



José Sanchez III from Culver City completes a painting in the Advanced class. He graduates from Ryman this year.

Photo: Rebecca Tynman

# SketchBook



## Ryman Arts and Belmont High School Artfully Hand-in-Hand

number 18  
Winter 2005



From left: Santos Ramos, Ryman student, José Villedas, Kathy Stazer (seated), Ambar Cruz, Gisela Maldonado, Ryman students.

Photo: Rebecca Tynman

With 5,200 students, Belmont High School in downtown Los Angeles is one of the most over-crowded schools in California. Over 50% of the student body is classified as English learners. Kathy Stazer has been teaching art there for 19 years. Despite the huge challenges, Stazer has nominated Belmont students to Ryman Arts every year since 1990—and has had more accepted

than any other school in southern California.

“[Belmont] can’t be everything for everybody,” says Stazer. “No matter how hard we try, Ryman has 15 students to a class, we have 45. We can’t provide the in-depth training required for a career in art. Ryman Arts begins where our program ends. It is a unique opportunity for gifted students who are extremely motivated and who can take a much more accelerated approach. I want to emphasize how very appreciative I am of what Ryman has done for my students.”

A close partnership has existed for years between Belmont and Ryman. Belmont students who have participated in Ryman have gone on to top ranked colleges that include Rhode Island School of Design, Macalester and Wesleyan. Three years ago, the consistent success of Belmont students

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Student artwork sold at An Affair of the Art.

Janet Kim / photo: Charlie Skinner

Read more inside...



"The arts strengthen the city by highlighting our diversity," notes Steven Lavine. From left: Steven Lavine, Charmaine Jefferson, Uri Herscher and Ruth Weisberg.



Event Chair Leah Sklar still glowing at the end of the evening, flanked by Letitia Ivins, Development and Operations Specialist, and participating artist Mariya Stepanyan (Ryman '92).



Participating artists Eric Robison and Frank Armitage celebrate their sales with Kris Goosman.

## Record Turnout and Sales Raise the Bar at 16th Annual Event

The October 1st *An Affair of the Art*, the most successful to date, was held again at the home and garden of Ryman board president, Marty Sklar, and his wife and event chair, Leah. Attendance topped 450, the largest number of guests ever, and more than \$90,000 was raised.

For Patron guests, the evening began with an insightful exchange on *Culture—The L.A. Way* by a panel of distinguished members of the Los Angeles arts community: Uri Herscher, President and CEO, Skirball Cultural Center;

**"...the role of the artist is crucial to how we civilize our world ... how we bring enlightenment to it. The role of the artist can never be compromised or silenced..."**  
**—Uri Herscher, President and CEO, Skirball Cultural Center**

Charmaine Jefferson, Executive Director, California African American Museum; Steven D. Lavine, President, CalArts, and panel moderator Ruth Weisberg, Dean, School of Fine Arts, USC. Ruth Weisberg shaped the discussion with questions that examined the arts in Los Angeles from different perspectives. Charmaine Jefferson stressed that people should participate in events beyond their own community. "[For instance],"

she said, "it was a great privilege to display [Ryman students'] work at CAAM. There were no questions about why these students' work was in the museum—the quality was there to see." In response to Weisberg asking, "What one thing would you tell young artists who feel the urgency of their talent?" Herscher said, "...know there will be people like Ryman or Skirball to help you." "Do it! Try over and over again," added Jefferson. With enthusiasm Lavine concluded, "...to the impulse to be an artist, say yes."

Over 350 works of art, many of which were donated by the artists, were offered, including pieces by 13 alumni and 10



*Departures* by Ruth Weisberg, Panel Moderator, sold at *An Affair of the Art*.

students. The evening's revenue was given a further boost by a new feature: guests could "buy" an art bin for a deserving art student. The pyramid of supply-filled art bins were graced with donors' names, lettered in calligraphy by Susan Zavala, a volunteer from Walt Disney Imagineering.\*

Maggie and Jim Elliott have designed and installed the art show each year. The Elliotts work tirelessly for the nearly two weeks it takes to mount the show. Details are endless: furniture is moved out, special lighting and moveable walls are installed, and each piece of art is carefully placed.

