



1101 Wilson Boulevard | 703 875 1100 | www.artisphere.com

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PARTY CRASHERS: COMIC BOOK CULTURE INVADES THE ART WORLD
*Exploring the influence of the comic aesthetic on contemporary art
and the art world's acceptance of the comic*

Arlington, Virginia —Opening Saturday, December 11, [Artisphere](http://www.artisphere.com)'s *Party Crashers* exhibition brings together the electrifying work of contemporary artists influenced by the comic art aesthetic.

Though new technology continues to alter the ways artists interpret and reconsider this centuries-old perspective, many of its identifying characteristics—bold black line, linear storytelling, solid colors, reoccurring characters with which viewers, or readers, form emotional attachments—remain.

"The comic aesthetic has lodged itself in the contemporary art world, and continues to challenge the hierarchal categorizations of traditional painting and drawing," says Artisphere Visual Art Curator [Cynthia Connolly](#). "Past generations viewed the comic as 'throw away' art printed on newsprint, not fine art to be collected, but we have grown to accept and enjoy the comic as a familiar genre. For the first time in contemporary history, we regard the comic as a powerful influence within contemporary art circles. *Party Crashers* provides an opportunity for audiences to see the application and influence of the comic form in contemporary art, examining the genre's cultural impact and increasing legitimacy as a fine art medium."



iona rozeal brown, *king kata # 3 peel out*

Artisphere's exhibition features work of renowned artists [D.Billy](#) (DC/NYC), [iona rozeal brown](#) (DC/NYC), [Eric Cheevers](#) (DC), [Anna U. Davis](#) (DC), [Nekisha Durrett](#) (DC), [Jim Houser](#) (PA), [Tim Kerr](#) (TX), [Matt Leines](#) (PA), [Thom Lessner](#) (PA), [Ryan Nelson](#) (DC/MI), [Oura Sananikone](#) (VA), and [Zach Storm](#) (DC/MD). The *Party Crashers* catalogue was produced with the support of the [Andy Warhol Foundation](#).

Artisphere's *Party Crashers* is a collaborative exhibition with the [Arlington Arts Center](#) (AAC). The sister exhibit at AAC opened November 19 and features the work of alternative comic artists who

are accepted in the contemporary art world. The AAC exhibition includes published works, original pages, and pieces in a variety of media made specifically for the exhibition. Of note, is one gallery devoted to [Creative Time Comics](#), a primarily web-based project featuring comic and fine artists, and another that features the artists of Andrei Molotiu's Fantagraphics anthology, [Abstract Comics](#).

An exciting component of this collaborative exhibition is the December 11 launch of *ART on the ART bus*, a mobile gallery on one of Arlington County's ART public transit buses.

On the evening of December 11, visitors attending Artisphere's *Party Crashers* opening will be able to ride the ART bus between *Party Crashers* and its sister exhibit at the AAC. Managed by Artisphere Visual Arts Curator Connolly, *Art on the ART Bus*' inaugural run features paintings by internationally-recognized artist and musician, Tim Kerr, whose work is part of Artisphere's *Party Crashers* exhibition. Originally from Austin, Texas, Kerr's multimedia work depicts historical icons—among them John Coltrane, Rosa Parks and Lou Gehrig—in an effort to perpetuate the same spirit of social change that his subjects championed.



Tim Kerr, *Rosa Parks*

This dynamic connection between public transit and original art makes the commute as exciting as the destination, cultivating a vibrant arts experience for transit riders between point A and point B in Arlington County, Virginia. Following the program's launch in December 2010, this bus, will rotate throughout the different routes available to ART bus passengers. The next art installation will occur in May 2011. *Art on the ART Bus* is a supported program/project by Arlington Transit, Artisphere and Arlington Cultural Affairs.

