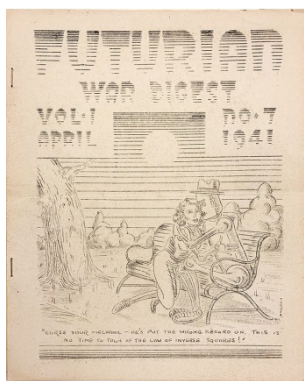


*As If: Alternative Histories from Then to Now*  
April 12–July 28, 2019

The Lab  
Opening Reception, April 11, 2019, 6–8pm

For further information and images, please contact  
Molly Gross, *Director of Communications*, The Drawing Center  
212 219 2166 x119 | [mgross@drawingcenter.org](mailto:mgross@drawingcenter.org)

April 11, 2019



J. Michael Rosenblum, ed.,  
*Futurian War Digest Vol. 1 no.*  
*7*, 1941. Published by J.  
Michael Rosenblum, Leeds,  
United Kingdom. Cover  
artwork by Harry Turner.  
Fanzine. Albin O. Kuhn  
Library, University of  
Maryland, Baltimore County.

New York – *As If: Alternative Histories from Then to Now* opens in The Drawing Center’s Lab gallery on April 12, 2019. The works in multiple mediums in this exhibition offer examples of how we might reimagine historical narratives in order to contend with the traumas of contemporary life. These works of consummate draftsmanship exemplify the skill of drawing and the imagination of artists at work turning fantasies into plausible realities—absurd, amusing, and sometimes terrifying. Whether exacerbating the contradictions of present society or imagining genuinely alternative utopias, the participating authors and artists traverse science fiction, popular culture, and genuine aesthetic thought-experiments. Spanning a historical era transformed by war, racial and economic inequity, authoritarianism, and the persistent fear of imminent apocalypse, these works offer alternative understandings of our present by rewiring the past. *As If: Alternative Histories from Then to Now* is organized by Giampaolo Bianconi, guest curator, and Isabella Kapur, Curatorial Assistant, The Drawing Center.

History is always up for grabs. For centuries, writers, philosophers, and artists have speculated about historical narratives that run counter to actual historical events. What if, in 1859, John Brown’s successful raid on Harpers Ferry led to the establishment of a socialist nation called Nova Africa? What if, a few years later, in 1865, Susan B. Anthony became a gun-toting outlaw? A British General Strike in 1926 was a triumph? The Axis powers won World War II? Dewey defeated Truman? Raccoons or mosquitos evolved into the earth’s dominant species? Working towards utopian, reactionary, or simply ambiguous ends, the artists, writers, and amateur science fiction enthusiasts in this exhibition use the playground of history as a foundation on which to construct alternatives to the stark realities of the present—whether amplifying its inherent contradictions or imagining a better world.

Presented in *As If: Alternative Histories from Then to Now* are early speculative fiction publications from the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century, including the British wartime fanzine *Futurian War Digest* and ongoing science fiction magazine *Interzone* (1982–present), on loan from the Special Collections of the Albin O. Kuhn Library & Gallery, University of Maryland, Baltimore County. Book covers for Joanna Russ’s *The Female Man*, Philip K. Dick’s *The Man in High Castle*, Norman Spinrad’s *Iron Dream*, Martin Cruz Smith’s *The Indians Won*, and Ward Moore’s *Bring the Jubilee* are accompanied by album covers from the discography of Sun Ra and prints of Jack Kirby’s Lord of Light series, as well as the original ink drawing for the cover of *Avengers #87*, featuring Marvel’s T’Challa, the Black Panther, illustrated by John Buscema. These items are

complemented by contemporary works on paper by artists including Huma Bhabha, Joe Bradley, Vivian Caccuri, Keith Mayerson, and Cauleen Smith.

## PUBLIC PROGRAMS

Thursday, May 23, 6:30-8pm, FREE

Walkthrough of *As If: Alternative Histories from Then to Now* with writer Ed Halter and curator Giampaolo Bianconi.

