

# BEYOND THE BOOK: GRAPHIC NOVELS ARTIST'S BOOKS

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A Presentation by Charles Brown  
to the Florida Bibliophile Society,  
January 21, 2018

MEME →



←  
GRATUITOUS  
TRANSPORTATION  
REFERENCE

Advice for people who are about to cover 40,000 years of human history in 20 minutes

**PEOPLE HAVE BEEN  
TELLING STORIES  
IN PICTURES FOR A  
LONG TIME**

There are many ways to tell this story. This one focuses on pictorial storytelling.





# 40,000 BCE

SULAWESI

This is a long time ago, and this isn't the earliest. Note the simplicity and playfulness.





# 28,000 BCE

CHAUVET , FRANCE

Notice the complexity. This isn't a picture of an animal; it's a active scene.



The background of the image is a close-up of a rock surface covered in numerous small, reddish-brown pictographs. These drawings include stylized human figures, some of which appear to be riding animals, and various other symbols. The rock itself has a mottled, earthy texture with shades of brown, tan, and grey.

# 12,000 BCE

BHIMBETKA, INDIA

Now people appear: riding horses, carrying, weapons, wearing ornaments.

**WHEN PEOPLE MADE  
THEIR OWN CAVES  
(BUILDINGS), THEY  
CONTINUED TO  
PAINT THE WALLS**





1,500 BCE

EGYPT

Notice the crowded canvas and the interplay of words, representational images, and symbols.





# 100 BCE

POMPEII

This image is an illustration of a scene from the Aeneid, the epic of the founding of Rome.





# 1250

**SAINTE-CHAPELLE, FRANCE**

Cathedral windows tell stories from books that most people cannot access or read.





**D**omine labia  
 mea aperies  
 Et os meum  
 annuntiabit  
 laudem tuam  
**D**eus in adiutorium  
 meum intende. Dñe  
 ad adiuvandum me festina  
**G**loria patri. **S**icut erat.  
**A**ngelus sancti spiritus  
 in gratia sit data. de qua  
 virgo unguinum fuit obimi  
 brata. cum per sanctum an  
 gelum fuit salutata. verbu  
 rum factum est virgo frani

1450

FRANCE

The finest and most important manuscripts combine pictures and text.



**U**eneta ciuitas nostro euo cantantissima: temporu nobile ytalie. terra maris potentissima. Quis qui-  
dam ab Eneo seu veneto Troiano inuicū habuisse dicunt. Troia em eneta antenor cū in inimicū  
suum adriaticū mariū classe uoce<sup>9</sup> aduenit. Erat cū eo multitudo Eneū: qui sedemq; vti<sup>9</sup> lūis  
us memorat: et passagioni pulsi. in quā habitaret querebāt sedem qui ueneti appellan<sup>t</sup>. Proxima hinc ve-  
netia appellata. Longiusdū hinc<sup>9</sup> bysiriā. Et deinceps quicquid est agri in padum flumē. Latitudo uero hie  
padum flumē. inde alpes (qui ytaliam a germania dirimunt) amplexa est. Regioni nōmē dū ut uenecia appel-  
laretur annos supra mille quingentos māsit. Bello ipsam et qui erat vicini Lūsalpini galli. et qui uenerunt in  
yitaliam germani septem micro infestatis ac populati sunt. Qui uero seuissim<sup>9</sup> Arbela rex bunorū fuit. Is cum  
magno exercitu uenecie oppida expugnauit multa vi capta succendit. quedā funditus diruit. Tum isto rege  
padua capta et succensa. Aquilegia et alimū euerse. Primates nomis ueneti ut pestem hanc fugerēt sese ac  
quos haberēt liberos. coniuges. fortunas in proximis insulas contulerūt. Et ueneciarū ciuitate p<sup>o</sup> regione  
appellari. Aquilegenses igit gradū Cōcordientes cōdidere crapulas. Alimnates sicut urbe sua in ser poe-  
tas diuisam habebāt. Ser q; in stagnorū insulas opida cōdidit. Torcellū. maioribū humanū. amoriciū  
Constāciū et amaniū patavinorū pars Rūm alimū. et postea dōsus durū. Abonte silicenses ad eūstū merba  
mauici. Albiolam palchriolū. Et fossas Elodiam. Venetos quoq; troiana stirpe ortos esse auctores est Lato.  
Primi c<sup>9</sup> uerbis magistrat<sup>9</sup> tribum fuerūt. uerū ciuitas libero iure et ad imperandū nata. cōtinuo rei mariti  
me studio pollere cepit. breuic<sup>9</sup> c<sup>9</sup> opes intantū ut mari terraq; finitimus terrori essent. Proccedente tpe corū  
imperium ad omū p<sup>o</sup>pagari cepit. multaq; in dalmatico sinu. Epuro et vniuersa grecia quas p<sup>o</sup>uicias pene  
omnes dicit tempore sue ditinosis fecere. Et in oca pontica maris non pauca gessere. morq; ad Tanaym vs  
q; ueneta arma p<sup>o</sup>monota sunt. rursus et in Syria per se nō pauca. multa quoq; focali bello ab his gessa refe-  
runtur. Nota sunt friderici imperatoris tempora que nautali p<sup>o</sup>elio ad apostolicę sedis obsequiū retraxerūt.  
Creuit autem ab ipso conditōis initio ueneta ciuitas cum a potentioribus diuocibusq; olim regionis ue-  
netie. fuit a p<sup>o</sup>capio habitata. Porro ducalis sedes p<sup>o</sup>imū i Et ad ea. deinde in methamauco. Postremo in ri-  
uocalum consensu omnium translata est. q; natus esse locus hostili a manu. et condendū ad ciuitatem mari  
mā omnium cōmodissimū uideretur. Hec autem mediterranea p<sup>o</sup>uincia fuerat. Ea ciuitatibus euerfis

mutauit nomen. Nec deinceps uenecia: Sed pars nomen lombardie accepit. Pars marchia tarusiana. Pars  
fori iulij patria. pars bysiria appellata est. Insulis uero quod regionis fuerat antequā nomen mansit. et eius  
plures essent Enece appellatę sunt. Et nūc ciuitatis uetus nomen fortis fuit. Ea igitur in initio adriaticū  
ci maris sinu fuit. Ad annum salutis quinquagesimū septimū supra quadringentum condita fuit. quo anno  
Attila rex bunorum aquilegiā diruit. Marces iustitiam imperatoris dur aduersus Gothos ecclesias san-  
cti Theodori. et Bonitiani in uenecis edificauit. deinceps patant scōa transmigratione in stagnum uenecia-  
rum confugientes. Rūm altum implerunt. Et obuolente castrum ubi nūc castellum est episcopius con-  
didit. et sancti martini et sancti Jobanis in bragula ecclesias construxerunt. Clarissq; basilicas celeberr-  
mas. Cūq; postea edificauit ad octingentesimū et uigesimū septimū salutis annum. Iustitiani dū-  
cis ueneciorū anno scōo beati Marci corpus ex asia est delatum. Anno sequenti cum frater eius Jobānes  
in ducatu suffecus esset. Ecclesia sancti Marci edificata in celeberrimo urbis loco. ubi p<sup>o</sup>uicissima et pene in-  
estimabilia recondita sunt dona. Augēbantur enim indies ueneciorū opes mirabili incremento. Nam ad  
annum quatuor de duodeces centeno ueneti francis bello sociati urbis Constantinopolitane dominio sit  
ponti. Postea pons riuo alni subleuatus est construcus. Et autem pauca et multis narremus. Cuius urbis po-  
tius mirari q; digne laudare possumus. Urbem ē medijs undis surgentem adeo humanarū rerū ex-  
candentem mari contigiam ut omnes omniū generum merces exoptet. Cum interea illuc oportuna flumina acce-  
dant. quibus fruges et alia uite necessaria e mediterraneis locis asportant<sup>9</sup>. Hinc illud fieri dictū mirabile  
ut in qua urbe ferre nūl gignitur in ea omniū copia eruberet. Taceo domorum amplitudinē. Turres p<sup>o</sup>-  
celis. sacrasissimarū edum ornamenta. Et e medijs undis tecta surgentia ut ipso qui non uiderit cre-  
denda. Que potarum quispā non absurde dixerit. manibus fabricata cūdopum. Quā nautalia adducit  
et in nautalibus immensam innumerofamq; classē: quid conscripserim patrum numerum ordinēq; motus  
sanctimoniam: cum coram optimates iam ferme anno millefimo imperent. ac benignos omnibus et libe-  
ros sinus apertam. Adeo cōcludere libet de tali felici ciuitate optimis auspicijs nata. Ante igitur saluos flui-  
tus formica marinos Edibet: et totū recluso circueit orbem: Et uenecum ruer imperiū sanctusq; senat<sup>9</sup>.



