



This painting by 2008 graduate Danalene Yu will be available for sale at *An Affair of the Art* 2008.

# SketchBook



## Ryman Arts is Growing! What's Ahead?

Last year, once we saw how far we had come, with 50% growth in less than five years, we began to dream even bigger. After an intensive planning process involving Ryman Arts Board of Directors, faculty, staff, and outside advisors, we crafted a long range plan to guide our growth over the next few years. We focused on answering the question: How can we maximize our impact on the lives of young artists? The stories from alumni about the importance of Ryman Arts in their lives inspired us. And the gaps we saw in school-based art education, especially in underserved schools, made it clear that Ryman Arts has an important role to play in the preparation of artists regionally and beyond. Education Manager Rebecca Tynman also pointed out that we continue to receive increasing numbers of applicants, far exceeding our capacity each semester.

Ultimately, the Ryman Arts Board approved an ambitious plan to build a

national presence while expanding the program in California. Foremost among the five-year goals, Ryman Arts will:

- 1. Grow to optimum scale regionally to increase the number of students served exponentially, to 1,000 students per year by 2013.** This will include collaborating with additional instructional site partners to increase capacity, hosting a national summer residential pre-college art program for artistic youth that bridges fine art and industry, and creating substantive alumni programs.
- 2. Deepen the impact and maintain the high quality of the student experience at Ryman Arts.** This includes adding additional course content, adding more college planning activities, doing more assessment, and increasing professional development opportunities for faculty.

These goals will strengthen the program's vision of engaging teens in a positive, rigorous

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Student focused on use of shadow and ellipses.

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Terry Monteleone

environment that capitalizes on their strengths and celebrates a talent that often goes unrecognized at school and in their community. Whether or not Ryman Arts alumni pursue art professionally, these teens have gained the personal life skills to help them succeed in higher education and any career.

“Throughout the rigorous planning process, Ryman Arts staff and Board members were highly motivated by an expansive vision rooted in their extraordinary dedication to young artists and to the artistic and educational development of young people. I was impressed by the boldness of the Board members’ challenge to have a larger impact as well as the immediate actions taken to move the plan forward,” said Terry Monteleone, a non-profit leadership expert who facilitated the planning process with Ryman Arts.

As the first step toward making this expansion a reality we added a tenth class to the Saturday line-up. Support to add the class, for 15 Beginning students, came from the Los Angeles County Arts Commission Board of Supervisors and from the Peggy Van Pelt Memorial Fund. Peggy was a beloved Disney Imagineer, and after her untimely death in 2007, friends and family joined forces to raise the funds to underwrite this new class—something dear to Peggy’s heart. The Fund continues to attract donations to sustain the 10<sup>th</sup> class on an ongoing basis.

As far as deepening the student experience, the 2007–2008 program was indicative of a stronger emphasis on college and career opportunities that will continue in the upcoming year. Fifteen colleges joined us for College Day in October, and every student had several appointments with college representatives. In Spring, career awareness was the hot topic. Disney Feature Animation joined us for Career Day, and students were

later invited to behind-the-scene tours at the Disney Studio, Walt Disney Imagineering and the Getty Center.

Despite increasing to 10 classes this Spring, we received over 200 applications from new students for the 75 spaces, and still had to turn away many qualified teens. As word gets out about Ryman Arts, the demand seems to increase. We are already working on developing new partnerships to increase our capacity further.

Recently accepted student Dianna wrote in her application essay: “I don’t know exactly where I am headed or what the future holds. I do know what I am going to do to get there, though, and I hope so intensely that the Ryman Arts program will be a part of that journey.”

Our plan for steady, sustained growth is underway, and we, too, “hope so intensely” that with the generous support of our donors we can include more talented young artists like Dianna in our journey.



