What a Wonderful Kind of Day With Marc Brown ’69
Renowned author and illustrator visits students, receives award

Bestselling author and illustrator Marc Brown ’69 has encouraged a generation of children around the world to read, learn, laugh, and “get along with each other” through his popular Arthur books and television series. But his illustration career was almost scrapped before it started.

The Emmy- and Peabody-award-winning author visited his alma mater in November to speak with Cleveland Institute of Art students and receive the Institute’s highest award, the Medal for Excellence.

About his career—that-almost-wasn’t-, Brown told illustration students, “My parents had other plans for me, so my high school art teacher surreptitiously brought me to CIA for an interview.”

Brown recalls an intimidating Clayton Bachtel ’32 reviewing his portfolio. “He looked through it, grunted several times and said, ‘Well, you’re accepted. Would you like to see some of your competition?’” Bachtel then showed Brown the portfolio of a high school student from Detroit who had already published a book. An apprehensive young man from Erie, Pennsylvania, Brown knew his CIA experience would be life changing.

BROWN’S “WONDERFUL” CIA EXPERIENCE

“When I was here I got to try out everything and that was really exciting for me at the time,” he told a group of CIA donors that evening he received the Medal for Excellence. Brown dabbled in photography, printmaking, and textile design; his favorite class was Art of the Americas, taught by Professor Franny Taft; and he never forgot what Professor Emeritus John Paul Miller ’40 taught him about composition.

“I loved my time here; I loved the flexibility,” he said. “I owe this school a great deal. It really educated me and it gave me the opportunity to explore. I left the Institute with this wonderful education.”

Brown graduated with a degree in what CIA then called graphic arts. “I imagined myself going into advertising but the first art director I worked for had dollar signs where his pupils should have been,” he told students. Instead, he began illustrating books on a freelance basis while holding down — and then losing — a succession of day jobs. The first book he illustrated was Isaac Asimov’s What Makes the Sun Shine, which won a Children’s Book of the Year citation from the Child Study Association of America.

A PHENOMENON BORN FROM A BEDTIME STORY

After five years of freelance illustration for Houghton Mifflin, Brown decided to write and illustrate his own stories. His popular Arthur books began with a bedtime story he made up for his son, Tolon. The first in the series, Arthur’s Nose, was published in 1976.

He has since written and illustrated more than 80 Arthur books, which have been published by Little, Brown and Company and translated into several languages. More than 65 million copies of the books are in print in the U.S. alone. The success of the Arthur books spawned the PBS television series Arthur’s World, which airs in more than 60 countries.

Arthur and his friends in the “ensemble cast” that Brown created are well-known to the vast majority of current CIA students and recent graduates, including Suzanne McGinness ’07, who attended Brown’s talk. McGinness recently illustrated a children’s book, My Bear Griz, to be released in fall 2011 by Frances Lincoln Publishers.

“My parents had other plans for me, so my high school art teacher surreptitiously brought me to CIA for an interview.”

“I’m a huge Arthur fan and I really enjoyed Marc Brown’s talk,” she said. “He had such a great personality and he was so relatable.”

PREPARING FOR THE MODERN PUBLISHING WORLD

McGinness said she thinks the business world has gotten more complicated for artists since Brown’s student days. For instance, while Brown was able to turn his illustrations over to animators for the television series, many current CIA illustration students also take animation courses through the Institute’s T.I.M.E.-Digital Arts program (for Technology and Integrated Media Environment) so they can create their own animations. And recent graduates like McGinness need to have sophisticated websites and sometimes even agents in order to attract publishers. By contrast, Brown told students, “It used to be you could penetrate the walls of a publisher without an agent.”

“Digital arts classes in animation and website design were not available to Brown and his 1960s contemporaries at CIA. Neither was CIA’s now-mandatory course in Business and Professional Practices. “You’re going out into the world so much better equipped than I was; you have these skills that are going to set you up so nicely,” he told students.

Continued on page 2
CIA Celebrates Franny Taft’s 60-year Tenure

Professor Frances “Franny” Prindle Taft marked a milestone last semester when she began her 60th year of teaching at The Cleveland Institute of Art. Faculty, former students, and other friends gathered in the Reinberger Galleries to celebrate the occasion, and the force of nature that is Franny Taft.

