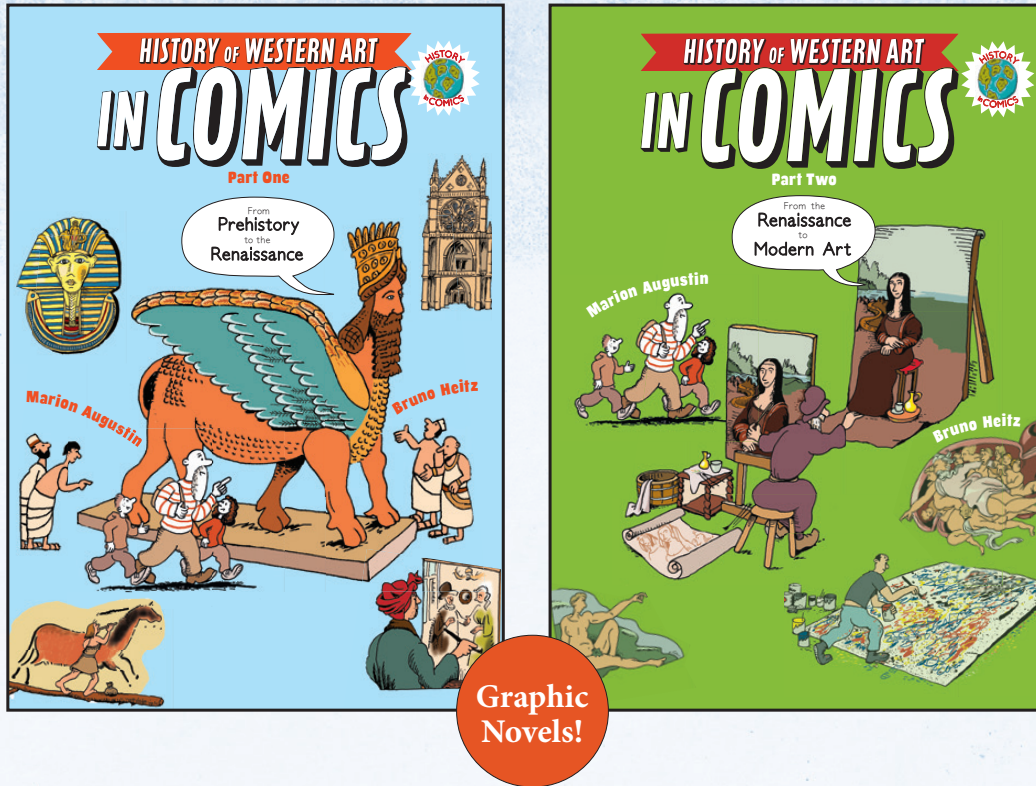


# HOLIDAY HOUSE EDUCATOR'S GUIDE



## *The History of Western Art in Comics*

by Marion Augustin, illustrated by Bruno Heitz

### ABOUT THE SERIES

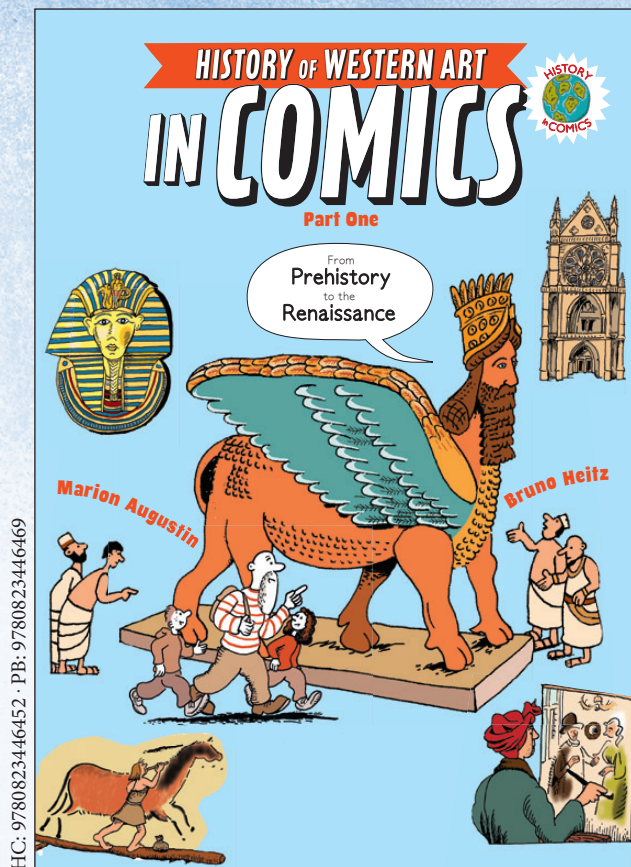
Written by a tour guide for museums and historic landmarks, The History of Western Art in Comics series is designed to entertain (with many funny asides and jokes) as it informs. Centuries of art history are explored entertainingly for young readers, recounted as a narrative about why different civilizations created different kinds of art. The illustrations accurately portray the art and the artists described, with flavor and humor added to keep readers turning the page. Reproductions of the featured artworks and information about each piece are included in the back, along with a glossary of terms.

