



Contact:
Hillary Ryan, 253.272.4258 ext 3051
hryan@tacomaartmuseum.org

Donuts, Duff and D'Oh
Play Meets Process in New Exhibition
Featuring Animation Cels of *The Simpsons*

April 11, 2019 (Tacoma, WA)— Tacoma Art Museum will present *Bart at TAM: Animating America's Favorite Family*, an unauthorized and in-depth look at the process and teamwork needed to create America's longest-running primetime animated television show from July 20-October 27, 2019. Set in the fictional town of Springfield, *The Simpsons* explores the life of a working-class family through parodies of American culture and society, television, and the human condition.



Animating America's
Favorite Family

The exhibition features over 100 hand generated animation cels, scripts, and drawings related to the first 13 seasons of *The Simpsons*. Visitors will be able to learn about the process of animation and explore the elements that make up the show's distinctive identity, characters, style, and comedy.

The Simpsons was originally conceived in 1987 by cartoonist Matt Groening as a series of animated shorts for the sketch comedy series *The Tracy Ullman Show*. Due to its popularity, the concept became a series debuting in 1989. As Groening is a native of Portland, OR and graduate of Evergreen State College in Olympia, WA, many find a multitude of parallels in the show to the Pacific Northwest. Now in its 30th season, the loving, yet dysfunctional family of Homer, Marge, Bart, Lisa, and Maggie has been joined by a wide-range of characters and over 800 guest stars.

The show's comedic style has attracted both praise and criticism. *The Simpsons* has won 31 Primetime Emmy Awards, 30 Annie Awards, and a Peabody Award. It has also collided with and responded to cultural events and social changes over its decades long run.

Events

Member Preview

Thursday, July 18, 5-8 pm

Members Free/ \$10 for non-members

Press Preview

Friday, July 19, 10-11am

Please contact Hillary Ryan at

hryan@tacomaartmuseum.org to reserve your spot.

Educational Programming

TAM Studio

Ongoing, during the run of the exhibition

Explore the art of animation with hands-on activities for the whole family in TAM Studio. Try your hand at making a flip book, learn how to draw your own cartoon characters, and write your own jokes.

TAM Studio is the museum's free art-making space for visitors with children. No museum admission required! Located in the museum's lobby next to the TAM Store, the studio is stocked with art supplies and fun things to do. Guests of all ages, interests, and abilities are welcome to stop by TAM Studio during museum hours to connect, explore, create and read together.

Group Tours: *Bart at TAM: Animating America's Favorite Family*

Ongoing, during the run of the exhibition

Get ready for a fun trip through the world of America's Favorite Family! Explore how an animated series comes to life. Experience the color, the characters, and the jokes like never before.

TAM's interactive group tours provide expanded information about artworks on view in the galleries and the artists who made them, while encouraging groups to investigate art through lively discussions.

These experiences last about 45 minutes and include museum admission for visitors to explore the galleries further on their own. Must be reserved a minimum of two weeks in advance.

Cost: Groups of 10 or more: \$12 per person; TAM Members and Military: \$2 per person

Homeschool Day

Wednesday, September 25, 10 am - 2 pm

Join us for a special day just for homeschool students! Explore how cartoons are made with a guided tour, then create your own cartoon, learning with an expert teaching artist. Spend time exploring the galleries on your own, with self-guided activities and a scavenger hunt. Check out art-making activities in TAM Studio. The guided tour and facilitated art-making activities are designed for students age 4-18. Children under 4 are welcome to accompany adult chaperones and participate in the self-guided exploration and TAM Studio activities. Registration and more details on our [website](#).

Cost: \$10 per student; one chaperone per family free (\$5 per additional chaperone); children under 4 free

Animation in the Northwest

Sunday, July 21, 2 pm -3 pm

Join us for a conversation with local animators and illustrators. Learn about their process, influences and the growing animation community in the Northwest.

Cost: \$10 (\$5 members/ students with ID)

Cartoon Trivia Night

Thursday, August 22, 6 pm - 8 pm

Test your knowledge of cartoons from comic strips to America's favorite animated family. Enjoy drinks and bites from TAM Cafe while you compete for prizes from across Tacoma. Teams of 4-6 are encouraged [to register](#) early.

Cost: Free

Illustration Drawing Rally

Thursday, September 19, 5 - 8 pm

Come see local illustrators at work! Spend the evening exploring cartooning and illustration in the gallery with *Bart at TAM* and with local artists. Ask questions, see their process, and enter to win an original artwork. Presented in collaboration with [Lettuce 253](#).

Cost: Free

About Tacoma Art Museum

Celebrating over 80 years, Tacoma Art Museum is an anchor in Tacoma's downtown with a mission of connecting people through art. TAM's collection contains more than 5,000 works, with an emphasis on the art and artists of the Northwest and broader Western region, 25% of which consists of studio glass. The collection includes the largest retrospective museum collection of glass art by Tacoma native Dale Chihuly on permanent view; the most significant collection of studio art jewelry by Northwest artists; key holdings in 19th century European and 20th century American art; and one of the finest collections of Japanese woodblock prints on the West Coast. In 2012, TAM received a gift of more than 300 works of western American art from the Haub Family Collection, one of the premier such collections in the nation and the first major western American art museum collection in the Northwest. The Haub family also contributed \$20 million for an endowment and expansion completed in 2014. In January 2019, TAM inaugurated the Rebecca and Jack Benaroya Wing which will feature the extensive Benaroya collection of studio glass as well as TAM's own collection of studio glass, which was started in 1971. TAM is located in the heart of Tacoma's vibrant Museum District which consists of six museums including the Museum of Glass, a frequent collaborator.

HOURS - Tues-Sun 10 am-5 pm; FREE Neighborhood Nights every Thursday 5-8 pm

ADMISSION - \$18 Adult, \$15 Student/Senior (65+), \$40 Family (2 adults and up to four children age 6-18), Children 5 and

under free every day. Children 18 and under free every Saturday. TAM Members; active duty military, reservists, veterans, and their families always free.

CONTACT - 253-272-4258/ www.tacomaartmuseum.org

###