



Graphic Novel & Comic Art



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UIMA K-12 School Programs Collections | Graphic Novel & Comic Art

The UIMA School Programs Graphic Novel & Comic Art Collection features original works of art created by contemporary graphic novelists. The basic definition of a graphic novel is that it is a series of comics in a book length form. A graphic novel can contain a single narrative (linear or nonlinear) or comprise multiple vignettes. The works in the UIMA School Programs Collection also show a wide range of subjects from imaginary superheroes to historical figures.

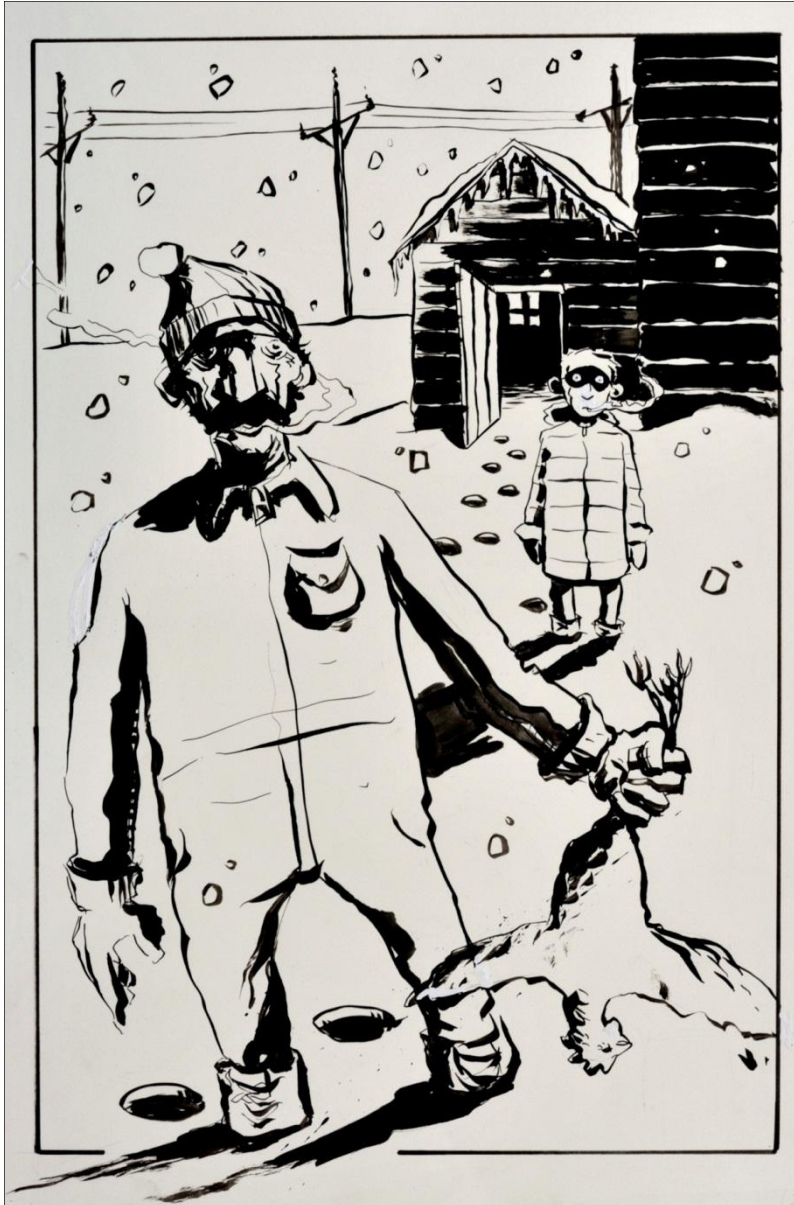
Today, graphic novels and comics are more than ephemeral entertainment. Jeff Lemire is known for his moody, humanistic stories, like *The Complete Essex County*—a complex, three-volume work that weaves together the lives of people in a small, rural community. One of the characters, a young boy named Lester, passes his lonely days on a farm by pretending to be a caped superhero. Jessica Abel’s books are character studies, which focus on the social lives of artists. James Strum’s *Golem’s Mighty Swing, Page 21* shows the obstacles faced by an integrated baseball team touring the American South in the 1920s. Ho Che Anderson spent six months researching the life of Martin Luther King Jr. before he began composing the story for the three-volume graphic biography, *King*. He studied every aspect of King’s life, using documentaries, newspapers, biographies, and journal articles. The whole project took ten years to complete. As these examples demonstrate, through the combination of images and texts, graphic novelists communicate important ideas, deep emotions, strong beliefs, and rich histories.

