*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:*

**ICON: The Illustration Conference brings a dynamic community of illustrators and leading creative professionals to Detroit, July 11-14, 2018, for a four-day conference.**

**DETROIT, MICHIGAN** — ICON: The Illustration Conference arrives in Detroit for its tenth biennial gathering from July 11-14, 2018, to celebrate the vibrant illustration community and explore its future. This sold-out event brings more than 725 attendees together to hear 100 speakers delivering main stage presentations, workshops, and education papers. Programming will be held at the Westin Book Cadillac Hotel and at the College for Creative Studies (CCS), ICON’s conference partner.

ICON10’s keynote speakers are **Tyree Guyton** and **Jenenne Whitfield** of The Heidelberg Project, one of the longest ongoing art installations in Detroit; **Emil Ferris**, creator of the award-winning graphic novel *My Favorite Thing is Monsters*; and **Gail Anderson**, beloved Art Director and 2018 recipient of the Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian Lifetime Achievement Award for Design.

Detroit-based speakers include **Anne Elizabeth Moore**, **Don Kilpatrick III**, and local mural artists **Sydney James**, **Louise Jones**, and **Ellen Rutt.** Detroit-based workshop instructors include **Sabrina Nelson**, **Francis Vallejo**, **Aki Choklat**, and **Andy Espinoza.**

Other notable speakers include Yvan Alagbé (*Yellow Negroes*), Mike Perry (*Broad City*), Sophie Blackall (*Ivy and Bean*), Bil Donovan (Christian Dior), Andrea Pippins (*Becoming Me*), Nicholas and R.O. Blechman (*The New Yorker*), Jon Han (*New York Times*), Vanessa Brantley Newton *(The Youngest Marcher)*, Daniel Salmieri and Adam Rubin (*Dragons Love Tacos*), Wesley Allsbrook (*Dear Angelica*), along with emcee/illustrator James Yang (*Bus! Stop!*). Poster artist Armando Veve will also be speaking.

This four-day event kicks off with the ICON10 Education Symposium, convening at CCS, where an international roster of educators will present papers on the future of art education. Additionally, more than 30 workshops will be offered during the conference. Motion Commotion, a juried animation screening, will highlight a variety of projects, from animated gifs to experimental narratives.

Local residents are invited to attend several ICON10 events. **The Roadshow**, held on Thursday, July 12 from 7-10pm, is a marketplace showcasing the wares of more than 60 exhibiting illustrators and artisans. Pre-registration required [**here**](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/icon10-opening-ceremonies-and-roadshow-detroit-tickets-47443633184). The **ICON10 Gallery Show** at The Red Bull House of Art on Friday, July 13, from 8-10pm, brings together 140 original pieces of art by conference attendees. Artwork on display will be available for purchase. No pre-registration required.

For ICON10 Co-Presidents Julie Murphy and Len Small, bringing ICON to Detroit holds deep significance: “In the autumn of 2016, two days after the presidential election, we made our first visit to Detroit with ICON director Mark Heflin. As three native midwesterners, we knew that we wanted to hold ICON10 in the Heartland, but we arrived with muted spirits and a feeling of dread and apprehension for our future. To our surprise, Detroit was the antidote to our collective mood. Detroit would be our guiding spirit.” Julie Murphy is an illustrator based in Chicago; Len Small is a New York-based Art Director for *Columbia Magazine*.

**About ICON:**

ICON: The Illustration Conference brings together top illustrators, designers, educators, representatives, and art buyers to explore the future of illustration. Since 1999, ICON has produced conferences in Santa Fe, Philadelphia, San Francisco, New York, Los Angeles, Providence, Portland, and Austin.

ICON is committed to providing a diverse forum for an ongoing dialogue that serves the illustration, design, publishing, advertising, and academic communities.

**Assets:**

[Download high resolution ICON10 poster artwork by Armando Veve](http://theillustrationconference.org/ICON10-artwork_%C2%A9Armando-Veve.jpg)

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