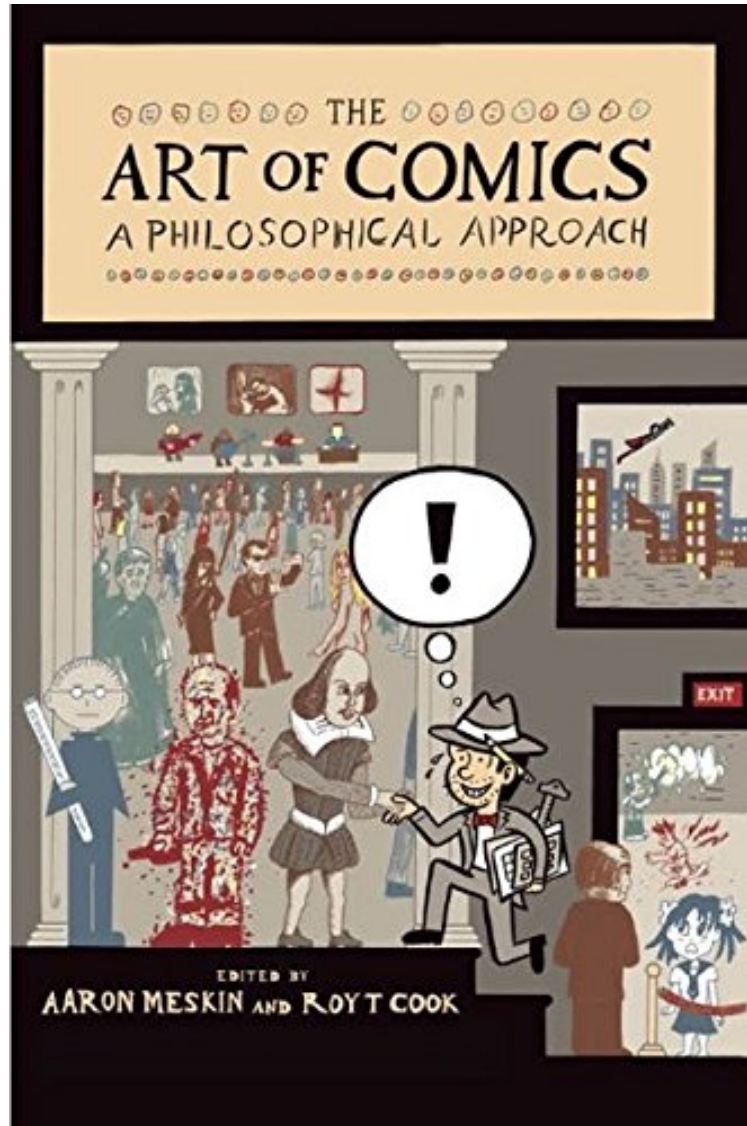


(Read now) The Art of Comics: A Philosophical Approach

The Art of Comics: A Philosophical Approach

Aaron Meskin, Roy T. Cook

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#5522990 in Books Wiley-Blackwell 2012-02-27Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.35 x .66 x 6.351, 1.05
#File Name: 1444334646256 pages | File size: 35.Mb

Aaron Meskin, Roy T. Cook : The Art of Comics: A Philosophical Approach before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Art of Comics: A Philosophical Approach:

0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. I think most people who are passionate about comics would define the medium (not to draw an exact equivalency) much like JusticeBy Matt R. LohrI feel that this book is really geared more towards the comics neophyte than to the reader with a solid history of readership or appreciation of the comics medium. Rather than digging in depth on the methodology or style of particular titles (with the perhaps predictable