Professor Taft is arguably even more significant than that is the fact that she has instilled that passion into generations of students here at The Cleveland Institute of Art.

In addition to the walkways, the plan recommends a cultural arts center, sculpture garden, business incubator, community newspaper, and more.

Franny Taft’s passion for knowledge and discovery... and arguably even more significant than that is the fact that she has instilled that passion into generations of students here at The Cleveland Institute of Art.

At night, ‘Taft (in red) chats with Bonnie Dolin ’73, and Ann Kiggen. For more, please see cia.edu/taft.

Marc Brown

Some students may have been surprised to hear a traditional illustrator like Marc Brown embrace the digital age. “Be ready to illustrate in a way that’s interactive,” he advised students. He said he likes the idea of electronic books, which allow children to interact with a story, even as they are learning important values.

A WELL-DESERVED AWARD

Marc Brown accepted the award with touching words of gratitude. “Thank you for this honor; it’s wonderful to be home with such a friendly, warm group of people. And thank you for all you’ve done for the students who attend this school, who are so lucky to be here, because you’re making it a great place to get a wonderful education.”

With 35 years of experience under his belt, Brown is now looking for new artistic opportunities, including illustrating books written by other authors and collaborating on projects with his wife, Laurie Kraus Brown. "I’m reinventing myself. I’m painting on gesso boards, I’m doing collage work; I feel like I’m coming back to where I started.”

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Creative Thinking Fuels CIA Grad’s Career With Global Animation Firm

Kevin Geiger ’89 is CEO of Magic Dumpling Entertainment, a Beijing-based developer of original content for animated films, TV series, and mobisodes (short episodes edited for viewing on a mobile device). In a recent email interview from Beijing, he talked about his career and his education.

Q: You graduated with a BFA in painting but made a career in animation. What were the most valuable of the skills you gained or strengths you honed at CIA and were able to transfer to animation?

A: I came away from CIA with visual and conceptual thinking skills that were not necessarily as quantifiable as engineering or programming skills, but ironically more valuable with respect to animation — even in relation to a “high tech” form such as 3D CGI. The principles of creative exploration and visual problem solving that were emphasized at CIA assisted me not only as an animation artist, but later as a supervisor and production techniques to create “stories for the global family,” as we say.

Q: Magic Dumpling sounds very savvy about international business. Do your creative talents help you approach the challenges of business development?

A: Ha! Yes. The two assets I appreciate the most on this front are my creative education from CIA, and the improv classes I took while at Disney. As a creative industry, the business of animation requires you to think outside the box and also to think on your feet. Everything is changing so fast — especially now. Ed Catmull, president of Pixar, is fond of saying, “You learn from your mistakes, so at Pixar we try to make our mistakes as fast as we can.” That’s certainly a good way to describe my own career learning curve. I’m known for jumping headfirst into areas that I don’t know much about, and ramping up to speed in very short order. It’s good, scary fun. If we are afraid to step outside of our comfort zone, we might as well crawl back into the womb.

Q: What do you miss most about Cleveland?

A: My parents! I was born and raised in Cleveland, so it’s truly my home. There is a relaxed quality to the city that makes it very livable, and Cleveland of course is a great center for the arts. People might laugh if you called it a seat of culture, but it really is. (OK, perhaps a folding chair of culture, but you hopefully get my point.) I also miss the trees and the kuszy winters.

Read more of Kevin Geiger’s ideas about animation and living and working in China at cia.edu/geiger. Read about CIA’s new animation major at cia.edu/majors_animation.asp.
DO YOU HAVE A SECRET?

Have you included a gift to The Cleveland Institute of Art in your will but not yet advised us of your generosity? We’d like you to let us in on your secret so we can thank you in person now, rather than thanking your family or attorney later. “Bequests are a vitally important source of revenue for CIA, making funds available for a wide variety of purposes,” said Margaret Ann Gudbranson, Esq., CIA’s director of planned giving. “Recent estate gifts have enabled us to establish student scholarships, support faculty professional development, and launch a major visiting artist series.”

Please contact Margaret to let her know your secret or to get information about making a provision for CIA in your estate plan. You’ll reach her at mgudbranson@cia.edu or 216.421.8016.

