walls of the Museum. We hope you enjoy your day and, perhaps leave the Museum thinking, "Wow! Comics are more than I thought they were."

Javier Plasencia

Director of Education | Crocker Art Museum

Howdy! I want to thank you for being part of the 12th edition of CrockerCon! I am thrilled to welcome you to the Crocker Art Museum's celebration of comics, creativity, and community. Because of you, CrockerCon has become a place where people discover new creators, make friendships, and celebrate the amazing world of comics and pop culture.

This year, we hope to show that comic books can be more than you thought they were. Take the time to browse the show, meet creators, attend panels, and have fun! Don't be afraid to ask questions and discover something new about comic books and how they connect to other mediums.

Thank you to the Museum staff for their support and love of this event. Thank you also to our amazing creators for sharing your talents and time with the Sacramento community. Lastly, thank you to our attendees for coming out each year. Your continued support and enthusiasm inspire us to push the festival to new heights.

Have an astounding day, and welcome to CrockerCon 2026! If you see me on the show floor, feel free to stop me and say hi!

Kyrun Silva

Taurus Comics | CrockerCon Co-Organizer

The Crocker Art Museum would like to thank **Drawn & Quarterly, American Association of Editorial Cartoonists, Tim Foster, Jim Sinclair, Dave Feiss, Kathy Kieth, Walt Disney Family Museum, Sacramento Public Library, Sacramento History Museum, Jack Kirby Museum, Heroic Girls, and A Geek History in Time** for their support of today's festival and supporting guests of honor. CrockerCon prizes and other contributions were received from **IDW Publishing, Drawn & Quarterly, and SacGeeks**. The Museum would like to also thank **Sacramento Developer Collective, Sacramento Brick Builders, Distance Nerding, and SacGeeks** for their programming contributions.

Cover Image: CrockerTron 2026 illustrated by **Chris Wisnia**.

Schedule

Main Courtyard

- 10 AM • Sleeprockers
- 12 PM • Costume Parade presented by SacGeeks
- 1 PM • Sleeprockers
- 2 PM • The Four Eyes
- 3 PM • Sleeprockers

Setzer Auditorium

- 12 PM • Cartoonist in Conversation: Association of American Editorial Cartoonists
- 1 PM • Origin Story: The Life of Sam Kieth
- 2 PM • Cartoonist in Conversation: Mimi Pond
- 3 PM • Picture This! Live Animated Comedy hosted by Brandie Posey
ft. Pendleton Ward, Mike Hollingsworth, and James Adomian

Niello Meeting Center

- 11 AM • Silver Lake Shorts: NorCal
- 12:30 PM • Comics in Conversation
- 1:30 PM • Heroic Girls Presents
- 2:30 PM • Live Drawing with Jack Ohman

Historic Ballroom

- Ongoing • Sunday at the LEGO • Social LEGO Build from Sacramento Brick Builders
- Ongoing • Video Game Demonstrations from Sacramento Developers Collective

