



The Complete Wimmen's Comix

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In the late '60s, underground comix changed the way comics readers saw the medium — but there was an important pronoun missing from the revolution. In 1972, ten women cartoonists got together in San Francisco to rectify the situation and produce the first and longest-lasting all-woman comics anthology, *Wimmen's Comix*. Within two years the Wimmen's Comix Collective had introduced cartoonists like Roberta Gregory and Melinda Gebbie to the comics-reading public, and would go on to publish some of the most talented women cartoonists in America — Carol Tyler, Mary Fleener, Dori Seda, Phoebe Gloeckner, and many others. In its twenty year run, the women of *Wimmen's* tackled subjects the guys wouldn't touch with a ten-foot pole: abortion, menstruation, masturbation, castration, lesbians, witches, murderers, and feminists. Most issues of *Wimmen's Comix* have been long out of print, so it's about time these pioneering cartoonists' work received their due. Presented as a gorgeous two-volume slipcased set, *The Complete Wimmen's Comix* includes the ground-breaking 1970 one-shot, *It Ain't Me, Babe*, the very first all-woman comic book ever published. Edited with an introduction by Trina Robbins.

The Complete Wimmen's Comix Details

Date : Published March 7th 2016 by Fantagraphics (first published September 5th 2015)

ISBN : 9781606998984

Author : Trina Robbins (Editor)

Format : Hardcover 728 pages

Genre : Sequential Art, Comics, Graphic Novels, Graphic Novels Comics, Comic Book, Womens, Gender and Sexuality, Short Stories, Fiction, Feminism, Comix

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From Reader Review The Complete Wimmen's Comix for online ebook

Rachel says

As other reviewers said, this is a period piece, and my rating takes that into consideration. Some pieces are timeless, some good but dated, and some just would not cut it these days. All in all, and excellent collection.

Dominick says

The four-star rating probably reflects more the historical significance of this work than its overall quality. There *is* a lot of good cartooning here, but there is some mediocre work, as well, and a few downright bad strips, especially earlier on. It is important for artists to have venues in which to grow and fail, but that doesn't make badly-designed and poorly-lettered strips any more easy to read. At times, one wishes to see somewhat more evidence of editorial intervention. Nevertheless, the very existence of this book is important-though perhaps less so than was the emergence and run of the original comics-because it makes available in one generously-sized volume a cornucopia of work by a stunning array of artists. If there's a major non-mainstream female cartoonist who's not in here, I am not able to think of her off the top of my head (though some are represented by only a small bit of work). And there is not only great stuff from cartoonists whose work I recognized but scads of impressive work by cartoonists I had never heard of. So, uneven but nevertheless an essential document.

Travis says

An excellent anthology. Good stories in and of themselves.

From domestic violence and abortion to fashion and food, a lot of diversity of topic. I preferred the stories on more somber subjects, but the lighthearted ones were good also.

If you want more insight into comics by women, this is a great place to start.

Rebecca says

Finally, my kind of comix

World Literature Today says

"In the early 1970s a vibrant group of women artists emerged, mainly on the West Coast, in the pages of Wimmen's Comix. Their subjects, too, were often X-rated and included sex, drugs, relationships, women's liberation, gay liberation, politics, and trenchant satire of American cultural institutions. The two volumes of The Complete Wimmen's Comix provide a rich and complete overview of the development of the Berkeley-

based publishing collective from a 1970 incubator issue of 'It Ain't Me Babe: Women's Liberation,' which preceded the establishment of Wimmen's Comix in 1972, through the seventeenth and final issue, in 1992. With a rotating editorship and a mission to welcome new artists, the issues can be uneven in quality and drawing styles even while they give the reader a keen sense of the themes relevant to the historical moment, most especially women's liberation. Despite the unevenness and the somewhat dated, if historically accurate themes, every issue has its gems, and those are the ones that stay with the reader. These volumes invite the casual browser as well as the aficionado to marvel at the talented spirit and energy of an earlier moment in the history of Wimmen as well as comix." - Rita D. Jacobs

This book was reviewed in the March 2016 issue of World Literature Today magazine. Read the full review by visiting our website: <http://www.worldliteraturetoday.org/2...>

Chris Drew says

This is an incredible collection, excellently edited and designed. It is very interesting to see the first issues and compare them to the latter work. The introduction provides good information and context. If you are interested in underground comics at all, or the history of comic's by women, you will find something to love here. Looks beautiful on our shelf, and will be great to return to from time to time in the future.

Micah says

I read this entire sucker in less than the 3 days I was spending in Spokane.