Planned Giving: Providing support for future generations of artists and designers.
Richard Anuszkiewicz ’53 – of Art and Culture at the University of Montana consistency.

Submissions may be edited for length and style by contacting alumni@cia.edu or 216.421.7957.

John Beukemann ’74 – had work in a group exhibition, The Haggin Museum, Stockton, CA; and the Caldwell Snyder Gallery in San Francisco in October

Gary Bukovnik ’71 – had work in the show. Also see Beukemann ’74.

Edward M. Campbell ’83 – had work in a solo exhibition held at Still Point Art Center in Quincy, FL, in November.

Kathleen Creelman ’69 – is teaching a class on medieval weaving at the Craft School of Maine in Cumberland, ME.

Nina DeMaria ’82 – is pursuing her master’s degree in industrial design at the University of Cincinnati.

Chandra Contractor ’87 – is a project manager at Opendatacut, a company that provides data services.

Kahala ’84 – had work included in the 56th Annual Exhibition, Pennsylvania Watercolor Society, Crary Art Gallery, Warren, PA.

Katherine Widen ’09, Lauren Yeager ’09, Benjamin Krizmanich ’09, Kristin Baker ’09, and Nora Corcoran ’13.

Also see Beukemann ’74 and Sweet ’81.

Kristen Cliffel ’90 – also participated in a PechaKucha presentation at the Judson Memorial Church in New York City, as part of Movement Research at the Judson Memorial Church.

Matthew Binknap ’98 – performed in Staircase-Crop-Dust as part of Movement Research at the Judson Memorial Church in New York City.

Vincent Como ’98 – participated in a PechaKucha presentation at the NY Art Book Fair in Long Island City, Queens in November, and his work was included in a collaborative exhibition at the Aqua Art Miami fair at the Aqua Hotel in December.

Christa Donner ’96 – had work in Nurses, a group exhibition in Chicago’s Ben Rusal Gallery in November and December, and in Japan’s Box Book as Medium, Catalyst, Venus, a group show at Paragraph Gallery in Kansas City, MO, in November through January. She also had work in BankArt NYC’s Summer 2010 Open event in Chicago, Japan in August, and also participated in the 6th Annual Print Fair in Chicago in December.

Timothy Callaghan ’99 – had his solo show, Nightfall, on view in Cleveland’s William Barta Gallery in October and November.

Sharon Tvorik ’99 – recently opened Village Cafe & Gifts, an antique store in Parma Heights, OH.

Michael Romanik ’99 – had work featured in the StRICKLER ’13, Tom Tran ’13, and Nora Corcoran ’13.

Michael Mikula ’87 – also had work in the show.

Kimberly Engel ’02 – was the photographer of "for 24 hours in NYC, Stud the Bigoda Iskala the Lar," an article in FTK magazine in September.

Michelle Droll ’02 – was recently invited to be a part of the Art Miami Art in Cleveland Heights in October and November.

Anna Arnold ’83 – painted a mural at Cleveland’s Thurgood Marshall Recreation Center this fall as part of a community outreach program organized by the Cleveland Museum of Art. She also participated in the Cleveland Museum of Art’s annual Chalk Festival.

Jill Kreiling ’10, Michael Meier ’10, Matthew Fehrmann ’10, Jill Masters ’10, and Brittany Campbell ’09.

Christian Cafferata ’85 – recently curated an exhibition of contemporary photography at the Cleveland Center for Contemporary Art.

Jeff Stadnick ’89 – had work in a group exhibition held at Still Point Art Center in Quincy, FL, in November.

Laura M. Jones ’85 – had work featured in the Box 30th Annual event in Chicago.

Rene Culer ’91 – had a solo show, Glass, at the Abstracted Plane in Cleveland Heights in September and October.

Erik Nei ’91 – was one of two artists featured in The Abstracted Plane, an exhibition in November and December at the Bonly Gallery in Cleveland.

Natalia Sweetman ’93 – had work in the following exhibitions: Geometrics: Projections; Eleven Painters, Edward Thomp Gallery, New York City, October, Unraveling Abstraction, NuArtLink, Westminster, CO, October, The Big Show, Birmingham, NY, September and October.

Jennifer Long ’94 – owns a Printshop Design, Inc., an industrial design company focusing on type design and invention.

