THE NEW NARRATIVE?

Comics in Literature, Film, and Art

An Interdisciplinary Conference

University of Toronto MAY 9-11, 2008

Keynote Speaker: SETH

Comics, whether in the form of novelistic illustrations, newspaper serials, animated films, film adaptations, graphic novels, or sequential art narratives, have been considered "serious" - or at least, serious enough to be considered novels that might be on the university syllabus. But are comix literature? Are they more than Saturday morning cartoons? Does the study of the genre belong in an art class? Are illustrated novels and live action film really about the pictures and not the narrative? How can the history of the form be reconciled with consumer culture and the ill-defined categories of "high" and "low" culture?

Papers which examine and interpret these "new" narratives in interdisciplinary forms are most welcome. Essays on novelistic illustrations, newspaper serials, animated films, film adaptations, graphic novels, or sequential art narratives may consider the following: graphic novels and auto/biography, the band desinée and European influences, illustrated and multi-media works, geopolitics/war and the graphic novel, conceptions of early illustrations as series, engravings and caricatures, film adaptations of comics, Hokusai Katsushika and the "invention" of manga, the "inventors" of the comic strip and their influences, Canadian and American early comics, the Comics Code Authority and Frederic Wertham, illustrations in (literary) novels, woodcut and "silent" artists.

Proposals should be 400-500 words and must clearly indicate significance, the line of argument, principal texts considered, and relation to existing scholarship (or originality). One email copy of the proposal, and a 50 word bio note must be included, as an attachment in MS Word.

DEADLINE
for proposals is
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