GERMANY





# 1734

## ENGLAND

*"Humble of, he, unknown,  
Ever-giving, ever forward,  
My, that 'Belle, & Mary' than,  
Quint' suspecting, golden Pains."*

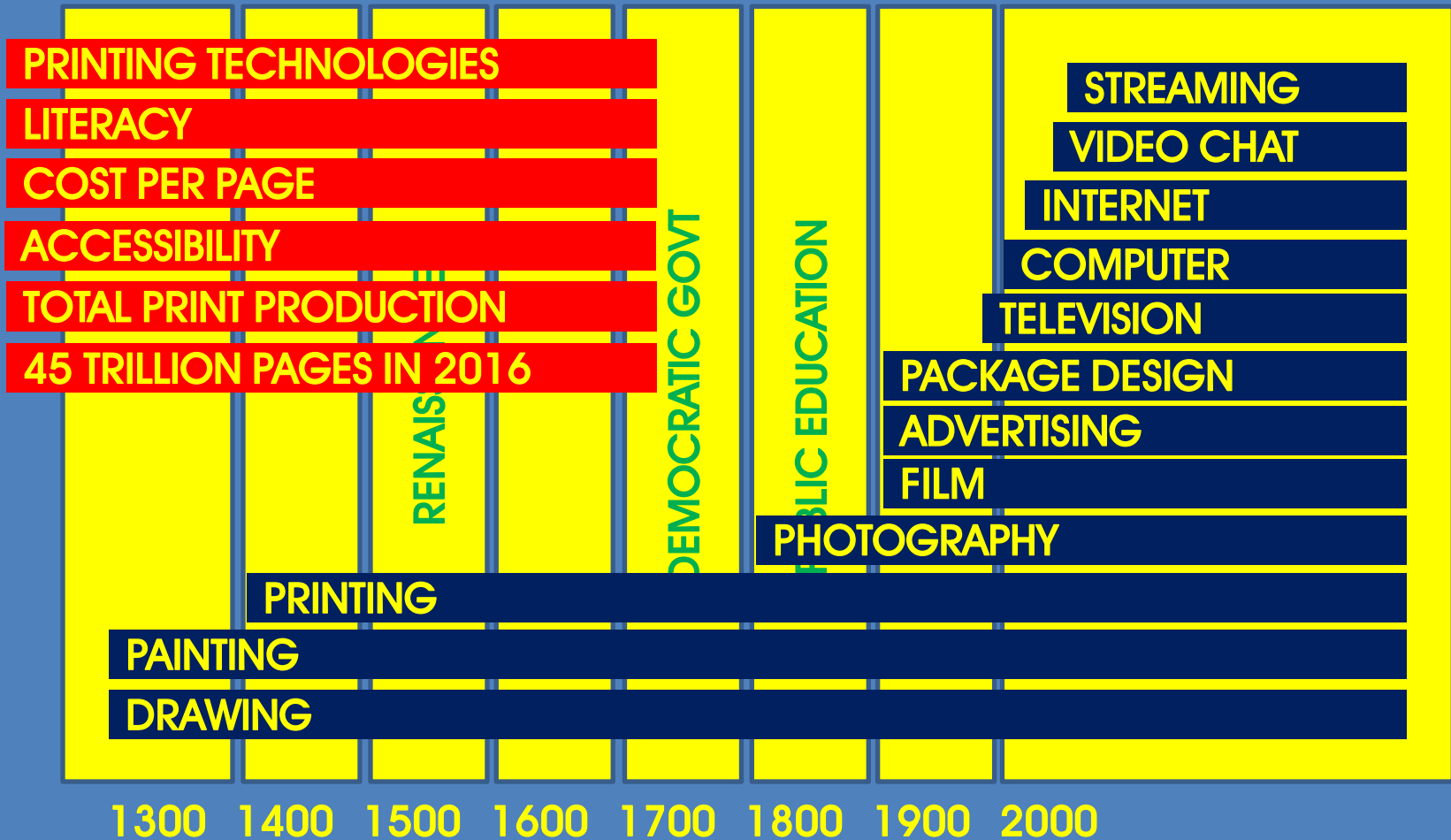
*"Why, thy wisdom, I  
Layst thou in an eye  
None above with I  
For want thou reap y*

*Love of friendly Love,  
Love, long life Peace,  
Without Plead,  
Example, Good,  
But your full mind with broken mind  
And with of better men the Friend.  
Second of Pains, Pains, by W. H. H. H. H. H.  
Published, 1734, 1735, according to, 1734  
of Parliament.*

Picture and text work together to tell the story. Prints like this were popular, affordable art.

ACCELERATING

# GROWTH OF VISUAL CULTURE



We are bombarded by images in which words and pictures tell a story.





# 1835

GENEVA, SWITZERLAND

Obadiah Oldbuck is unlucky at love in this book, regarded as the first comic.



## HOW THE GOAT GOT "KILT ENTIRELY!"



# 1897

## UNITED STATES

Newspaper comics developed the devices and appearance – the visual language – of comics.