Today, cartooning is taught in post-secondary education. Jessica Abel teaches undergraduate cartooning courses at the School of Visual Arts in New York City. In 2008, Abel and her husband Matt Madden, another comic book artist, produced *Drawing Words and Writing Pictures*. The text book is a product of the years Abel and Madden have spent as teachers, and it is a comprehensive manual on creating comics. Abel and Madden are now at work on the second volume of *Drawing Words and Writing Pictures*. James Sturm is a cartoonist and educator. He is currently the director of The Center for Cartoon Studies, a two-year cartooning school located in White River Junction, Vermont.

Post-secondary education in comics is available at the University of Iowa. For example, an honors course, “Coming of Age: An Exploration of Growing Up in Comics,” examines both domestic and international comics. The UIMA School Programs Collection will show students the possibilities of graphic novel and comics.

The following pages show examples of objects in the collection.





Jeff Lemire (Canadian, b. 1976)

Tales from the Farm, Page 41

Top Shelf, 2007

(Later in *The Collected Essex County*, Top Shelf, 2009)

Pencil, ink on Bristol Board, 15 x 22 in.

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Jessica Abel (American, b. 1969)

As I Live and Breathe, Page 4

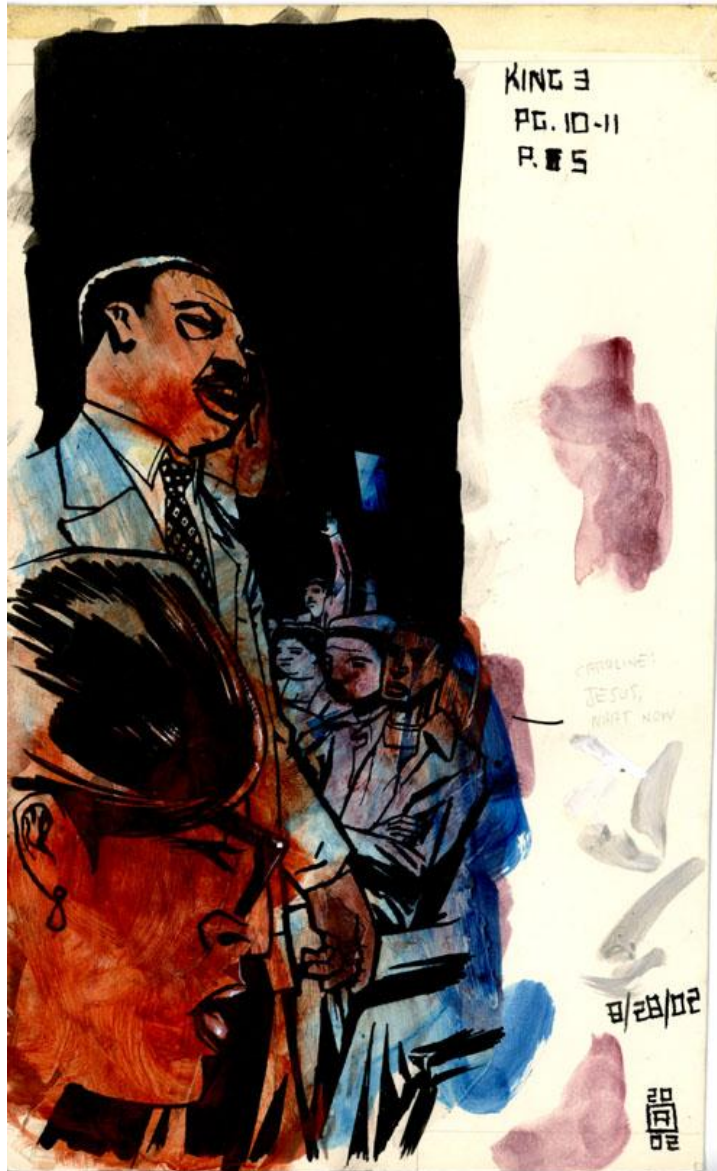
From Mirror, Window, 2000

Fantagraphics Books

Pencil, ink on Bristol Board, 12 x 17 in.

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Ho Che Anderson (British, b.1969)

King Vol. 3, Pages 10–11, Panel 5

Fantagraphic Books, 2003

Pencil, ink on Comic Book Art Board, 7 ¼ x 12 in.

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Matt Madden (American, b. 1968)

Odds Off, Page 117

Highwater Books, 2000

Non-photo blue pencil, ink on Bristol Board, 11 x 14 ½ in.

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African Art
American Indian & First Peoples Art
Art of India: Folk Art
Art of India: Hindu Icons
Gee's Bend Quilts
Graphic Novel & Comic Art