### ABOUT THE CREATORS

**Marion Augustin** is a tour guide for several museums and historic landmarks in France. She lives in the Parisian suburbs.

**Bruno Heitz** has written and illustrated many books for children in France. He lives in Saint-Rémy-de-Provence.





## *The History of Western Art in Comics Part One: From Prehistory to the Renaissance*

by Marion Augustin  
illustrated by Bruno Heitz

### ABOUT THE BOOK

Learning about art through the ages has never been as interesting or fun as in this humorous and very informative graphic novel.

As two kids give their grandpa a tour of Paris, he starts an interesting conversation with them about where all the art they see in their lives—from the movie house to the stadiums to museums and even the subway—started. Grandpa's impromptu history lesson goes back to the first cavemen drawings, then onto the pyramids of Giza, and by the end of the book includes Greco-Roman feats of ingenuity and the frescoes of the Renaissance. Iconic works, such as Donatello's *David* and *The Book of Kells*, are included, as well as architectural feats like the Colosseum.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Define prehistory. Look closely at the cover art. Point out the illustration that most represents prehistory. How does cave art tell a story? Contrast the different types of art on the cover. Which do you think represents the Renaissance?
- A grandfather takes his two grandchildren on a field trip and points out important art pieces and the period in which they were created. When Grandpa arrives in Paris, the two children want to show him the modern side of the city. Point out the "modern" things on pages 4 & 5. How is their definition of "modern" different from Grandpa's? Discuss why Grandpa thinks it important that his grandchildren learn about art through the ages.
- In this comic, the art bears much of the responsibility in relaying information and story. How does the illustrator distinguish between the dialogue and the information? Discuss how the reader knows who is speaking. At the end of the book, there are photographs of actual works mentioned in the book. Read about each work and cross-reference this to what the children's grandfather tells them about the creation of the work. Make note of the black-and-white drawings and the dialogue balloons in the information at the end of the book. Discuss the humor of this dialogue.



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- The children ask their grandpa how art began. Discuss how their walk through Paris reveals the answer. Explain how art is an excellent way of learning about history and culture. What does cave art reveal about those who created it? How was cave art the first type of writing? Consider all that was happening in civilization, and discuss when prehistory ended and history began.
- Discuss the role of art in protecting kings and palaces. What was the purpose of the pyramid? Explain the role of mythology and religion in art. How did art reveal the hierarchy of the people?
- Discuss how the writer and illustrator of this book make the transition from Egyptian art to Greek art. Contrast the art from these two cultures.
- A statement based on fact is objective, and one based on feelings that represents a person's own beliefs is subjective. Grandpa talks with his grandchildren about beauty. How is beauty subjective? How can art that isn't aesthetically pleasing to the eye still be an object of beauty? Debate whether the children's ideas about beauty change as they learn more about art. Point out the objective and subjective responses to the art from the historic characters in the book, and from Grandpa and his grandchildren.
- What does Renaissance mean? When did the Renaissance begin? What was the role of monks during this time? Discuss the beliefs of the Cistercian monks. How did they live? Discuss the purpose of frescoes. Identify the role of relics in Renaissance art.
- Describe a Gothic cathedral. What distinguishes this type of art and architecture from earlier cathedrals? How were the colors in art during this period about wealth and power? Describe the making of stained glass during this time. How did the stained glass tell a story?
- Johannes Gutenberg invented the printing press around 1450. Explain how this invention changed art. How did books represent a new stage in the history of art? Discuss how picture books and comic books are works of art today.



Guide created by Pat Scales, retired school librarian and independent consultant, Greenville, South Carolina.