**COMICS'**  
**POPULARITY →**  
**MANY MORE**  
**COMICS → SHARED**  
**VOCABULARY**

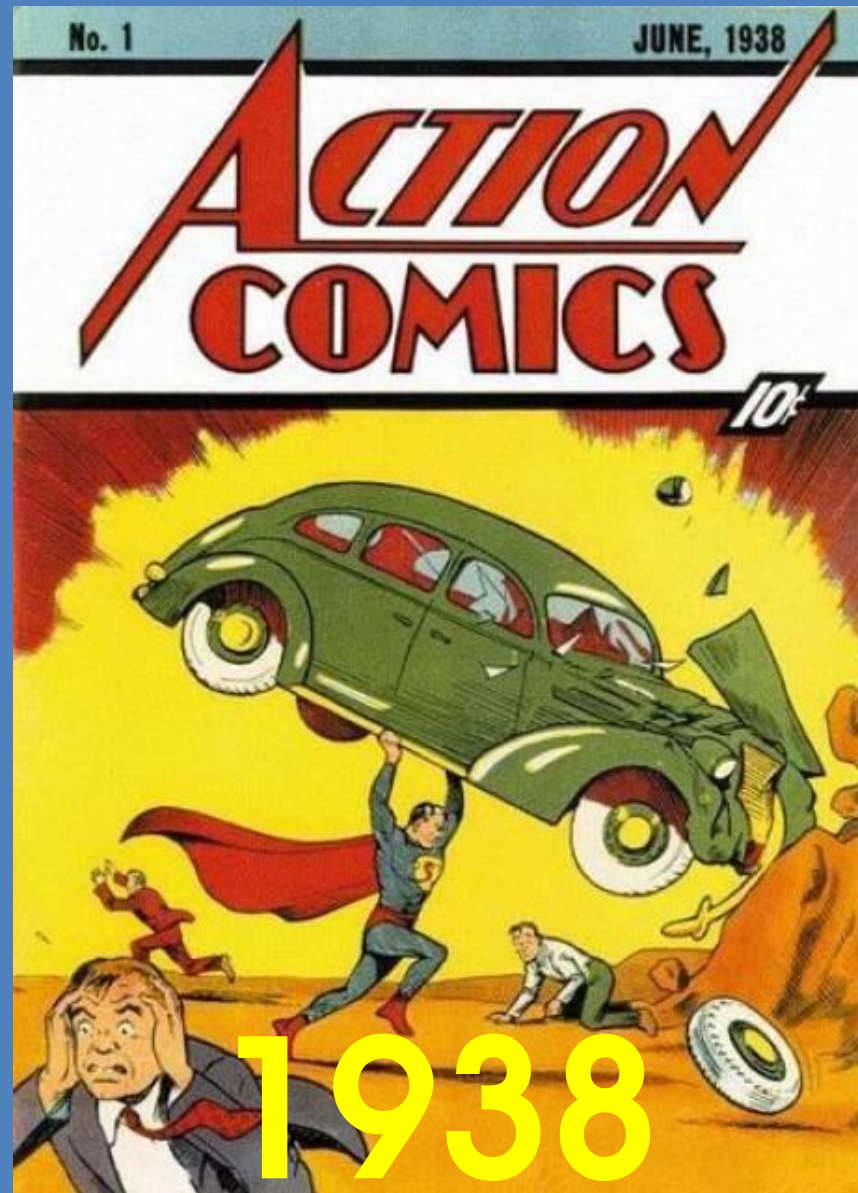


# 1934

UNITED STATES

By 1923, artists have developed an extensive vocabulary that readers have learned to “read.”

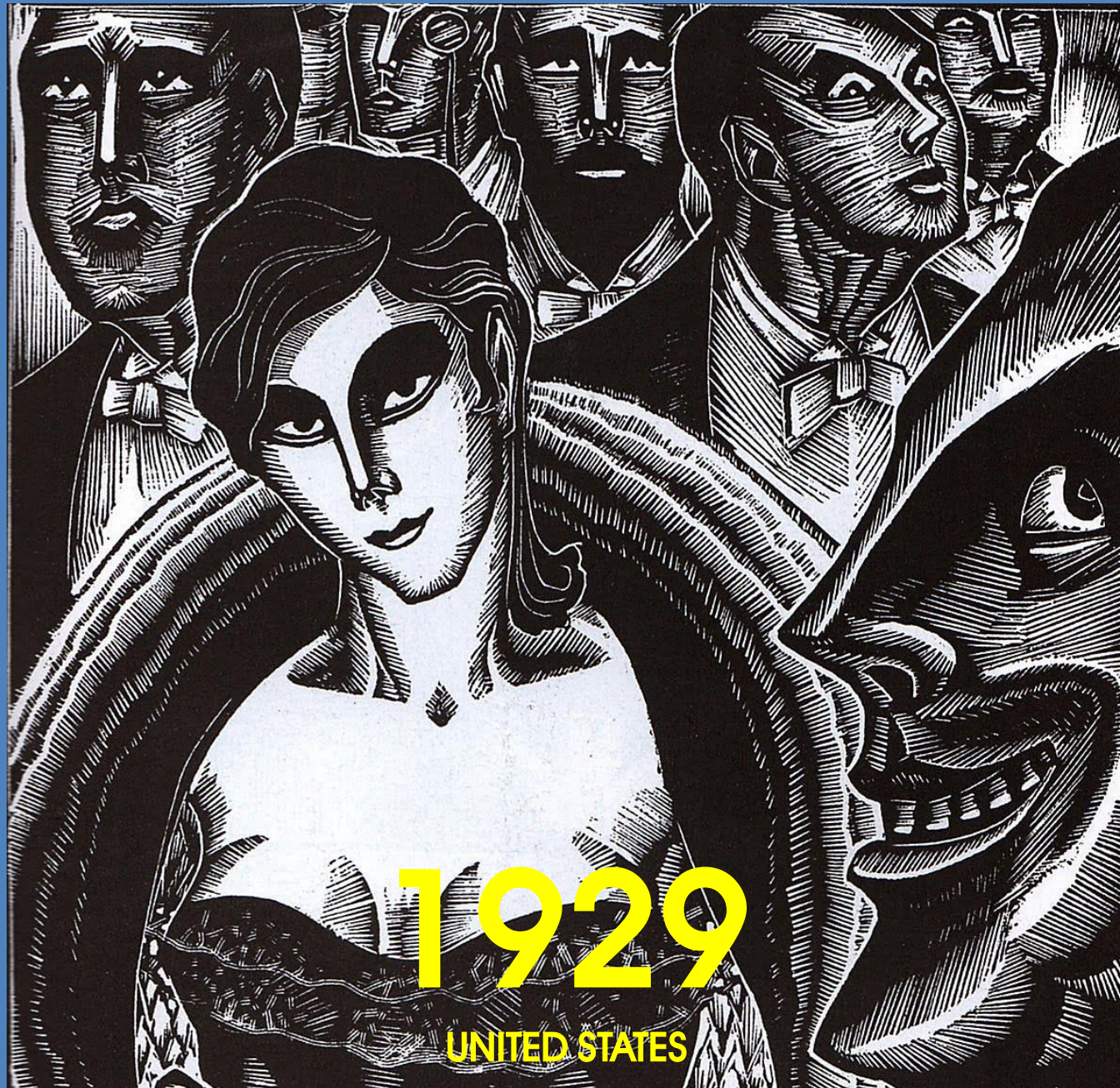




UNITED STATES

Comic books were popular, portable, and immersive. They were very popular but “low culture”.





In the '20s, comic books were emerging, and artists experimented with wordless storytelling.





# 1963

UNITED STATES

Pop artists brought all aspects of popular culture into traditional art forms.



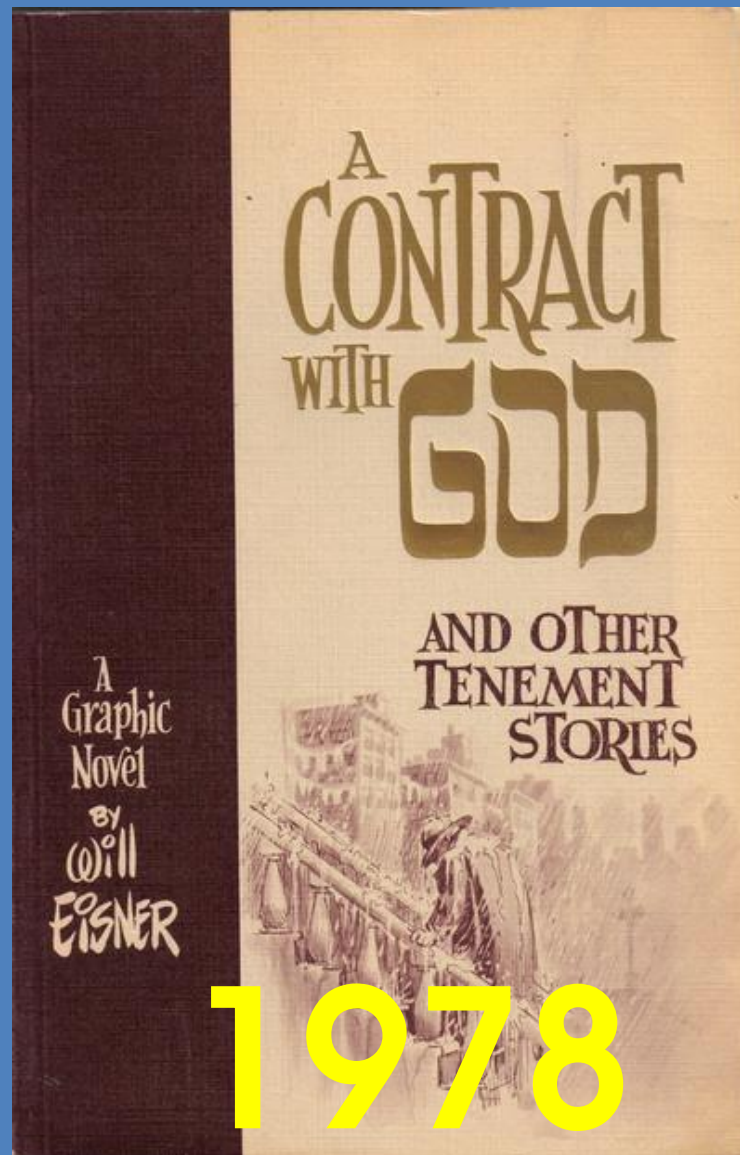


# 1994

**UNITED STATES**

Roy Lichtenstein was famous for paintings that used comics' visual language.





