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NMAI-INSPIRED AUTHOR/ARTIST CLAIRE MA FEATURED IN TIMES SQUARE

After a deeply inspirational visit to the **National Museum of American Illustration (NMAI)** in Newport, RI three years ago, 17-year-old author and artist **Claire Ma** returned in December to show NMAI co-founders Judy and Laurence Cutler her recent achievements.

In 2017, Claire published an illustrated book of coming-of-age poems written throughout her teenage years, entitled *between the lines*. Using publisher royalties, she founded the “Claire Ma Love Foundation”, a non-profit organization that encourages young people to read and write. Through this foundation, in October 2017, the first “Claire Ma Library” was created in Ma Wang Xiang within the Hunan Province, one of the most impoverished areas in China. It is the first public library to exist in the region. The second “Claire Ma Library” is scheduled for creation in March 2018.

During her second visit to the NMAI this past December, Claire was also deeply moved by one of the NMAI’s current exhibitions, *The Art of Giving*, which highlights gifts received from generous donors in recent years. Claire painted two artworks, which she then donated to the NMAI’s collection as a token of gratitude for inspiring her own creativity and success.

Claire has been garnering significant international attention for her work and was recently featured in an advertisement for *between the lines* on the Nasdaq billboard in Times Square. Claire’s book can be purchased through the NMAI; please call (401) 851–8949 ext. 18 for more details.

The National Museum of American Illustration is an independent, educational and aesthetic organization with the goal to present the best venue for the public to appreciate the greatest collection of illustration art. The NMAI is open until Labor Day on Thursday through Sunday, 11AM–5PM, with a Guided Tour every Friday at 3PM. It is located at Vernon Court, 492 Bellevue Avenue, Newport, RI. For information call (401) 851-8949 ext. 18 or visit www.AmericanIllustration.org.

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Photo Captions:

01: Claire Ma (center) poses at the NMAI with Co-Founders Laurence & Judy Cutler (left) and her parents Elisa & Jin (left). *Image courtesy National Museum of American Illustration.*

02: Claire Ma’s advertisement on the Nasdaq billboard in Times Square. Note one of Maxfield Parrish’s *A Florentine Fete* illustrations in the background, located in the NMAI’s North Loggia. *Image courtesy National Museum of American Illustration.*