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THE MORGAN PREMIERES RICHARD McGUIRE'S GROUNDBREAKING GRAPHIC NOVEL, *HERE,* AND EXPLORES THE PROCESS BEHIND ITS CREATION

From Here to Here: Richard McGuire Makes a Book
September 25 through November 9, 2014

Press Preview: Thursday, September 25, 10-11:30 AM
RSVP: media@themorgan.org (212) 590-0393

New York, NY, September 5, 2014 —
In 1989 *Raw* magazine published a black-and-white comic strip titled "Here" that was quickly recognized as a game-changer in the art of graphic narrative. Richard McGuire's thirty-six-frame strip is set in an ordinary living room, but it leaps freely through time, remixing history to produce encounters between past, present, and future inhabitants of the site. To mark the Fall 2014 publication of "Here" as an all-new, full-color graphic novel, the Morgan will premiere the first edition of the book and explore the evolution of this contemporary classic and the distinctive working method of the artist. *From Here to Here: Richard McGuire Makes a Book* opens on September 25 and runs through November 9, 2014.

Richard McGuire. Spread from *Here,* 2014. © Richard McGuire

Richard McGuire. "Here," Page 1 (detail of first frames), 1989. Pen and mixed media on paper. The Morgan Library & Museum, Gift of Richard McGuire

"*Here* is a moving meditation on history and memory and the collapsing of time," said Peggy Fogelman, acting director of the Morgan Library & Museum. "The original drawings and source material in the exhibition offer visitors a fascinating look at Richard McGuire's wholly unique creative process. We are especially pleased to present the show in conjunction with the much-anticipated publication of the graphic novel."

"Here" in 1989

In the mid-1980s, McGuire attended a series of lectures on the history of comics by Art Spiegelman at the School of Visual Arts. Inspired by a subsequent cartooning class assignment—and by moving into an old Manhattan apartment, where he still lives today—he conceived an idea for a strip. Set in an ordinary room, its panels would be split down the center: history would move backward on the left side of each frame and forward on the right. Later, when a friend showed McGuire the new Windows operating system, he dropped his split screen idea for a looser approach in which year-labeled "windows" of time would float freely into each frame of action. Though the viewpoint in "Here" remains fixed on one corner of a living room, time in the story is boundless and elastic. Populating the room with multiple frames of action, dating from the ancient past to the distant future, McGuire conjures narratives, dialogues, and streams of association that unite moments divided by years and centuries. McGuire worked for eight months on "Here," furnishing it with props and figures derived from his family's photographs and the picture collection of the New York Public Library. It was published as a six-page feature in *Raw* in 1989.

"Here" in 2014

During the 1990s, McGuire became a creator of children's books, toys, and covers for *The New Yorker* magazine. Meanwhile the public fortunes of comics shifted dramatically. In 1992 Art Spiegelman's *Maus* became the first graphic novel awarded a Pulitzer Prize. Eight years later Chris Ware's *Jimmy Corrigan, The Smartest Kid on Earth* won wide critical acclaim, and McGuire signed a contract with Pantheon Books to expand "Here" into a 300-page graphic novel.

In 2009, as a fellow at The New York Public Library's Cullman Center for Scholars and Writers, McGuire reconceived "Here" as a full-length novel. To set the action in (more or less) his childhood home in New Jersey, he researched the site's recent and ancient
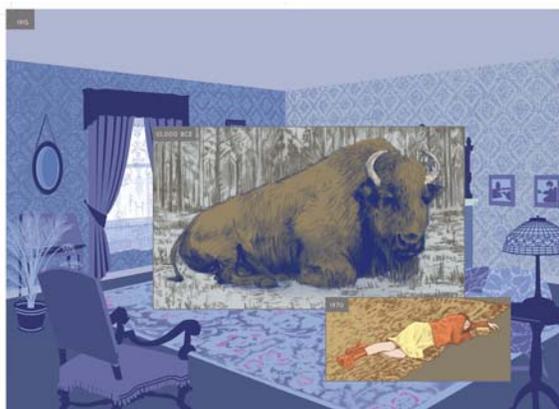
Richard McGuire. Spread from *Here,* 2014. © Richard McGuire   Richard McGuire. Spread from *Here,* 2014. © Richard McGuire

history. He also began working in color. Most importantly, he expanded the picture area so that the living room would fill each spread of the book, thus placing readers inside the frame of action.

The exhibition combines original drawings for the strip and the novel with source photographs and sketchbooks that afford glimpses into McGuire's creative process. Also featured are books that provided him with inspiration. McGuire recalls finding Tadanori Yokoo's *Waterfall Rapture,* a book of thousands of waterfall postcards, and realizing that one strong idea—the persistence of a single pictorial moment, without start or end—could provide the basis for an entire book. In *Evidence,* Larry Sultan and Mike Mandel's influential book of photographs pulled from public and corporate archives, the absence of words compels each viewer to formulate links and connect the images from start to end of the book.