UNITED STATES

Not the first graphic novel, but seminal in popularizing the term and the medium.



**GRAPHIC NOVELS  
USE A VISUAL  
VOCABULARY TO  
TELL A STORY**



**COMICS AND  
GRAPHIC NOVELS  
SALES IN 2016 =  
\$1 BILLION**



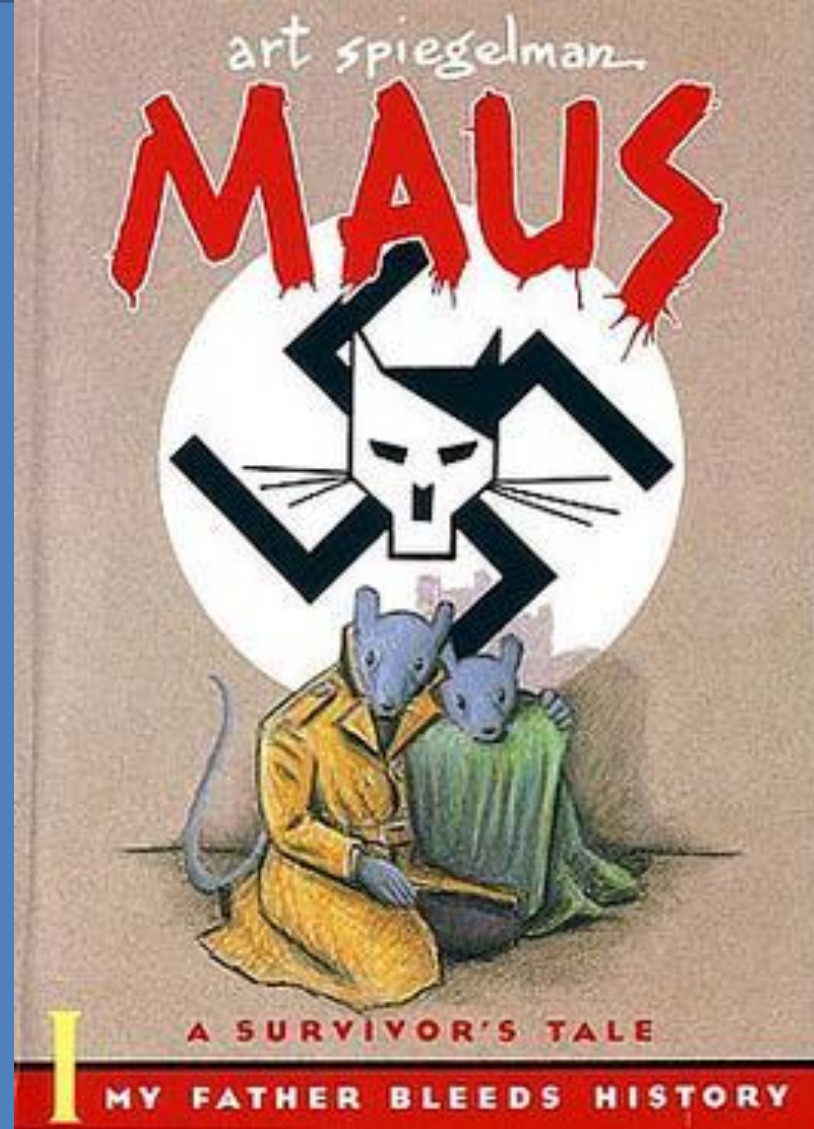
# A SELECTION OF GRAPHIC NOVELS



1986

UNITED STATES





1980-1991

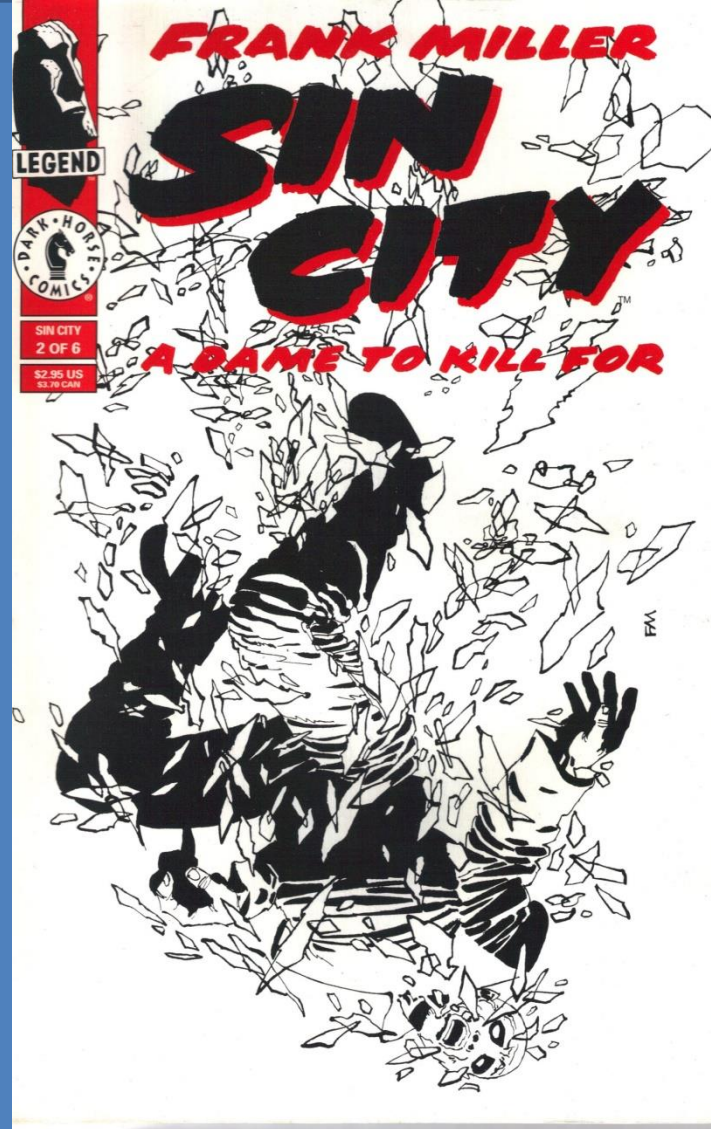
UNITED STATES



# 1995-2000

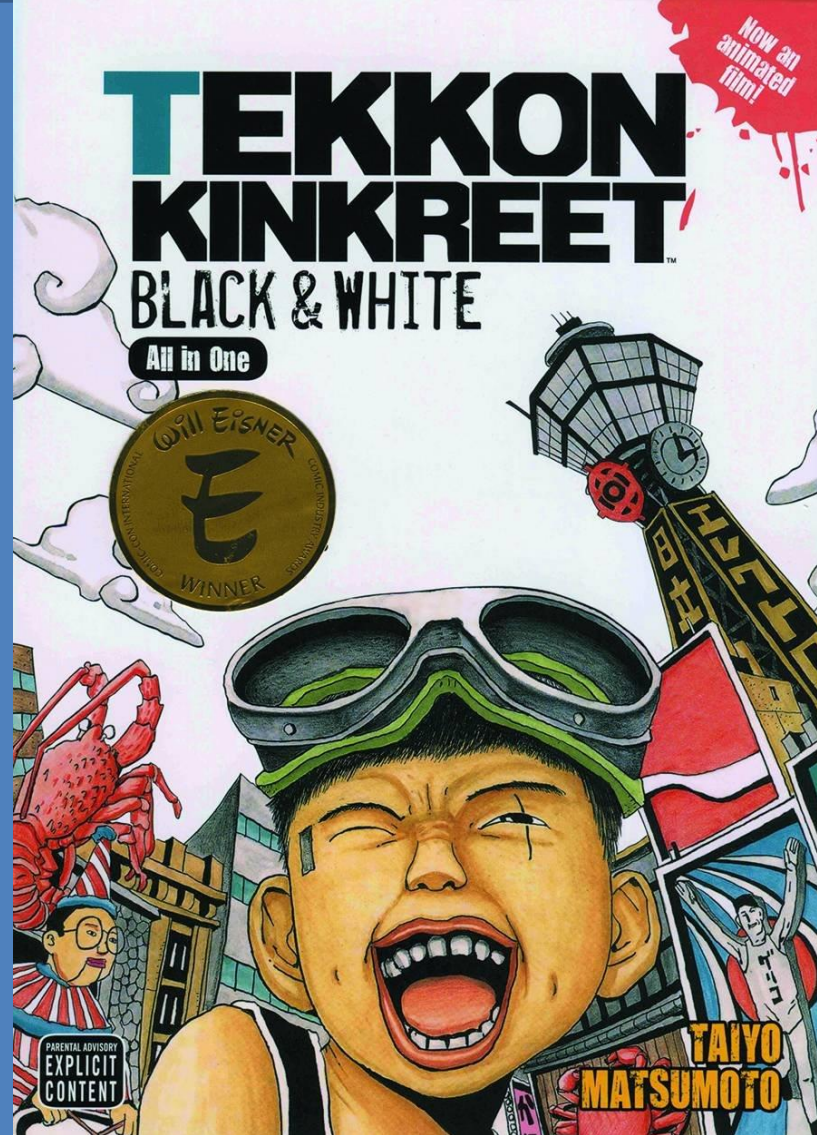
UNITED STATES





1991-2000

UNITED STATES



1993-1994

UNITED STATES



"Gene Luen Yang has created that rare article:  