Exhibitors

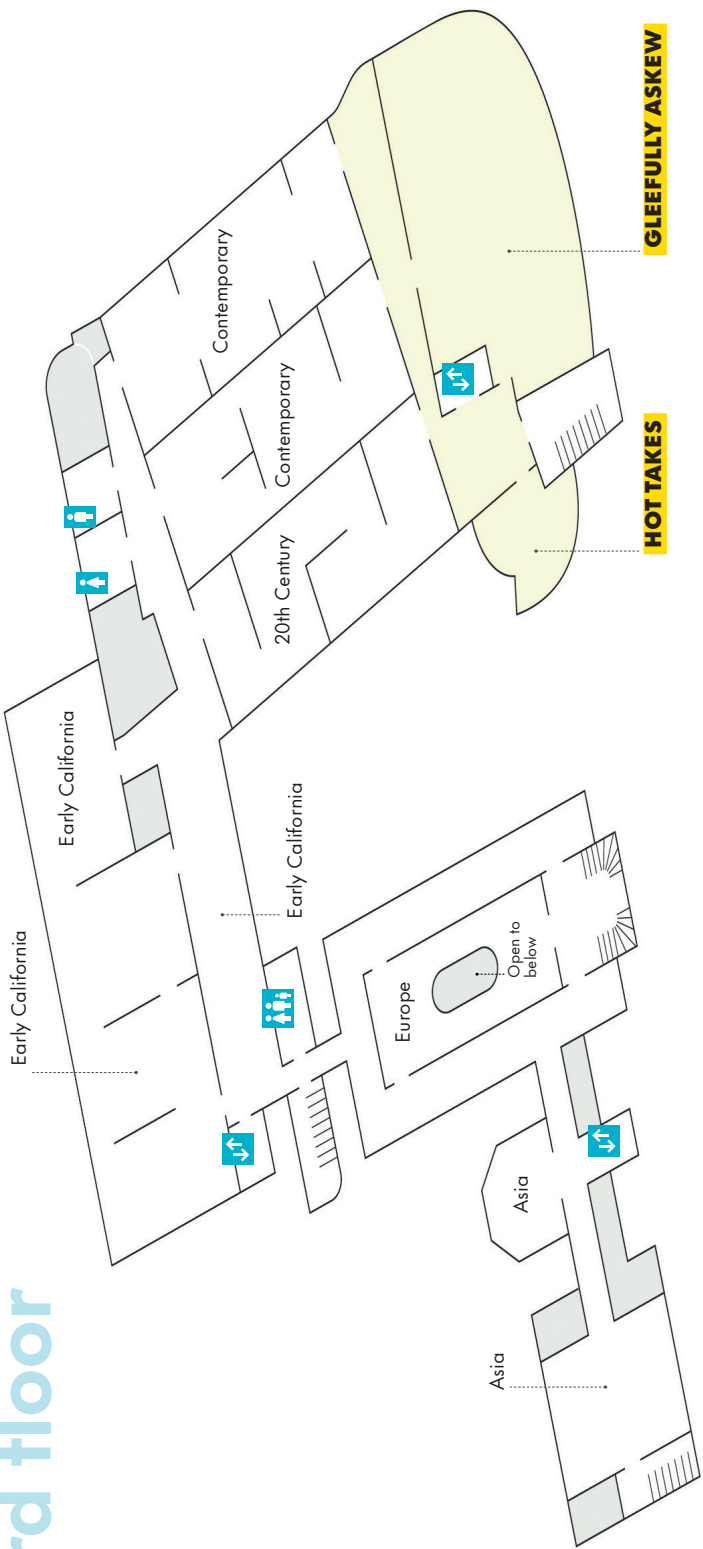
Ambermations
Art of Toys
American Association of
Editorial Cartoonists
Benjamin Barclay
Brandie Posey
Brandon McKinney
Bruce Simon
Capital Books
Central California Garrison
of the 501st Legion
Chris Wisnia
Christopher Schenck
Cody Vrosh
Coin-Op Books
Comics & Collectibles
D. Bethel Comics & Art
Danny J. Quick
Dave Feiss *
David Andry
Drawcademy
Fieldmouse Press
Hainanu Saulque
Heroic Girls
Impound Comics
Instinked Comics
Jack Ohman*
James Adomian *
Jared Konopitski
Jesse Baggs
Jim Sinclair *
Jon Williams
Jonathan Way\$hak

Lex Fajardo
Lionel's Place
Mark Badger
Martinez Bros Comics
Mary Shyne
Melissa Pagluica
Mike Hollingsworth
Mimi Pond
Mortern Comics
National Cartoonist Society
Pendleton Ward *
Perry Crowe
Peter & Maria Hoey
Prism Comics
Robert Love
Sac-Con & SacAnime
SacGeeks
Sacramento Ghostbusters
Sacramento History Museum
Sacramento Public Library
Sector7 Salon
Silver Lake Shorts
Soleigh Saulque
Terry Shoemaker
Thomas Campbell
Walt Disney Family Museum

