



Drawing Words and Writing Pictures: Making Comics: Manga, Graphic Novels, and Beyond

By Jessica Abel, Matt Madden



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"A gold mine of essential information for every aspiring comics artist. Highly recommended." --Scott McCloud

Drawing Words and Writing Pictures is a course on comic creation – for college classes or for independent study – that centers on storytelling and concludes with making a finished comic. With chapters on lettering, story structure, and panel layout, the fifteen lessons offered – each complete with homework, extra credit activities and supplementary reading suggestions – provide a solid introduction for people interested in making their own comics. Additional resources, lessons, and after-class help are available on the DW-WP website.



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Drawing Words and Writing Pictures: Making Comics: Manga, Graphic Novels, and Beyond By Jessica Abel, Matt Madden Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #67468 in Books
- Brand: First Second
- Published on: 2008-06-10
- Released on: 2008-06-10
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.08" h x .76" w x 12.07" l, 2.58 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 304 pages

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Learn to create your own comics with *Drawing Words and Writing Pictures*, a richly illustrated collection of 15 in-depth lessons that cover everything from crafting your story to lettering and laying out panels.

Take a Look Inside *Drawing Words and Writing Pictures*



Three Panels That Move Beyond the Grid



This page from Mike Mignola's *Hellboy* is a beautiful example of creating rhythm and mood. [Read more...](#)



In *Blankets*, Craig Thompson tells his story through dramatic and unexpected page layouts. [Read more...](#)



In David B.'s *Epileptic*, the shape and orientation of the panel reinforce the storytelling. [Read more...](#)

Review

“Lively, sophisticated, and comprehensive, Abel and Madden's course in visual storytelling covers every narrative and graphic element, from drawing figures and character development to panel transitions, composition, lettering, depicting action, and penciling and inking techniques. Technically precise, zippy, and inspiring, this is an outstanding teaching book.” ?Donna Seaman, *Booklist*

“Smartly designed and easy to understand, Abel and Madden's text is an edifying course in creating comics ... A valuable resource for all interested in the field and a natural companion to Scott McCloud's quintessential texts *Understanding Comics* and *Reinventing Comics*. (appendices, index, bibliography) (Nonfiction. YA & adult)” ?*Kirkus Reviews*

“Comics are increasingly appreciated as complex, sophisticated blends of illustration and text, and this volume is a timely, in-depth examination of the format. This exhaustively comprehensive guide to creating comics features fifteen individual lessons that take readers from concept to finished product ... Serious readers seeking information will be drawn by the witty, informal tone and casual narrative voice as much as the impeccably designed and accessible lessons.” ?*BCCB*

“The text, designed for classroom use by teachers or as an individual tutorial, comes with further reading suggestions, homework assignments, and extra credit projects at the end of each lesson ... This book is not designed to teach would-be artists how to draw but how to write and give dimension to drawings through penciling strategies, lettering techniques, and inking with pens or brushes. Students looking to create their own mini comics for publication will welcome the design pointers.” ?Laura Panter, *VOYA*

About the Author

Drawing Words and Writing Pictures was created by comics superstars Jessica Abel and Matt Madden and based on their classes at the School of Visual Arts. Editors of the *Best American Comics* series and creators of a number of groundbreaking graphic novels including *99 Ways to Tell a Story* (by Matt Madden) and *La Perdida* (by Jessica Abel), Abel and Madden are always at the forefront of the comics industry.

Users Review

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