



Maus

Graphic Novels, Comics,

Art Spiegelman,

the Holocaust

WHAT IS MAUS?

Graphic
Novel

Literary
and Visual
Art

Memoir

Story of
Generational
Differences

A Study of
Memory And
Its Effects

Oral History

"What Is Maus?" Common
Reading 2005 - 2006.
La Guardia Community
College, 2005.
Web. 23 July 2012.



GENRE VS. MEDIUM

Genre= A style or category of art, music, or literature.

Medium= The means by which something is communicated or expressed.

“Genre.” Oxford Dictionaries. April 2010. Oxford University Press. 15 July 2012.

“Medium.” Oxford Dictionaries. April 2010. Oxford University Press. 15 July 2012.

GENRE VS. MEDIUM

GENRE=NON-FICITON

MEDIUM= GRAPHIC
NOVEL

Graphic Novels Represent a Format (Medium) Rather Than a Genre

- Graphic novels or comics can be memoirs, reports, fantasies, superhero-based, reworking of classic literature, historical fiction, etc.

MAUS

- Is an oral history account of a Jewish man's survival during the Holocaust.
- Is a frame narrative, a story within a story.
- It is part biography, part autobiography.
- *Maus* breaks literary rules and builds bridges between genres and mediums.
- Was on the *New York Times* list of best selling books as "fiction" before Spiegelman wrote the editors, and the *Times* moved it to non-fiction.