ABOUT ARTISPHERE

Artisphere is a new breed of urban arts center that features four distinct performance venues, three visual art galleries, a 4,000 square foot ballroom, and a free Wi-Fi town square. With intimate co-located spaces and multiple programs occurring simultaneously, Artisphere was designed for people and art to collide. Its unique footprint encourages visitors coming for a familiar activity to try something new. With programming ranging from contemporary visual art, Shakespeare, late-night DJs, and multi-cultural film fests to spoken word, chamber music, family programs and swing and salsa dancing—the wide array of offerings are as diverse as its audience's tastes. With unusually lengthy operating hours, free admission and event ticket prices averaging \$15 (many events are free or pay-what-you-can), Artisphere presents the arts in a fresh and less formal environment. People of all ages can hang out and experience the arts early or late, at a reasonable price point and at their own convenience and pace.

Located just across the Key Bridge from Georgetown, Artisphere is less than two blocks from the Rosslyn Metro (blue/orange), and offers free garage parking after 5pm for all evening and weekend events with validation. Artisphere is open Monday–Friday, 11am–11pm; Saturday, 11am–2

am; and Sunday, 11am–9pm.

Artisphere is managed by Arlington County and supported in part by the Rosslyn Business Improvement District. The County's arts support agency, Arlington Cultural Affairs is a Division of Arlington County Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources. Artisphere is wheelchair accessible. Reasonable accommodations for people with disabilities will be made upon request (TTY: 703-228-1855).



FACT SHEET: PARTY CRASHERS @ ARTISPHERE

WHO: Contemporary artists D.Billy (NYC) • Iona Rozeal Brown (DC) • Eric Cheevers (DC) • Anna U. Davis (DC) • Nekisha Durrett (DC) • Jim Houser (PA) • Tim Kerr (TX) • Matt Leines (PA) • Thom Lessner (PA) • Ryan Nelson (MI) • Oura Sananikone (VA) • Zach Storm (DC)

Curator: [Cynthia Connolly](#)

WHEN: Saturday, December 11, 2010 – Sunday, February 13, 2011
Terrace Gallery hours: Monday-Saturday from 11am–9pm and Sunday, 11am–6pm

Please note that Artisphere's hours are Monday - Friday: 11 am - 11 pm; Saturday: 11 am - 2 am; Sunday: 11 am - 9 pm

COST: Entry into Artisphere and all its visual art exhibitions is **free**.

WHERE: **Artisphere**
1101 Wilson Boulevard
Arlington, Virginia 22209
www.artisphere.com/703-875-1100

Metro two blocks away — Rosslyn Metro (blue/orange)
Free parking evenings and weekends after 5pm with validation

SPECIAL EVENT:

Party Crashers Press Night and Opening Reception @ Artisphere

Saturday, December 11, 8-11pm

Free and open to the public

- **Gallery talk** with artists begins at 8pm
- **Launch of Art on the ART Bus:** 8–11:00pm, shuttle between Artisphere and the AAC
- **Artist Thom Lessner's band SweatHeart** plays in the Dome following the opening reception at 11:01pm. Draw a one frame comic to pay a reduced entrance fee. Fee without comic: \$12. All tickets sold onsite only.

TOURS: To schedule guided exhibition tours, please contact Lisa Marie Thalhammer at lthalhammer@arlingtonva.us.

FACT SHEET: PARTY CRASHERS @ ARLINGTON ARTS CENTER

WHO: @ Arlington Arts Center: Rina Ayuyang (CA) • Derik Badman (PA) • Gabrielle Bell (NY) • Joshua Cotter (IL) • Warren Craghead III (VA) • Anton Kannemeyer (South Africa) • Blaise Larmee (OR) • Jim Rugg (PA) • Dash Shaw (NY) • Andrei Molotiu (IN) & Rosaire Appel (NY) from the fantagraphics anthology [Abstract Comics](#) • Artists from [Creative Time Comics](#): Jeffrey Brown (IL), Victor Kerlow (NY), Robert Pruitt (IL), Deb Sokolow (IL), Olav Westphalen (NY)

Curator: Jeffry Cudlin (Arlington Arts Center)

WHEN: Through Sunday, January 16, 2011 @ Arlington Arts Center
Hours: Wednesday–Friday, 1pm–7pm
Saturday–Saturday, 12noon–5pm

WHERE: Arlington Arts Center
3550 Wilson Blvd, Arlington, VA 22201
Website: www.arlingtonartscenter.org/about