



## Press Release

2 July 2018

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Cartoonist and writer is honoured by Leeds Arts University

*Internationally published cartoonist and writer to receive Leeds Arts University's second honorary Master of Arts degree.*

[Darryl Cunningham](#) will be recognised by Leeds Arts University, the North of England's only specialist arts university, during a graduation ceremony on Thursday 5 July at Leeds Town Hall. The ceremony will celebrate graduating students from the University's BA (Hons) degree courses in: Animation, Creative Advertising, Fashion, Fine Art, Graphic Design, Illustration, Photography, Printed Textiles & Surface Pattern Design, and Visual Communication.

Ahead of receiving his honorary degree **Darryl Cunningham said:-**

"It will be a huge privilege for me to accept an honorary degree from Leeds Arts University, especially as I'm a former student of the University, having studied between 1980 and 1983 when it was then known as Jacob Kramer College"

"The University has long played a vital role in shaping the lives and careers of so many people in the creative arts. With a number of new courses starting next year, including a degree course in Comic & Concept Art, the University will continue to offer life-changing opportunities to tomorrow's creatives." said **Darryl Cunningham**.

Born and raised in Keighley, Cunningham worked in mental health for many years - an experience that informed his first graphic work, *Psychiatric Tales* (Blank Slate, 2010), a book written with the aim of exploding myths about mental illness.

Cunningham followed this with, *Science Tales* (Myriad Editions, 2012), a series of graphic essays on controversial science subjects that include: the Andrew Wakefield/MMR/vaccination scandal, homeopathy, chiropractic, evolution, climate change, and gas fracking. This book looks at the facts of each subject and sorts the truth from the myths.

**Professor Simone Wonnacott, Vice-Chancellor, Leeds Arts University said:**

"Darryl Cunningham has produced much award-winning and thought-provoking work over many years using comic and graphic arts so it gives me great pleasure to award him only our second Honorary Master of Arts degree. Although the University has changed much since Darryl's time it is alumni such as him

who continue to inspire our students by showing them what is possible through talent, commitment and hard work."

Cunningham's latest book is *Graphic Science* (Myriad Editions, 2017), a book that takes a close look at the lives and work of seven scientists, spanning two centuries and looking at fields as different as geology, botany, chemistry, and astronomy. Subjects include Nikola Tesla, Fred Hoyle, and Mary Anning.

Prior to this he worked on *Supercrash: How To Hijack The Global Economy* (Myriad Editions, 2014), a book about the long rise of neoliberal politics in the Western world. It contains a biography of the novelist and political thinker, Ayn Rand, an overview of her influence on modern politics and a detailed breakdown of the causes of the 2008 financial crisis.

In 2015 Cunningham worked with the Bill And Melinda Gates Foundation's Art Of Saving a Life project, as one of 30 world-renowned photographers, painters, sculptors, writers, filmmakers and musicians to impress urgency on the global community to reach all children with the life-saving vaccines they need.

Last year the University awarded its first Honorary Master of Arts degree to leading UK film director and alumna of the University, Clio Barnard.

-ENDS-

### Editor's Notes

For more information, filming and image requests or to arrange interviews contact: Emma Morris, PR & Communications Officer, 0113 202 8044 or [emma.morris@leeds-art.ac.uk](mailto:emma.morris@leeds-art.ac.uk)

Leeds Arts University graduation ceremony will take place on Thursday 5 July 2018 at Leeds Town Hall.

### About Leeds Arts University

- Founded in 1846 as the Leeds Government School of Art and Design, Leeds Arts University (formerly Leeds College of Art) has contributed significantly to the development of art education in Britain and across the world.
- In 2016 the University was granted Taught Degree Awarding Powers, and in 2017 was awarded full university status, making it the only specialist arts university in the North of England.
- Leeds Arts University is the highest ranked university in The Guardian University League Tables 2019 for Design & Crafts, in the whole of the UK. Leeds Arts University has been previously recognised for its industry-standard facilities at the Whatuni awards (winners in 2014 and 2016, runner up 2017 & 2018), and is currently the highest ranked specialist arts university in the UK and the highest ranked university in Yorkshire for student satisfaction in the National Student Survey 2017.
- Leeds Arts University has an impressive history of notable past students, including Henry Moore and Barbara Hepworth who were students in 1919 and 1920. In later years Damien Hirst, Marcus Harvey, Eric Bainbridge, Clio Barnard and Georgina Starr all studied at the University, known then as the Jacob Kramer College. The University's recent graduates continue to win prestigious international awards year on year and enjoy successful careers in the creative industries.

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