Asked why they do this each year, Maggie responds that, like her godfather Herb Ryman, "we believe very strongly in the importance of art for young people." "We're what you might call youth art activists," says Jim. An artist herself, Maggie says, "I get lots of inspiration by seeing the art itself and seeing what students are doing. We're inspired when it all comes together. We'll be back next year."

\* If you would like to contribute art bins, send your check for \$50 per bin, note "art bins" on the enclosed envelope, and your name will be added to a bin for students entering the program next semester.

# Ryman Arts Scene: Creating Links Around L.A.



Photo: Edward Stevens

Over 85 students were honored during Ryman graduation in June.



Photo: Edward Stevens

Ryman was privileged to hold its annual student art show at the California African American Museum, where over 4,000 guests viewed the exhibition.



Photo: Kristen Hodess

Ryman student artists were selected to participate in Ragan Academy's workshop series with architect Michael Rotundi (center).



Photo: Rebecca Tuymman

Students sketched from the Norton Simon Museum collection on a recent field trip prior to public hours.

## Letter from Diane

### Feeding a Passion for Art

Eva Revez arrived—via public transportation all the way from Claremont—with a platter of chocolate chip cookies just as the first of nine classes trickled out of the USC art studio for a break. When the students saw the snacks there was no holding back, and the cookies were gone in minutes. Kuyoko Sugino has brought her homebaked chocolate cake several times to repeated applause at snack time, while others have shared autumn fruit. There are no “starving artists” at Ryman Arts, particularly this fall, with volunteer and Ryman parent Loretta Ng in charge of coordinating the contributions of the many parents who bring refreshments for the students.

It all began when a few parents asked how they could get more involved and offered to do what they already were doing for their kids’ school and athletic activities: organize and bring snacks. Certainly our young artists have benefited from the new variety of refreshing foods, added to what the program provides each week, and it gives them an enticing reason to take a break during their intensive 3½ hour classes. (Yes, Ryman students are so engaged with their work that some might otherwise not leave the studio.) I see this as a sign of appreciation; when parents get personally involved, our bond with them is reinforced.

Parents are a critical link in their son’s or daughter’s artistic development. Many drive long distances to get their teenager to Ryman, contribute financially, or volunteer their help. They make space at home for still life set-ups and remind their teens to allocate time for drawing homework. By the large attendance at parent sessions and our art shows, it is clear that there is support for these young artists at home. But we are also mindful that many other students get to Ryman classes entirely on their own, and have no one at home to reinforce their dreams of becoming an artist or pursuing higher education. For them, the shared efforts of Ryman staff and volunteers are especially critical. We work together to feed their passion for art.

Taking stock of the year’s accomplishments, I am especially grateful for the contributions of so many parents, artists, teachers, alumni, funders and community volunteers who together are nurturing talented young artists who will enhance our lives in the future.

Your support of our very successful *An Affair of the Art* event and the numerous grants received this year have been a great boost. However, to sustain our ability to provide top-notch studio art instruction that changes lives, we need your year-end support. Please consider making a contribution now. The enclosed envelope makes it easy to do so, or you may contribute on-line at [www.rymanarts.org](http://www.rymanarts.org).

With thanks on behalf of our teen artists, and our best wishes for a peaceful and art-filled new year,