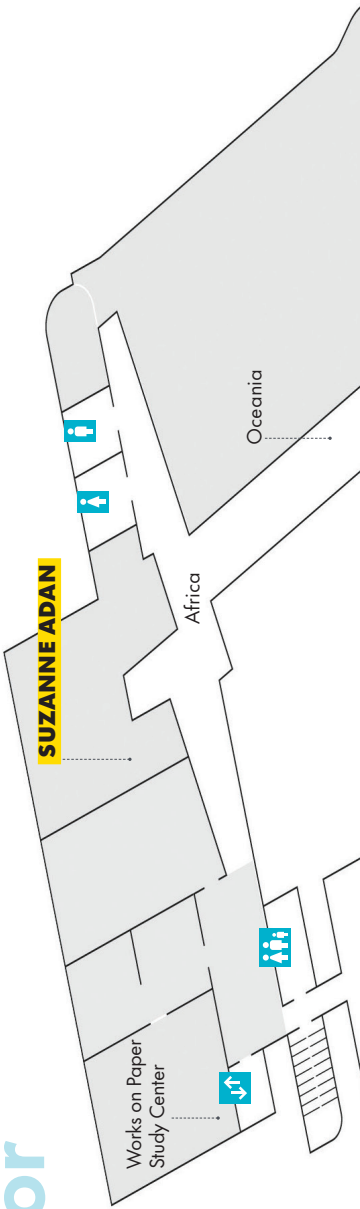
Bold = Guest of Honor

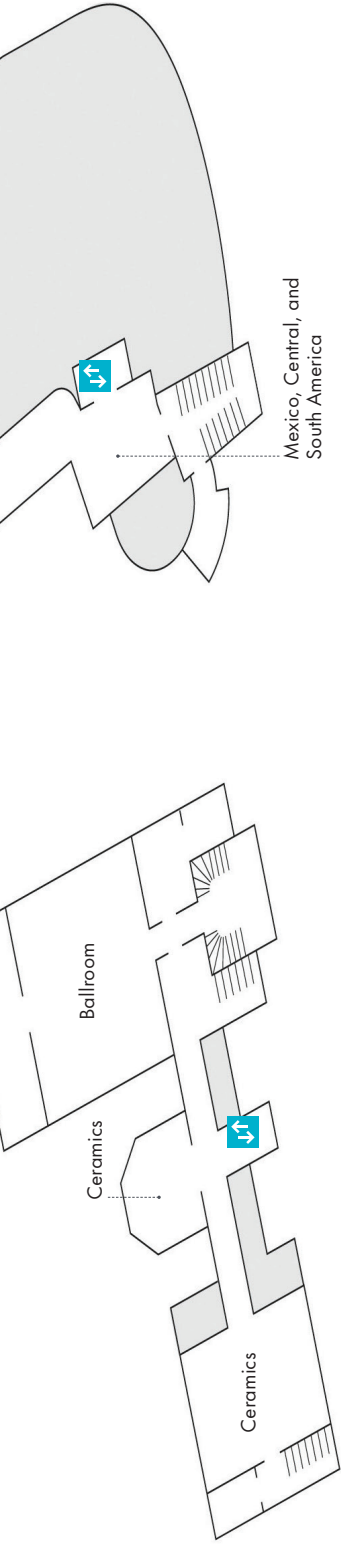
***** = Non-tabling Presenter or Panelist,
Check Schedule for Details

