



AS CHILDREN, OUR FIRST BOOKS HAD PICTURES GALORE AND VERY FEW WORDS BECAUSE THAT WAS "EASIER."



THEN, AS WE GREW, WE WERE EXPECTED TO GRADUATE TO BOOKS WITH MUCH MORE TEXT AND ONLY OCCASIONAL PICTURES --



--AND FINALLY TO ARRIVE AT "REAL" BOOKS -- THOSE WITH NO PICTURES









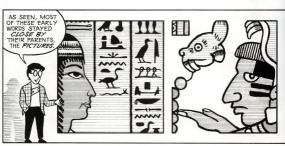






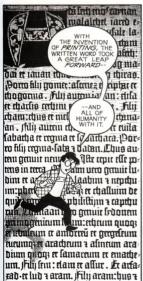








BUT, IN TIME, MOST MODERN WRITING WOLLD COME TO KEPT SERVEY WILL DOWN TO THE VISIBLE WORLD LINGS WORL











John Keats 1819 Ode on a Grecian Urn

Thou still unravish'd bride of quietness,
Thou foster-child of silence and slow time,
Sylvan historian, who canst thus express
A flowery tale more sweetly than our rhyme:
What leaf fring'd legend haunts about thy shape
Of deities or mortals, or of both,

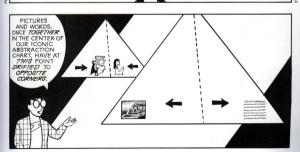
In Tempe or the dales of Arcady?
What men or gods are these? What maidens loth?
What mad pursuit? What struggle to escape?
What pipes and timbrels? What wild ecstasy?

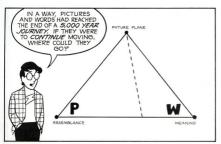


ONE WAS OBSESSED WITH RESEMBLANCE, LIGHT AND COLOR, ALL THINGS VISIBLE...

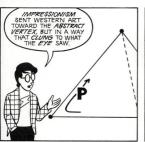


OTHER RICH IN INVISIBLE
TREASURES,
SENSES, EMOTIONS,
SPIRITUALITY,
PHILOSOPHY...









IMPRESSIONISM, WHILE IT COULD BE THOUGHT OF AS THE FIRST MODERN MOVEMENT, WAS MORE A CULMINATION OF THE OLD THE ULTIMATE STUDY OF LIGHT AND COLOR.



SOON AFTER CAME THE EXPLOSION EXPRESSIONISM, FUTURISM, DADA, SURREALISM, DADA, SURREALISM, ABSTRACT EXPRESSIONISM, RCO-PLASTICISM, CONSTRUCTIVISM.

EVERY WHICH WAY BUT

BACKWARDS!

STRICT REPRESENTATIONAL STYLES
WERE OF LITTLE IMPORTANCE TO THE
NEW SCHOOLS. ABSTRACTION, BOTH
ICONIC AND NON-ICONIC MADE A
SPECTACULAR COMEBACK!







FACSIMILE DETAILS OF PORTRAITS BY PICASSO, LEGER AND KLEE.





MEANWHILE, THE WRITTEN WORD WAS ALSO CHANGING, POETRY BEGAN TURNING AWAY FROM THE ELUSIVE, TWICE-ABSTRACTED LANGUAGE OF OLD TOWARD A MORE DIRECT, EVEN COLLOQUIAL, STYLE.

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Thou foster-child of silence and slow time,
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What leaf fring'd legend haunts about thy shape
Of desiries, or mortals, or of both,
In Temps or the dalet of Arcidgt

What need up fields the threef What mendens light Walt Whitman 1890

Facing West from California's Shores

Facing west, from California's shores, Inquiring, tireless, seeking

what is yet unfound, I, a child, very old, over waves, towards the house of maternity, the land of migrations, look afar Look off the shores of my Western sea, the circle almost circled:

For starting westward from Hindustan, from the vales of Kashmere, From Asia, from the north, from the God, the sage, and the hero, From the south, from the flowery peninsulas and the spice islands, Long having wandered since, round the earth having wandered.

Now I face home again, very pleased and joyous;

(But where is what I started for, so long ago?

And why is it yet unfound?)

LANGUAGE WAS BECOMING EVEN MORE DIRECT, CONVEYING MEANING SIMPLY AND QUICKLY, MORE LIKE PICTURES.

IN PROSE.

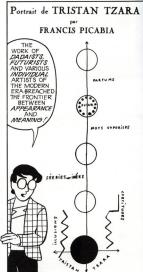








DADA POSTER FOR THE PLAY "THE BEARDED HEART"











UP TO THAT POINT, EUROPEAN
BROADSHEETS HAD OFFERED REMINDERS
OF WHAT WORDS AND PICTURES COULD
DO WHEN COMBINED.

BUT AGAIN IT WAS RODOLPHE TÖPFFER WHO FORESAW THEIR INTERDEPENDENCY AND BROUGHT THE FAMILY BACK TOGETHER AT LAST.



M. CRÉPIN ADVERTISES FOR A TUTOR, AND MANY APPLY FOR THE JOB.



COMIC WAS BORN LIST AS ART AND WRITING WERE PREPARING CHARLES TO C

BUT THE FACT

THAT THE MODERN



...AN INSTINCT
WHICH SAID THAT
WHICH SAID THAT
WHAD REACHED
THE EMPTY AND
WHAT IT WAS TIME
AT LAST TO MEAD
AOR HOME.



