



Art Spiegelman

Tuesday, February 24, 8 pm, 2004
Zellerbach Hall

Comix 101

*Tonight's talk by Art Spiegelman will be one hour in length,
followed by a 15-minute question-and-answer session.
There will be no intermission.*

Art Spiegelman's appearance has been made possible, in part, by the Friends of Cal Performances.

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and the Zellerbach Family Foundation for their generous support.*

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a federal agency that supports the visual, literary, and performing arts to benefit all Americans.*

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Ever since 1992, when Art Spiegelman won a Pulitzer Prize for *MAUS*, his masterful Holocaust comic book narrative, fans of adult comics have had a sparkle in their eyes. In *Maus* and *Maus II*, by portraying Jews as mice and Nazis as cats, Spiegelman created an unusual and controversial context for his powerful narrative. In more recent years, he has illustrated many covers for *The New Yorker* magazine. His comics are best known for their shifting graphic styles, formal complexity, and controversial content. In his speech “Comix 101,” Spiegelman takes his audience on a chronological tour of the evolution of comics, all the while explaining the value of this medium and why it should not be ignored. He believes that in our post-literate culture, the importance of the comic is on the rise, for “comics echo the way the brain works. People think in iconographic images, not in holograms, and people think in bursts of language, not in paragraphs.”

Art Spiegelman was born in 1948 in Stockholm, Sweden, and raised in Queens, New York. He taught history and aesthetics of comics at the School for Visual Arts in New York (1979–1986). Spiegelman was the creator of *Wacky Packages*, *Garbage Pail Kids*, and other novelty items for Topps bubble gum, where he was a creative consultant from 1965–1987. He is co-founder and editor of *RAW*, the acclaimed avant-garde comics magazine, and his work has been published in

many periodicals, including *The New Yorker*, where he was a staff artist and writer from 1993–2003.

Spiegelman’s drawings have been exhibited both nationally and internationally. He is the author and illustrator of *Maus I: A Survivor’s Tale* and *Maus II*, both of which, in 1992, won him the Pulitzer Prize. Other honors include a Guggenheim Fellowship and a nomination for the National Book Critics Circle Award. Spiegelman has since published a children’s book entitled *Open Me... I’m A Dog*, as well as the illustration accompaniment to the book *The Wild Party* by Joseph Moncure March. Art Spiegelman is working on the libretto and the sets for a new opera about the history of comics entitled *Drawn to Death: A Three Panel Opera* with composer Phillip Johnston.

Spiegelman currently edits *Little Lit*, a series of comics anthologies for children, and has recently completed an anthology of his *New Yorker* work, *Kisses from New York*, to be published by Pantheon books. He is also drawing a series of broadsheet-sized color comics pages, *In the Shadow of No Towers*, published in a number of European newspapers and magazines, including *Die Zeit* and *The London Review of Books*.

Spiegelman currently resides in New York City. A book version of *In the Shadow of No Towers* will be published by Pantheon in the United States in fall 2004.

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