

# Today's Artist: Craig Thompson



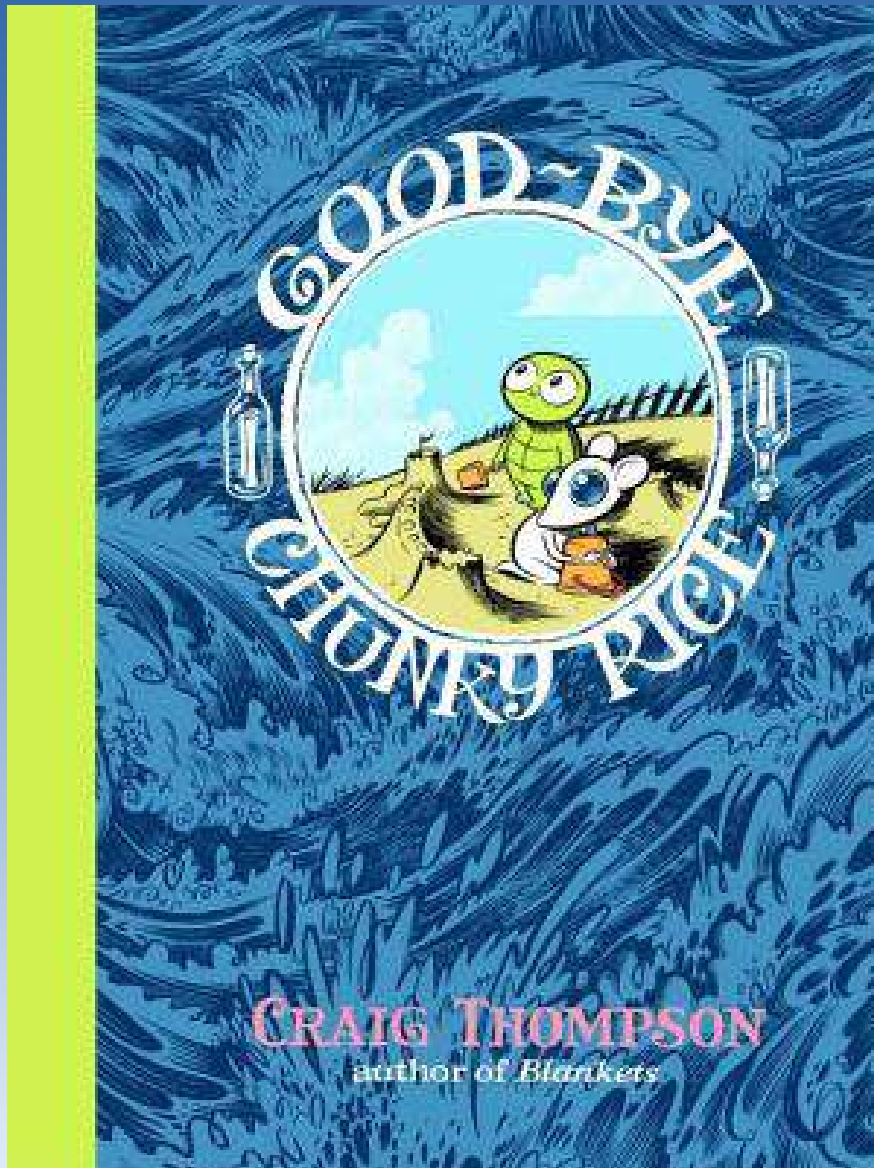
**Craig Thompson is a graphic novel artist currently living in Portland, Oregon.**

**He was born in Michigan and grew up in a very Christian family in rural Wisconsin.**

**Growing up he was denied TV and music that wasn't Christian. His only access to art was Sunday comics which influenced his art style.**

**He has won several awards for his art and writing.**

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Although he worked for Dark Horse Comics for a short time, he is best known for his graphic novels.

