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Art Spiegelman at the SBC Gallery

A fundraiser featuring comic book icon Art Spiegelman



By: Dan Laxer

Sep 21, 2011 - 13:26

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What the %&! Happened to Comics?

Art Spiegelman ought to know. He is the foremost authority on underground comics and graphic novels in America, and he's coming to town to help an old friend. Not of his, but of ours.

The Segal Centre for the Performing Arts has become, in the few short years since its inception, one of Montreal's most important centres for theatre, film, music, and dance. But when they morphed from what used to be the Saidye Bronfman Centre for the Arts some components once important to the community were dissolved, including their fine arts school.

All was not lost, however. What is now known as the **SBC Gallery** moved from one end of the city to the other, and is now housed in [the Belgo Building](#), kitty-corner to Montreal's Place des Arts. It is perhaps not the most memorable location. Unless it's pointed out to you, you might not know that what was once workshops is now a collection of art galleries, including the SBC. So they need to raise awareness, and funds, of course.

Art Spiegelman spent years as one of the most respected underground graphic novelists and cartoonists of his time. But fame yanked him by the lapels into the mainstream when he published his Pulitzer Prize-winning [Maus: A Survivor's Tale](#), the 2-volume story of his father's experience in The Holocaust, and how being raised by survivors impacted the young boy who would eventually grow up to be Spiegelman himself.

Spiegelman is about to release [MetaMaus](#), a compendium of all that went into what is now considered to be a literary classic, along with a DVD that includes private notebooks and sketches, and even some of the audio interviews with Spiegelman's father, the very conversations that served as a basis for [Maus](#). Spiegelman is hoping the package will answer questions like why the Holocaust, why cats and mice, and of course why comics?

Hence the title of his upcoming lecture at Concordia University, [What the %&! Happened to Comics?](#) (It's a bit ironic that he's coming to town, and giving this specific lecture, just days after Comiccon wraps up). Spiegelman is coming as a guest of the SBC Gallery, in an event that will hopefully raise awareness, and money.

The lecture takes place **Saturday, September 24, 4:00 pm**, at Concordia University in the heart of downtown Montreal. While the event is open to the general public (\$20.00), there are a number of VIP tickets available (\$150) which include a post-talk cocktail with

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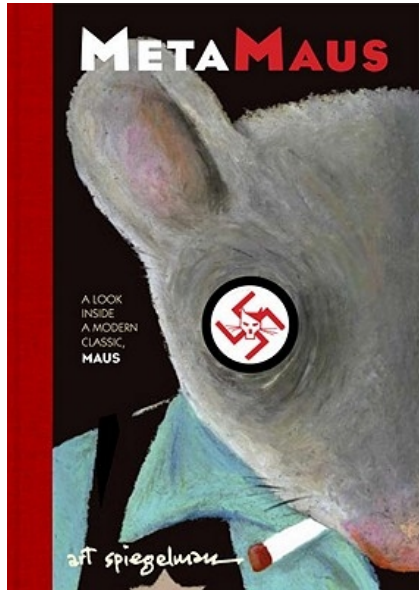
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the artist, along with signed advanced copies of [MetaMaus](#).

Even though the SBC Gallery holds fundraising events annually, this is a unique opportunity. "Comics echo the way the brain works," says Spiegelman. And if his works didn't give us enough of a glimpse into his brain, here the artist lays bare his creative mind, and directs your attention, not just to his creative process, but also to the SBC Gallery. Check it out, if you dare.



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