

**MASSACHUSETTS COLLEGE OF ART AND DESIGN'S
ARNHEIM GALLERY ANNOUNCES
Barrington S. Edwards: Investigating Dystopias
April 7 – April 25, 2014**

Boston, MA (April 7, 2014) – Massachusetts College of Art and Design's Arnheim Gallery (located in South Hall, 621 Huntington Avenue) announces the exhibition *Barrington S. Edwards: Investigating Dystopias* on behalf of the Seminar VI Exhibition class taught by professor Steve Locke.

Investigating Dystopias is the first solo exhibition of illustrative works by Boston artist Barrington S. Edwards. Drawing from his experiences as an educator, Bostonian, Jamaican, and African American, Edwards transports his viewers into hypothetical worlds where flawed characters adapt to challenging situations. These stories, rich with critical analysis, narrative, and action, force the viewer to imagine dystopic universes and consider human beings' ability to adapt.

A selection of Edwards' comics will be showcased during the exhibition, including his graphic novel, *Loserville*, a short story of the daily strifes of a high school student. Edwards uses his comics as a vehicle to address contemporary social issues such as, racism, violence, cultural alienation, and the adversities of life as a high school student. Each of his stories explore these themes through a dystopic lens that commonly presents itself in the urban setting he works and lives in. Edwards' representation of the human condition and the universal complexities of life can be appreciated by both teens and adults alike.

Barrington S. Edwards received a BFA for communication design in Illustration and a Master of Science in Art Education from Massachusetts College of Art and Design. In addition to his dedication as an Art Educator at the Boston Arts Academy since 2000, Edwards has also been a strong community member. Recognizing the dystopic situations that often arise in urban areas, Edwards has lent his own socially conscious hand in working with organizations such as Gang Peace, Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative and the Roxbury Multi Service Center. Additionally, Edwards has created his own unique social practice through his crafting of the Haven Café (a community space for art, food and discussion) and the Zombie Zeitgeist (a performance and installation piece examining culture's fascination with apocalyptic situations).

Barrington S Edwards: Investigating Dystopia is on view in the Arnheim Gallery at MassArt from April 7th until Friday April 25th, 2014 Free of charge and open to the public. The Arnheim Gallery has been known for showcasing works that provoke conversation through art, education, and research as well as serving as a public space to better the teaching and learning of the visual arts. Gallery hours are Monday – Friday, 10:00am – 6:00pm, Saturday 10:00am – 5:00pm, Closed Sunday.

Please join us for the public reception on Friday, April 11, from 6:00pm – 8:00pm

For more information on this gallery and other exhibitions please email gallerinfo@massart.edu or call 617-879-7550.