Saiful Haque

## The First Annual Ryman Arts Patron’s Circle Celebration



Ann and Buzz Price are all smiles after accepting their student drawing from Executive Director Diane Brigham

April 26, 2008 marked the first annual Ryman Arts Patron Circle celebration luncheon, where members were thanked for their support. The event was held on the USC Roski School of Fine Arts campus and was a great opportunity for Ryman Arts to thank some of its most generous donors. Anne and Buzz Price were presented with a student drawing of a moose that they had admired at a past exhibition in appreciation for their involvement as *Visionary* members of the Circle. Hosting the event on campus also gave Ryman Arts an opportunity to allow donors to see the “program in action.” The group toured each class led by Marty Sklar and Diane Brigham to experience firsthand what the Ryman Arts program is all about! We highly recommend seeing the “program in action” to enhance your knowledge of the Ryman Arts incubator of talent! To learn more about how to become a Patron

Circle member see page 7.

If you are interested in seeing the “program in action” or would like to attend our scheduled *Ryman on View*, please contact Camille Madrid Simon at the Ryman Arts office 213.629.2787 or [csimon@ryman.org](mailto:csimon@ryman.org).

# The Herbert D. Ryman Legacy Society

The Herbert D. Ryman Legacy Society was recently created to recognize those generous benefactors who have indicated their intention to include Ryman Arts in their estate plans, and allow us to show our appreciation for their generosity during their lifetimes.

Dennis Ritchey is one of our newest members of the Herbert D. Ryman Legacy Society. Already a generous supporter, Mr. Ritchey started out by sponsoring a \$50 Art Bin for one student a year ago, and now contributes an Art Bin for a student every month. Mr. Ritchey recently made arrangements to include Ryman Arts in his estate plans as yet another way he has chosen to support Ryman Arts. Mr. Ritchey reflects, "Part of the reward of supporting Ryman Arts is seeing young peoples' lives changed. Through this remarkable program young artists are given the tools, skills, techniques and confidence to realize the talent that lies within them and how they can share it with the world. Ryman Arts truly makes a difference and I am excited to play a small part in this process." Dennis joins other Legacy Society members who are shaping their own legacies while ensuring the success of a new generation.

Planned Giving is a far-reaching tool you can use to support Ryman Arts in a variety of ways that will benefit the students we serve today and in the future. With thoughtful estate and retirement planning, friends of Ryman Arts can minimize estate and income taxes, while making a charitable gift to Ryman Arts. All gifts are tax deductible to the extent allowable and many offer substantial tax savings. We encourage you to speak with your attorney or financial advisor about your options.

We would be happy to work with you and your financial advisor to explore the mutual benefits of a bequest or other type of planned gift. Please contact Diane Brigham at the Ryman Arts office 213.629.2787 for more information. All inquiries are held in confidence.



Christine Cucchiaro

Letter from Diane

## Thanks to You, We Grow!

As you can tell by the stories in this newsletter, there has been a great deal of growth at Ryman Arts over the past year. With the adoption of a five year strategic plan, the Board and staff have embraced the challenge of increasing our capacity so that we can reach more talented young artists. While adding a 10<sup>th</sup> class has been most important, we have grown in additional ways to reinforce our mission.

I am delighted to introduce new staff including Operations Manager Walter Marsh, Development and Communications Director Camille Madrid Simon, and Administrative Coordinator Emily Han. Joining our faculty are Diane Hayden, Cathy Stone, and Malaika Zweig, terrific artists and inspiring teachers. Meanwhile, we send our very best wishes on behalf of alumni and staff to instructor Barbara Thomason who is no longer teaching at Ryman Arts. Barbara was the original master teaching artist when the program began in 1990 and has left an indelible imprint on countless young artists for which we are very grateful.

With an enthusiastic leadership team led by Board member Oscar Magallanes, the Ryman Arts Alumni Association has kicked into high gear this year with fun activities and a real commitment to helping the next generation of young artists. Parent involvement has also grown, with Ryman parent Gabrielle Delaney taking on the role of Parent Support Chairperson, spearheading a recent appeal to families of students. It is gratifying that so many parents and alumni are eager to "give back" and support the program. Thank you all!

And finally, we could not be prouder of the talented graduates we celebrated in June at the Ryman Arts graduation and exhibition reception at the California African American Museum. Many are off to college in the fall, and all have grown as individuals as well as artists because of the involvement of visionary Board members, caring staff and faculty, parents, alumni—and people like you.

