the Center for Cartoon Studies PRESENTS

Q & A

with Tillie Walden
Do you remember when you first started drawing?

In kindergarten, I drew the same flower over and over and over.

When did you come out as a cartoonist?

The summer before 12th grade. I was making terrible comics and the drive to get better was overwhelming.

Did you draw throughout your childhood?

I did, but very secretly. I would draw characters in agonizing situations then erase it immediately.
AND THAT DROVE YOU TO THE CENTER FOR CARTOON STUDIES?
Yes. I visited the school and my decision was instant.

UNLIKE MOST CCS STUDENTS, YOU CAME HERE RIGHT AFTER HIGH SCHOOL. WHAT WAS THAT ADJUSTMENT LIKE?
I had never lived alone before, and at first it was terrifying.

It had everything I was looking for: teachers I loved and respected, a challenging curriculum, and a community of like-minded cartoonists.

but I found my way.
AND VERMONT?
WHITE RIVER JUNCTION?

I love it.
WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN DRAWING A COMIC THAT IS WORKING VS. ONE THAT'S NOT?

even when making bad comics, I still enjoy the process.

but when everything starts to flow...

and my drawings are telling a story, capturing a feeling...

it's what helps me wake up at 5am to draw.

It feels like I can just keep going, and the pages run out of me.
WHAT CAN COMICS BE?

anything.

capture any mood.

comics can go anywhere,

I can use comics to tell any story from my life that I need to tell.
I see so many people slog through comics and art while spending the entire time hating themselves and their art. I wouldn't have lasted until now and would have never been able to keep going if that was still how I felt.

I make comics and I enjoy it.
QUESTIONS ABOUT TILLIE WALDEN?
A: tilliewalden.com

QUESTIONS ABOUT THE CENTER FOR CARTOON STUDIES?
A: cartoonstudies.org