Jerome White ’94 – painted a mural at the Cleveland Museum of Art that will also be featured as part of a community outreach program organized by the Cleveland Museum of Art. Also see Sweetman ’93.

Andrea LeBlond ’95 – sees Beekman ’74.

Janine Pinciotti ’95 – created International Women’s Day Facebook events.

Michael Romano ’99 – had work in the show. Also see Beukemann ’74.

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Casey McClurg ’08 (see Clovend ’07).

Shamira Nicolas ’08 (see an exhibition of paintings, "The Lot of Universe, at the Gallery at the Arts & Cultural Council in Rochester during October through November.

Susan Notargiacomo ’08 (see a work as a graphic designer on the Cleveland Campus District project, also included were Brian Paige ’08, Alexandra Overton ’10, Norman Dunnas ’11 and Rony E. Mati Hubli (see Joseph Stanley ’05). See story on page 2.

Brian Paige ’08 (see Notargiacomo ’08).

Darlos Steward ’08 (see Brandon ’87 and ’09).

Carol Traynor ’06 (see For the Birds, an exhibition of international artists whose works were included in a catalog of the Dittrick Medical History Center, and the Romanian American recipes. She was recently featured on Project runway.

Brittany Campbell ’09 (see Shenk ’09).

Nick Adorni ’09 (see Shenk ’09).

Hannah Merino ’10 (see Shenk ’09).

Suzanne McGinness ’07 (see An Interesting People 2011."

Carolyn Shenk ’09 (see Shenk ’09).

David Deming ’67 (freshwatercleveland.com).

Scott Colosimo ’04 (see Colosimo ’04).

Rachel Loewen ’10, Darius Steward ’08, Shoko Yamamura ’08, Karl Noah ’08, Jerry Birchfield ’09, Hannah Merino ’10, Shoko Yamamura ’08, Megan Ehrhart ’08, and faculty members have a solo exhibition, "The Rocker Style," at EMPAC, the Experimental Media and Performance Center.

Jennifer Aynesworth ’08 (see Colosimo ’04).

Judith Salomon ’64 (see Salomon ’64).

Meredith Cowen ’07 (see Cowen ’07).

Sarah Kabot ’08 (see Kabot ’08).

Mariah Keenan ’08 (see Keenan ’08).

Kristin Grammer ’03 (see Grammer ’03).

Fontecchio ’09 (see Fontecchio ’09).

Justin Cumming ’09 (see Cumming ’09).

Dan Cuffaro ’91 (faculty).

Sarah Kabot (see Kabot ’08).

Margaret Denk ’04 (see Denk ’04).

Diego Isaza ’07 (see Isaza ’07).

Barbara Chira ’07 (see Chira ’07).

Jacqueline Miller ’09 (see Miller ’09).

Kerry Propst ’10 (see Propst ’10).

Rachel Loewen ’10 (see Loewen ’10).

David Houry ’07 (see Houry ’07).

Mary Boyer ’06 (see Boyer ’06).

Jerry Birchfield ’09 (see Birchfield ’09).

Carolyn Shenk ’09 (see Shenk ’09).

Karen果蔬州 ’04 (see果蔬州 ’04).

Tom Trier ’03 (see Trier ’03).

She was married in September. She used driftwood, old wall lath, and Paine Galleries. She was married in September. She used driftwood, old wall lath, and Paine Galleries. She was married in September.

David Houry ’07 (see Houry ’07).

Jerry Birchfield ’09 (see Birchfield ’09) and Harold Washington D.C. and had a solo show, "Virescent Scene," at the Art Director for Cleveland’s Scenic scene.

Carol Traynor ’06 – see Traynor ’06.

Margaret Denk-Keenan – see Denk-Keenan ’06.

Richard Beekley ’07, Shoko Yamamura ’08, Karl Noah ’08, and Thomas Nesbar ’06 – see Thomas ’06.

Cristina McCaffery ’08 (see McCaffery ’08) and Rony E. Mati Hubli (see Joseph Stanley ’05). See story on page 2.

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actively participate in determining the future of our city. Lee and Rini Uva also presented their work at Cleveland Public Library in October as part of Octoberfest, a city-wide, month-long celebration of books and paper art.