Please join us in extending a helping hand to the new group of teens enrolled this Fall. An envelope for your contribution is attached for your convenience, or look online at [www.rymanarts.org](http://www.rymanarts.org) for additional ways to support Ryman arts—and the next generation of young artists.

*Diane Brigham*

## Calendar of Events

### Fall Semester

Saturdays, September 6–November 22

### College Day

Saturday, October 18

For current students and alumni

### Ryman on View

Saturday, October 25 10:00 a.m.

Join us for a tour of Ryman Arts classes followed by bagels and coffee and informal conversation with staff, alumni and students to learn firsthand about the program.

### Spring 2009 Application Deadline

Friday, December 5

Please contact the Ryman Arts office for more information about these events: 213.629.2787 or visit our website at [www.rymanarts.org](http://www.rymanarts.org).



### Saturday, October 4, 2008

Patron Event 5:00 p.m.–7:30 p.m.

#### The Art of Politics—The Politics of Art

A panel of passionate artists examines how their politics affects their art and whether their art affects our politics.

Martin Kaplan, Moderator

Founding Director of the Norman Lear Center at the USC Annenberg School of Communication

#### Art Show and Sale 7:30 p.m.–10:00 p.m.

For a preview of selected artwork available for sale at An Affair of the Art 2008, please look online at [www.rymanarts.org](http://www.rymanarts.org)

## 2008 Graduation and Exhibition

Once again Ryman Arts was privileged to have the California African American Museum host our graduation ceremony, reception and student art exhibition that was on display from June 10 through July 20. There were over four hundred family and friends of Ryman Arts in attendance at the graduation. There were 162 students who had pieces featured in the exhibition and now displayed on the Ryman Arts website.

The highlight of the evening was when Ryman Arts award winners were announced. Penelope Jones, Assistant Dean at the USC Roski School of Fine Arts, was honored with the Herbert D. Ryman Mentor Award in appreciation for all of her dedication to the program as our liaison with USC.



Claudio Andrade, featured in the student exhibition



Wenting Hsu (Ryman '98) organized the exhibition and designed this graphic representing the hometowns and distances from which students come to Ryman Arts. Ryman Arts is the common thread that brings these young talented teens together.



Liana Sposto



This year we are proud to call Lauren Richardson our Sharon Disney Lund Master Teaching Artist, shown accepting the award from Board member Wayne Hunt.



The Lucille Ryman Carroll College Scholarship is awarded each year to one graduating student who exemplifies the values of the program in memory of Herbert Ryman's sister, Lucille Ryman Carroll. We were proud to award Megan Broughton with the scholarship, shown with Vice President Chuck Fry.



Anna Helm

[www.rymanarts.org](http://www.rymanarts.org)

Have you seen [www.rymanarts.org](http://www.rymanarts.org) yet? Our newly revamped website is an amazing way to get to know all about Ryman Arts as well as stay up to date with all our events and great news! Check out the latest student artwork gallery featuring work made by students during 2007–08. You can also purchase our full-color book on Herbert D. Ryman, *A Brush with Disney*, make donations and learn more about the legacy of Herbert D. Ryman. We encourage you to visit the site and see how we've grown!



## Behind the Scenes

*“When I saw the tremendous impact Ryman has on the students and parents of the program, I knew it was something I wanted to be a part of.”*

Johnny Lai

## New Board Members Join Ryman Arts

Ryman Arts welcomes Joe DiNunzio, Johnny Lai and Edward J. Nowak who were recently elected to the Board of Directors.



Mr. Nowak is Senior Vice President and Deputy General Counsel for the Walt Disney Company. He has been a frequent guest with his wife Sara at *An Affair of the Art* over the years, and a strong supporter of the program. He is also Chairman Emeritus and Board Member of the

Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra.



Mr. DiNunzio is President of Fido Management LLC a consultancy that provides strategic counsel, creative concept and business development to clients that include Sony, Disney, Vulcan, The Gap, Westfield and Ghirardelli.