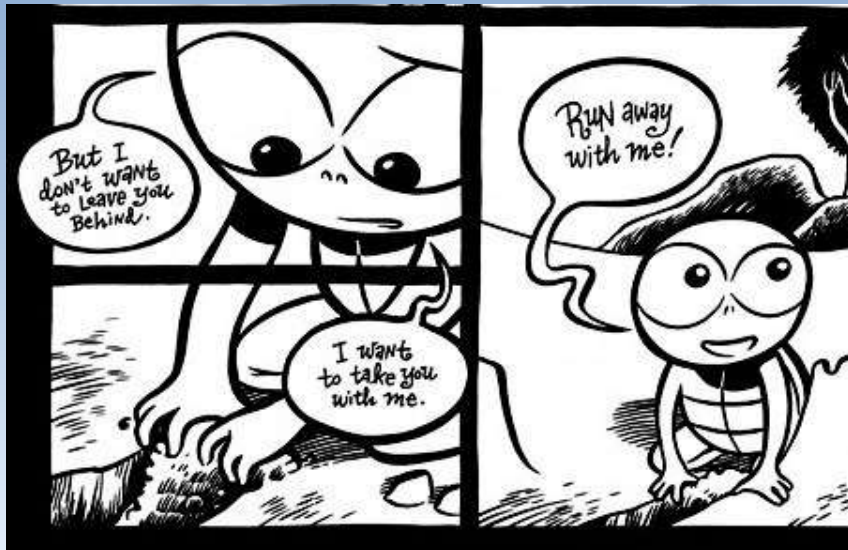
**Good-bye Chucky Rice** was his first major release.

The story was a semi-biographical, yet highly fictionalized account of how it **FELT** to move from Wisconsin to Oregon.

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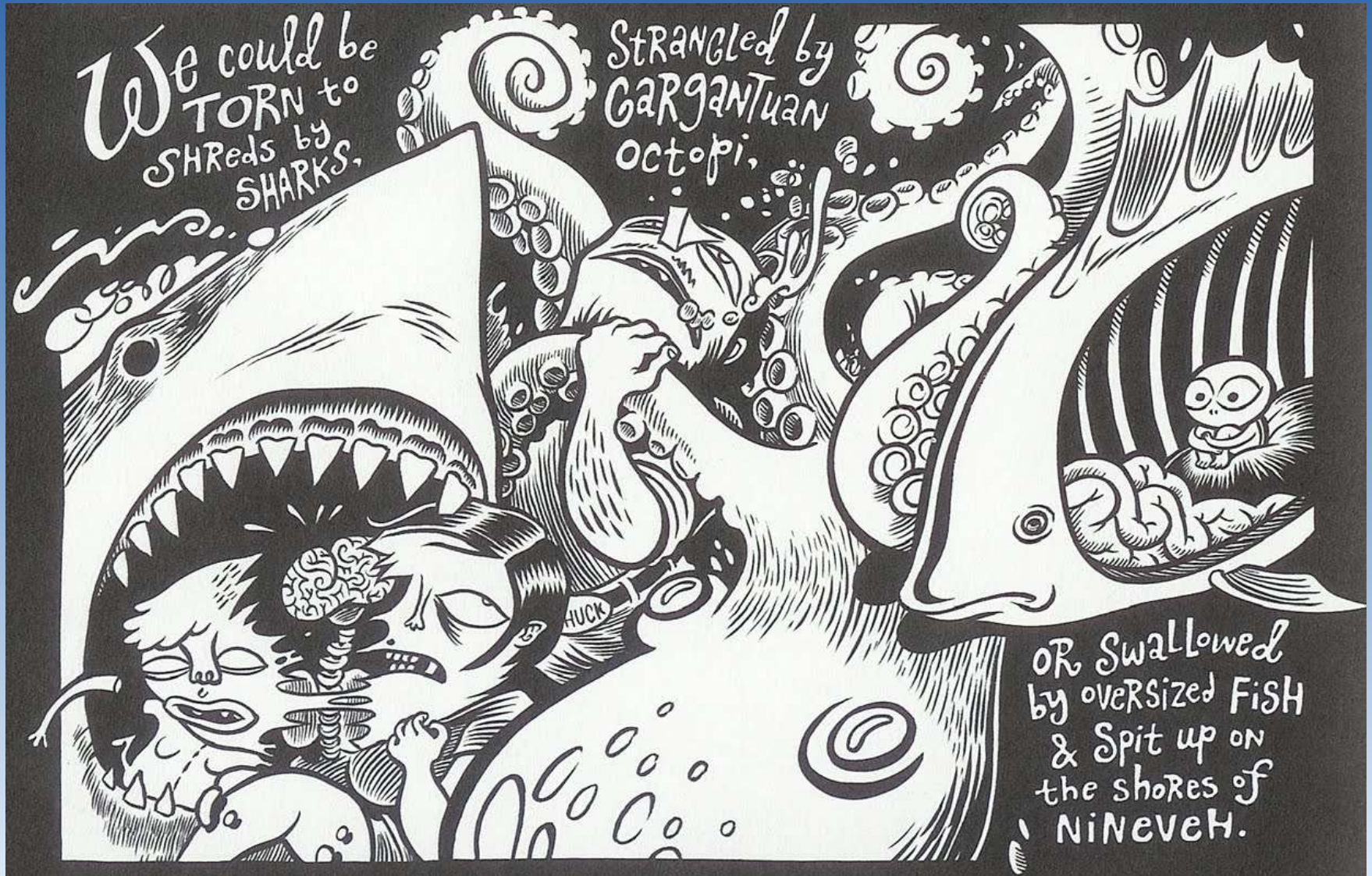
In the story he is represented by the turtle.