Michael Lehto MFA ’07 (Adjunct Faculty, Communication Design) – see Getachew (faculty).

Scott Ligon (Assistant Professor, Foundation) – had his award-winning short animated film, Escape Velocity, air on the Documentary Channel in December. Distributed by Shorts International of London, the film is about the connection between ADHD and creativity.

Greg Martin ’88 (Adjunct Faculty, Industrial Design) – see CFCF ’90.

Liz Maugans (Adjunct Faculty, Printmaking) – see CFCF ’90.

Grafton Nudes (President) – with Plain Dealer Book Editor Karen Long, will discuss their favorite romantic movies and books at a fundraiser for the Cleveland International Film Festival in early February. He was named one of Cleveland's Most Interesting People of 2011 by Cleveland Magazine.

Saul Ostrow (Environment Chair and Associate Professor, Visual Arts and Technology) – had an article, “Requiem for Pop,” published in Art in America magazine. The article is a review of the exhibition, Subcultural Subversion: Women Pop Artists, a show curated by Sid Sadik for the University of the Arts (Philadelphia) and then traveled to Brooklyn Museum, where it was on view from December through early January. In November, he co-hosted the exhibit with David Goodman at the Cleveland Modern gallery in October as part of Octavofest, a city-wide, month-long celebration of books and paper art held in October.

Judith Salamon (Motto Chair and Professor, Ceramics) – see Krusinski Sinbondit (faculty).

Dominic Sobillia ’72 (Department Head and Professor, Foundation) – was presented in November with the 2010 NOBA/Makey award from the Northern Ohio Illustrators Society in recognition of his contributions to the Illustration field.

Niki Smith ’09 (Teaching Assistant, Foundation) – has launched a comic book, in Maps and Legends, in a range of digital formats, including Phone, iPod Touch, iPad, Android phones, Kindle e-readers, a website, and downloadable PDFs. Issues come out every six weeks. (www.mapsandlegendscomic.com) The comic was originally published by a branch of DC Comics.

Barbara Stanczak ’90 (Professor, Foundation) – see CFCF ’90.

Julian Stanczak ’54 (Faculty Emeritus) – had paintings in a group exhibition, The Responsive Mind, at Madron Gallery in Chicago from September through November. Richard Amukwiegie ’53 (also had work in that show; Julian’s work was featured in a solo show, Color Group, at Danese Gallery in New York City during October and November. See photo on page 4.

Joseph Stanley ’05 (Technical Assistant, Industrial Design) – see CFCF ’90.

Dan Tranberg (Adjunct Faculty, Liberal Arts, Foundation, and Visual Arts + Technology environments) – was featured on Alexa, the Emmy-award-winning arts and culture show on WWO, Cleveland’s public television station.

Barry Underwood (Department Head and Assistant Professor, Film, Video, + Photographic Art) – had work in Landscape Photography at the MPLS Photo Center in Minneapolis last spring, a show of 71 images chosen from 2,400 entries from 443 photographers in 17 countries. His photographs were included in the Toronto International Art Fair during October and November. His artwork is in the cover and liner notes for singer/songwriter Jenny Gislea’s CD, Kindred. And he was profiled in the Kolein magazine photo.” + in an article with a several-page image spread. Also see CFCF ’90.

Danielle Rini Uva (Adjunct Faculty, Communication Design) – see Lee (faculty).

Cris Ram (Director, Quest Library) – and Barbara Stanczak ’90 (faculty) participated in a panel discussion at Cleveland Public Library about artists’ books as part of Octoberfest, a city-wide, month-long celebration of books and paper art held in October.

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IN MEMORIAM

ALUMNI

Howard Kulow, Jr., ’49 – passed away in July in Cleveland.

Ernest Horvath ’52 – passed away in July in Cleveland.

Leo Gruska ’57 – passed away in October at age 75. He received a MFA from Tulane University in New Orleans and was awarded the prestigious Tiffany Foundation Grant, as well as two individual grants from the National Endowment for the Arts. Leo taught at the School of Art and Design at the University of Illinois for over 45 years. He is survived by his wife Susan and three children.

Nancy Bukovnik ’58 – The Cleveland resident died in October.

Joan Inman ’59 – passed away in October at age 75.

