



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Theo Ellsworth: Thought Clouds - Narrative Works On Paper

February 20 – June 26, 2015

Art Guide Training: February 27, 3 PM

Artist Book Signing: March 7, 1-3 PM

Teen Artist Workshop: March 18, 4-6 PM

Artist Reception: April 3, 5-8 PM

Artist Gallery Talk: April 3, 7 PM

Missoula, MT / December 17, 2014 / Missoula Art Museum (MAM) / Theo Ellsworth is a self-taught artist, comics creator, and elaborate storyteller. He is a painter, sculptor, mixed-media artist, as well as an illustrator. MAM is thrilled to share a cross-section of more than 50 original illustrations to celebrate his first solo museum exhibition. The selected works will be representing a cross-section of his publications.

The intensity of the illustrations and storytelling is marked by a sensitive layering of color, finished with a graphic line. His approach relates to the language of the comic book. The stories are upbeat and touching, reflecting a tale of ultimate safety in the face of what some might interpret as dangerous situations, as in his *The Understanding Monster*.

His work reaches out and touches people of all ages through engaging illustrations and surreal storytelling. Ellsworth's web presence is entitled *Thought Cloud Factory*, which is an appropriate title for his imaginary approach. His work has been featured in *Juxtapoz* magazine, *S!* (the Baltic Comics Magazine), *Trip Magazine* (Quebec), *The Treasury of Mini Comics*, Vol. 2 (Fantagraphics, Seattle) and *Cicada Magazine* (Chicago).

Ellsworth was raised in Missoula and maintains a studio here. His first book, *Capacity*, was published in 2008 by Secret Acres. It is made of material from his mini-comics produced from 2005 to 2007, plus 100 pages of additional material created specifically for this publication in order to tie the stories together. *Sleeper Car* is a 32-page comic that came out in 2009. His story, *Norman Eight's Right Arm*, from *Sleeper Car* was chosen for *The Best American Comics* anthology in 2010.

Book One of his *The Understanding Monster* came out in 2012 and won the 2013 Lynd Ward Graphic Novel Honor Prize given by Penn State University and selected for *Best American Comics 2014*. A review from The New York Times referred to *The Understanding Monster* as "Imagination turned up to fire hose intensity." Most recently, Ellsworth was one of 10 Montana artists to receive the 2013 Montana Arts Council Artist's Innovation Award. This award is made possible by funding from the National Endowment for the Arts.

Contact: For more information, please contact the Missoula Art Museum at 406.728.0447, visit the MAM website at www.missoulaartmuseum.org or contact Stephen Glueckert, Senior Exhibitions Curator, stevegl@missoulaartmuseum.org, 406.728.0447 x226.

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About MAM: FREE EXPRESSION / FREE ADMISSION. The Missoula Art Museum strives to engage artists and audience in the creative exploration of contemporary art relevant to our community, state and region. Founded in 1975 and accredited by the American Association of Museums since 1987, MAM showcases diverse and thought-provoking contemporary artwork from local and international artists. Gallery Hours: Tuesday- Saturday, 10 AM - 5 PM. Office hours: Mon-Fri, 9AM-5PM.