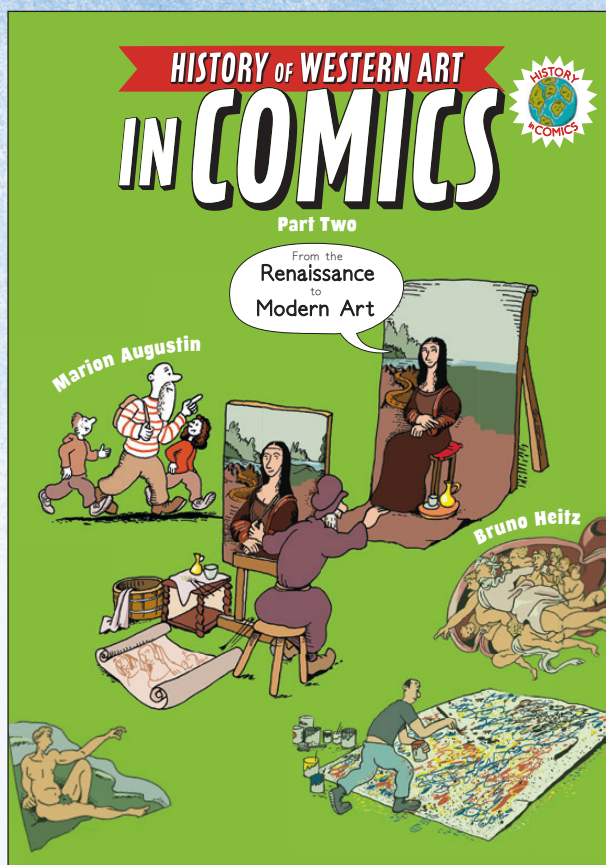


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HC: 9780823446476 · PB: 9780823446483 · e-book: 9780823451616



## Heading: *The History of Western Art in Comics* Part Two: *From the Renaissance to Modern Art*

by Marion Augustin  
illustrated by Bruno Heitz

### ABOUT THE BOOK

Learn even more about art through the ages in this humorous and informative graphic novel sequel.

Two kids and their grandpa continue their adventurous guided exploration of art and civilization, and how they interacted and evolved to become something entirely new. Continuing with the Renaissance and iconic works such as *The Last Supper*, the *Mona Lisa*, and the Sistine Chapel, the book winds its way through to the work of Vincent van Gogh, the surrealist movement, Jackson Pollock, and more.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- The children and their grandpa continue their art history field trip by traveling outside of France. Why is it important that they go to Italy? Which city in Italy was considered the heart of the Renaissance? At what point did this begin to change? Discuss how the artists and intellectuals put mankind at the center of the universe during this period.
- Leonardo da Vinci was one of the leading artists of the Renaissance. How was he also an engineer? Explain his obsession with anatomy. How did studying the human body help him in the execution of his art? How was this part of his preparation process? *The Mona Lisa*, one of da Vinci's most famous paintings, hangs in the Louvre Museum in Paris. Discuss how the painting got from Italy to France.
- Explain the rivalry between the Italian cities during the Renaissance. In which city did Leonardo da Vinci do most of his work? Discuss the competition between Michelangelo and da Vinci. Why is da Vinci so concerned when Michelangelo and Raphael relocate to Rome? What were they seeking? Discuss their contribution to art in Rome.
- How was art affected by the religious conflict in Europe during the Renaissance? Explain the power of art in churches. Contrast the Baroque style of architecture with the Gothic style. At what point was clothing placed on nudes in paintings hanging in churches? Explain how Michelangelo's painting on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel was altered. How were these alterations a form of censorship?