Paul Apalkar ’59 – passed away in August at age 97 in Reino, NY.

Inara Kampe ’65 – passed away in 2004.

Thomas April ’76 – died in September at age 57. The Iowa City resident received his MFA from Syracuse University and was a professor at the University of Iowa. He is survived by his wife Laura.

Maxeen Stone Flower ’76 – the Shaker Heights resident passed away in September at age 82. Maxeen owned Maxeen’s Antiques in Beachwood, OH, was a national trustee for UNICEF, and served on the boards of University Hospitals and The Cleveland Institute of Art. She is survived by her husband John and eight children.

Brian Joiner ’85 – died in October at age 48. The Cincinnati resident was named the 2009 Robert S. Duncanson Artist-in-Residence at the Taft Museum of Art, and his work was featured in solo and group exhibitions across the country.

Evelyn Rashid ’88 – died in August at age 45. The North Carolina resident was a Montessori school teacher and is survived by her husband.

FACULTY

Klaus O. Roy – who taught at CIA from 1975 until 1990, died in May at age 86. He is survived by his wife Gana, a son, a daughter, three stepchildren, two grandchildren, six step-grandchildren, and two step-grandchildren.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Patricia Lineberger – died in September at age 82. She served on CIA’s Board of Directors from 1986 until 1995, when she became a member of the Honorary Board. She is survived by a daughter, two sons, two stepchildren, and 10 grandchildren.

Students Bring Art and Joy to Children with Cancer

Twelve Cleveland Institute of Art students donated their photographic talents and their compulsion to children with cancer when they volunteered to take portraits of patients at the Cleveland Clinic Children’s Hospital in October. The photo shoot — which was also an upbeat Halloween party — was organized by the Cleveland-based Flashes of Hope, a nonprofit organization that runs monthly portrait sessions in 47 hospitals nationwide.

Flashes of Hope aims to change “the way children with cancer see themselves through the gift of photography,” Families receive the portraits of their children free of charge.

“The students who volunteered their time for this event gained a real understanding that art can be a vehicle for exchange between institutions and organizations and that they as individuals can be productive participants within our community by contributing their talent to enrich the lives of others,” said Professor Nancy McEntee ’84, who coordinated the event.

Lisa [Morgan] Cencula ’91, a photography graduate who now serves as director of marketing and special events for Flashes of Hope, said the organization normally works with volunteer professional photographers but that the CIA students rose to the challenge.

“They were very professional in their manner in dealing with each other and with the families, and they demonstrated some very sophisticated skills and behaviors when they were there.”

Eleven of the student volunteers are photography majors and one, Harini Kasturi ’13, is a communication design major who is taking Introduction to Photography with McEntee. The photography majors are JR Berry ’12, Jamee Crusan ’13, Megan Drmota ’11, Caitlin Groh ’12, Sarah Groh ’12, Rosie Hileman ’12, Stephanie Mercer ’13, Joseph Minek ’11, Taylor Moonhead ’11, Marissa Paleyvski ’11, and Emily Smith ’13. Dodd Camera donated equipment for the shoot.

PUBLIC COMMENT INVITED AS CIA SEES REACCESSMENT

Last year, as a requirement for reaccreditation by the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools (NCA), CIA administrators, faculty, and staff began a self-study of CIA’s processes and functions. CIA will submit its self-study report to the NCA in late January and NCA evaluators will visit campus in late March. More than 300 CIA students, faculty, and public members took part in this effort, which will be submitted to the NCA by Feb. 28. See Faculty & Staff Notes on page 6.
Helping alumni and friends of The Cleveland Institute of Art remain informed of campus, faculty and alumni news, CIA publishes Link three times a year.

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The Cleveland Institute of Art gratefully acknowledges the citizens of Cuyahoga County for their support through Cuyahoga Arts and Culture.

MIX Paper from responsible sources


ARTISTS (LEFT TO RIGHT):
LYNDSEY VU
FLORA SANDY
CARLIN ANDREW
JESSICA HOWARD

STUDENTS VOLUNTEER FOR FLASHES OF HOPE. (SEE STORY ON PAGE 7.)

JAMEY HART
PAUL ZAGORSKY
MELISSA ROCKWERK