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**Cartoon Crossroads Columbus (CXC) is set for Oct. 1-3, Columbus, Ohio, First Round of Special Guests Announced**

June 3, 2015 – The first annual Cartoon Crossroads Columbus, or CXC, a celebration of the cartoon arts and their creators will be held Oct. 1-3, 2015. CXC is modeled on events like the Sundance or Tribeca film festivals, or the metropolitan comics events in Europe that offer a breadth of exhibits, artist talks, workshops, film screenings, performances, signings and more.

**Featured guests include:** **Kate Beaton\*** (*Hark! A Vagrant, The Princess and the Pony*), animation historian **Jerry Beck\*\***, **Bill Griffith** (*Zippy the Pinhead*), **Francoise Mouly \*\*\*** (*RAW, The New Yorker, TOON BOOKS*), **Jeff Smith** (*Bone*), **Art Spiegelman \*\*\*** (*MAUS*), and **Craig Thompson** (*Blankets, Space Dumplings*) More special guests will be announced in the coming weeks.

“What makes this show unique is Columbus itself,” said Jeff Smith, CXC’s President & Artistic Director, “We have unprecedented levels of institutional support for cartooning and comics here, from the museums and schools to the Thurber House with its annual Graphic Novelist in Residence which recognizes outstanding new talent. This festival brings the whole city into the celebration.”

Organizers Smith, Lucy Caswell, Vijaya Iyer, and Executive Director Tom Spurgeon have teamed with the city’s great arts institutions to plan the event:

Billy Ireland Cartoon Library & Museum  
Columbus Metropolitan Library  
Columbus College of Art & Design  
Columbus Museum of Art  
Cultural Arts Center  
King Arts Complex  
Laughing Ogre  
Ohio History Connection  
Popular Culture Studies, The Ohio State University  
Short North Alliance  
Thurber House  
Wexner Center for the Arts

This year’s CXC will kick off on Thursday and Friday at the Wexner Center for the Arts and the Billy Ireland Cartoon Library & Museum on The Ohio State University campus. On Saturday, events will move downtown. The Cultural Arts Center will host a lively comics convention where many of the most talented makers of independent comics will be on hand to sell and sign their books. CXC will conclude on Saturday evening at Columbus College of Art & Design with an event organized by CCAD in collaboration with CXC: Jeff Smith in conversation with Art Spiegelman and Francoise Mouly regarding the watershed comics anthology *RAW*.

CXC's mission is to celebrate the diversity of the cartoon arts including animation, editorial cartoons, comic strips, comic books and graphic novels, and to highlight the city of Columbus and its comics community to the world, working to secure the brightest possible future for the next generation of comics-makers.

Registration for exhibitors is now open and can be found at [cartooncrossroadscolumbus.com](http://cartooncrossroadscolumbus.com).

For more information, please visit the website or e-mail [cxcfestival@mail.com](mailto:cxcfestival@mail.com)

\*Friday, Oct 2<sup>nd</sup> only

\*\*Sponsored by the Wexner Center for the Arts

\*\*\*Sponsored by Columbus College of Art & Design

(image by Dustin Harbin)