exception of "Watchmen", which gets a substantial workout in many of the book's ten essays), the writers featured in this collection tend to spend most of their time simply trying to define precisely what comics are, making heavy usage of Scott McCloud's much-debated definition of the medium and attempting to draw conclusions from such disparate sources as Gary Larson's "The Far Side," early medieval illuminated manuscripts, and the Bayeux Tapestry. I just feel that examining such a base-level question seems slightly elitist, as if overburdening the notion of a "definition" of comics in order to justify the fact that one is writing an academic work on comics in the first place. Frankly, I think that issue should have been settled when "Maus" won the Pulitzer in 1992. Besides which, I think most people who are passionate about comics would define the medium (not to draw an exact equivalency) much like Justice Potter Stewart defined pornography: They know a comic when they see it. The essays in and of themselves are well-written enough, and provide a bit of intriguing food for thought on the nature of certain stylistic aspects of the form (in particular, I welcomed the addressing of formal metacomics, with books such as Grant Morrison's "The Filth" making strange sport of the most basic tools of the comic creator's art. But I think a true lover of comics would be better served by seeking out the comic materials themselves for further study; this book is one of those strange animals, work that basically misses the trees for the forest.

2 of 6 people found the following review helpful. What do you get when you have academics write about comics? By John V. Karavitis A very boring, turgid, dense, inaccessible collection of essays that even academics in the same field might have trouble following. I grant you that the editors and contributing essayists have done their homework, they know their stuff, and the end notes following each essay prove it. But if you're a lay person who is curious about the philosophy of comics, take a pass, this book can only really be appreciated by other academics. So sad. An opportunity lost.

The Art of Comics is the first-ever collection of essays published in English devoted to the philosophical topics raised by comics and graphic novels. In an area of growing philosophical interest, this volume constitutes a great leap forward in the development of this fast expanding field, and makes a powerful contribution to the philosophy of art. The first-ever anthology to address the philosophical issues raised by the art of comics Provides an extensive and thorough introduction to the field, and to comics more generally Responds to the increasing philosophical interest in comic art Includes a preface by the renowned comics author Warren Ellis Many of the chapters are illustrated, and the book carries a stunning cover by the rising young comics star David Heatley

Regardless, though, considered as a whole, The Art of Comics is an excellent collection and one which is likely to provoke spirited debate and serve as a spur to further research within Anglo-American philosophy (and philosophy more generally) into this sadly neglected art form. I, for one, look forward to these future developments immensely. To quote one of the greats in the history of comicsexcelsior!. (British Journal of Aesthetics, 1 October 2013) The Art of Comics: A Philosophical Approach is the first-ever anthology on the aesthetics of comics in the analytic tradition. As such, it is predictably rigorous, but, perhaps more surprisingly, it exhibits a very deep love of comics as well as an intimate and close knowledge of the artform in all its diversity and detail. The book is a splendid addition to the growing body of work on the philosophies of the arts.-Noel Carroll, The Graduate Philosophy Program, CUNY This is a groundbreaking collection that sets the agenda for philosophical reflection on the nature of comics and their place among the arts. Readers will find their thought bubbles bursting out on every page, as fresh insights are delineated and new questions are framed.-Jesse Prinz, The Graduate Philosophy Program, CUNY A new, rich topic is always welcome in philosophy. Comics are just such a topic in the philosophy of art, and this excellent collection is a splendid opportunity to explore the subject.-Ted Cohen, University of Chicago From the Back Cover The Art of Comics: A Philosophical Introduction is the first-ever collection of essays published in English devoted to the philosophical questions raised by the art of comics. The volume, which includes a preface by the renowned comics author Warren Ellis, contains ten cutting-edge essays on a range of philosophical topics raised by comics and graphic novels. These include the definition of comics, the nature of comics genres, the relationship between comics and other arts such as film and literature, the way words and pictures combine in comics, comics authorship, the "language" of comics, and the metaphysics of comics. The book also contains an in-depth introduction by the co-editors which provides an overview of both the book and its subject, as well as a brief history of comics and an overview of extant work on the philosophy of comics. In an area of growing philosophical interest, this volume constitutes a great leap forward in the development of this fast expanding field, and makes a major contribution to the philosophy of art.