a youthful tale with something new to say about American youth."

—NEW YORK TIMES BOOK REVIEW



Gene Luen Yang

# 2006

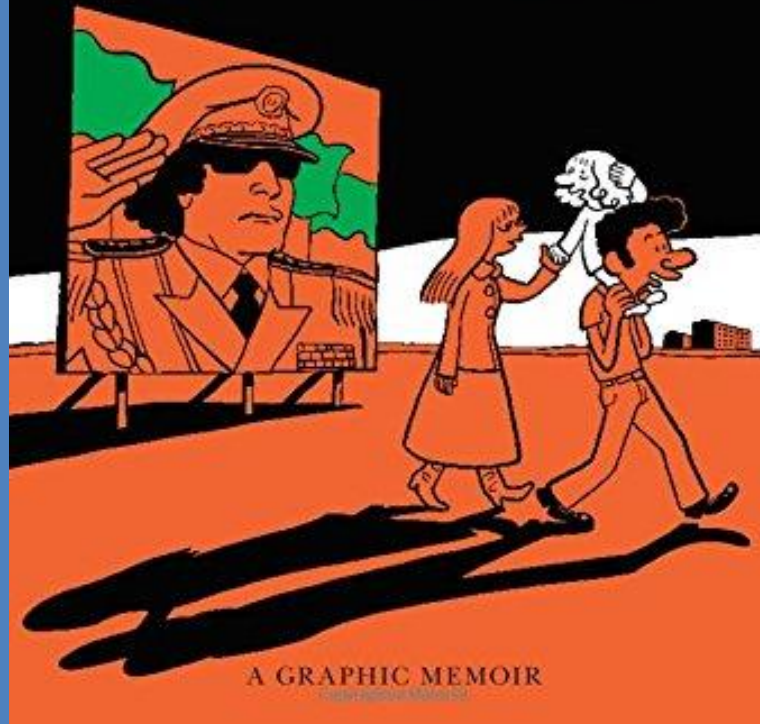
UNITED STATES

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Riad Sattouf

# THE ARAB OF THE FUTURE

A Childhood in the Middle East, 1978–1984



# 2015

UNITED STATES



# JERUSALEM

CHRONICLES FROM THE HOLY CITY

GUY DELISLE

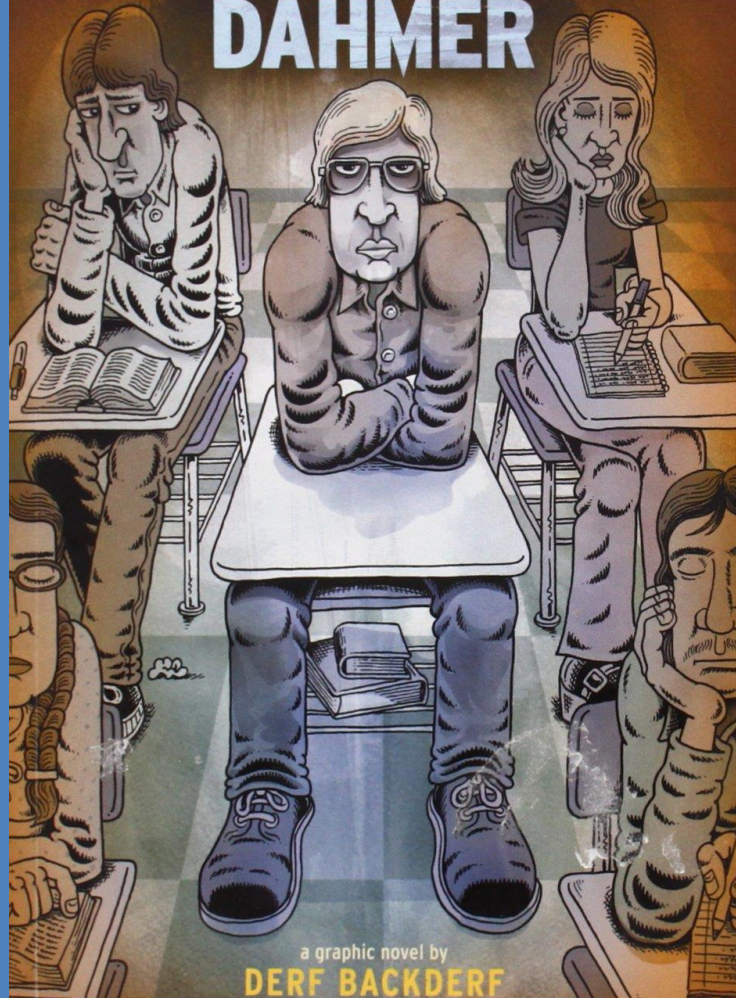


# 2011

UNITED STATES

"A well-told, powerful story. Backderf is quite skilled in using comics to tell this tale of a truly weird and sinister 1970s adolescent world." —R. Crumb

