

A Comics Studies Reader

From Brand: University Press of Mississippi




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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 thrived 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
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--Fusami Ogi
--Robert S. Petersen
--Anne Rubenstein
--Roger Sabin
--Gilbert Seldes
--Art Spiegelman
--Fredric Wertham
--Joseph Witek

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Sharon Gaines:

Book is usually written, printed, or descriptive for everything. You can understand everything you want by a book. Book has a different type. As it is known to us that book is important point to bring us around the world. Close to that you can your reading proficiency was fluently. A publication *A Comics Studies Reader* will make you to always be smarter. You can feel more confidence if you can know about every little thing. But some of you think this open or reading some sort of book make you bored. It isn't make you fun. Why they are often thought like that? Have you searching for best book or ideal book with you?

Juanita Jones:

Reading a guide tends to be new life style in this particular era globalization. With looking at you can get a lot of information that will give you benefit in your life. Having book everyone in this world could share their idea. Publications can also inspire a lot of people. A great deal of author can inspire all their reader with their story or even their experience. Not only the storyline that share in the books. But also they write about the knowledge about something that you need example of this. How to get the good score toefl, or how to teach your young ones, there are many kinds of book that exist now. The authors nowadays always try to improve their talent in writing, they also doing some research before they write to their book. One of them is this A Comics Studies Reader.

Jesus Moreno:

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 You are and so out of date, spending your extra time by reading in this fresh era is common not a nerd activity.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

Haley Thacker:

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