Aside from being a tribute to his friends he left when he moved, it is also a tribute to Jim Henson, Dr. Seuss, Tim Burton and other artists he admired as a child.





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Look at his composition, use of hatching for texture/ value, repetition, contrast etc. in this one panel.



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**His most famous novel is *Blankets*.**

**This book has won or been nominated for several awards.**

**This story is autobiographical. It focuses on growing up in a poor Christian family. It also deals with finding and eventually losing his first "love".**



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Blankets are used throughout the book as a symbol of comfort, youthfulness and love.

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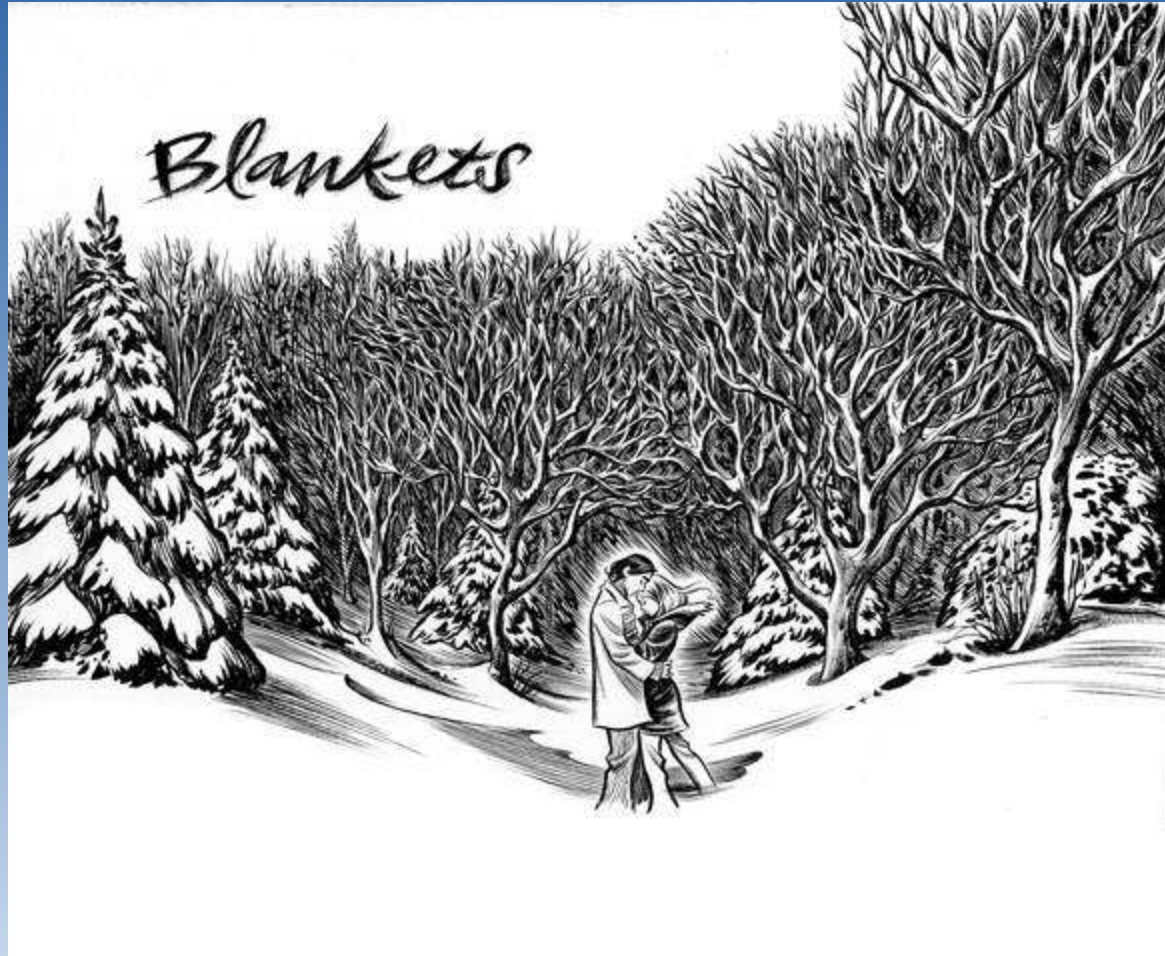




