

CARTOON CROSSROADS COLUMBUS^{*}

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CARTOONIST CARTA MONIR WINS 2019 CXC EMERGING TALENT AWARD

SEPTEMBER 28, 2019 (Columbus, Ohio) — In an explosive, happy moment from the floor of the Expo held by Cartoon Crossroads Columbus on the second floor of CML Main library, Cartoonist Carta Monir became the fifth winner of the CXC Emerging Talent award, given every year Cartoon Crossroads Columbus. Since its inception the award has been fully funded by Jeff Smith and Vijaya Iyer, the creator and president of Cartoon Books, the company behind Bone and other Smith works. Monir's win marks \$37,000 in total funds awarded by Smith and Iyer on behalf of emerging cartoonists.

“She is an amazing choice,” said Cartoon Crossroads Festival Director Tom Spurgeon, who announced the award. “Monir is an exciting young artist but also an activist within her industry and community, a hands-on publisher devoted to underserved works, a printer with the ability to get her hands right on the art, and a well-known advocate for issues of diversity and representation within the art form. Carta Monir is a force of nature.”

Monir was selected by a board CXC board members and venue partners after a series of private deliberations.

Monir received a check for \$7,500, which she is entitled to use at her own discretion, hopefully in ways that will sustain and support her artistic career.

Cartoon Crossroads Columbus is a 501(c)3 nonprofit devoted the best in comics and cartoon art, the promotion of Columbus as an international arts destination for such art, and the development of young artists devoted to artistically expressing themselves in comics.

Past winners are Katie Skelly (2015), Kevin Czapiewski (2016), Kat Fajardo (2017) and Keren Katz (2018). Skelly, Czapiewski and Katz were attendance for Monir's win.

Another CXC emerging talent award is planned for September, 2020. Other awards granted in 2019 were P. Craig Russell winning Master Cartoonist and The Nib winning Transformative Work.

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