# MY FRIEND DAHMER



# 2002, 2012

UNITED STATES



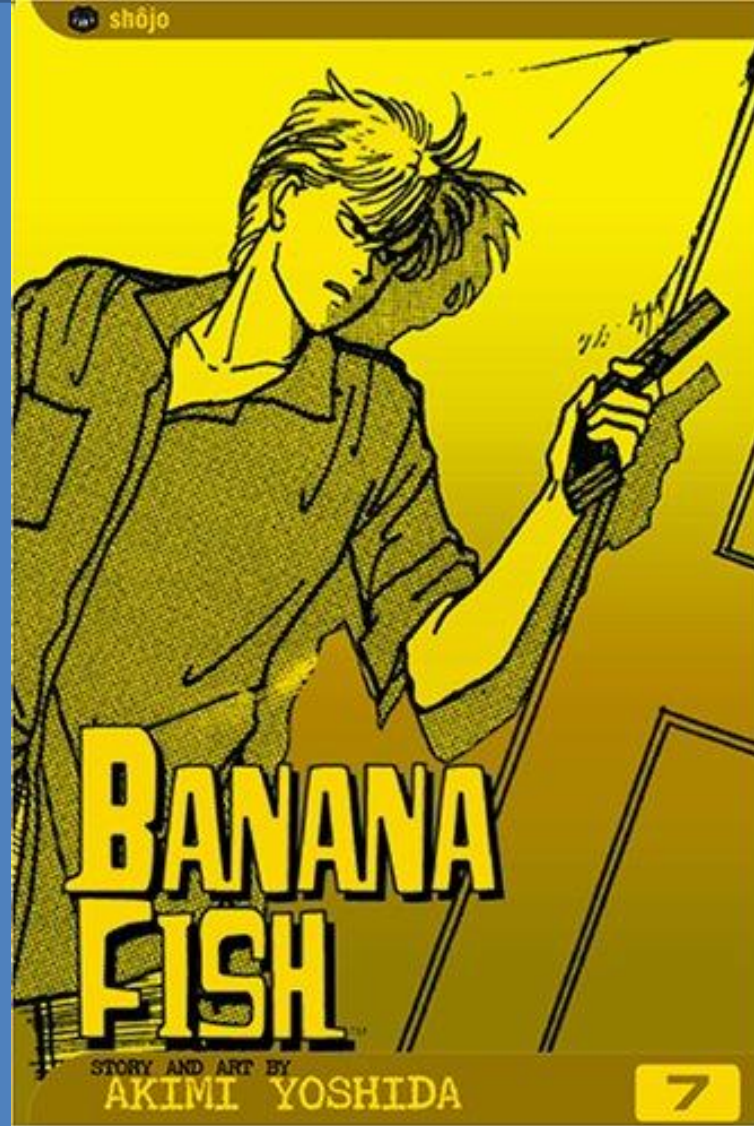
# Wordless Books



David Beronä

# 2008

UNITED STATES



1985-1994

UNITED STATES

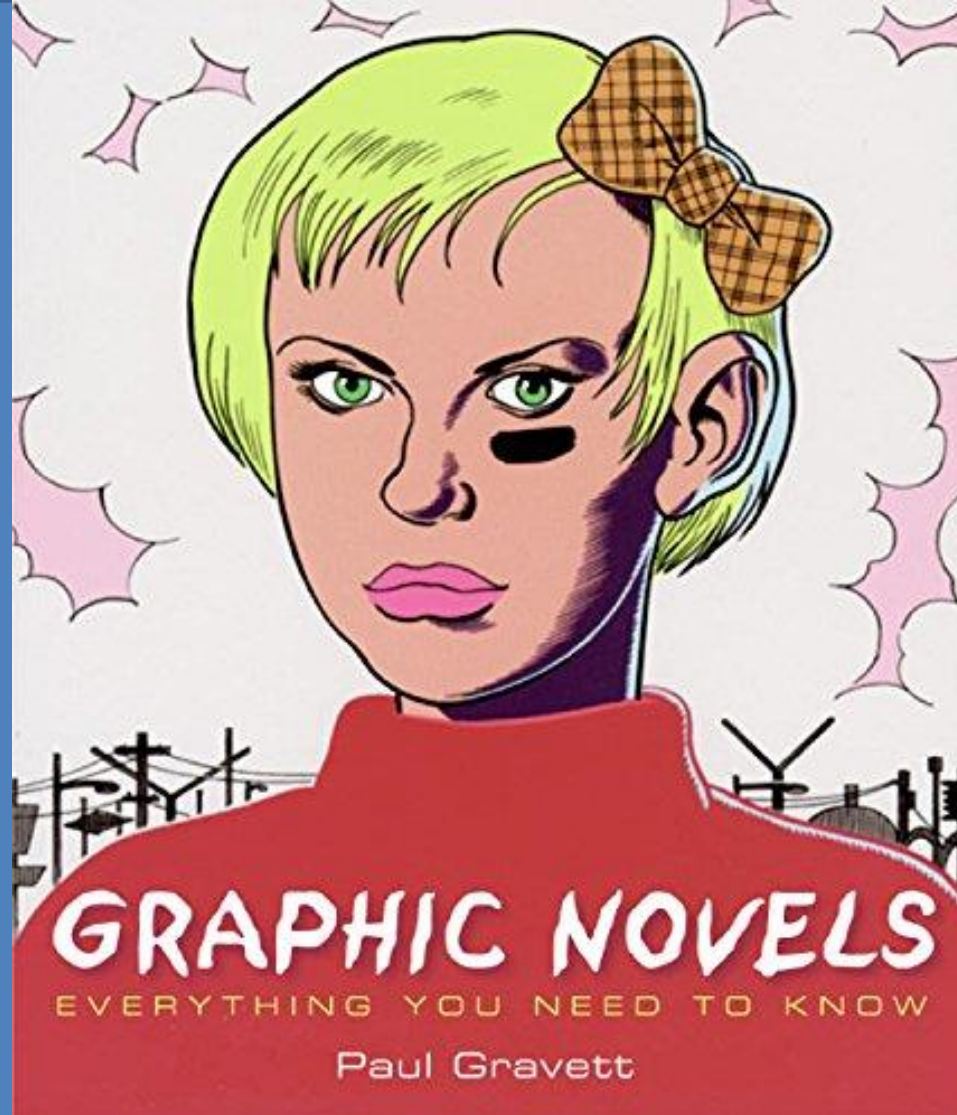


500 **ESSENTIAL** GRAPHIC NOVELS  
The Ultimate Guide • Gene Kannenberg, Jr.



2008

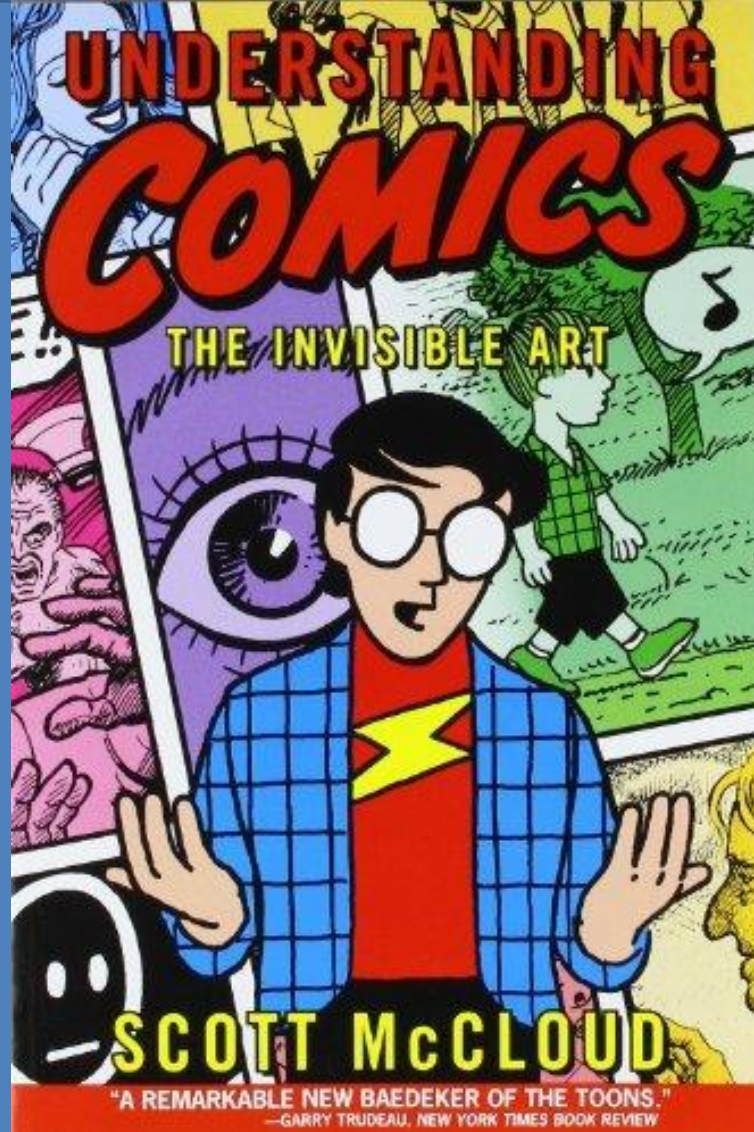
UNITED STATES



2005

UNITED STATES





1993

UNITED STATES

[illegible]

and before such officer as may be designated by the attorney general whenever the United States shall be at a state war and the attorney general shall approve such renunciation as not contrary to the interest of national defense, and by departing voluntarily from the jurisdiction of the United States in time of war or during a period of national emergency, the person shall be evading or avoiding combat and service in the land or naval forces of the United States. No national under eighteen years of age can expatriate himself under clauses numbered (2) to (7), in-

cept in the case of desertion from the military service of the United States in time of war, coming to this country or attempting to force to overthrow or bearing arms against the United States, or making a formal written renunciation of nationality in the form prescribed by the attorney general, no national of the United States can strip himself or be expatriated under the circumstances described within the United States or any of its outlying possessions, but expatriation results from the performance within the United States of the acts which would strip of nationality the holder of outlying possessions of any of the acts which would strip of nationality the holder of fulfillment of any of the conditions described if and when the national thereafter goes to a residence abroad.