It was great as an anthology - there's some really nice growth in individual comic makers and it was neat to see Alison Bechdel and Lynda Barry's earlier stuff.

That said it's was also surreal to read from a post-wave feminist perspective - it's mostly comprised of white, feminist artists reflecting their culture in all it's weirdness. Readers can see the cultural shift of women going from secretaries in the 70's to powersuits in the 80's and these same women wondering if it was actually any better, as well as witnessing the pedantic drama that seems innate in every radical social scene. It feels like a time capsule of much things have changed and how much they haven't.

Robert Hudder says

So, this covered many years and all the issues of Wimmen's Comix. Of course, by its nature, the stuff was uneven or at least not necessarily to my taste. Being indies, there was a lot of sex, politics, drugs and ordinary angst. A lot of great artists and writers were featured and it was good to go back and visit them. A lot of queer and feminist content as well. Some of it felt dated because it was speaking to what was happening in an autobiographical way.

Now, at the end of the day, I am not sure I would recommend this to many people. I know some woman who are interested in graphic novels and some men who are interested in indie comics and those are the obvious groups. All other, YMMV.

Kim says

This is the REAL underground that comics history need to revere, not the sexist and racist Zap.
wimmen's comix >>>> zap

Carol Tilley says

gorgeous!

P. says

As with any large collection of anthology style comics, there are some great stories, some mediocre, some wtf stuff, but overall, just seeing all these women's work being collected is fantastic and it has added many names to my list of creators to look for. Sad to see some themes still ring true - let's bring back 'consciousness raising' groups? and happy to see that some problematic representations of trans and poc seem so off base they probably wouldn't occur today if this floppy were still being published (reading it was just uncomfortable). The 3D issue was really cool.

Stewart Tame says

With two volumes, clocking in at around 350 pages each, this took a while to get through. I'm not complaining. If anything, I wish there were more. Wimmen's Comix was one of the premier underground titles, and outlasted a number of other famous titles from that era by a good decade or so. This two volume set reprints the entire run, as well as the single issue of It Ain't Me Babe, which preceded the entire run of Wimmen's. As the titles imply, these were books produced by all female creators. There is so much good work here by so many talented people ... Phoebe Gloeckner, Dori Seda, Trina Robbins, M.K. Brown, Diane Noomin, Carol Lay, Mary Fleener, Roberta Gregory, Alison Bechdel, Sharon Rudahl, Lynda Barry, Aline Kominsky, Krystine Kryttre, and more. Fantagraphics has done a marvelous job of production on these. The books are oversized, to give a better view of the art. The size of the original comics varied from standard to magazine sized depending on the publisher. The slipcase is nice and sturdy. One issue was printed as a 3D comic, so two pairs of glasses are included. There's a 2D version of the comic towards the end of volume 2, so they can be compared. I found the artwork to be a little clearer in the 2D version, but some of the 3D effects in the original are quite striking. Generally, the story quality improves over the course of the two volumes. Trina says as much in the introduction, something to the effect that, for many of these women, this was their first attempt at comics, and they either got better at it over time, or drifted away from comics for other pursuits. And there is so much good work here, that the few lesser efforts really don't matter. Wimmen's Comix is one of the all-time great underground anthologies--I'd say Zap, Rip Off, Weirdo, and maybe Arcade and Twisted Sisters would be the others. Raw, Escape, Drawn and Quarterly ... worth mentioning, but we're starting to get more into art comics than undergrounds. Slightly different feel. I'm starting to wander off topic, aren't I? Wimmen's Comix is awesome! Read it! Now if only I could persuade someone to do a deluxe reprint of the complete Weirdo ...

J.T. says

This is a gorgeous collection of every issue of Wimmen's Comix. It's a pricey collection, so I would've never had the opportunity to read it if not for being a juror for the Ignatz Awards last year. I'm incredibly thankful I was able to get my hands on it.

There were a few artists I'm familiar with (Phoebe Gloeckner, Lynda Barry, Aline Kominsky-Crumb, etc.) and many more with which I was not. As with just about any anthology, it was a mixed bag in terms of quality, style, tone, etc., but it was interesting to watch certain artists develop over the course of the series' run.

Very refreshing to have a consistently female perspective throughout, especially for that time period. Granted, there is no singular shared "female perspective", but the subjects tackled were ones not often appearing in the male-dominated comics of that time.

Michael says

via NYPL - Amazing. Like many independent anthologies, yes, the comics can be mixed, but they get so much stronger as the series goes along and they're never less than ambitious and challenging. A wonderful volume.

Karen says

I don't know why I was expecting more intersectionality, but I was. A perfect example of how white women need to do better--even today.
