

# SALEM PRESS

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## For Immediate Release

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## Salem Press Announces the Second Edition of *Critical Survey of Graphic Novels: Manga*

*Critical Survey of Graphic Novels* series collects the preeminent graphic novels and core comics series that form today's canon for academic coursework and library collection development, offering clear, concise, and accessible analysis of not only the historic and current landscape of the interdisciplinary medium and its consumption but also the wide range of genres, themes, devices, and techniques that the graphic novel medium encompasses.

This single-volume covers over **65 well-regarded works of the manga medium**, summarizing plots and analyzing the works in terms of their literary integrity and overall contribution to the graphic novel landscape. Often defined by such characteristics as stylized line work, cultural-specific narratives, and compelling storytelling that often stand in contrast to the character-centric framework of American comics, manga nonetheless encompasses a broad range of genres and subgenres.

Contributors worked from original sources, providing new criticism and content aimed at deconstructing both centuries-old themes and concepts as well as nontraditional genres and styles, and portraying the graphic novel as literature. Essays look beyond the popular-culture aspects of the medium to show the wide range of literary devices and overarching themes and styles used to convey beliefs and conflicts. Further, critical attention was paid to panel selection and relevancy, and to a particular work's influence on the creators' careers, other graphic novels, or literature as a whole.

The essays in *Manga* appear alphabetically and are approximately **3-4 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 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.

- **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, this 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.

*“This impeccable reference work will prove useful to librarians and fans wanting to know what to buy as well as for scholars studying the medium.”* –Library Journal

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