Third floor

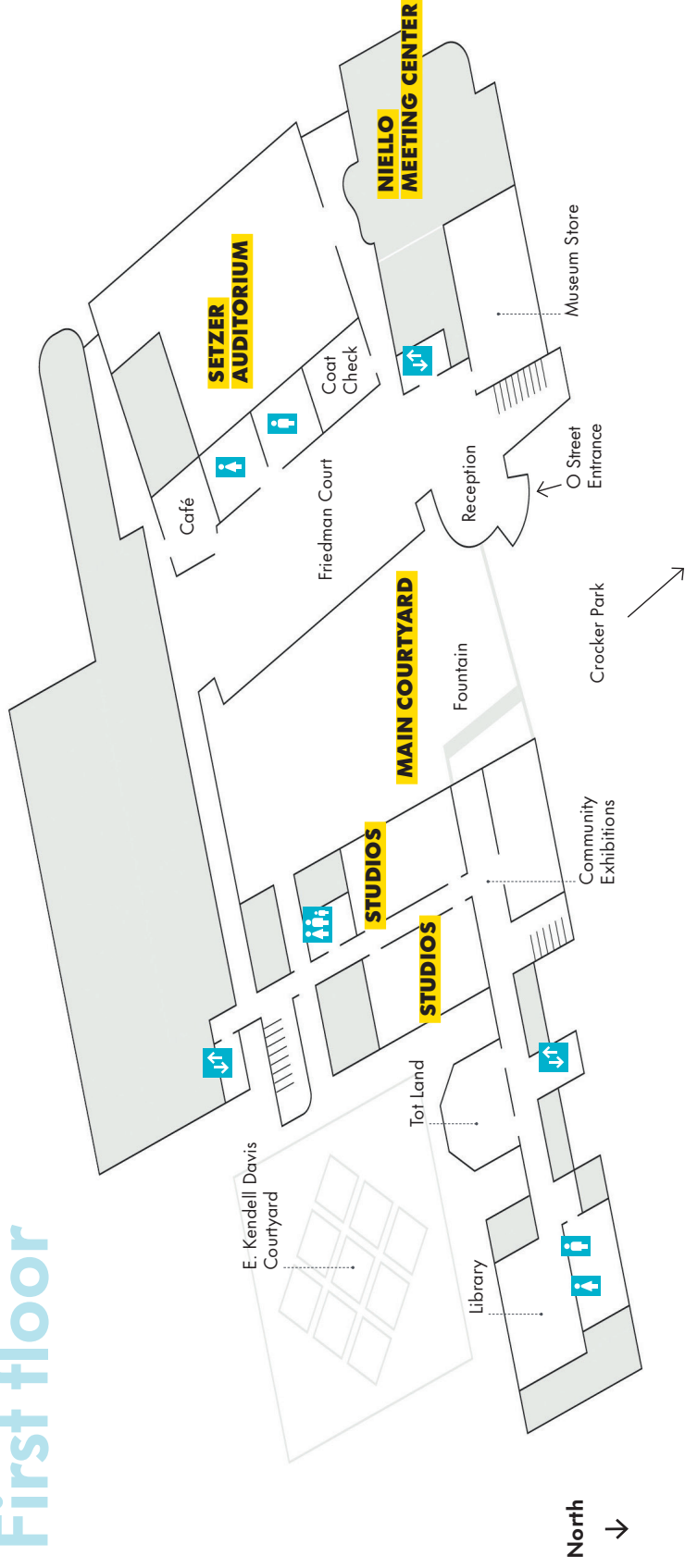


Second floor





First floor



Setzer Auditorium

12 PM • Cartoonist in Conversation: Association of American Editorial Cartoonists

In collaboration with the **Association of American Editorial Cartoonists**, this opening panel welcomes distinguished editorial cartoonists to discuss the future of political cartooning, and the important role editorial cartoonists and their commentary play in art, culture, and politics.

1 PM • Origin Story: The Life of Sam Kieth

This conversation reflects on the impact and life of **Sam Kieth**, a legendary comic artist and Sacramento native. The panel discussion features collaborators who knew Sam best, including animator **Dave Feiss** (*Cow and Chicken*, *Heavy Metal*, *Ren & Stimpy*) and **Jim Sinclair** (*The Maxx*).

2 PM • Cartoonist in Conversation: Mimi Pond

CrockerCon presents a conversation with writer and cartoonist **Mimi Pond**. She is the acclaimed creator of the graphic memoirs *Over Easy* and *The Customer Is Always Wrong*, and most recently the graphic biography *Do Admit! The Mitford Sisters and Me*, published by Drawn & Quarterly. Pond was also the first woman to write for *The Simpsons*, penning the landmark episode "Simpsons Roasting on an Open Fire." She has received an Eisner Award, an Inkpot Award, and the PEN Center USA Award for Outstanding Body of Work in Graphic Literature.

3 PM • Picture This! Live Animated Comedy hosted by Brandie Posey

Picture This!, the ONLY live animated comedy show, returns for another hilarious show to close out CrockerCon 2026! See stand-up comedians **James Adomian** (*Comedy Bang! Bang!*, *Rick & Morty*, *Venture Bros*, *Gravity Falls*), **Rick Wood** (*Ridiculousness*, *Lone Jogger*), and **Brandie Posey** (*Comedy Central*, *Vans Warped Tour*, *Lady to Lady Podcast*) have their jokes brought to life with live animation from **Pendleton Ward** (*Creator of Adventure Time & The Midnight Gospel*) and **Mike Hollingsworth** (*Director of Animation on Bojack Horseman, Tuca & Bertie*)!

