

ILLUSTRATION AND ITS HISTORIES: NEW RESOURCES, NEW VOICES, NEW DIRECTIONS

A SYMPOSIUM ORGANIZED BY THE ROCKWELL CENTER FOR AMERICAN VISUAL STUDIES AND
THE HUNTER COLLEGE DEPARTMENT OF ART AND ART HISTORY

Conference Location and Date:

Friday, March 27, 2020

9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. online through Zoom Webinar

Organized by the Rockwell Center for American Visual Studies at the Norman Rockwell Museum, Stockbridge, Massachusetts, and the Department of Art and Art History at Hunter College, New York City, this one-day interdisciplinary symposium brings together scholars, curators, and artists who are exploring new approaches to the study of illustration within historical and contemporary frameworks.

As a set of practices and a cultural force, illustration emerged in the 19th century as a new and distinctly modern phenomenon. A vital component of the visual languages of advertising, design, publishing, and entertainment, illustration is omnipresent in modern culture, yet its historical and theoretical specifics have remained relatively unexamined. This symposium aims to bring together researchers and practitioners across multiple fields who are interested in the history, practice, and subjects of illustration, and who want to contribute to the emerging field of illustration studies. It is meant to build on and amplify the important work done at a multi-day conference on illustration held at Washington University in St. Louis in the spring of 2019, also co-sponsored by the Rockwell Center for American Visual Studies.

The theme of the symposium's morning panel on immigration and migration in illustrating is inspired by the Norman Rockwell Museum's current exhibition, *Finding Home: Four Artists' Stories*.

Online Symposium Schedule

- 9:30-10:00 am Welcome and Opening Remarks from **Stephanie Haboush Plunkett**, Deputy Director/Chief Curator, Norman Rockwell Museum, and **Michael Lobel**, Professor of Art History, Hunter College and the Graduate Center, CUNY
- 10:00-11:30 am **New Directions: Immigration and Migration in Illustrating**
Chair **Michael Lobel**
Speaker **Karen Fang**, University of Houston
Background Artist: Art and Immigration in the Life and Work of Tyrus Wong
Speaker **Lara Saguisag**, College of Staten Island, CUNY
Framed by Migrant Labor: Filipino Illustrators and the U.S. Comics Industry
Speaker **Edel Rodriguez**, Award-winning illustrator, designer, and fine artist
- 11:30-11:40 **Break**
- 11:40– 12:55 **New Voices: The 19th Century**
Chair **Susanna Cole**, Hunter College
Speaker **Julia Hamer-Light**, University of Delaware
Perilous Print Culture: Speed and Stability in the Lithographs of The Awful Conflagration of the Steamboat Lexington, 1840
Speaker **Rebecca Szantyr**, Brown University
Visualizing Difference: Race, Illustration, and The Cries of New York in Antebellum America
Speaker **Marina Wells**, Boston University
From Book to Bone: The Lives of “Female Pirate” Illustrations
- 12:55-1:55 **Lunch** (Enjoy archival Famous Artists School publicity clips from the Norman Rockwell Museum Archival Collections, c. 1950s)

2:00 - 3:30	New Resources: Collecting, Curating, & Archiving Illustration
Chair	Stephanie Haboush Plunkett , Norman Rockwell Museum
Speakers	Kim Conaty and Farris Wahbeh , Whitney Museum of American Art
Speakers	Jonathan Weinberg , The Maurice Sendak Foundation, and Clara Nguyen , University of Connecticut Library
Speaker	Laura Fravel , Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum
3:30-3:45	Break
3:45-5:00	New Voices: The 20th Century
Chair	Michael Lobel
Speaker	Taylor Dow , Washington University in St. Louis <i>Flipping Through Forty Fathom Friends</i>
Speaker	Rachel High , Hunter College <i>Popular Publishing: Harry N. Abrams' Role in Illustration Scholarship and Public Perception</i>
Speaker	Marco Polo Juarez Cruz , University of Maryland <i>A Half-Silvered Mirror to Look at Harlem: Ambiguities in Covarrubias' Representation of the 'New Negro'</i>
5:00-5:10	Concluding Remarks