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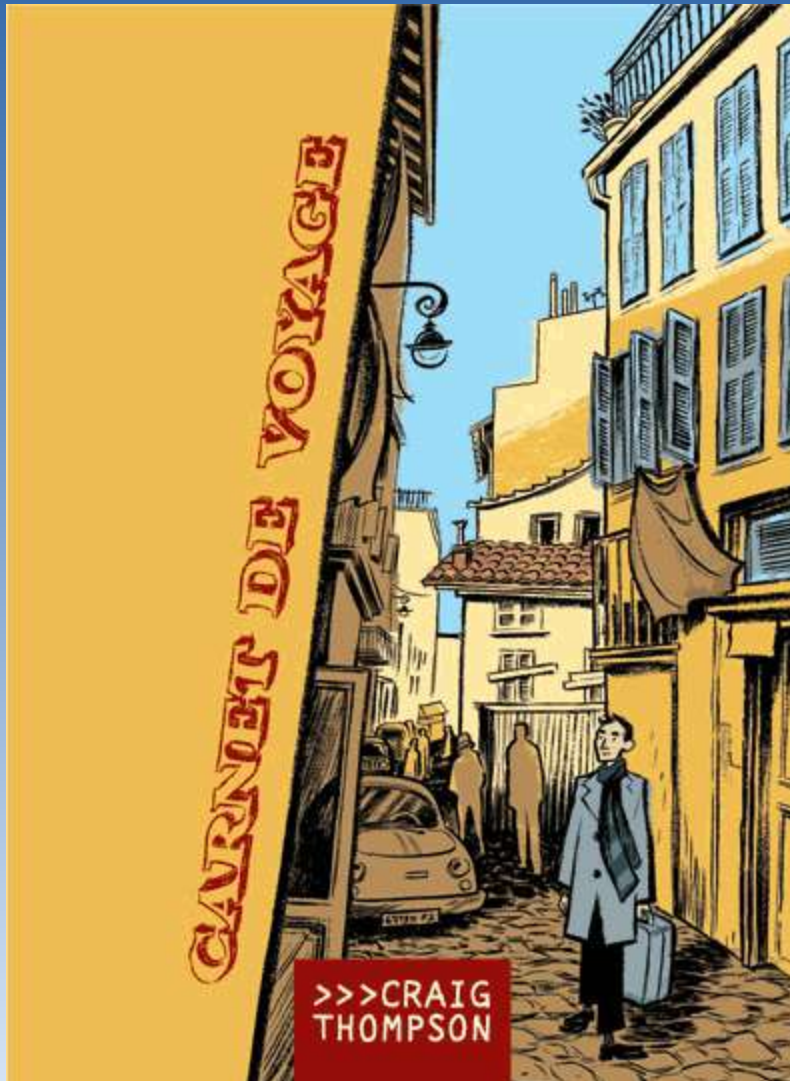


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**Carnet De Voyage was a travel journal that he wrote while doing a book signing and making sketch references for elements from his next book.**

**He draws land features, architecture and people from his journey. He also talks about his issues with arthritis and joint pain caused by his obsessive art style.**

