



A Comics Studies Reader

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A Comics Studies Reader offers the best of the new comics scholarship in nearly thirty essays on a wide variety of such comics forms as gag cartoons, editorial cartoons, comic strips, comic books, manga, and graphic novels.

The anthology covers the pioneering work of Rodolphe Töpffer, the Disney comics of Carl Barks, and the graphic novels of Art Spiegelman and Chris Ware, as well as *Peanuts*, romance comics, and superheroes. It explores the stylistic achievements of manga, the international anti-comics campaign, and power and class in Mexican comic books and English illustrated stories.

A Comics Studies Reader introduces readers to the major debates and points of reference that continue to shape the field. It will interest anyone who wants to delve deeper into the world of comics and is ideal for classroom use.

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Editorial Review

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While such critically acclaimed graphic novels as Art Spiegelman's *Maus* (1986, 1991), Chris Ware's *Jimmy Corrigan* (2000), and Alison Bechdel's *Fun Home* (2006) established the artistic legitimacy of comics, academic comics scholarship has thriven apace. The 28 essays Heer and Worcester collect reflect the various approaches to writing about comics taken by writers in the burgeoning discipline. Those include the historical in pieces on nineteenth-century graphic storyteller Rodolphe Töpffer and other progenitors of the medium; the formal in esoteric pieces on the craft and art of comics, covering such aspects as the "verbal-visual blend" of words and pictures, the ways artists indicate panel sequencing, and sound representation in Japanese manga; and the critical-analytic in considerations of seminal works by Ware, Spiegelman, and others. Most of the essays focus on American comics, but several examine works from Japan, Mexico, and France, where scholars have deemed comics "the ninth art." The contributions range in readability from totally accessible to highly rarefied and borderline pedantic. Still, altogether they attest to the artistic importance of a long-neglected medium. --Gordon Flagg

Review

"The editorial work accomplished by Heer and Worcester is simply impressive. Not only have they managed to gather material that is challenging, well-written, well-thought and that should enable a big leap forward in comics theory and criticism, but the two editors have also succeeded in giving each text the necessary space and context." - Jan Baetens, *Image & Narrative*

"Since academics have helped legitimize comics as an art form to be taken seriously, it only makes sense that an entire book of scholarly essays put illustrated fiction under the microscope. It very well could serve as the required reading for that course I never had the opportunity to ace." Rod Lott, *Oklahoma Gazette*

"Jeet Heer and Kent Worcester have, once again, performed admirably in producing another compendious survey of comics scholarship. Their earlier effort in this vein, *Arguing Comics: Literary Masters on a Popular Medium*, scanned the historical landscape for essays about comics written by various literary critics and the like; their current production, *A Comics Studies Reader*, compiles 28 essays by contemporary scholars and critics. The result is a sort of panorama of current serious thinking about the art of cartooning in all its forms." *Robert C. Harvey*

From the Publisher

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With contributions from

--Thomas Andrae
--Martin Barker
--Bart Beaty
--John Benson
--David Carrier
--Hillary Chute
--Peter Coogan
--Annalisa Di Liddo
--Ariel Dorfman
--Thierry Groensteen
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--Charles Hatfield
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--John Lent
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--Amy Kiste Nyberg
--Fusami Ogi
--Robert S. Petersen
--Anne Rubenstein
--Roger Sabin
--Gilbert Seldes
--Art Spiegelman
--Fredric Wertham
--Joseph Witek

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Richard Endsley:

Spent a free the perfect time to be fun activity to accomplish! A lot of people spent their spare time with their family, or their very own friends. Usually they undertaking activity like watching television, going to beach, or picnic inside the park. They actually doing same task every week. Do you feel it? Would you like to something different to fill your own free time/ holiday? Might be reading a book might be option to fill your totally free time/ holiday. The first thing that you ask may be what kinds of guide that you should read. If you want to attempt look for book, may be the publication untitled *A Comics Studies Reader* can be great book to read. May be it can be best activity to you.

Johnny Allen:

Reading can be called mind hangout, why? Because if you are reading a book particularly book entitled *A Comics Studies Reader* the mind will drift away through every dimension, wandering in every single aspect that maybe unknown for but surely will end up your mind friends. Imaging every word written in a guide then become one web form conclusion and explanation this maybe you never get prior to. The *A Comics Studies Reader* giving you a different experience more than blown away your head but also giving you useful data for your better life with this era. So now let us explain to you the relaxing pattern the following is your body and mind is going to be pleased when you are finished examining it, like winning an activity. Do you want to try this extraordinary wasting spare time activity?

Dale Moore:

Your reading 6th sense will not betray an individual, why because this *A Comics Studies Reader* guide written by well-known writer whose to say well how to make book which can be understand by anyone who read the book. Written throughout good manner for you, still dripping wet every ideas and producing skill only for eliminate your own personal hunger then you still hesitation *A Comics Studies Reader* as good book not just by the cover but also through the content. This is one publication that can break don't determine book by its cover, so do you still needing another sixth sense to pick that!? Oh come on your examining sixth sense already told you so why you have to listening to an additional sixth sense.

Pauline Lipman:

Is it you actually who having spare time in that case spend it whole day through watching television programs or just laying on the bed? Do you need something new? This *A Comics Studies Reader* can be the solution, oh how comes? It's a book you know. You are and so out of date, spending your spare time by reading in this fresh era is common not a nerd activity. So what these publications have than the others?

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