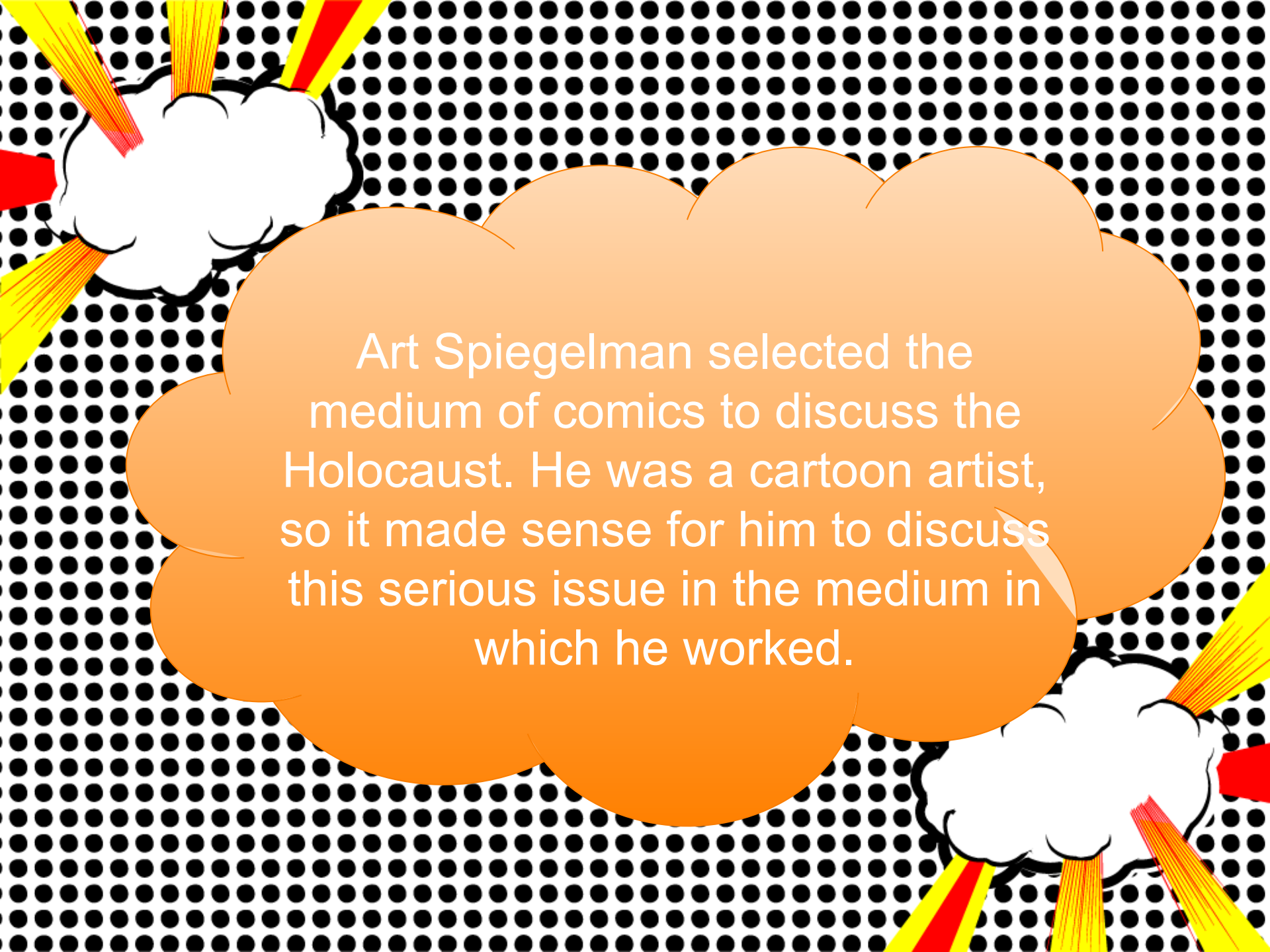


- In 1987, a reporter in Germany asked Art Spiegelman, “Don’t you think that a comic book about the Holocaust is in bad taste?”

The author replied, “No, I thought Auschwitz was in bad taste.”

Garner, Dwight. "After a Quarter-Century, an Author Looks Back at His Holocaust Comic." *The New York Times*. The New York Times, 13 Oct. 2011. Web. 16 July 2012.





Art Spiegelman selected the medium of comics to discuss the Holocaust. He was a cartoon artist, so it made sense for him to discuss this serious issue in the medium in which he worked.

The Holocaust

- “The Holocaust was the state-sponsored, systematic persecution and annihilation of European [Jewish people] by Nazi Germany and its collaborators between 1933 and 1945. Jews were the primary victims—six million were murdered; Gypsies, [disabled people] and Poles were also targeted for destruction or decimation for racial, ethnic, or national reasons. Millions more, including homosexuals, Jehovah's Witnesses, Soviet prisoners of war and political dissidents, also suffered grievous oppression and death under Nazi tyranny.”

- "Education." *Guidelines for Teaching about the Holocaust*. United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, n.d. Web. 16 July 2012.

According to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum,

- “Study of the [Holocaust] addresses one of the central mandates of education in the United States, which is to examine what it means to be a responsible citizen. Through a study of these topics, students come to realize that:
- Silence and indifference to the suffering of others, or to the infringement of civil rights in any society can—however unintentionally—perpetuate the problems;
- The Holocaust was not an accident in history—it occurred because individuals, organizations, and governments made choices that not only legalized discrimination but also allowed prejudice, hatred, and ultimately mass murder to occur.

According to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum,

- Study of the Holocaust assists students in developing an understanding of the roots and ramifications of prejudice, racism, and stereotyping in any society.
- The Holocaust provides a context for exploring the dangers of remaining silent, apathetic, and indifferent in the face of the oppression of others.
- A study of these topics helps students to think about the use and abuse of power, and the roles and responsibilities of individuals, organizations, and nations when confronted with civil rights violations and/or policies of genocide.”
- "Education." *Guidelines for Teaching about the Holocaust*. United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, n.d. Web. 16 July 2012.

