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## UNIVERSITY GALLERY

Press Release: I M M E D I A T E

**February 27 – March 23**

### ***A PICTURE'S WORTH: Contemporary Graphic Novel Artists***

Featuring works by Lynda Barry, Veronica Fish, Gareth Hinds, Matt Phelan, Liz Prince and James Sturm  
Curated by Susan Kirtley and Karen E. Roehr

**Reception: February 28, 3 - 5 p.m.**, an artist talk with Veronica Fish and Liz Prince begins at 3 o'clock in O'Leary 222; a reception follows immediately at the gallery until 5 o'clock.

Lowell, MA – University Gallery at the University of Massachusetts at Lowell is proud to present an exhibition of works from exciting contemporary graphic novelists working in a variety of genres. From lauded stalwarts to up-and-coming artists, *A Picture's Worth* demonstrates the diversity and range of graphic narratives, a medium known for innovative pairings of text and image to convey stories. The exhibition features works from Lynda Barry, the Eisner-winning visionary who created the cult favorite comic strip *Ernie Pook's Comeek*, as well as the graphic novel *One Hundred Demons* and the creative workbooks *What It Is* and *Picture This*. Works from James Sturm, also an Eisner winner and co-founder of the Center for Cartoon Studies demonstrate his highly literate and literary style. Innovative artist and City Lights for Children Award winner Gareth Hinds illustrates the challenges of adapting classic literature into graphic narratives with his renditions of *Beowulf* and *The Odyssey*, while emerging artist Liz Prince depicts the adolescent experience in excruciating detail in *Will You Still Love Me If I Wet the Bed*, winner of the Ignatz Award for Outstanding Debut in 2005. Matt Phelan brings his whimsical aesthetic to a younger audience, including his Scott O'Dell winning book for Historical Fiction, *The Storm in the Barn*, and Veronica Fish vividly re-invents gothic horror with humor and wit in her highly anticipated series *Pirates of Mars* and her soon-to-be-released *Frankenstein*. Altogether this talented group will illustrate in grand fashion precisely what a picture is worth.

Susan Kirtley is Assistant Professor of English at Portland State University in Portland, OR, and a former member of the University of Massachusetts Lowell faculty. She is author of the forthcoming (March 2012) biography, *Lynda Barry: Girlhood Through the Looking Glass*.

Karen E. Roehr is Associate Professor of Art with the Art Department at the University of Massachusetts Lowell, teaching courses in graphic design and typography. She is also director of the UMLtimate Studio at UMass Lowell and creator of the comic strip Gymratz© published by *International Gymnast Magazine*.

For more artist info see individual web sites; Print-ready, full-color images available upon request.  
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