*Diane Brigham*

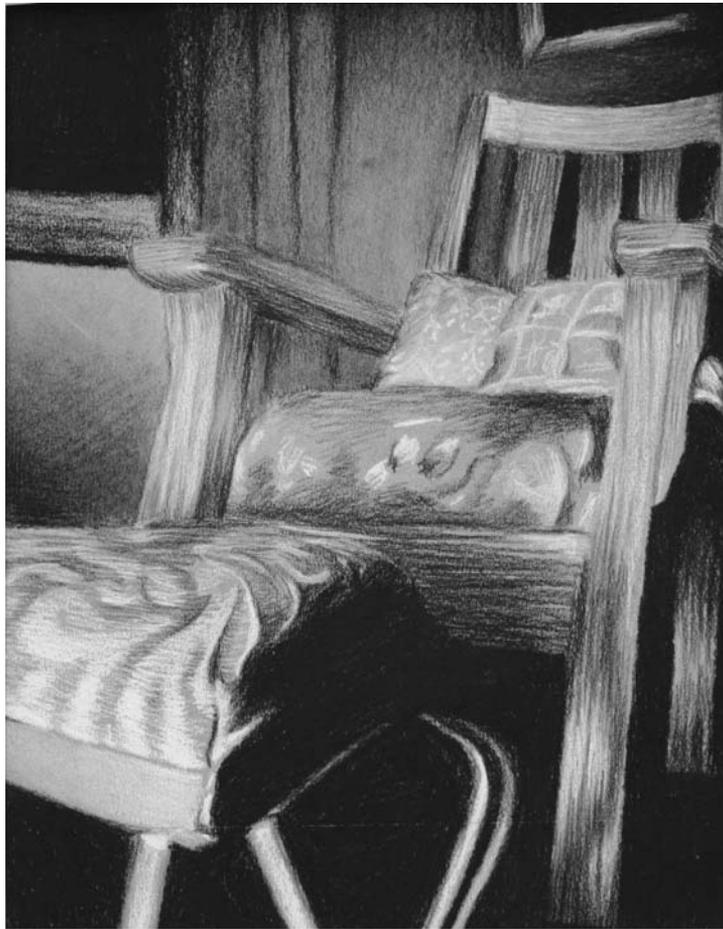
## Calendar of Events



Julian Callos



So-Young Park



Allison Hart



Marlene Freimanis

### Alumni Association Meeting

December 13, 2005  
6–8 p.m.

### Alumni Association New Year Party

Sunday, January 15, 2006,  
6–9 p.m.

### Spring Semester

Saturdays, February 4–  
May 6, 2006

### Fall 2006

### Application Deadline

June 9, 2006

Please contact the Ryman Arts office for more information about these events.

all student artwork photos: Charlie Skinner

**“One of the lessons I learned at Ryman was that art could affect positive change in people’s lives.**

**Ryman was a turning point in my life and a compelling reason that brought me into teaching.”**

**—José Villedas, Belmont High School Art Teacher, Ryman alumnus**

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accepted by Ryman gave rise to Ryman’s Expanding Opportunities for Talented Urban Youth program which focused on outreach to other under-served inner city schools. One Belmont-Ryman alumnus, José Villedas, has been teaching art at Belmont High for six years—and now nominates his best students to Ryman.

Villedas arrived in Los Angeles from El Salvador when he was 13 years old. He spoke no English. “It was a bit overwhelming,” he says, “just the size of the city.” Struggling with a new language, he would often entertain himself by doodling in class. “José was extremely bright, and I immediately saw his artistic talent,” notes Stazer.

“I was very happy that Ms. Stazer took an interest in me and really mentored me,” says Villedas. “Because of the school’s size, it’s difficult for teachers to give students personal attention, but she made the time to learn

about me as a person, and encouraged me to apply to Ryman.”

At Ryman he still wasn’t confident with English. “But the instructors were very supportive, and my language skills improved because we had to talk about our art and critique the art of students in class,” continues Villedas. “We were all there to learn, to do the work, and this created a level ground. Each of us was inspired to do better when someone came in with something great. I was always learning—from my teacher, the guest artists and the other students. I got excited about the work and looked forward to being there.”

“Our close relationship with Belmont High,” says Executive Director Diane Brigham, “has proven critical to understanding the value of Ryman Arts to other urban schools. My admiration goes to Kathy, José and teachers like them, who work tirelessly to expand the opportunities of under-served, talented youth.”

## Behind the Scenes

### Ryman Board Members Recognized

**Dan Adler** was one of three national figures honored this summer by the Israeli Policy Forum for professional achievement. Dan and his wife Jenna were recently presented with the Zimmer Children’s Museum’s Discovery Award for their contributions to the museum. The *UCLA Daily Bruin* welcomed **Marty Sklar** into its Hall of Fame in June. The City of Los Angeles recognized **Wing Chao** at its 2005 Asian Pacific American Heritage Month awards night. In September, Dean **Ruth Weisberg** celebrated the grand opening of the USC School of Fine Arts Graduate Fine Arts Building which houses the Masters of Fine Arts and Masters of Public Art Studies programs. Ruth recently received a major mural commission: *New Beginnings: One Hundred Years of Jewish Immigration* for the New York Jewish Federation. **Harrison “Buzz” Price** received an honorary doctor of arts degree from California Institute of the Arts at its Spring commencement.

