



THE OREGON  
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## NEWS RELEASE

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### Oregon Comic Artists Profiled in New Oregon Historical Society Exhibition; Opens Friday, August 12

**Portland, OR – August 9, 2016** – With recent blockbuster smashes featuring superhero legends, the comic book industry has experienced a surge of popular support. While there are many Oregonians picking up a comic book for their first time, the comic industry in Oregon has a long and influential history. Opening August 12 at the Oregon Historical Society, [Comic City, USA](#) celebrates this history and profiles fifteen of the most iconic artists that have made the industry into the global powerhouse it is today.

#### **MEDIA PREVIEW:**

Preview tours with OHS Executive Director Kerry Tymchuk are available all week by appointment. Text 971.409.3761 or email [rachel.randles@ohs.org](mailto:rachel.randles@ohs.org) to schedule a tour.

#### **PRESS KIT:**

Downloadable press kit, including artist headshots and select artwork, available via <http://bit.ly/2aD0vtt>

“Oregon has a thriving comic industry, and while many Oregonians are familiar with names like Jack Ohman and Dark Horse Comics, fewer know about the artists and writers who laid the path back in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries,” said OHS Executive Director Kerry Tymchuk. “*Comic City, USA* will give visitors a chance to meet these creative giants through an immersive exhibit experience that is sure to delight the kid in all of us.”

All are invited to a [public celebration on Sunday, August 14](#) from 12pm – 5pm at the Oregon Historical Society. Admission to the exhibit is free, and costumed representatives from the Portland Superheroes Coalition will be on site for photo ops. [Artists Anina Bennett & Paul Guinan will also be presenting a free public lecture](#) at 2pm on the evolution of the comic industry from “geek to chic.”

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With over \$579 million in national comic sales in 2015, the popularity of what is known as “The Ninth Art” is only expanding and gaining more recognition. The power of the comic industry in Oregon is undeniable, evidenced in the range of mediums at play and the growing popularity of Rose City Comic Con, which celebrates its fifth anniversary next month.

*Comic City, USA* highlights fifteen Oregon comic artists, writers, and cartoonists:

- [Carl Barks](#)
- [John Callahan](#)
- [Homer Davenport](#)
- [Cat Farris](#)
- [Jack Ohman](#)
- [Mike Richardson](#)
- [Alex Schomburg](#)
- [Anina Bennett and Paul Guinan](#)
- [Colleen Coover](#)
- [Jan Eliot](#)
- [Dylan Meconis](#)
- [Bill Plympton](#)
- [Joe Sacco](#)
- [Basil Wolverton](#)

In addition to displays on each artist, the exhibition will offer interactive experiences, from a comic book store style living room for flipping through comics, a station where people can design and print their own comic book, and a photo booth complete with superhero inspired props.

This exhibition is designed to share an important part of Oregon history, inspire people who wish to communicate through an artistic medium, and fascinate those who already have an appreciation of this continuously evolving art form. As editorial cartoonist Jack Ohman admitted in an interview, “I really feel like I am doing the work of my career, and I enjoy each day. I started winning awards when I stopped thinking about winning awards. I started liking my work when I listened to my own voice, and not feeling so constrained by the old model. When you like your work, others will probably like it too.”

The Oregon Historical Society’s museum (1200 SW Park Avenue, Portland) is open seven days a week, Monday – Saturday from 10am – 5pm and Sunday from 12pm – 5pm. Admission is \$11, and discounts are available for students, seniors, and youth. Admission is free for OHS members and Multnomah County residents thanks to the recent renewal of the Oregon Historical Society levy.

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## **About the Oregon Historical Society**

For more than a century, the Oregon Historical Society has served as the state's collective memory, preserving a vast collection of artifacts, photographs, maps, manuscript materials, books, films, and oral histories. Our research library, museum, digital platforms & website ([www.ohs.org](http://www.ohs.org)), educational programming, and historical journal make Oregon's history open and accessible to all. We exist because history is powerful, and because a history as deep and rich as Oregon's cannot be contained within a single story or point of view.