

CARTOON CROSSROADS COLUMBUS^{*}

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CARTOON CROSSROADS COLUMBUS GIVES OUT TWO OF THREE MAJOR AWARDS TO P. CRAIG RUSSELL AND NIB FOUNDER MATT BORS

SEPTEMBER 27, 2019 (Columbus, OH) —Ohio natives P. Craig Russell and Matt Bors were each presented with a major award by Cartoon Crossroads Columbus (CXC) for their career achievement at a packed reception at Billy Ireland Cartoon Library & Museum during the second day of the Cartoon Crossroads Columbus Festival.

P. Craig Russell was honored for his career work in becoming a master cartoonist, defined by CXC as a creator with sustained, displayed excellence in making cartoon art. Russell came to prominence in the 1970s as a much sought-after fantasy artist at publishers like Marvel. He expanded his output to lyrical adaptation of literature and opera, and has collaborated with icons such as writer Neil Gaiman.

“Russell is a key figure in the development of the comics art form,” said comics historian and CXC Festival Director Tom Spurgeon. “While pundits and superhero creators were debating how to turn fannish fantasy pulp into comics of serious intent, Russell was adapting opera and literary works into full-formed creative works for adults. He’s a giant.”

Russell received a \$1,000 award from sponsor Ted Adam, a comics industry veteran currently with Clover Press.

Matt Bors received the Transformative Work Award. Bors arrived in Columbus this week seeking to drive attention to the financial reversal faced by the satirical magazine *The Nib*, which recently lost the majority of its funding by First Look Media. The Festival cited Bors’ continued potential but also his track record in developing the magazine’s mix of short satirical pieces and long-form journalism, its ability to use syndicated cartoonists and brand-new talented recruited on its own.

The biggest of the festival’s three awards, the Emerging Cartoonist award and its \$7,500 cash prize, will be given during the show’s Saturday Expo 3 p.m. at CML Main Library.

Russell and Bors received their awards from a committee made up of festival venue partners and board members.

Russell was born in Wellsville, Ohio, where he currently lives. Canton-born Bors lives in his family in Portland, Oregon.

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