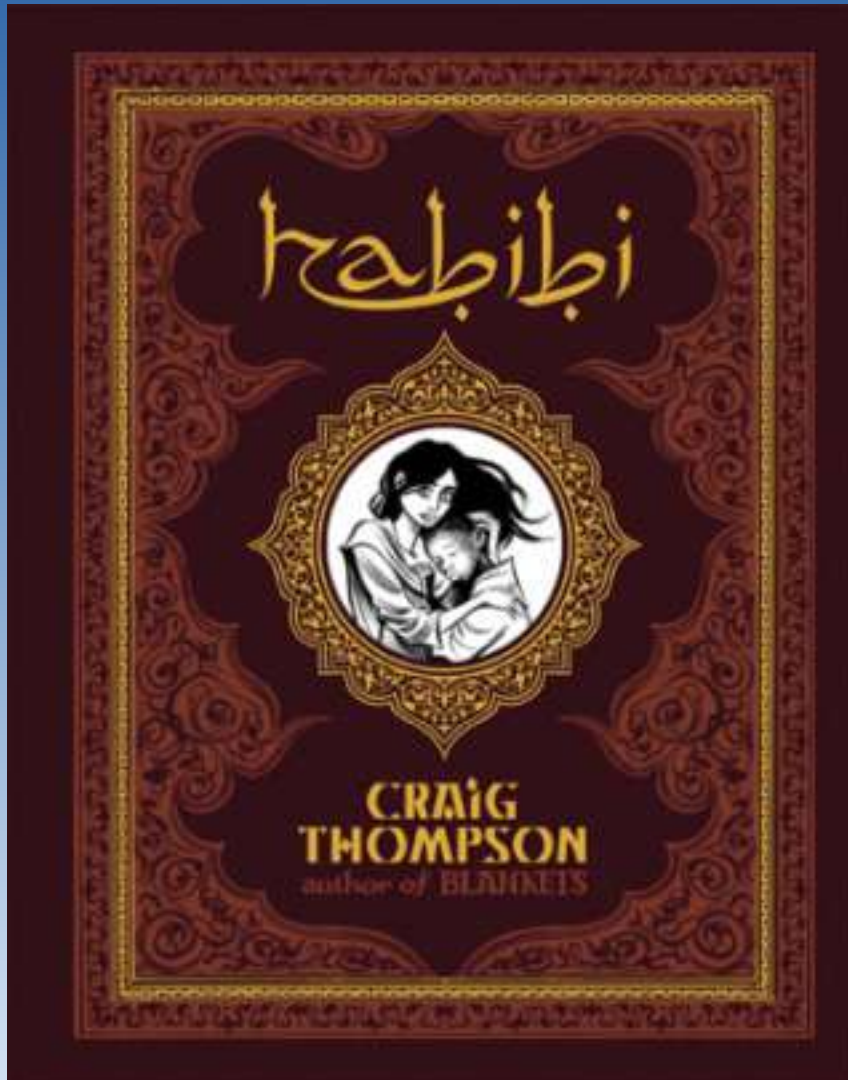
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Here is one of the sketches from  
**Carnet De Voyage**





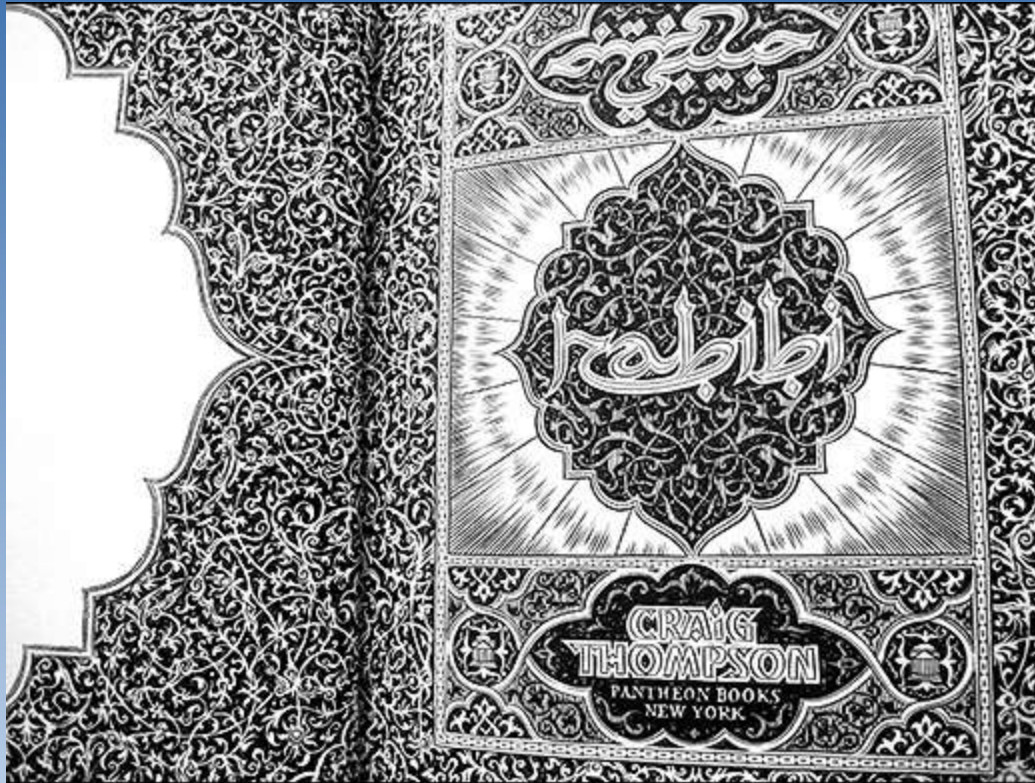
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**Habibi is a 672 page graphic novel that took him around 7 years to complete.**

