

WINDOWS ON *DEATH ROW*

**For
Immediate
Release**

🌐 WindowsOnDeathRow 📌 WODR 🐦 @WoDRExhibit



Kevin Cooper (B.1958), San Quentin Prison, CA
Free Me!!, 2011, acrylic on canvas, 28" x 22"

The Billy Ireland Cartoon Library & Museum

announces a new exhibition:

Windows on Death Row

November 5, 2016 - March 12, 2017

*Galleries open 1 pm to 5 pm, Tuesday -
Sunday. FREE and open to the public.*

cartoons.osu.edu

Windows on Death Row (WoDR) is a display of artwork created by prisoners living on Death Row, alongside a selection of work by top editorial cartoonists. There are currently 2,905 Americans awaiting execution. Ohio currently has 142 inmates on death row. Although a majority of Americans still approve of capital punishment, those numbers have begun to decline. Several high-profile DNA-based exonerations of death row inmates, a recent string of botched executions, and an increased concern over patterns of racial discrimination have contributed to a growing discussion about the effectiveness, as well as the human and financial costs of the death penalty.

Project founders Anne-Frédérique Widmann and Patrick Chappatte visited maximum security prisons, organized an art workshop on death row, and received works from inmates incarcerated in eight states. They also invited a dozen of America's top political cartoonists to share their take on the issue, and among those featured are Pat Oliphant, Jeff Danziger, David Horsey, KAL, Ann Telnaes, Matt Wuerker, Joel Pett, and Clay Bennett. The resulting collection of work offers testimonies and insights from a world that is beyond our imaginations.

This is a traveling exhibition organized by Widmann, an investigative journalist and documentary filmmaker, and Chappatte, editorial cartoonist for the International New York Times. Widmann's and Chappatte's hope for this exhibition is "to contribute to a necessary debate that is not only taking place inside the United States, but also between America and the rest of the Western democracies."

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WoDR was curated and is circulated in the US with the assistance of Anne Hromadka Greenwald, a Los Angeles-based independent curator. Switzerland's Federal Department of Foreign Affairs are the lead supporters of the WoDR 2015/2016 exhibition season, aiming to foster inclusive and constructive debates on the death penalty. Artwork was gathered with the help of Compassion, R.E.A.C.H., Minutes Before Six, Who Decides Inc., Witness to Innocence, and Art for Justice. Also sponsored by Murder Victims' Families for Human Rights.

Save the date for a special program and reception on **Saturday, February 25th, 2017** at The Billy Ireland Cartoon Library & Museum, featuring the exhibition founders and painter Ndume Olatushani, a former Death Row inmate who spent 28 years in prison after being wrongfully convicted of murder. Further details about the event coming soon.

About the Billy Ireland Cartoon Library & Museum: The BICLM is one of The Ohio State University Libraries' special collections. Its primary mission is to develop a comprehensive research collection of materials documenting American printed cartoon art (editorial cartoons, comic strips, comic books, graphic novels, sports cartoons, and magazine cartoons) and to provide access to the collections. The BICLM facility includes a museum with three exhibition galleries, a reading room for researchers and a state-of-the-art collections storage space. The library reading room is open Monday-Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday 1 - 5 p.m. The museum is open Tuesday-Sunday from 1 - 5 p.m. See <http://cartoons.osu.edu/> for further information.

Switzerland's Federal Department of Foreign Affairs is glad to support this project, which aims at fostering inclusive and constructive debates on the death penalty. Artwork was gathered with the help of Compassion, R.E.A.C.H., Minutes Before Six, Who Decides Inc., Witness to Innocence, and Art for Justice. Also sponsored by Murder Victims' Families for Human Rights.

MV FHR

Murder Victims' Families for **Human Rights**



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