BIOGRAPHY

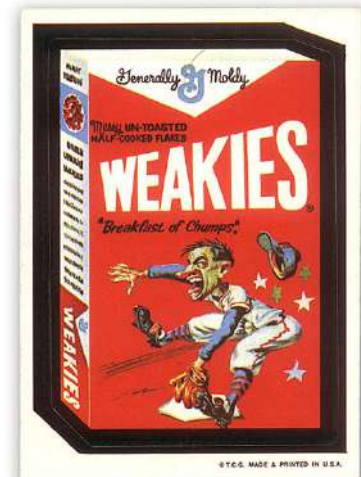
- Art Spiegelman was born to Holocaust Survivors in February 15, 1948 in Stockholm, Sweden.
- His family immigrated to the United States in 1951, eventually settling in New York.
- Having rejected his parents' aspirations for him to become a dentist, Art Spiegelman studied cartooning in high school and began drawing professionally at age 16.
- He went on to study art and philosophy at Harpur College before becoming part of the San Francisco-based underground comics movement of the late 1960s and 1970s.

BIOGRAPHY

As creative consultant for Topps Bubble Gum Company from 1965-1987, Spiegelman designed *Wacky Packages*, *Garbage Pail Kids* and other novelty items, and taught history and aesthetics of comics at the School for Visual Arts in New York from 1979-1986.

Commercial Success

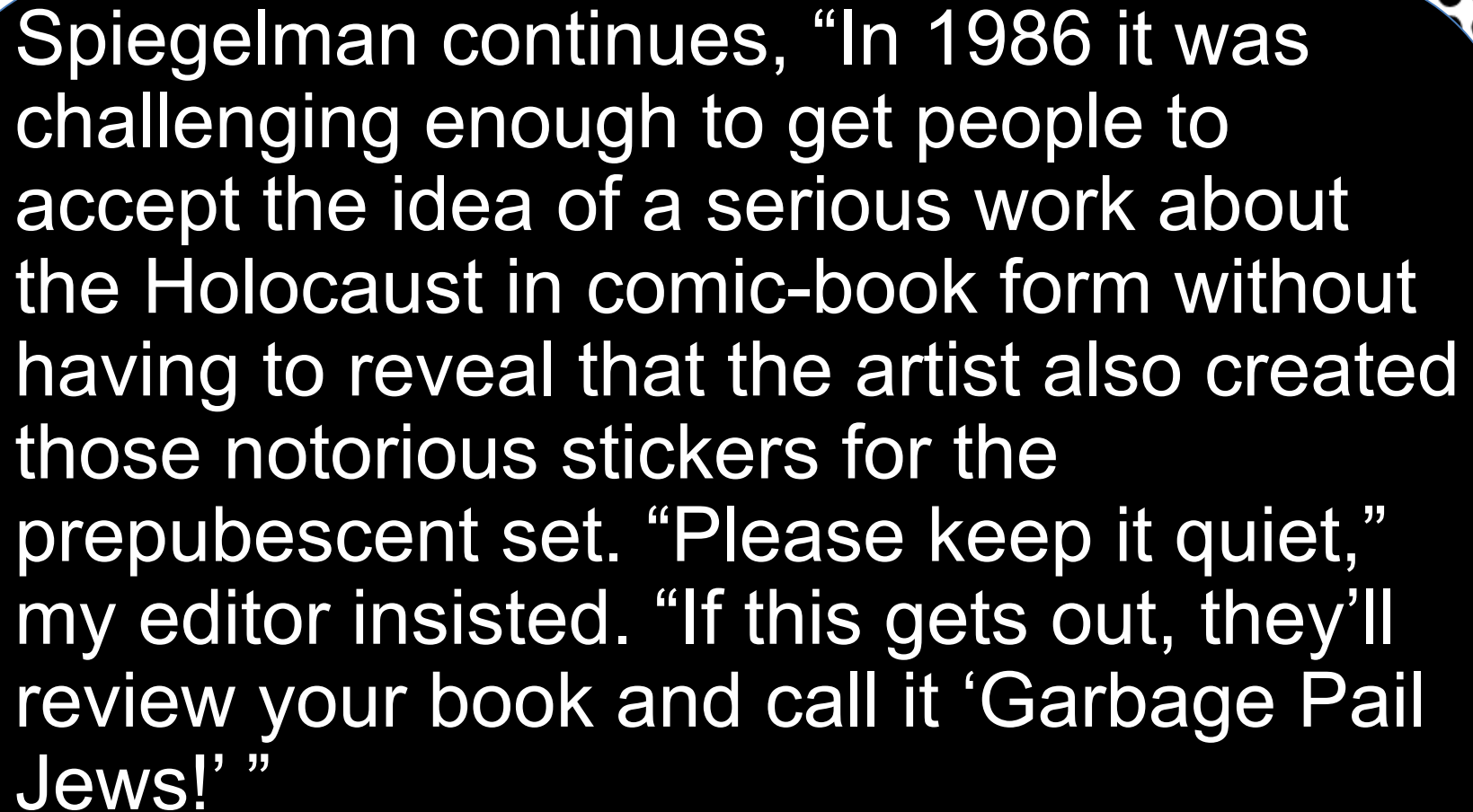
- Spiegleman was an artist and creative force behind the parody trading cards series Wacky Packages and the Garbage Pail Kids of the 1970s and 1980s.