[illegible]

Another important factor in the classification of citizens of the United States is the date of birth, especially important in the case of the American War of Independence. Persons born in the continental United States in the continental United States are entitled to all of the rights of citizenship guaranteed by the Constitution. The same is true of persons born or naturalized in the territories of Alaska and Hawaii which are regarded as having been "incorporated in the United States." All of such citizens, in the international sense, are



# ARTIST'S BOOKS

**IT ALL BEGINS WITH  
THE BOOK.**



**CODEX FORM  
CREATED  
~0-100 CE**



# 100

## ROMAN EMPIRE

Several Roman tabula bound together make a codex.









## TRINITY COLLEGE LIBRARY, IRELAND

Great libraries expressed wealth, knowledge, and cultural heritage.



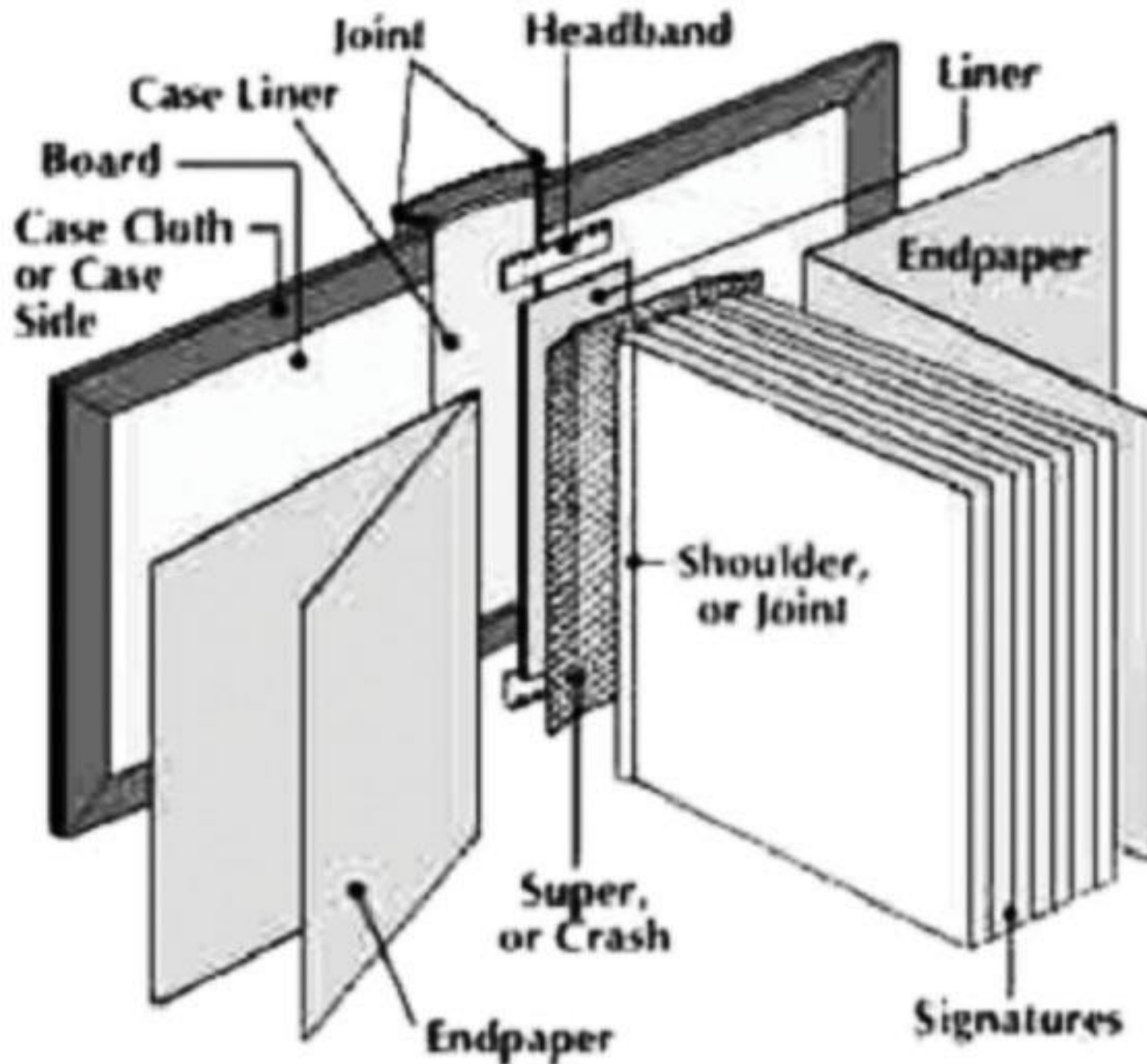
# BOOK ICONIC OBJECT READING ICONIC ACTIVITY

Books become symbolic of the ability to read, of knowledge, of authority.