*Parental Advisory: This program contains language and material parents may find unsuitable for children under 13 years of age.

Meeting Center

11 AM • Silver Lake Shorts: NorCal

The Los Angeles-based non-profit and animator incubator is now expanding to Northern California! This NorCal debut draws on their wildly popular monthly short film screening series. Join presenting artists for an hour of animated shorts and indulge in a hosted cereal bar to celebrate the NorCal animation community.

*Parental Advisory: This program contains language and material parents may find unsuitable for children under 13 years of age.

12:30 PM • Comics in Conversation

From ideation to publication, hear from a panel of CrockerCon exhibitors and special guests about their experiences making comic books professionally.

Panelists will explore their approach to comics and producing books through traditional publishers, webcomics, or crowdsourcing initiatives like Kickstarter.

Panelists include: **Danny J. Quick** (*Aceblade*) and **Dan Bethel** (*Long John*).

1:30 PM • Heroic Girls Presents

Lois Lane. April O'Neil. Jessica Jones. Friday Foster. Female journalists in comics are portrayed in a variety of ways, but how does that line up with real life?

Heroic Girls presents a panel discussion with regional female journalists to consider how these fictional characters inspired their work and a humorous look at how realistic journalism is portrayed within comics and media at large.

2:30 PM • Live Drawing with Jack Ohman

The Association of American Editorial Cartoonists presents 2026 Herblock Award winner and Pulitzer Prize-winning editorial cartoonist **Jack Ohman** for a live demonstration of his drawing techniques as he creates cartoons before your very eyes!

Ballroom

Ongoing • Sunday at the LEGO • Social LEGO Build from **Sacramento Brick Builders**

Ongoing • Video Game Demonstrations from **Sacramento Developers Collective**

Exhibitions



Suzanne Adan (American, born 1946), *Giddyup: In Memory of Nils Tahti*, 2006. Oil on canvas and wood, 77 x 66 1/8 in. Collection of Mark and Marjorie Friedman.

Suzanne Adan: I'm No Spring Chicken

THROUGH OCT 11, 2026

Suzanne Adan (born 1946) creates personal universes that combine fantasy, popular culture, and autobiography. 125 of these compelling works, in a variety of media, are included in *Suzanne Adan: I'm No Spring Chicken*, a retrospective assembled in her 80th year. A native Californian, Adan was born in Woodland and raised in nearby Yolo. She earned her BA and MA from Sacramento State College in 1969 and 1971, respectively. It was there that she met her husband, sculptor Michael Stevens, and became influenced by instructor Jim Nutt, a member of Chicago's Hairy Who.



Gladys Nilsson (American, born 1940), *Gleefully Askew*, 2019. Acrylic on canvas, 84 x 112 in. Private Collection, New York. Courtesy of AWG Art Advisory. Photo courtesy of the Artist, Garth Greenan Gallery, New York, and Parker Gallery, Los Angeles.

Gleefully Askew: A Gladys Nilsson Retrospective

THROUGH NOV 29, 2026

Born in Chicago in 1940, Gladys Nilsson is best known for her watercolors of long-limbed figures engaged in everyday micro-dramas. As a member of Chicago's Hairy Who in the 1960s, Nilsson made watercolors that earned her a reputation as the most "feminine" member of the group—a characterization that she has challenged and spoofed throughout her career. Nilsson's self-reflexive approach has guided her experimental practice, which also includes Plexiglas paintings, largescale diptychs, embroidery-hoop paintings, drawings, prints, and mixed-media collages.



Ginny Ruffner (American, 1952–2025), *What Happens When You Squeeze a Goldfish*, 2022. Glass and mixed media, 19 x 7 x 13 in. Crocker Art Museum, gift of Anna Barbour Francis, 2025.20.1.

