



Australian Society of Authors
Suite C1.06 22-36 Mountain St
Ultimo NSW 2007 Australia

T: (02) 9211 1004 F: (02) 9211 0125
asa@asauthors.org | www.asauthors.org

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CONTACT: Julie Ditrich, Comics / Graphic Novels Portfolio Holder, ASA
Phone / Fax: + 61 2 9606 4728 Mobile: 0412 445 511
Email: julie@blackmermaid.com

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US Celebrity Comics Creator Challenges Comics Geek Stereotype

US comics creator and artist Colleen Doran, who is coming to Australia in November to present a weekend Comics Masterclass for the Australian Society of Authors (ASA), does not fit the comics geek stereotype, typified by the “Comic Book Guy” on *The Simpsons* or Stuart the comic store owner on *The Big Bang Theory*.

Firstly, in an industry dominated by men ... she is a woman.
Secondly, she is a Southern woman with a soft accent and a wit as sharp as Dorothy Parker’s.
Thirdly, she is an industry shape-shifter, having worked as an illustrator on works as disparate as superhero comic books like *Amazing Spider-Man* and *Wonder Woman*; officially licensed properties such as *Lord of the Rings*, *Star Wars* and *Indiana Jones*; as well as the works of Neil Gaiman, Anne Rice, Clive Barker and Tori Amos. Her magnum opus *A Distant Soil* graphic novel series has been listed as one of the “101 Best Graphic Novels of All Time”. She is also a manga expert and was an artist-in-residence at the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, DC, where she lectured on Hokusai and ukyo-e prints and their relation to pop culture and manga.

Doran is now travelling to Australia in November to present a weekend Comics Masterclass for Australian comics creators. The content will focus on the craft, as well as the business of comics and will pay particular attention to storytelling and visual comics styles. The goal of this inaugural masterclass is “*To up-skill and educate Australian comics creators so their literary works can compete commercially and critically on the international comics and graphic novels publishing stage,*” says Angelo Loukakis, Executive Director of the ASA. “*We’re excited to have somebody of Colleen’s calibre and experience to present the session.*”

The Comics Masterclass “How to Crack the Comic Book, Manga and Graphic Novel Creation Code so You Can Write, Illustrate and Edit Like a Pro”, will be held at UTS Aerial Function Centre in Sydney on Saturday 19 and Sunday 20 November 2011. ASA Members \$135; Students / ACA, AWG, Japan Foundation and Writers’ Centre Members \$165; Non-Members \$195.

For more information and bookings go to: www.comicsmasterclass.com
To access the Media Centre go to: <http://bit.ly/nyQgjb>

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