



The blacker the ink : constructions of Black identity in comics and sequential art /

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Comic books and strips

Monografía

When many think of comic books the first thing that comes to mind are caped crusaders and spandex-wearing super-heroes. Perhaps, inevitably, these images are of white men (and more rarely, women). It was not until the 1970s that African American superheroes such as Luke Cage, Blade, and others emerged. But as this exciting new collection reveals, these superhero comics are only one small component in a wealth of representations of black characters within comic strips, comic books, and graphic novels over the past century. The *Blacker the Ink* is the first book to explore not only the diverse range of black characters in comics, but also the multitude of ways that black artists, writers, and publishers have made a mark on the industry. Organized thematically into "panels" in tribute to sequential art published in the funny pages of newspapers, the fifteen original essays take us on a journey that reaches from the African American newspaper comics of the 1930s to the Francophone graphic novels of the 2000s. Even as it demonstrates the wide spectrum of images of African Americans in comics and sequential art, the collection also identifies common character types and themes running through everything from the strip *The Boondocks* to the graphic novel *Nat Turner*. Though it does not shy away from examining the legacy of racial stereotypes in comics and racial biases in the industry, *The Blacker the Ink* also offers inspiring stories of trailblazing African American artists and writers. Whether you are a diehard comic book fan or a casual reader of the funny pages, these essays will give you a new appreciation for how black characters and creators have brought a vibrant splash of color to the world of comics

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Título: The blacker the ink constructions of Black identity in comics and sequential art edited by John Jennings and Frances Gateward

Editorial: New Brunswick, NJ Rutgers University Press 2015

Descripción física: 1 online resource (356 p.)

Bibliografía: Includes bibliographical references and index

Contenido: Chapter 1 "No Sweat!": EC Comics, Cold War Censorship, and the Troublesome Colors of "Judgment Day!" -- Chapter 2 Sex in Yop City: Ivorian Femininity and Masculinity in Abouet and Oubriere's *Aya* -- Chapter 3 A Postcolony in Pieces: Black Faces, White Masks, and Queer Potentials in *Unknown Soldier* -- Chapter 4 Fashion in the Funny Papers: Cartoonist Jackie Ormes's American Look -- Chapter 5 Graphic Remix: The Lateral

Appropriation of Black Nationalism in Aaron McGruder's *The Boondocks* -- Chapter 6 American Truths: Blackness and the American Superhero -- Chapter 7 Drawn into Dialogue: Comic Book Culture and the Scene of Controversy in Milestone Media's *Icon* -- Chapter 8 Critical Afrofuturism: A Case Study in Visual Rhetoric, Sequential Art, and Postapocalyptic Black Identity -- Chapter 9 Bare Chests, Silver Tiaras, and Removable Afros: The Visual Design of Black Comic Book Superheroes -- Chapter 10 Daddy Cool: Donald Goines's "Visual Novel" -- Chapter 11 The Blues Tragicomic: Constructing the Black Folk Subject in Stagger Lee -- Chapter 12 Provocation through Polyphony: Kyle Baker's *Nat Turner* -- Chapter 13 Performance Geography: Making Space in Jeremy Love's *Bayou*, Volume 1 -- Chapter 14 A Secret History of Miscegenation: Jimmy Corrigan and the Columbian Exposition of 1893 -- Chapter 15 It's a Hero? Black Comics and Satirizing Subjection

Formato físico adicional: Issued also in print

ISBN: 9780813572369

Materia: African Americans in literature African American cartoonists Black people- Race identity

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Enlace a formato físico adicional: 9780813572369 0813572363 9780813572345 0813572347

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