

CONTACT: Kelly A. Koski
510-318-8453 or
communications@museumca.org

OAKLAND MUSEUM OF CALIFORNIA TO PRESENT FIRST-EVER SURVEY OF GRAPHIC NOVELIST DANIEL CLOWES

OMCA Premières Exhibition Featuring Academy Award- Nominated Oakland-based Comic Artist Daniel Clowes

This release is available online at: www.museumca.org/pressroom

(OAKLAND, CA) April 9, 2012—The Oakland Museum of California (OMCA) premières the **first-ever survey** of internationally celebrated comic artist Daniel Clowes. *Modern Cartoonist: The Art of Daniel Clowes*, on view **April 14 through August 12, 2012**, features the Academy Award-nominated graphic storyteller's full body of work including **100 works** that range from **1989 to 2011**. All of the works featured in the exhibition are original, and all but two were made to be published rather than seen as a original artwork.

Based in Oakland, California, Clowes is celebrated for his award-winning comics, graphic novels, screenplays, and films. To date, he has published nearly 50 comic books and collections—most in multiple prints, and with editions translated into ten languages. Equally deft as a draughtsman and a writer, Clowes's work often features character-driven narratives, dark and witty realism, and a reach into the knowledge of comic history. Throughout his 25-year career, the alternative cartoonist/screenwriter has always been ahead of artistic and cultural movements.

In the late 1980s his groundbreaking comic book series *Eightball* defined indie culture with wit, venom, and even a little sympathy. With each successive graphic novel (*Ghost World*, *David Boring*, *Ice Haven*, *Wilson*, *Mister Wonderful*), Clowes has been praised for his emotionally compelling narratives that reimagine the ways that stories can be told in comics.

He gained wide acclaim in 2001 with the release of *Ghost World*—the **Terry Zwigoff** directed Academy Award-nominated film based on Clowes's script and story. Today, an adaptation of Clowes's graphic novel *Wilson* is currently in development at Fox Searchlight with Oscar award-winning director **Alexander Payne** (*The Descendants*)

leading the project. The movie will be filmed in Oakland.

“Daniel Clowes is an artist who bridges the boundaries of high and low culture,” says Senior Curator of Art René de Guzman. “It’s only fitting for OMCA as the museum dedicated to the culture of California, to present this exhibition that showcases the Oakland-based artist’s significant contributions to the popular media of comics, film, and the visual arts.”

Modern Cartoonist: The Art of Daniel Clowes is organized by guest curator Susan Miller and OMCA Senior Curator of Art René de Guzman.

The exhibition is accompanied by the catalogue *Modern Cartoonist: The Art of Daniel Clowes*, edited by Alvin Buenaventura. The catalog, published by Abrams Books, includes all of Clowes’s best-known illustrations and features essays by noted contributors such as designer Chip Kidd and cartoonist Chris Ware.

The exhibition will continue on a national tour to the **Museum of Contemporary Art**, Chicago (June – October 2013), Chicago, Illinois; the **Corcoran Gallery of Art**, Washington, DC (November 2013 – January 2014); and the **Wexner Center for the Arts**, Columbus, Ohio (February – April 2014).

RELATED PROGRAMS

OMCA Curators’ Tour & Conversation

Saturday, June 16

1 – 2 pm

Get a curatorial perspective on the work of acclaimed graphic novelist, *New Yorker* cover artist, and Academy Award-nominated screenwriter Daniel Clowes with guest curator Susan Miller and Senior Curator of Art René de Guzman. Free with Museum admission.

OMCA Panel | Modern Cartoonist: The Art of Daniel Clowes

Friday, July 27

7 – 8:30 pm, James Moore Theater

What is the role of hand-drawn art in the digital world? Where do fine art and graphic art intersect? Internationally acclaimed graphic novelists Daniel Clowes and Chris Ware join with guest curator Susan Miller and Senior Curator of Art René de Guzman in a conversation exploring these and other questions. Free with Museum admission.

ABOUT THE OAKLAND MUSEUM OF CALIFORNIA

The Oakland Museum of California (OMCA) brings together collections of art, history and natural science under one roof to tell the extraordinary stories of California and its people. OMCA's groundbreaking exhibits tell the many stories that comprise California

with many voices, often drawing on first-person accounts by people who have shaped California's cultural heritage. Visitors are invited to actively participate in the Museum as they learn about the natural, artistic, and social forces that affect the state and investigate their own role in both its history and its future. With more than 1.8 million objects, OMCA is a leading cultural institution of the Bay Area and a resource for the research and understanding of California's dynamic cultural and environmental heritage.

VISITOR INFORMATION

The Oakland Museum of California (OMCA) is at 1000 Oak Street, at 10th Street, in Oakland. OMCA is situated between downtown Oakland and Lake Merritt. Museum admission is \$12 general; \$9 seniors and students with valid ID, \$6 youth ages 9 to 17, and free for Members and children 8 and under. OMCA offers onsite underground parking and is conveniently located one block from the Lake Merritt BART station, on the corner of 10th Street and Oak Street. The accessibility ramp is located at the new 1000 Oak Street main entrance. For more information, visit www.museumca.org.

* * *