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## OAKLAND MUSEUM OF CALIFORNIA PRESENTS CONVERSATION WITH ACCLAIMED GRAPHIC NOVELISTS DANIEL CLOWES AND CHRIS WARE

*Special OMCA Panel Discussion on Friday, July 27,  
Brings Together Two Groundbreaking Comic Artists*

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(OAKLAND, CA) June 14, 2012—The **Oakland Museum of California** presents an engaging conversation with two of the world's most respected graphic novelists, **Daniel Clowes** and **Chris Ware**, on **Friday, July 27, from 7:00 to 8:30 pm** in OMCA's James Moore Theater. Tickets for the program are included with Museum admission. Seating for the event is limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis the day of the event.

Moderated by OMCA Senior Curator of Art **René de Guzman** and joined by **Susan Miller**, guest curator of ***Modern Cartoonist: The Art of Daniel Clowes***, the discussion will explore Clowes' and Ware's perspectives on the state of comics today, the relationship of comics to fine art, the power of hand-drawn images in the digital age, and their individual careers, among other topics.

*"By bringing Dan and Chris together, I can think of no clearer way to show the power of a single individual's vision to revolutionize visual culture and to express the depth and richness of the human experience," said de Guzman.*

The panel discussion is part of OMCA's public program series for the exhibition ***Modern Cartoonist: The Art of Daniel Clowes***, on view at OMCA **April 14 through August 12, 2012**. Organized by guest curator Susan Miller and OMCA Senior Curator of Art René de Guzman, the exhibition is the **first-ever survey** of Daniel Clowes' work.

### **PANEL PARTICIPANTS:**

Based in Oakland, **Daniel Clowes** is internationally acclaimed for award-winning comics, graphic novels, and screenplays. With nearly 50 publications in multiple reprints and editions in ten languages, Clowes is credited as the cartoonist most responsible for developing the graphic novel into a credible literary and fine art form. The film version of

*Ghost World* (2001), directed by Terry Zwigoff, earned Clowes an Academy Award nomination for the screenplay.

**Chris Ware** is one of today's most renowned comic book artists and cartoonists, combining experimental narrative, hand lettering, graphic design, and comic book illustration. His numerous awards include the National Cartoonists Society's Award for Best Comic Book, multiple Will Eisner Comic Industry Awards, and the 2001 Guardian First Book Award. Ware was the first comics artist ever invited to exhibit at the Whitney Museum of American Art's biennial exhibition. His work has been shown in solo exhibitions at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago and at the University of Nebraska's Sheldon Museum of Art.

**René de Guzman** is Senior Curator of Art at the Oakland Museum of California. Before coming to OMCA, de Guzman was one of the first staff at the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts in San Francisco, helping to establish the organization's artistic vision and audience. He currently serves on the faculty at the California College of the Arts in the Curatorial Studies Department.

**Susan Miller** is a curator, writer, and museum professional with a career focus on regional art and culture. From 1993 to 2005, she was the executive director of New Langton Arts, San Francisco. She is the associate director of University of California's Berkeley Center for New Media.

### **ABOUT THE OAKLAND MUSEUM OF CALIFORNIA**

The Oakland Museum of California (OMCA) brings together collections of art, history and natural science under one roof to tell the extraordinary stories of California and its people. OMCA's groundbreaking exhibits tell the many stories that comprise California with many voices, often drawing on first-person accounts by people who have shaped California's cultural heritage. Visitors are invited to actively participate in the Museum as they learn about the natural, artistic, and social forces that affect the state and investigate their own role in both its history and its future. With more than 1.8 million objects, OMCA is a leading cultural institution of the Bay Area and a resource for the research and understanding of California's dynamic cultural and environmental heritage.

### **VISITOR INFORMATION**

The Oakland Museum of California (OMCA) is at 1000 Oak Street, at 10th Street, in Oakland. OMCA is situated between downtown Oakland and Lake Merritt. Museum admission is \$12 general; \$9 seniors and students with valid ID, \$6 youth ages 9 to 17, and free for Members and children 8 and under. OMCA offers onsite underground parking and is conveniently located one block from the Lake Merritt BART station, on the corner of 10th Street and Oak Street. The accessibility ramp is located at the new 1000 Oak Street main entrance. For more information, visit [www.museumca.org](http://www.museumca.org).