



MAKING COMICS AND ICONOGRAPHY

The art of graphic storytelling is also the art of iconography. Icons are a form of visual vocabulary; they are images that allow creators to tell us more than a simple shape. Draw a pie and it's a pie. But draw wavy lines above that pie, and we know it's hot, that it smells good, that we want to taste it! A star of David evokes a powerful concept with a few lines, as does a cross, a smiley face, or an American flag.

Creators of Jewish characters and content often use iconography to show characters as Jewish without using words. As examples, Spider-Man steps on a glass at his wedding, and a menorah is visible in the home of Ben Grimm, the Thing. Often these glimpses of Jewish icons are all you see of a character's identity, subtly hinting at Jewishness without writing it overtly into a character.

"BY STRIPPING DOWN AN IMAGE TO ITS ESSENTIAL 'MEANING,' AN ARTIST CAN AMPLIFY THAT MEANING IN A WAY THAT REALISTIC ART CAN'T."
— SCOTT MCCLLOUD

"COMICS ARE WORDS AND PICTURES. YOU CAN DO ANYTHING WITH WORDS AND PICTURES."
— HARVEY PEKAR

"ON SOME LEVEL, IF LANGUAGE IS UNRELIABLE AND APPEARANCES ARE DECEIVING, THEN MAYBE YOU CAN SORT OF TRIANGULATE BETWEEN BOTH MODES TO GET CLOSER TO THE TRUTH."
— ALISON BECHDEL

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Use icons to build your world!

DEFINITIONS

COMICS are a form of visual storytelling that combine words and pictures to tell a story. Comics can be found in newspapers, magazines, and books. They are a popular form of entertainment and a way to share ideas and experiences.

ICONOGRAPHY is the use of symbols or icons to represent ideas or concepts. Icons are a form of visual vocabulary that can be used to tell a story or convey a message. They are often used in advertising, branding, and communication.



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