"Nothing Lasts"

"If *Here* is about one thing," McGuire remarks, "it's that nothing lasts, whatever it is or however permanent it seems." Now *Here* itself has come to reflect its creator's changing perspectives over time. The comic strip, completed when McGuire was in his early thirties, uses the spare visual language of the strip medium to put all of history on a shared, largely humorous plane. In *Here* the book, finished twenty-five years later, the stage of action has grown wider, the palette of colors and emotions more nuanced, as its author ponders the relationship between memory and history and the lasting pleasures of living in the moment.

Richard McGuire

Richard McGuire is an artist, designer, filmmaker, and a founding member of the band Liquid Liquid. His books for children include *Night Becomes Day* and *The Orange Book*. His art appears frequently in *The New Yorker* and *The New York Times*, among other publications.

Public Programs

Artist Talk   ***On This Site***
In Richard McGuire's graphic narrative *Here*, one corner of a living room in New Jersey becomes the point of intersection among events from the past and future. McGuire will be joined in conversation by Michael Benson, author of *Cosmigraphics: Picturing Space Through Time*, and Matt Knutzen, the Geospatial Librarian at The New York Public Library. The program is co-organized with the Dorothy and Lewis B. Cullman Center for Scholars and Writers at the New York Public Library.
Tuesday, September 30, 6:30 PM
Tickets: $15; $10 for Members; Free for students with valid ID

For Kids   **Smithsonian Museum Day**
                As part of Smithsonian Magazine's Annual Museum Day, visit the Morgan for
                free on September 27. To coincide with the exhibition *From Here to Here:
                Richard McGuire Makes a Book*, professional comic artist and educator Maggie
                Siegle-Berele will lead a drop-in comic workshop with live costumed models.
                Children will learn the fundamentals of comic composition and will produce a
                short comic strip to tell their own story. Appropriate for ages 6 and up, as well as
                teenagers. This workshop is limited to families with children.
                Saturday, September 27, 2-5 PM
                Free with museum admission or Smithsonian Museum Day ticket.
                *Smithsonian Museum Day tickets can be printed here:
                smithsonianmag.com/museumday*

Workshop   **Ink on Panel: Comics Art 101**
                This adult workshop offers a chance at hands-on exploration of visual
                storytelling. With comic artist, illustrator, and Arts Students League Instructor
                Steven Walker, participants will learn the language of comics and reflect on the
                best ways to convey a story by using various illustration techniques.
                Friday, November 7, 6-9 PM
                Tickets: $20; $15 Members

Gallery Talk   **From Here to Here: Richard McGuire Makes a Book**
                Joel Smith, Richard L. Menschel Curator and Department Head, Photography
                Gallery talks are free with museum admission.
                No tickets or reservations are necessary.
                Friday, October 10, 6:30 PM

Organization and Sponsorship

From Here to Here: Richard McGuire Makes a Book is the second exhibition organized by Joel
Smith, Richard L. Menschel Curator and department head of the Morgan's recently established
Department of Photography.

The exhibition is a collaboration between the Morgan and the Dorothy
and Lewis B. Cullman Center for Scholars and Writers at The New York
Public Library. It is made possible through the support of the J. W.
Kieckhefer Foundation.

The programs of the Morgan Library & Museum are made
possible with public funds from the New York City Department of
Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council, and by the
New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor
Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature.

The Morgan Library & Museum

The Morgan Library & Museum began as the private library of financier Pierpont Morgan, one of
the preeminent collectors and cultural benefactors in the United States. Today, more than a
century after its founding in 1906, the Morgan serves as a museum, independent research library,
music venue, architectural landmark, and historic site. In October 2010, the Morgan completed
the first-ever restoration of its original McKim building, Pierpont Morgan's private library, and the
core of the institution. In tandem with the 2006 expansion project by architect Renzo Piano, the
Morgan now provides visitors unprecedented access to its world-renowned collections of
drawings, literary and historical manuscripts, musical scores, medieval and Renaissance
manuscripts, printed books, photography, and ancient Near Eastern seals and tablets.

<u>General Information</u>
The Morgan Library & Museum
225 Madison Avenue, at 36th Street, New York, NY 10016-3405
212.685.0008
www.themorgan.org
Just a short walk from Grand Central and Penn Station

<u>Hours</u>
Tuesday–Thursday, 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.; extended Friday hours, 10:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.; closed Mondays, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day. The Morgan closes at 4 p.m. on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve.

<u>Admission</u>
$18 for adults; $12 for students, seniors (65 and over), and children (under 16); free to Members and children 12 and under accompanied by an adult. Admission is free on Fridays from 7 to 9 p.m. Admission is not required to visit the Morgan Shop, Café, or Dining Room.