

THE GRADUATE COMICS ORGANIZATION PRESENTS
THE 10TH ANNUAL WF CONFERENCE ON COMICS AND GRAPHIC NOVELS



15-17
MARCH
2013

A COMIC OF HER OWN

 10¢

Women Writing, Reading, and Embodying Through Comics



CONFERENCE PROGRAM



Keynote speeches
in Ustler Atrium

Registration & all
other events in
Pugh Hall 210

Artwork by Leela Corman

A COMIC OF HER OWN

Dear Guests,

We are pleased to welcome you to the 2013 UF Conference on Comics and Graphic Novels!

A Comic Of Her Own: Women Writing, Reading, and Embodying Through Comics responds to growing academic, historical, and popular interests in the relationship between women and comics.

In 1993, Trina Robbins' *A Century of Women Cartoonists* refuted a comics history which often forgets women. In the past few years, interest has grown around women working in the comics industry, perhaps best exemplified by Hillary Chute's 2010 *Graphic Women*. Similarly, academia has made many inroads into comics and gender. Scholarship on superheroines in mainstream comics by Jeffrey A. Brown, Jennifer Stuller, and Mike Madrid, among others, attests to a growing interest in the representation of women in comics.

These two scholarly fields share a mutual interest: the examination of women in comics, whether behind the scenes or on the page. However, they each focus exclusively either on the representation of women in comics or on women artists and their work. This conference hopes to facilitate a meaningful dialog between scholars and artists on the intersections between women's writing in comics, women represented in comics, and the women who read them.

Thank you for joining us in this endeavor.

Sincerely,

Tamar Ditzian
President, Graduate Comics Organization
Managing Editor, *ImageText*



DON'T FORGET TO SUBMIT AN ESSAY TO THE UPCOMING CALL-FOR-PAPERS FOR **IMAGETEXT'S** WOMEN AND COMICS ISSUE, INSPIRED BY THIS CONFERENCE!

THE 10TH ANNUAL UF CONFERENCE ON COMICS AND GRAPHIC NOVELS BEGINS ON **FRIDAY, MARCH 15**. GUESTS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD JOIN TOGETHER IN GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA TO EMBARK ON A MISSION TO SHARE KNOWLEDGE ABOUT WOMEN AND COMICS EVERYWHERE...

3.00 pm - 3.30 pm **Meet & Greet and Check-in**

3.30 pm - 3.45 pm **Introduction to the Conference**

- Donald Ault, UF, Founder, University of Florida Conference on Comics & Graphic Novels; Founder and Editor, *ImageText: Interdisciplinary Comics Studies*



3.45 pm - 4.45 pm **Testing Bechdel**

Moderator: Asmaa Ghonim

- "Does 21st century feminist fiction challenge or uphold conventional notions of the family? A critique of *A Mercy* and *Fun Home*," Monalesia Earle, University of London
- "Writing a History of Difference: Queer Identity and Experience in *Fun Home*," Margaret Fink, University of Chicago

5.00 pm - 6.15 pm **The 'I' in Woman: Women, Comics and Biography**

Moderator: Najwa Al-Tabaa

- "Cuter in Real Life: Aline Kominsky-Crumb's Approach to Autobiography," Carmen Merport, University of Chicago
- "Women, Webcomics, and Transformational Consciousness: Investigating First Person Comics Online," Veronica Vold, University of Oregon
- "The Transformation of Silence through Violence: A Feminist Reading of 'Hush,'" Matthew Ziegler, Truman State University

6.30 pm - 7.00 pm **Break**

7.00 pm - 8.30 pm **Keynote Lecture: Trina Robbins**

8.30 pm - 10.00 pm **Reception**



HERE ARE
THE GREAT WOMEN
CARTOONISTS!

A COMIC OF HER OWN

OUR HEROINES & HEROES CONTINUE ON THEIR RIGHTEOUS PATH AS THE CONFERENCE CONTINUES AT 9 A.M. ON **SATURDAY, MARCH 16...**

9:00 am - 9:30 am *Check-in and Light Breakfast*

9:30 am - 10:45 am *Manga Made for Women: Shoujo and Shounen-ai*

Moderator: Katie Shaeffer

- "Disempowering Visions of Ideal Love in Shoujo Manga Nana and Gravitation," Mia Lewis, Stanford University
- "The hysterical subject of shojo: The dark, twisted heroines in *Revolutionary Girl Utena* and *Puella Magi Madoka Magica*," Lien Fan Shen, University of Utah
- "Critiquing Masculine Impressions of Feminine Storytelling: In Defense of Moto Hagio's *The Heart of Thomas*,"Carolynn Calabrese, Managing Editor, NOVI Magazine

11:00 am - 12:15 pm *Gender and Reworking Cultural Traditions*

Moderator: Kayley Thomas

- "Women in War," James Ewald, Grand View University
- "Matriarchs, maidens and moles: Syd Hoff's binders of women," Dina Weinstein, Miami Dade College
- "The Visual Re-imagination of a Picture Storytelling Epic Tradition," Anuja Madan, University of Florida

12:30 pm - 2:15 pm *Artist's Workshop with Megan Kelso*



LET'S
MAKE ART!



