

SALEM PRESS

Published & Distributed by Grey House Publishing

For Immediate Release

Contact: Jessica Moody, VP Marketing
(800) 562-2139 x101
jmoody@greyhouse.com

Salem Press Announces the Second Edition of *Critical Survey of Graphic Novels: Heroes & Superheroes*

Critical Survey of Graphic Novels: Heroes and Superheroes collects the heroic tales of the super-powered crusader and the exploits of the morally ambiguous or derisive anti-hero that have become the seminal classics in the graphic novel landscape. Whether it is the vigilantism of Batman, the doubts of Spider-Man, or the tales of Norse myth in Thor, the techniques and traditions of literature are perpetuated in this medium of heroes and superheroes.

With **20 brand new essays**, this two-volume set covers **more than 150** well-regarded works of the hero or superhero genre, summarizing plots and analyzing the works in terms of their literary integrity and overall contribution to the graphic novel landscape. It contains works from prominent publishers, as well as leading hero or superhero titles from alternative and independent publishing houses. The entries in this encyclopedic set cover a **wide range of periods and trends in the heroes and superheroes genre**: from the social relevance of *Green Lantern/Green Arrow* during the Bronze Age of Comic Books to the grim satire of *Watchmen* in the Modern Age; from watershed events such as the death of Captain America to the trudging narrative and complexity of *Cerebu*; and from the caped and costumed crusaders who justly contest evil with supernatural abilities to the flawed and tragic antihero or the unheroic, brooding vigilante and their moral struggles and complexity.

The essays in *Heroes and Superheroes* appear alphabetically and are approximately **4 to 5 pages in length**. Each essay is heavily formatted and begins with full **ready-reference top matter** that includes the primary author or authors; illustrators and other artists who contributed to the work; and the first serial and book publication. This is followed by the main text, which is divided into the following sections:

- **Publication History** presents an overview of the work's origin and publication chronology.
- **Plot** provides an in-depth synopsis of the main story progression and other story arcs.
- **Volumes** orients the reader or researcher to the accepted reading order of the work.
- **Characters** present detailed descriptions of major characters in the story, beginning with the main protagonists and antagonists.
- **Artistic Style** provides analysis of the work's visual content.

- **Themes** identify the central themes in the work and how they are expressed and how they relate to characterization and style.
- **Impact** covers the work's influence on the creators' careers, publishing houses, the medium of graphic novels itself, and literature in general.
- **Bibliography** lists secondary print sources for further study and examination, annotated to assist readers in evaluating focus and usefulness.

Appendixes and special features include a listing of major graphic novel awards, timeline discussing significant events, and biographical sidebars on authors and illustrators. Volume two ends with four indexes: works by publisher, works by author, works by artist, and subject.

Designed for both popular and scholarly arenas and collections, the series provides unique insight and analysis into the most influential and widely-read graphic novels with an emphasis on establishing the medium as an important academic discipline. Researchers and the common reader alike will gain a deeper understanding of these works, as the literary nature is presented in critical format by leading writers in the field of study.

FREE ONLINE ACCESS

Libraries and schools purchasing the printed version of any Salem Press title get complimentary online access to that title on our new online database, <http://online.salempress.com>. Combining Salem's Literature, History, Health, Science and Careers titles, students and researchers can now access all of their Salem content in one comprehensive site. Any school or library with print reference content in Salem Press' database is entitled to online access to that content. This access is an inherent part of our product.

Critical Survey of Graphic Novels: Heroes & Superheroes, Second Edition

Pub. Date: September 2018

Hardcover ISBN: 978-1-68217-908-6

Ebook ISBN: 978-1-68217-956-7 | 2 Volumes | 948 pages | \$295.00

Publisher: Salem Press