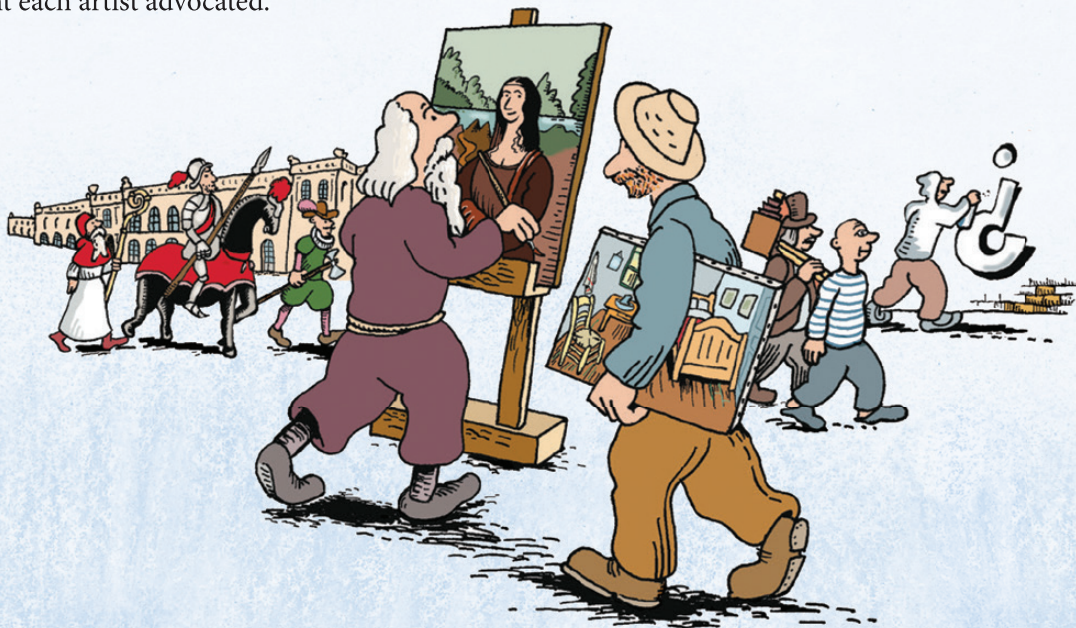


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- It was common for artists to copy the works of other artists, and this practice exists today. What is the difference in copying and being influenced by other artists? Explain how copying art was a form of art education—honing one’s technique. How was Vermeer influenced by Caravaggio and Rembrandt? Debate whether this influence is evident in Vermeer’s work.
- Many artists considered the five senses when executing art. Take a close look at *The Tempest* by Giorgione (pp. 15 & 87). How does the painting appeal to the senses? Then study all of the paintings from the Renaissance to Modern Art and discuss which of the paintings call upon the senses of the viewer.
- What is significant about the work of Brueghel? Analyze *The Census at Bethlehem 1566* (p. 27). Point out Mary, Joseph, and Jesus. How is this particular painting different from other paintings of the Holy Family?
- What was the purpose of the art academies? Why was it so important that the artists get accepted to one of these academies? Discuss the significance of the Fontainebleau School movement. Charles Le Brun was appointed Director of Royal Academy of Painting. Describe his work shown at Versailles. Le Brun believed that draftsmanship was the basis of great art. Others were advocates of color. Study the paintings that came after the ones painted at Versailles and discuss which school of thought each artist advocated.
- Discuss the goal of Louis XIV when he created Versailles. How does the lifestyle of the nobles change after Louis XIV dies? Explain how art changes. Describe Romantic art. Who were the artists of this genre and period?
- Describe the art from the Blue Rider Movement. Who were the significant artists of this period? What happens when Duchamp enters the art world? Why is his work called Readymades? Describe the Dada movement. What is Roy Lichtenstein’s contribution to modern art? Debate how artists like Lichtenstein and Andy Warhol would react to *History of Western Art in Comics*.
- Explain the following quote: “Nothing great is ever accomplished without passion” (p. 28). Compare and contrast the passion of each artist featured in the book. Some of the artists suffered mental illness. This was especially true of Vincent van Gogh and Jackson Pollock. Study their work and discuss whether their mental conditions are evident through their art. How did people react to their work?



Guide created by Pat Scales, retired school librarian and independent consultant, Greenville, South Carolina.

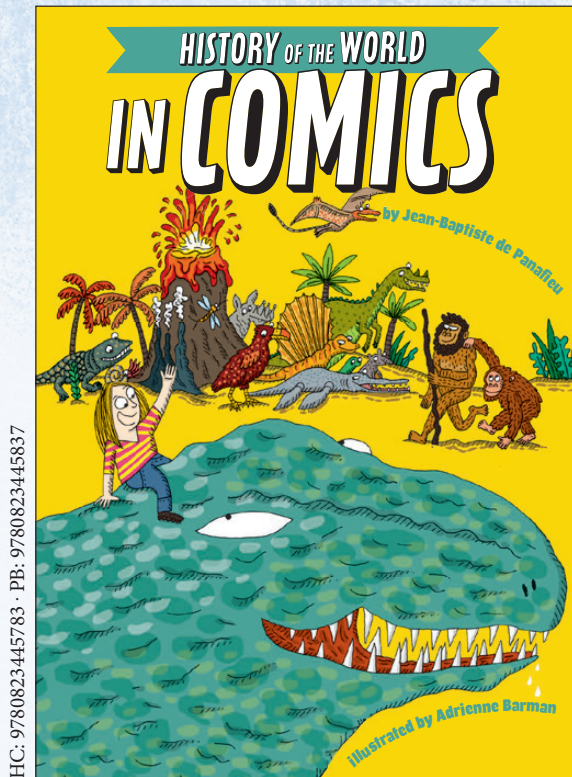


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## COMPANION BOOK



### *History of the World in Comics*

by Jean-Baptiste de Panafieu  
illustrated by Adrienne Barman

### ABOUT THE BOOK

Never has natural history been so fun! Scientific accuracy and humor combine to tell the entire history of Earth in a comic book format.

Never has natural history been so fun! Scientific accuracy and humor combine to tell the entire history of Earth in a comic-book format. A paleontologist and a storyteller take two children through the birth of our planet, the beginning of microbes, and the heydays of protozoans, dinosaurs, and early mammals with unfailing enthusiasm. The art accurately portrays animal species and prehistoric landscapes, and includes maps and infographics, but also adds humorous touches: a google-eyed prehistoric fish looking startled to be walking on land, and the children popping out of a tree top to surprise a Brachiosaurus. The combined expertise of author Jean-Baptiste de Panafieu, a science writer and biologist, and illustrator Adrienne Barman, the creator

Guide created by Pat Scales, retired school librarian and independent consultant, Greenville, South Carolina.



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