With a commitment to excellence dating back to SVA’s founding in 1947, the BFA Illustration and Cartooning Department cultivates individual voices sustained by a high degree of craft. Comic books, graphic novels, children’s books, editorial illustrations, theatrical posters, movie credits and television production designs are powerful vehicles for artists’ inner worlds and meaningful contributions to a public forum. As a result, students are prepared not only to excel at self-expression but also to solve problems and comment on the culture.

The curriculum helps students develop a point of view as they master the rudiments of line, color, and form in a range of media, including gouache, collage, etching and watercolor. Both the cartooning and illustration programs combine studies of art history and world cultures with painting and drawing, storytelling and pictorial problems, and culminate in a portfolio of original work. As they make their way into the commercial realm, graduating seniors have their work showcased in a cartooning or illustration portfolio books that are juried by leaders in the field and published by the College.

Additional outlets for aspiring cartoonists at SVA include Cartoon Allies, a student club that organizes an annual mini-comic convention, Freshmeat, MoCCA, and New York Comic-Con, an annual comic book convention where the College has a recognized presence.

2011 - 2012 student population
616 matriculated students

Department chair
Thomas Woodruff, painter and illustrator

Some notable faculty members
Jessica Abel, Nick Bertozzi, Steve Brodner, Chris Buzilli, Marcos Chin, Josh Cochran, Teresa Fasolino, Bill Griffith, Tom Hart, Klaus Janson, Phil Jimenez, Victoria Kann, Dave King, Peter Kuper, Travis Louie, Mathew Madden, Marvin Mattleson, Keith Mayerson, David Mazzucchelli, Gary Panter, Steven Savage, Walter Simonson, Yuko Shimizu, Jillian Tamaki, Seth Tobocman, Sam Weber.

Some notable alumni
Peter Bagge, Paul Davis, Steve Ditko, Tom Engelhardt, Bill Gallo, Harry Harrison, Yumi Heo, Dick Hodgins, Jr., James Jean, Bill Lee, Peter McCarty, Patrick McDonnell, Nick Meglin, Michael Paraskevas, Bill Plympton, Joe Quesada, Dash Shaw, David Soman, George C. Woodbridge.

Student exhibitions
Cartooning and illustration students have the opportunity to exhibit work at SVA’s Visual Arts Gallery in the Chelsea district of Manhattan for a thesis exhibition for third-year students. Students gain experience in selecting and preparing art for installation and receive valuable feedback about their work from fellow artists, critics, collectors, dealers and other members of the city’s art community.

For further information, visit our Web site at www.sva.edu.