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Contact: cmccreary@mississippi.edu



Comic Art in Museums
Edited by Kim A. Munson
2020

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University Press of Mississippi

ISBN 978-1-4968-2807-1

Paper \$30.00S

Publication Date:

July 2020

For more information or review copies
contact: Courtney McCreary

Publicity and Promotions Manager

cmccreary@mississippi.edu

601-432-6205

<http://www.upress.state.ms.us>



A COMPREHENSIVE HISTORY OF HOW COMICS AND COMIC ART GAINED REC- OGNITION AS ART

Contributions by Kenneth Baker, Jaqueline Berndt, Albert Boime, John Carlin, Benoit Crucifix, David Deitcher, Michael Dooley, Damian Duffy, M. C. Gaines, Paul Gravett, Diana Green, Karen Green, Doug Harvey, Charles Hatfield, M. Thomas Inge, Leslie Jones, Denis Kitchen, Jonah Kinigstein, John A. Lent, Dwayne McDuffie, Andrei Molotiu, Alvaro de Moya, Kim A. Munson, Cullen Murphy, Gary Panter, Trina Robbins, Antoine Sausverd, Rob Salkowitz, Art Spiegelman, Scott Timberg, Carol Tyler, Brian Walker, Alexi Worth, Joe Vos, and Craig Yoe

Through essays and interviews, Kim A. Munson's anthology tells the story of the over-thirty-year history of the artists, art critics, collectors, curators, journalists, and academics who championed the serious study of comics, the trends and controversies that produced institutional interest in comics, and the wax and wane and then return of comic art in museums.

Audiences have enjoyed displays of comic art in museums as early as 1930. In the mid-1960s, after a period when most representational and commercial art was shunned, comic art began a gradual return to art museums as curators responded to the appropriation of comics characters and iconography by such famous pop artists as Andy Warhol and Roy Lichtenstein. From the first-known exhibit to show comics in art historical context in 1942 to the evolution of manga exhibitions in Japan, this volume regards exhibitions both in the United States and internationally.

With over eighty images and thoughtful essays by Denis Kitchen, Brian Walker, Andrei Molotiu, Paul Gravett, Art Spiegelman, Trina Robbins, and Charles Hatfield, among others, this anthology shows how exhibitions expanded the public dialogue about comic art and our expectation of "good art"—displaying how dedicated artists, collectors, fans, and curators advanced comics from a frequently censored low-art medium to a respected art form celebrated worldwide.

KIM A. MUNSON is an artist and art historian focused on works on paper and popular culture, such as comics art, labor graphics, and pop art. She is author of *Dual Views: Labor Landmarks of San Francisco* and *On Reflection: The Art of Margaret Harrison* and contributor to many publications such as the *International Journal of Comic Art* and *Places Journal*.