**WHAT IS A BOOK AS A  
STRUCTURE, AND  
WHAT OPPORTUNITIES  
DOES THAT STRUCTURE  
PROVIDE?**

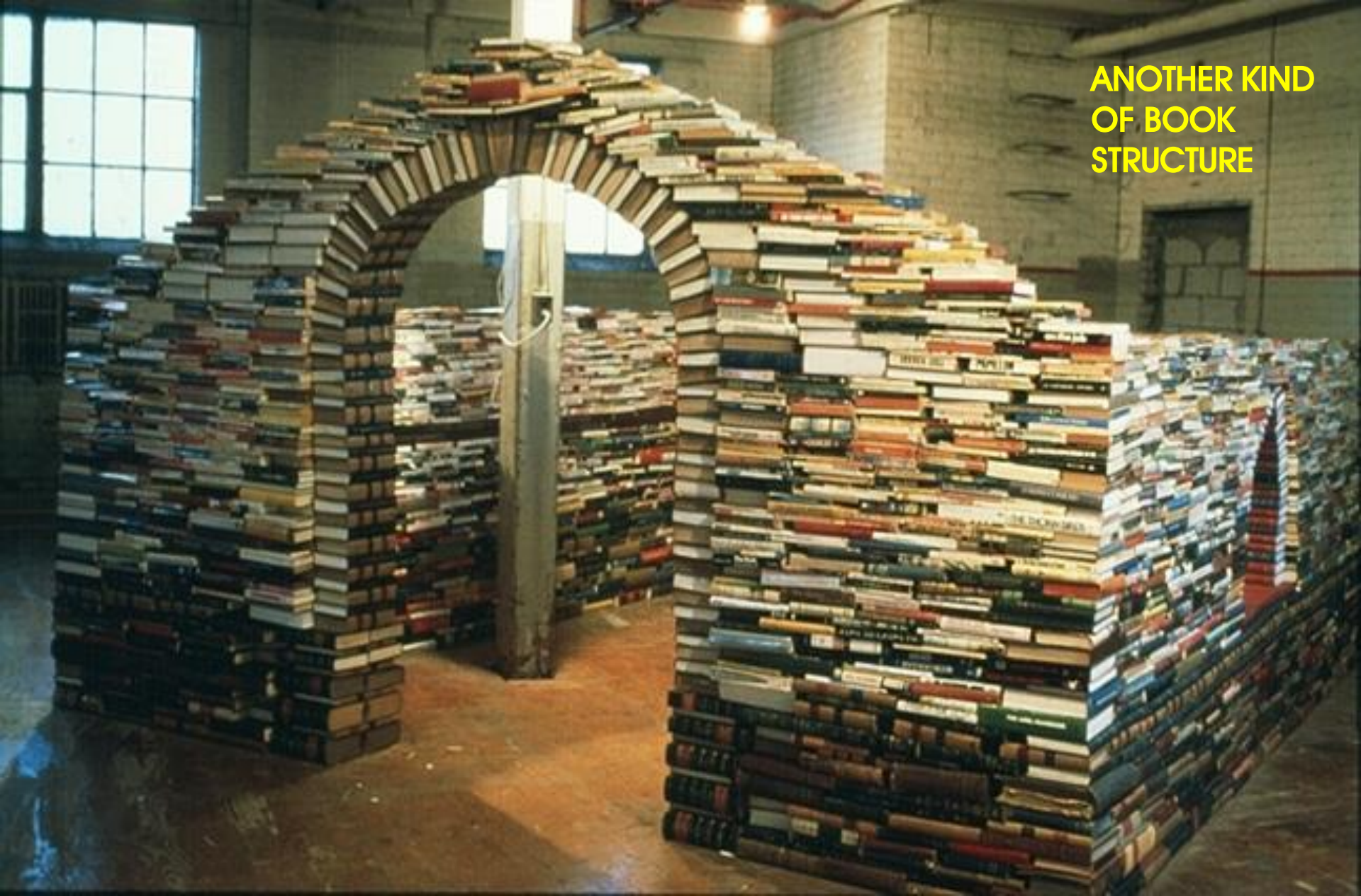


## ONE KIND OF BOOK STRUCTURE



Every component of the book structure can be altered or elaborated.

## ANOTHER KIND OF BOOK STRUCTURE



**TOM BENDTSEN**

Another possibility is using books like bricks.



# A CENTURY OF ARTIST'S BOOKS MOMA 1994

The late 20<sup>th</sup> century saw a rapid increase in artists' book production.

**TOULOUSE-LAUTREC**

**GAUGIN**

**PICASSO**

**MATISSE**

**RUSCHA**

**KEIFER**

**KRUGER**

Many famous artists made books.



# OVERLAP WITH GRAPHIC NOVELS AND GROWTH OF VISUAL CULTURE

The increase in artists' book production parallels graphic novels and visual culture.



Our brief look at the development of artists' books ends, and we take a sharp turn.  
Refer to the February 2018 newsletter of the Florida Bibliophile  
Society for explanation of the following works





# ORIGAMI





# ASSEMBLAGE



I STOLE ALL YOUR  
TOOTHPICKS TO  
MAKE THIS







## FEET (2005)

# TEA BAGS

TEA BAG TORNADO (2012)





**DESTRUCTIVE  
PROCESSING –  
STARTS WITH A  
BOOK**

# BURNING BOOK MINI

- BOILED
- DYED





**CONSTRUCTIVE  
PROCESSING –  
ENDS WITH A  
BOOK**

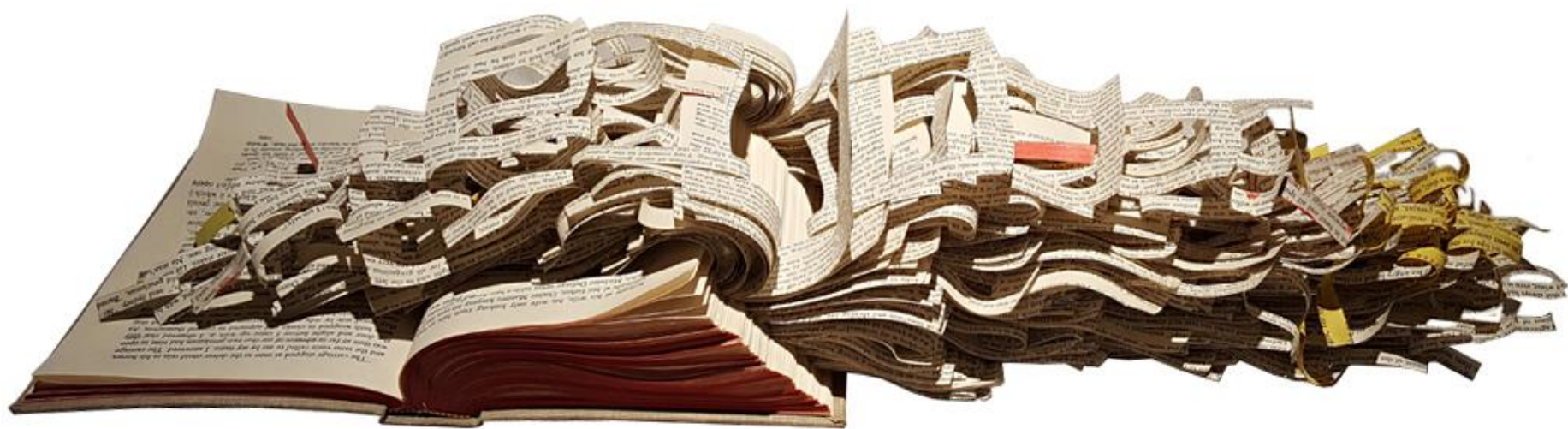


NO RHYME  
NO REASON  
(1994)





STICKY PAGES (2004-present)



**BURNING BOOK (1992)**





WOMAN IN THE DUNES (2005)

## MILLION PIECES OF PAPER





**WRAPPED BOOK: GREAT  
EXPECTATIONS GIFT-WRAPPED  
IN ITS OWN ILLUSTRATIONS  
(1990)**





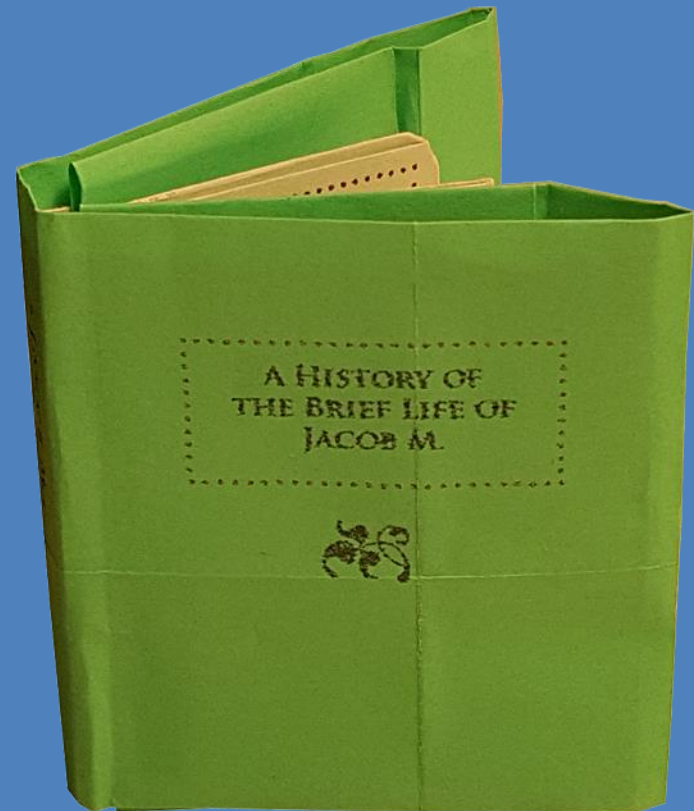
MASQUE (VOGUE)



IF THE GLOVE  
DON'T FIT



**A HISTORY OF  
THE BRIEF LIFE  
OF JACOB M  
(2016)**







*That's all Folks.*