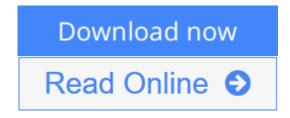# The System of Comics

By Thierry Groensteen

The System of Comics By Thierry Groensteen

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 T?pffer, 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.

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Editorial Review

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 dessin?e: Une litt?rature graphique* and *La construction de la cage*, among other books.

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