He is also CEO of Fido Entertainment Corporation a retail start-up focused on parent/child play interaction. Joe remarked that “It is a great privilege to join Marty Sklar and the Ryman Arts board to help expand on its mission to identify, train, and inspire the next generation of emerging artists in Southern California.”



Mr. Lai is a Senior Equity Analyst and Co-Portfolio Manager for Bel Air Investment Advisors. He first started with Ryman Arts as a Riordan Volunteer Leadership Development Program Board intern in 2005 which gave him firsthand insight into our organization and Board

governance. Mr. Lai is also a Board Member and Vice Chair of the Los Angeles Junior Chamber of Commerce. Lai says, “I always knew Ryman was driven by a great group of passionate and talented individuals. When I saw the tremendous impact Ryman has on the students and parents of the program, I knew it was something I wanted to be a part of.”

We would like to extend our deep gratitude to Wing T. Chao who recently retired from the board of directors after six years of service. However, we still expect to see Wing exuberantly buying art at the next *An Affair of the Art*!

Our future young artists benefit enormously from the support and expertise of all our Board members, past and present.

## Ryman Alumni

## The Ryman Alumni Association Ramps Up!

In May, Ryman Arts hosted its first ever “Catch A Rising Art Star” Art Sale. This one-day-only event, hosted at Gale’s Restaurant in Pasadena featured paintings, drawings and photography by 29 Ryman Arts alumni who generously donated their artwork for this event. The proceeds from ticket and art sales will provide art supplies for sixty new students this fall. The “Catch a Rising Art Star” Art Sale was organized by **Melody Verdugo (Ryman ’03)**, with help from **Mariya Stepanyan (Ryman ’91)**, **Oscar Magallanes (Ryman ’93)**, **Carlos Nieto (Ryman ’91)**, and **Dalton Nunez (Ryman ’95)**.

This year’s Charter Event was held at BRC Imagination Arts Studios in Burbank on January 23, 2008. Attendees met with BRC Founder and CEO, Bob Rogers and his creative team of artists and designers. Attendees were also given an exclusive behind the scenes tour of their creative departments and engaged in an informal Q&A about careers, art and the creation of theme parks, museums, world fairs and visitor attractions. This event was free to all Alumni Charter members as a benefit of their membership in the Alumni Association.

Please visit [www.rymanarts.org/alumni](http://www.rymanarts.org/alumni) for more up-to-the-minute alumni news!



RAAA members at the charter BRC event



Rita Ruminiski just purchased Dalton Nunez’s (Ryman ’95) painting, featured on the “Catch a Rising Star” invitation.



Natalya Subbotina

*Teaching essential skills for art and life*

## Herbert D. Ryman: Artist and Mentor

### Herbert D. Ryman and Harry Johnson: A Mentor's Mentor

Who was Harry Johnson? With a recent gift of 285 of his drawings, staff at Ryman Arts are examining the work of motion picture art director Harry Johnson whose work Herbert Ryman clearly admired and studied. Recently, Ryman Arts supporters Joe and Cora Lanzisero, who knew of Ryman's friendship with Johnson, donated newly discovered Johnson working sketches to our collection. These works, primarily concepts and layouts for films, join our existing group of over 1,000 Johnson drawings from Herb's personal collection. Most likely, Herb Ryman met Harry Johnson while both worked at MGM under noted art director Cedric Gibbons in the 1930s. During this period, Ryman worked on such films as *David Copperfield*, *A Night at the Opera*, and *Tarzan and*

*His Mate*. Apparently, Johnson continued at MGM under Gibbons into the 1940s and beyond as our drawings by Johnson include concepts for films *Saturday's Hero* (with John Derek and Donna Reed), *Marie Antoinette*, and *Gaslight*. If you know more about Harry Johnson, let us know, so we can fill in the gaps. Several selected Herbert D. Ryman and Harry Johnson pieces will be among the works available for sale at the upcoming *An Affair of the Art* fundraiser on October 4. See inside for details.



Harry Johnson