Hot Takes: New Acquisitions in Glass

THROUGH FEB 14, 2027

Hot Takes presents approximately twenty works in glass that have recently entered the Crocker's expanding collection of craft and decorative art. The exhibition features spectacular examples by Art Nouveau artists and designers such as Louis Comfort Tiffany and Émile Gallé. These works are presented alongside expressive pieces by leading contemporary artists—including Dale Chihuly, Richard Marquis, Preston Singletary, Ginny Ruffner, and Hiroshi Yamano—who introduce new takes and unexpected perspectives on the medium.

Self-Guided Comics



Comics have a long history with more traditional art forms. Take our self-guided tour to find comics and cartoon-inspired artwork on view in the Museum. We suggest starting on the third floor in the exhibition *Gleefully Askew: A Gladys Nilsson Retrospective* and winding your way down to the first floor.

Start Here

Gleefully Askew by Gladys Nilsson

🖋️ 12:10 – 12:50 PM

Location: Third floor (*Gleefully Askew: A Gladys Nilsson Retrospective*)

Fun Fact/Look For: Gladys Nilsson's vivid watercolors, sketches, and illustrations draw influence from cartoon characters like Popeye's Olive Oyl to comics like *Little Lulu* and *Nancy*. Keep an eye out for *Little Lulu* comics and copies of Nilsson's comic-inspired drawings in the *Hairy Who* zines!

The Atom by Mel Ramos

🖋️ 1:10 – 1:50 PM

Location: Third floor (Modern and Contemporary Art)

Fun Fact/Look for: Hometown hero Mel Ramos was well known in the pop art movement of the 1960s that brought comics and pop figures into art exhibitions across the globe alongside Andy Warhol and Roy Lichtenstein.

Serving Plates by Toshio Aoki

Location: Third floor hall

Fun Fact/Look for: Japanese American artist, Toshio Aoki (1854–1912), worked as a cartoon illustrator for newspapers in San Francisco and Los Angeles in the early 1900s.

The Face of Fear Showing Sunshine Superman, M & D, or Have You Lost Your Zoo Keys?

by Suzanne Adan

Location: Second floor (Suzanne Adan: *I'm No Spring Chicken*)

Fun Fact/Look for: Seek out the Sunshine Superman but also note how Adan's work riff on puns with a style similar to single-panel humor strips found in the funny pages or *The New Yorker*.

Sunday Morning in the Mines

by Charles Nahl

🖋️ 2:10 – 2:50 PM

Location: Between third and second floors at the grand staircase, historic building

Fun Fact/Look for: This icon of the Museum's collection is being reimaged in LEGO today in the Historic Studios! Also check out Gladys Nilsson's *Loded* in the living room section of her exhibition, created in response to Nahl's painting.

Oni Queen Brooch & Package

by Zachary Lechtenberg

Location: Second floor, near the ballroom (enamels)

Fun Fact/Look for: In Japan, comics and animation are referred to as manga and anime. The "oni" is a term from Japanese folklore best compared to a troll, ogre, or demon.

Saints and Sinners by Diego Romero

🖋️ 3:10 – 3:50 PM

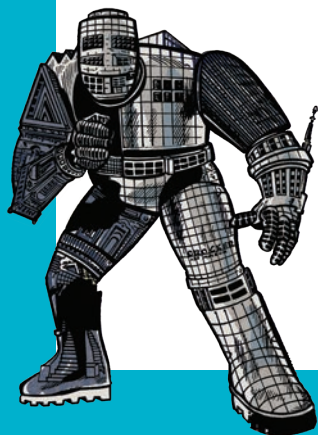
Location: Second floor, historic building (*Pueblo Pottery*)

Fun Fact/Look for: Heavily influenced by comic artists like Jack Kirby, Romero's work frequently blends the decorative traditions of Pueblo pottery with the visual narrative styles of comic books to challenge our understanding of American colonialism.

Stumped? Lost? Need more heroic fun facts? Meet us at one of the marked 🖋️ Sketch Stops during the designated times. Clipboards, paper, and pencil, will be provided. Please return your clipboard and supplies at the end of the session.

Get a free sketch!

Children 12 and under can receive a complimentary sketch from the participating illustrators who have CrockerTron displayed on their table.



**Look for
CrockerTron**