2:30 pm - 3:45 pm **Good Girls, Bad Girls and Models**

Moderator: Anuja Madan

- "Evolving sub-texts in the visual exploitation of the female form: Good girl and bad girl comic art pre- and post-Second Wave Feminism," Christopher J. Hayton, Florida State University College of Social Work
- "Betty, Hannah, and Thorn: The Return of the Good Girl," Spencer M. Chalfour, University of Florida
- "Super Models: Representations of Fashion Models in Comic Arts," Francesca Lyn, Virginia Commonwealth University

4:00 pm - 5:15 pm **Is Anybody in the Mainstream?**

Moderator: Emerson Richards

- "Zombie Apocalypse as Fantastic Four Reboot: The Walking Dead's 1980s Gender Formula," Chris Gavaler, Washington & Lee University
- "I Would Whip Some with Scorpions: Aesthetics of Rage in the Graphic Woman," Cassandra Dunn, University of Chicago
- "It's About Power and It's About Women': Gender, Power, and the political Economy of Superheroes in Wonder Woman and Buffy the Vampire Slayer," Carolyn Cocco, State University of New York, College at Old Westbury

5:30 pm - 7:00 pm **Break**

7:00 pm - 8:30 pm **Keynote Lecture: Jeffrey A. Brown**

8:30 pm - 10:00 pm **Reception**



SEX
AND THE TEENAGE
SUPERHEROINE!



CONFERENCE ADVENTURERS ADJOURN FOR THE NIGHT
... TO BRAVELY PREPARE FOR THE **FINAL** DAY OF THEIR
NOBLE JOURNEY.

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...HISTORY IS REVISITED AS THE CONFERENCE CONTINUES ON
SUNDAY, MARCH 17.

8:45 am - 9:00 am *Check-in*

BREAKFAST!

LET'S
DRAW!



9:00 am - 10:45 am *Artist's Workshop With Leela Corman*

11:00 am - 12:15 pm *Special Guests Round Table*

Moderator: Anastasia Ulanowicz

- Jeffrey A. Brown
- Leela Corman
- Megan Kelso
- Trina Robbins



12:30 pm - 2:00 pm *Lunch Break*

2:00 pm - 3:15 pm *Women Underground*

Moderator: Sarah Traphagen

- "Twisted Sisters: Women's Comix and Cultural Action," Samantha Meier, Harvard University
- "The Frontlines of the Sex Wars': Sexuality & Feminism in Women's Underground Comix" Margaret Galvan, CUNY Graduate School
- "Women and Underground Comix *It Ain't Me Babe* as Feminist Cultural Activism," Ian Blechschmidt, Northwestern University

3:30 pm - 4:45 pm *Marginalized Women: Out of the Margins and Onto the Page*

Moderator: Melissa Loucks

- "Batwoman Makes the Big Leagues and is Queer to Boot" Dianna Baldwin, Michigan State University
- "The all-inclusive label of queer: Visualizing Gender Fluidity in the Comics of Cristy C. Road, Erika Moen, and Lucy Knisley," Gwen Athene Tarbox, Western Michigan University
- "Black & White or Color? Women and Ethnicity in American Comics," Amy Chu, Alpha Girl Comics Publisher/Co-Founder, Harvard Business School

OUR CONFERENCE CONCLUDES ON THE EVE OF MARCH 17. WE THANK OUR ***SPONSORS, SPEAKERS, GUESTS, AND VOLUNTEERS***. UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN, MAY WOMAN ALWAYS HAVE ... ***A COMIC OF HER OWN***.

We sincerely thank our sponsors for their support!

*ImageText: Interdisciplinary Comics Studies
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Thank you to the Conference Co-Organizers

<i>Najwa Al-Tabaa</i>	<i>Katie Shaeffer</i>
<i>Melissa Loucks</i>	<i>Kayley Thomas</i>
<i>Anuja Madan</i>	<i>Walton Wood</i>

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<i>Kenneth Kidd</i>	<i>Emerson Richards</i>	<i>Will Walter</i>
<i>Diana Leon</i>	<i>Allison Rittmayer</i>	<i>Philip Wegner</i>

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Artwork by Megan Kelso

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