IN FACT, THE GENERAL PUBLIC'S PERCEPTIONS OF GREAT" ART AND "GREAT" WRITING HASN'T CHANGED MUCH IN 150 YEARS,* ANY ARTIST WISHING TO DO GREAT WORK IN A MEDIUM LISTING WORDS AND PICTURES WILL HAVE TO CONTEND WITH THIS





Thou still unravish'd bride Thou foster-child of siles Sylvan historian, who cans A flowery tale more sweetl What leaf fring'd legend he Of deities or mortals, or In Tempe or the dales What men or gods are th What mad pursuit? What

What pines and timbre



BECAUSE, DEEP DOWN INSIDE, MANY COMICS CREATORS STILL MEASURE ART AND WRITING BY DIFFERENT STANDARDS AND ACT ON THE FAITH THAT "GREAT" ART AND "GREAT" WRITING WILL COMBINE HARMONIOUSLY BY VIRTUE OF QUALITY ALOME.



















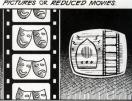








EACH NEW MEDIUM BEGINS ITS LIFE BY IMITATING ITS PREDECESSORS. MANY EARLY MOVIES WERE LIKE FILMED STAGE PLAYS, MUCH EARLY TELEVISION WAS LIKE RADIO WITH PICTURES OR REDUCED MOVIES.



FAR TOO MANY COMICS
CREATORS HAVE NO HIGHER GOAL
THAN TO MATCH THE ACHIEVEMENTS
OF OTHER MEDIA, AND VIEW ANY
CHANCE TO WORK IN OTHER
MEDIA AS A STEP UP.



AND AGAIN, AS LONG AS WE VIEW COMICS AS A GENRE OF WRITING OR A STYLE OF GRAPHIC ART THIS ATTITUDE MAY **NEVER** DISAPPEAR.









AS A RESULT--AND
DESPITE ITS MANY
OTHER POTENTIAL
USES -- COMICS
HAVE BECOME
FIRMLY IDENTIFIED
WITH THE ART OF
\$TORYTELLING.

















THE LINITED STATES CONSTITUTION WAS ADOPTED BY THE SECOND CONTINENTAL CONGRESS IN 1787 AND PUT INTO EFFECT IN 1789.





COMBINATIONS
WHERE WORDS DO
LITTLE MORE THAN
ADD A SOUNDTRACK
TO A VISUALLY
TOLD SEQUENCE.











































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GENERALLY
SPEAKING, THE MORE
IS SAID WITH WORDS,
THE MORE THE PICTURES
CAN BE FREED TO GO
EXPLORING AND
VICE VERSA.

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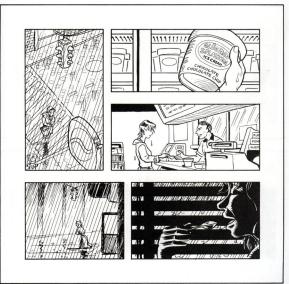


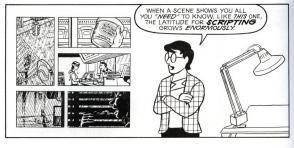


WHEN **PICTURES** CARRY THE WEIGHT OF CLARITY IN A SCENE, THEY FREE WORDS TO EXPLORE A WIDER AREA.











IT COULD BECOME AN INTERNAL MONOLOGUE.

(INTERDEPENDENT)

PERHAPS SOMETHING WILDLY



(PARALLEL)

MAYBE IT'S ALL JUST A BIG



OR A CHANCE TO RUMINATE ON BROADER TOPICS:



(INTERDEPENDENT)

ON THE *OTHER* HAND, IF THE **WORDS**LOCK IN THE "MEANING" OF A SEQUENCE,
THEN THE PICTURES CAN REALLY TAKE OFF.





I CROSSED THE STREET TO THE CONVENIENCE STORE. THE RAIN SOAKED INTO MY BOOTS. I FOUND THE LAST PINT OF CHOCOLATE CHOCOLATE CHIP IN THE FREEZER.

THE CLERK TRIED TO PICK ME UP. I SAID NO THANKS. HE GAVE ME THIS CREEPY LOOK...

I WENT BACK TO THE APARTMENT--

-- AND FINISHED IT ALL IN AN HOUR.

ALONE AT LAST.





I CROSSED THE STREET TO THE CONVENIENCE STREET INTO ANY BOOTS. IF THE ARTIST WANTS TO, HE/SHE CAN NOW SHOW ONLY FRAGMENTS OF A

SCENE.

(WORD SPECIFIC)

OR MOVE TOWARD GREATER LEVELS OF ABSTRACTION OR EXPRESSION.



(AMPLIFICATION)

PERHAPS THE ARTIST CAN GIVE US SOME IMPORTANT *EMOTIONAL* INFORMATION.

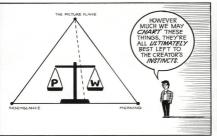


(INTERDEPENDENT)

OR SHIFT AHEAD OR BACKWARDS IN TIME.



(WORD SPECIFIC)





SOME OF THE SECRETS OF THOSE FIRST ALCHEMISTS MAY HAVE BEEN LOST IN THE ANCIENT PAST.







-- WHEN TO TELL WAS

THIS IS AN EXCITING TIME TO BE MAKING COMICS, AND IN MANY WAYS I FEEL VERY LUCKY TO HAVE BEEN BORN WHEN I WAS.









-- AND TO SHOW WAS TO TELL.