**This book is a complete work of fiction based on Arabic calligraphy and Islamic mythology. The story is about love but it also has to do with religion, human environmental impact, greed and cruelty.**

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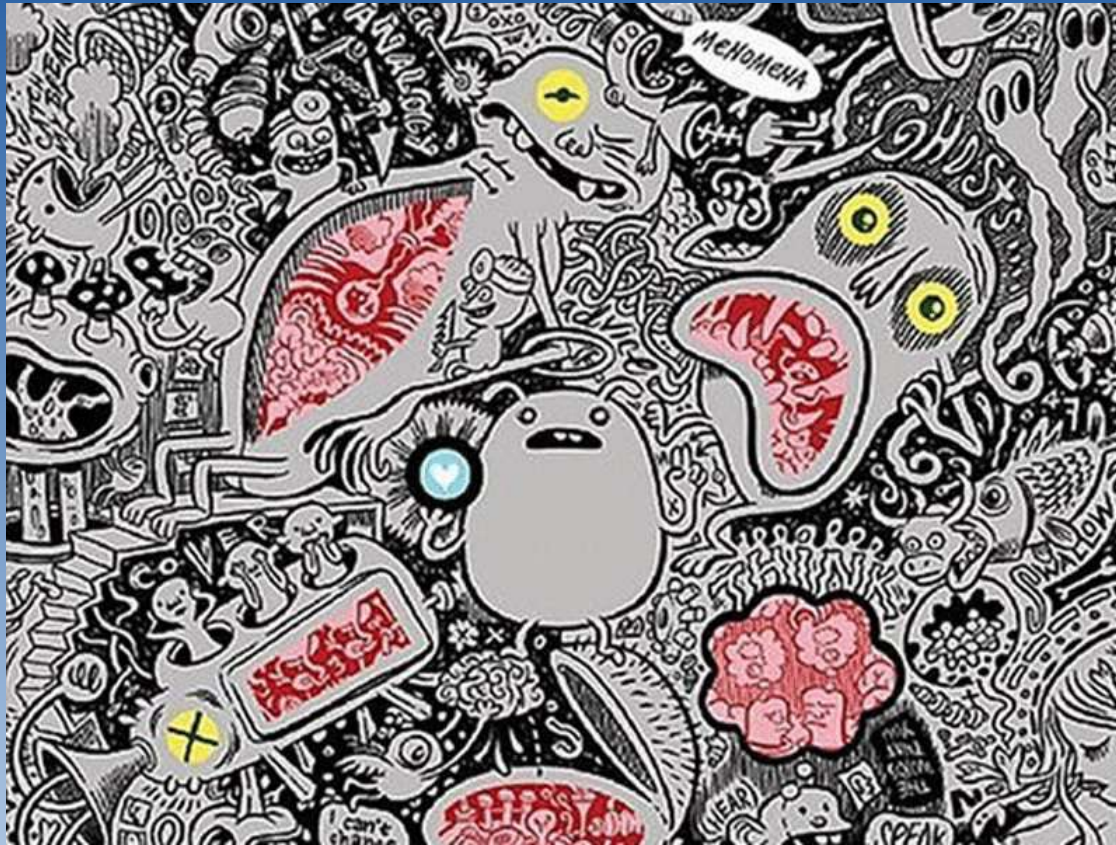


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He has also made several short drawings and illustrations for various topics.

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**In 2007 his album art he created for the band, Menomena's "Friend or Foe" album was nominated for a Grammy for design. The album had several panels, spinning wheels and other hidden illustrations.**



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**His current project Space Dumplins is set to be completed by the end of 2014. It is much shorter than his other books and designed with full color.**