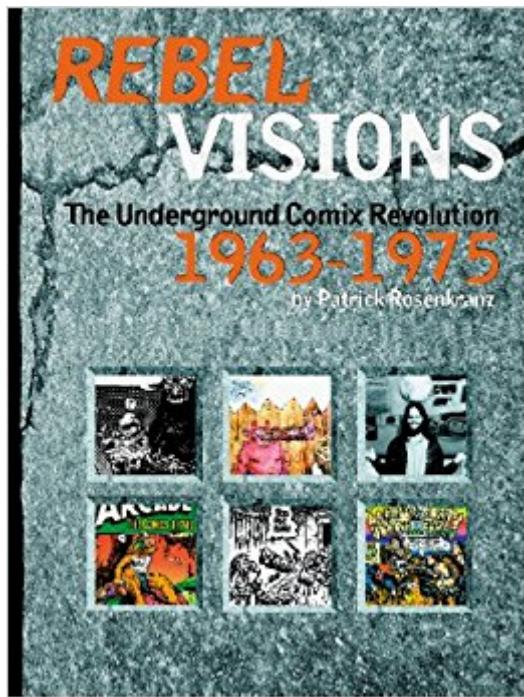


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Rebel Visions: Underground Comix



Synopsis

The first major historical work about the most influential artistic movement in America since the Beat Generation revolutionized literature. A provocative chronicle of the guerrilla art movement that changed comics forever, this comprehensive book follows the movements of 50 artists from 1967 to 1972, the heyday of the underground comix movement. Through interviews with the participants and other materials, *Rebel Visions* is the most intimate look ever at the people and events that forged the phenomenon known as underground comix, from New York to San Francisco, from the corn belt to deep in the heart of Texas, beginning that day in 1968 when R. Crumb debuted *Zap* #1 from a baby carriage on Haight Ashbury Street. Rosenkranz has spent 20 years researching this book and acquiring the cooperation of every significant underground cartoonist who worked throughout this period, including Crumb, Gilbert Shelton (*Fabulous Furry Freak Brothers*), Bill Griffith (*Zippy the Pinhead*), Art Spiegelman (*Maus*), Jack Jackson, S. Clay Wilson, Robert Williams, and many more. The book is illustrated with many never-before-seen drawings by all of the underground cartoonists, and exclusive photographs. The book focuses on San Francisco's Haight-Ashbury district, where Crumb and the rest of his *Zap* cronies commingled with the rest of the city's counter-cultural scene, notably musicians like the Grateful Dead and Janis Joplin. The counterculture was omnipresent in San Francisco for those few years, with underground tabloids like *Yellow Dog* and *Gothic Blimp Works* steering the zeitgeist out-of-control, along with the music, political, and psychedelic drug scenes, all of which found a group of unlikely revolutionaries who drew cartoons right at the epicenter. "It did feel like this must have been what the cubists were going through, like all the magic of being in Paris for the post-Impressionistic movement did feel somehow like being in San Francisco in the early 1970s." — Art Spiegelman, from *Rebel Visions* "Like any utopian experiment, ideals were challenged and rewritten in the face of the daily grind. It was a harsh life lesson for me, but there were lots of laughs and some beautiful times, too..." — Justin Green, from *Rebel Visions* "Underground comics were more like art and less like comics." — Gilbert Shelton, from *Rebel Visions*

Book Information

Hardcover: 292 pages

Publisher: Fantagraphics Books; 1 edition (January 7, 2003)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1560974648

ISBN-13: 978-1560974642

Product Dimensions: 12.3 x 9.2 x 1 inches

Shipping Weight: 3.7 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (5 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #614,321 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #167 in Books > Arts & Photography > Drawing > Specific Objects #261 in Books > Comics & Graphic Novels > Publishers > Fantagraphics #529 in Books > Comics & Graphic Novels > Biographies & History Graphic Novels

Customer Reviews

If you don't know what a comix is, maybe you should go on e-bay and buy yourself a copy of ZAP. While you still can. For those who are familiar with underground comic books, Patrick Rosenkranz has provided an amazing amount of background information about the creators and the times that produced what could be viewed as the trashiest and/or the most significant cultural artifacts of the second half of the 20th Century. Unlike previous histories and articles that simply reprint the more or less shocking comic pages and regurgitate the same old information, misinformation and opinions about the hippies and their graphic art, Rebel Visions is based on Mr. Rosenkranz own interviews and correspondence with the first wave of underground comix creators. In lengthy footnoted quotes, the artist/writers are finally allowed to tell their own strange and wonderful stories. And by following the stories organized in yearly chapters, I came to understand something of the birth, bloom and demise of a phenomena that never made the transition to mainstream product or the 1980s. Rebel Visions also presents a significant amount of previously unpublished art for the connoisseur as well as an exhaustive index for the scholar. A word of warning: these comic books are not, and never were, intended for children. Most of the comix displayed and discussed in Rebel Visions were all about breaking taboos, about freedom of expression in the face of a repressive mainstream culture and not about titillation. That came later. If you're interested in cartoons, graphic art, the counter culture, art, politics, the sixties, propaganda, freedom and censorship, as well as the usual sex, drugs and war, check it out.

I'm a big fan of Patrick Rosenkranz's books and this one does *not* disappoint! The overall selection, the colors and graphics, the layout; all are terrific and wonderful.

This subject has been written about a lot. Its a fascinating subject and this book is very in depth and writes about many artists.

as promised delivered promptly

Such good intentions but poorly edited and disorganized structure make this a tough read. The comix and creators deserve better. Better to spend your time with the books themselves than this choppy diversion.

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