



Communications



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**SCHOOL OF THE ART INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO BRINGS ACCLAIMED AUTHOR AND CARTOONIST
LYNDA BARRY TO CHICAGO NOV. 15 FOR SPECIAL VISITING ARTIST PRESENTATION**

Free Event presented in SAIC Columbus Auditorium

Barry to sign copies of her newest book, "Picture This" Following Presentation

CHICAGO—The School of the Art Institute of Chicago brings Lynda Barry, the inimitable creator of "Ernie Pook's Comeek," to Chicago Monday, Nov. 15 at 6 p.m. as part of its ongoing Visiting Artist Program. At the event, Barry will do a slide show presentation, as well as discuss her influences, creative process, and career, before signing copies of her newest book, "Picture This," which will be officially released by Drawn & Quarterly Nov. 9, 2010. The event is free and open to the public, and will be presented at the SAIC Columbus Auditorium, 280 S. Columbus Drive. Reservations are not required. Seating is limited and available on a first come, first served basis.

In the richly illustrated "Picture This," Barry asks the questions "Why do we stop drawing?" and "Why do we start?" It features the return of Barry's most beloved character, Marllys, and introduces a new one, the Nearsighted Monkey. Guest water colorist Kevin Kawula contributed to the book. Copies of "Picture This" will be available for purchase at the event. (\$30.95; credit cards only).

Barry is perhaps best known as one of the most successful non-mainstream American cartoonists, although she also works as a painter, writer, illustrator, playwright, editor, commentator, and teacher. In her works, Barry explores the depths of the inner and outer realms of creation and imagination, where play can be serious, monsters have purpose, and not knowing is an answer unto itself. Her cartoons were first published by the **Chicago Reader**, and went on to be syndicated widely for more than two decades before she stopped drawing them in 2008. She lived in Chicago for several years before returning to her native Wisconsin. Widely praised, her works include the bestselling and acclaimed "What It Is," which received the Eisner Award for Best Reality Based Graphic Novel and the R.R. Donnelly Award for highest literary achievement by a Wisconsin author; and "The Good Times are Killing Me," which was adapted into an off-Broadway musical.

Praising Barry's "What It Is," Julia Keller of the *Chicago Tribune* wrote "In her new book, 'What It Is' (Drawn & Quarterly), Barry spins around and around and bumps into so many touchstones that you get dizzy right along with her. It's a heavenly hodgepodge of philosophical speculations, biographical musings, funny observations, pointed interrogations and poignant recollections, all wrapped up in the funky, colorful, eclectic artwork that has made the former Chicago resident famous."

"Picture This" and "What It Is" are both based on Barry's creative workshop "Writing the Unthinkable" which she teaches all over North America.

For more information about the SAIC's Visiting Artist Program, visit www.saic.edu/vap or call 312.899.5185.

About the School of the Art Institute of Chicago

A leader in educating artists, designers, and scholars since 1866, the School of the Art Institute of Chicago (SAIC) offers nationally accredited undergraduate, graduate, and post-baccalaureate programs to nearly 3,200 students from across the globe. Located in the heart of Chicago, SAIC has an educational philosophy built upon an interdisciplinary approach to art and design, giving students unparalleled opportunities to develop their creative and critical abilities, while working with renowned faculty who include many of the leading practitioners in their fields. SAIC's resources include the Art Institute of Chicago and its new Modern Wing; numerous special collections and programming venues provide students with exceptional exhibitions, screenings, lectures and performances. For more information, please visit www.saic.edu.

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