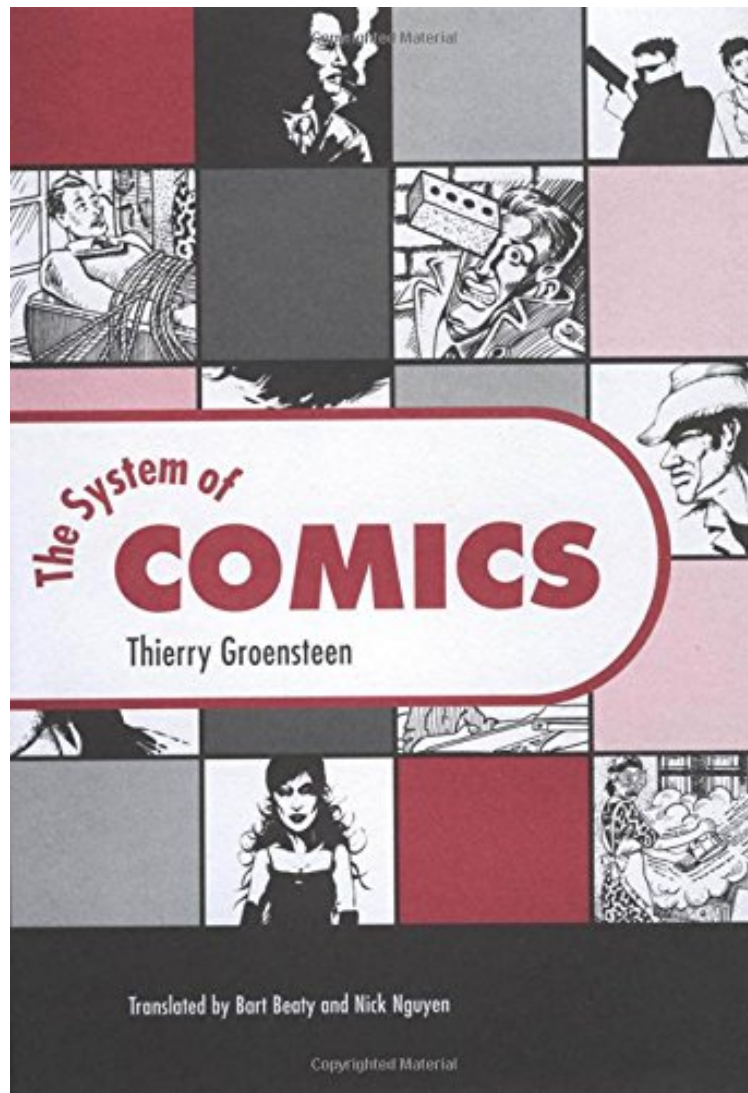


The System of Comics

Thierry Groensteen

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Thierry Groensteen : The System of Comics before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The System of Comics:

6 of 7 people found the following review helpful. tough-going, but well worth itBy trout7Yes, the prose is sometimes dense, yes, the discussion is sometimes circuitous, but the fact is, this is the most comprehensive and insightful theory of comics yet published in English (okay, there aren't that many other attempts, frankly). For example, where Scott McCloud (*Understanding Comics; Making Comics*) focuses on the panel-to-panel dyad (or even individual panels), Groensteen is thinking about the entire page layout.1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. The Anti-Scott McCloud deep analysis of visual form.By wendyThis is an academic, brilliantly executed explanation of comics as a

language system. This is semiotic analysis at its best, destroying any high/low culture delineation. He draws heavily from Barthes. Essential for any serious semiotician who wants to work cross-disciplines. 0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. I enjoyed this book. By BLBComicsLEARN how comics communicate with most of us! I enjoyed this book!

This edition of Thierry Groensteen's *The System of Comics* makes available in English a groundbreaking work on comics by one of the medium's foremost scholars. In this book, originally published in France in 1999, Groensteen explains clearly the subtle, complex workings of the medium and its unique way of combining visual, verbal, spatial, and chronological expressions. The author explores the nineteenth-century pioneer Rodolphe Töpffer, contemporary Japanese creators, George Herriman's *Krazy Kat*, and modern American autobiographical comics. *The System of Comics* uses examples from a wide variety of countries including the United States, England, Japan, France, and Argentina. It describes and analyzes the properties and functions of speech and thought balloons, panels, strips, and pages to examine methodically and insightfully the medium's fundamental processes. From this, Groensteen develops his own coherent, overarching theory of comics, a "system" that both builds on existing studies of the "word and image" paradigm and adds innovative approaches of his own. Examining both meaning and appreciation, the book provides a wealth of ideas that will challenge the way scholars approach the study of comics. By emphasizing not simply "storytelling techniques" but also the qualities of the printed page and the reader's engagement, the book's approach is broadly applicable to all forms of interpreting this evolving art.

From the Publisher This authoritative exploration of how the comics achieve meaning, form, and function --- Provides first English-language edition of a groundbreaking study of comics --- Includes a new introduction by the translators that puts Groensteen's work in critical and historical context --- Provides English-language scholars with Groensteen's revolutionary examination of how the mechanics of the comics create meaning From the Inside Flap An authoritative exploration of how the comics achieve meaning, form, and function About the Author Thierry Groensteen is a comics scholar and translator in Brussels, Belgium. He is the author of *La bande dessinée: Une littérature graphique* and *La construction de la cage*, among other books. Bart Beaty is associate professor of communication and culture at the University of Calgary. Nick Nguyen is an archivist at Library and Archives Canada, in Ottawa, Ontario.