Art Spiegelman says of the Garbage Pail Kids, “We all worked anonymously, since Topps [Trading Card Company] didn’t want the work publicly credited....I was annoyed at the time, but my book publisher, Pantheon, was very relieved. The first volume of *Maus* was being prepared for publication while the GPKs were near the height of their popularity.”



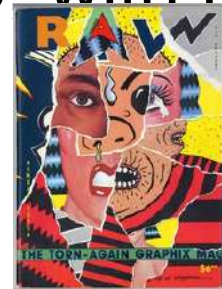


Spiegelman continues, “In 1986 it was challenging enough to get people to accept the idea of a serious work about the Holocaust in comic-book form without having to reveal that the artist also created those notorious stickers for the prepubescent set. “Please keep it quiet,” my editor insisted. “If this gets out, they’ll review your book and call it ‘Garbage Pail Jews!’ ”

- Spiegelman, Art. "Art Spiegelman on the Birth of Garbage Pail Kids." *Slate Magazine*. 2 Apr. 2012. Web. 23 July 2012.

BIOGRAPHY

- ✧ In 1980, Spiegelman co-founded *RAW*, the acclaimed avant-garde comics magazine with his wife, Françoise Mouly.
- ✧ For eleven years, *RAW* presented groundbreaking work by contemporary cartoonists and serialized Spiegelman's *Maus* in chapter-length installments.
- ✧ The two volumes of *Maus* were published in 1986 and 1991, respectively, and were published together as *The Complete Maus* in 1996.



BIOGRAPHY

- Art Spiegelman's work has frequently appeared in *The New Yorker*, where he was a staff artist, writer and cover artist from 1993-2003. His wife, Françoise Mouly, is the current art editor.



"2006 Hall of Fame:
Art Spiegelman."
Art Directors Club.
Art Directors Club,
2006. Web. 26 July
2012.



Cover by Spiegelman and Mouly


“Ten years ago, my husband, the cartoonist Art Spiegelman, our daughter, and I stood four blocks away from the second tower as we watched it collapse in excruciatingly slow motion. Later, back in my office, I felt that images were suddenly powerless to help us understand what had happened. The only appropriate solution seemed to be to publish no cover image at all—an all-black cover. Then Art suggested adding the outlines of the two towers, black on black.” - Françoise Mouly

Mouly, Françoise. "News Desk: Cover Story: Ten Years Since Black on Black : *The New Yorker*." *The New Yorker*. 05 Sept. 2011. Web. 23 July 2012.


PRICE \$3.50

THE
NEW YORKER

SEPT. 24, 2001



To commemorate *Maus*' 25th anniversary in 2011, Art Spiegelman worked on *Meta Maus*. This book and DVD explored the making of his book.



Interviewing Vladek

Defining THE PAGE