Buzz and wife Anne (below) have been active board members at Ryman Arts since its inception.



Photo: Gary Krueger



*Abeyta Home* by Rebecca Tuynman, from *In Stranger’s Home* Series, 2004.

### Artist and Educator Rebecca Tuynman Joins Ryman Arts

*In September our new Education Specialist, Rebecca Tuynman, jumped right into her role to develop and implement recruitment strategies and educational activities for Ryman Arts. Rebecca’s creative collaboration with staff and faculty is crucial to the growth of our organization. Her strong background in program administration and art education, not to mention her sense of humor and positive attitude, have made her an outstanding addition to the staff.*

*In a recent conversation, Rebecca shared her enthusiasm for the arts, education and the way Ryman delivers the two.*

#### Describe your experience as an art educator.

My first art education gig was a summer internship at the Municipal Art Gallery (MAG) in Barnsdall Art Park in 1995. When I moved back to L.A. after graduating from Bryn Mawr College with a BA in Art History, I worked part-time at the MAG with my mentor Sarah Cannon. Not long after, I signed onto other L.A. projects. My real education as an art educator came from training sessions at MAG and MOCA.

#### What was your experience as an art student and what are your current pursuits as an artist?

I took the usual art classes in drawing and painting through 10th grade. [But] when I took photography with Mr. Prucker at Santa Monica High, I really found my medium. I took classes in other media, including a post-graduate semester at Art Center to get better foundation skills, but my heart is in



Photo: Charles Balthera

Rebecca enjoys a drawing lesson.

photography. I received my MFA in fine arts at UC Santa Barbara last May and continue to do my own projects.

#### Where did your passion for and commitment to art education originate?

Art has been a self-perpetuating pursuit. For each area that I try to understand and master, another becomes obvious, and I don’t see ever getting to a point where it stops being fulfilling. I want to understand art, and it seems to me that I get closer to it when my approach comes from all sides: as an artist, art educator, student and facilitator. While there are lines between those four roles, knowledge gained from each supports the other, and moving between them keeps me interested, committed, and passionate both personally and professionally.

#### What drew you to Ryman Arts?

Ryman has everything I was looking for in an arts organization. It provides extremely high quality education and I love that it is completely free to all who are accepted, and that it is so well run.

Welcome Rebecca, we’re thrilled to have you with us!

### New Teaching Artist Lauren Richardson



Photo: Gary Krueger

Welcome Lauren Richardson, painter and adjunct faculty at USC School of Fine Arts. She is teaching Beginning Drawing.

## A Vigilant Mind—An Up-and-Coming Artist

This year alone, Oscar Magallanes (Ryman '93) exhibited in over 15 venues, including Eagle Rock Center for the Arts, Self Help Graphics, and DA Center for the Arts. His first solo show, *A Vigilant Mind*, was held at Blue Chips Gallery in Highland Park this fall. Its success was quickly followed by the sale of all three of his pieces (within the first hour!) at this year's *An Affair of the Art*. What's the secret to this Alumni Charter Member's recent success? Speaking with us from his home, Oscar shared his feelings about Ryman and how he creates his art.



*A New Vigilant Mind* by Oscar Magallanes

### How has your work evolved since Ryman Arts?

It has changed so much that people do not recognize my earlier work. I have managed to develop a very distinctive style that has allowed me to blend my training in fine art, years of graphic design and strong sense of culture, history and social issues into what I feel are beautiful images.

### What is your artistic process?

I start with my subject matter. At this moment I am working with iconic images that are so commonplace that they have seeped into the subconscious realm of visual vocabulary. I have taken this one step further to give relevance to what I see going on in society. I paint images of "paleteros" and other street vendors. I bring them off the streets and put them in front of you, begging the question, "Did this person take your job?" I think we have bigger problems that need to be dealt with instead of trying to scapegoat the hardest workers in our society who also happen to be the poorest and least able to defend themselves. My technique is basic stenciling. I start with a sketch, then scan it, clean it up and set it up as a color separation. I then print the color separations onto sticker paper. Next, I hand cut the stencils and apply them to a piece of wood that has been cut down to the size of an old frame. The last step is painting: I use brush, airbrush and aerosol, which gives the look of having been silk screened.