## CREDITS

*As If: Alternative Histories from Then to Now* is made possible by Anonymous, with additional support from the Director's Circle of The Drawing Center. Special thanks to Joel Wachs.

## ABOUT THE DRAWING CENTER

The Drawing Center, a museum in Manhattan's SoHo district, explores the medium of drawing as primary, dynamic, and relevant to contemporary culture, the future of art, and creative thought. Its activities, which are both multidisciplinary and broadly historical, include exhibitions; Open Sessions, a curated artist program encouraging community and collaboration; the *Drawing Papers* publication series; and education and public programs.

## LOCATION, HOURS & ACCESSIBILITY

35 Wooster Street between Broome and Grand Streets in SoHo, New York.

Gallery hours are Wednesday-Sunday 12pm–6pm, Thursday, 12pm–8pm.

Tickets: \$5 Adults, \$3 Students and seniors, Children under 12 are free, and free admission Thursdays 6-8pm.

The Drawing Center is wheelchair accessible.

212.219.2166 | [info@drawingcenter.org](mailto:info@drawingcenter.org) | [drawingcenter.org](http://drawingcenter.org)

FACEBOOK: /TheDrawingCenter

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INSTAGRAM: @drawingcenter

## AT THE DRAWING CENTER

*Neo Rauch: Aus dem Boden / From the Floor* April 12–July 28, 2019

*As If: Alternative Histories from Then to Now* April 12–July 28, 2019

## INSTALLATIONS

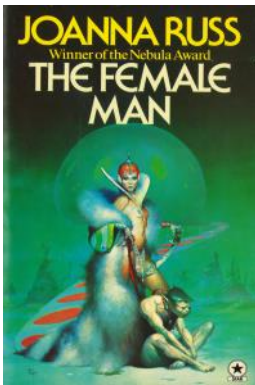
*Inka Essenhigh: Manhattanhenge* in the Stairwell Through August 2019

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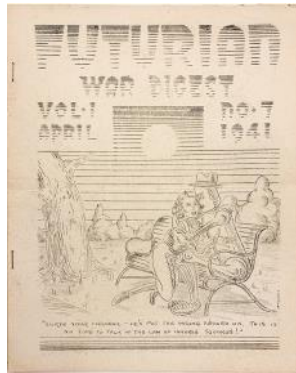
*As If: Alternative Histories from Then to Now*  
April 12–July 28, 2019

Images Available for Reproduction

For further information and images, please contact  
Molly Gross, *Communications Director*, The Drawing Center  
212 219 2166 x119 | mgross@drawingcenter.org



Joanna Russ, *The Female Man*, 1977.  
Published by the paperback division of  
W. H. Allen & Co. Ltd., London,  
United Kingdom. Cover artwork by  
Peter Andrew Jones. Printed book.  
Private Collection, New York.



J. Michael Rosenblum, ed., *Futurian War Digest Vol. 1 no. 7*, 1941.  
Published by J. Michael Rosenblum,  
Leeds, United Kingdom. Cover artwork  
by Harry Turner. Fanzine. Albin O.  
Kuhn Library, University of Maryland,  
Baltimore County.



Sun Ra & His Astro Intergalactic  
Infinity Arkestra, *Discipline 27-II*,  
1973. El Saturn Records, Chicago,  
IL, Sun Ra LLC. Cover artwork by  
LeRoy Butler. Offset print on  
paper. Collection of John Corbett  
and Terri Kapsalis.  
Reproduced courtesy Sun Ra LLC



Huma Bhabha, *Untitled*,  
2010. Ink on C-print.  
Courtesy of the artist and  
Salon 94, New York



Eddie Owens Martin (St. EOM),  
*Untitled*, n.d., Watercolor and pen on  
paper. Courtesy of Columbus State  
University Foundation, a gift of the  
Kohler Foundation, Inc. made possible  
by Institute 193.