### Why did you become an active alumni member?

It's my love of the program—for all it did for me. I was a hard kid; in all honesty, I didn't think I would make it to twenty. But Ryman was there for me during this transitional time and helped me get through by showing me that I was capable of a lot more than I ever thought possible.

### What is your vision for the Ryman Arts Alumni group?

I envision Ryman Arts as a strong family that trains a student to be an aspiring artist who becomes a successful artist who then mentors a new Ryman student. I also want to see casual meetings where we can talk shop and share current projects. I want to see mentorships develop. I think these are things we can all benefit from.

Oscar's next solo show opens in March 2006 at Division 9 Gallery in Riverside where up to 30 new works will be exhibited.



*Whalen's Moon* by Jarrett Camp

**Jarrett Camp (Ryman '98)** is a 2005 recipient of the Very Special Artists (VSA) Award of Excellence and honorarium. His intricate drawings are currently on display at the Smithsonian's S. Dillon Ripley Center in a national juried show of young artists with disabilities. Jarrett's work will travel with this exhibition on a two-year nationwide college campus tour.

## Charter Members Tour Creative Artists Agency —A Unique Setting for Innovative Artwork

You're treated to an Ed Ruscha on one wall, a John Baldessari on another and a Dan McCleary on yet another. Try as you may to "name that museum," you are in fact in the unique Beverly Hills offices of Creative Artists Agency (CAA). From just about any vantage point, employees have the luxury of an art-filled view. What a way to work! The world-famous talent agency's extraordinary collection of contemporary southern California art is testament to the company's well known philosophy about the importance of art, and in particular its ardent support of local emerging artists.

On July 12th, Charter Members of the fledgling Ryman Arts Alumni Association gathered at CAA for an exclusive tour of their offices, designed by acclaimed architect I.M. Pei. CAA executives Michael Rubel, Michelynn Woodard and Joanna Mulas welcomed the Ryman group. Joanna led the tour, sharing insights about the paintings, sculptures and installations displayed throughout the building.

The alumni Charter Members, 15 in all, were both intrigued and inspired by the artwork and its unique setting. They mingled, discussing their current pursuits with each other. The agency's commitment to nurturing young talent was evident in the warm manner in which their staff welcomed Ryman alumni. Joanna distributed her business card to each alumnus and invited them to send her images of their current work.

This private tour and dialogue was the perfect way to thank our first alumni Charter Members for their generous support of Ryman Arts. We look forward to more Charter-level memberships and anticipate another Charter Member event in the coming year that will be just as inspiring. Please contact the office if you have not yet received a membership form.

## Join the Alumni Association and VISTA!

### Who says artists don't have financial savvy?

Through a unique partnership with VISTA Federal Credit Union, Ryman Arts Alumni members are now eligible to join VISTA. Just one more incentive for alumni to support Ryman! Contact the Ryman Arts office for your information packet.



Santos Ramos, Belmont High School  
Read more inside...

*Teaching essential skills for art and life*

## Herbert D. Ryman: Artist and Mentor

“Among artists, illustrators, and architectural renderers there is a common denominator of the love of the well drawn human figure. The history of art is filled with those who left the priceless gifts of their embryonic ideas, the notes and sketches, the concepts of great visions and great renowned paintings. Their shorthand ideas are everywhere for us to study... The artist knows that in order to keep this talent, this sensitive observation alive and keen, he must keep his fingers working.”

—Herbert D. Ryman on the process of his craft from *A Brush with Disney: An Artist's Journey*

In keeping with Herb Ryman's artistic beliefs, Ryman Arts emphasizes that a strong work ethic is crucial to the art-making process. Students draw regularly from live models and present their drawn homework assignments in class each week; they also observe and draw the world around them on numerous study trips.

Ryman Arts honors artist Herbert D. Ryman (1910-1989), who championed traditional art training as the foundation for a successful career in the arts. *A Brush with Disney* celebrates Ryman's art and life in a full-color compilation that covers not only his 50-year career with Walt Disney and many film studios, but his own extraordinary artistic journey, including rarely seen artwork and photos. *A Brush with Disney* is available for purchase by calling 213-629-ARTS(2787); all proceeds support the Ryman Arts program.



Young Girl, Herbert D. Ryman, Ryman Arts Collection.



Photo: Rebecca Luyman