The Book of Genesis Illustrated

R. Crumb

Download Full Text

Description
Sunday, November 13, 2011 (2:00-3:30PM)

The Book of Genesis Illustrated by R. Crumb

Discussion led by Prof. Michael Brodsky, Art Dept.

Far removed from the satirical reimagining some might expect from the father of underground comix, Crumb's long-awaited take on the first book of the Bible presents the artist's own sensitive, visually intense reflections. Where most visual adaptations edit down their prose sources, Crumb has, strikingly, included every word of the Book of Genesis within his first major book-length work. His humanistic visual response to this religious text imbues even briefly mentioned biblical characters with unique faces and attitudes, and his renderings of the book's more storied personalities draw out momentous emotions inspired by the book's inherent drama. Throughout, Genesis is a virtual portfolio of Crumb's career-long effort to instill fluid cartoon drawing with carefully rendered lifelike detail. Some might miss Crumb's full stylistic and tonal range, but the source's narrative sweep includes moments of sex and scandal that recall the artist's more notorious comics. Indeed, this monumental visual adaptation's basic strategy may subvert simply by demanding a reconsideration of its source, one that continues to motivate the complex cultural struggles that have, for decades, preoccupied this master cartoonist's landmark work.

ISBN
9780393061024

Publication Date
Fall 11-13-2011

Keywords
Genesis, visual, religious

Disciplines
Biblical Studies | Illustration

Recommended Citation

In The Book of Genesis Illustrated, he depicts it all, from the creation of the world to the death of Joseph. Crumb spoke with host Neal Conan about the challenges of adapting the 50 chapters of Genesis in panels and drawings. Crumb found his way into all of the sex and violence of the story, and The Book of Genesis Illustrated features a warning on the cover,
recommending adult supervision for minors. NEAL CONAN, host: This is TALK OF THE NATION. Envisioning the first book of the bible like no one before him, R. Crumb, the legendary illustrator, reveals here the story of Genesis in a profoundly honest and deeply moving way. Originally thinking that we would do a take off of Adam and Eve, Crumb became so fascinated by the Bible’s language, "a text so great and so strange that it lends itself readily to graphic depictions," that he decided instead to do a literal interpretation using the text word for word in a version primarily assembled from the translations of Robert Alter.  Volume details. Name. The Book of Genesis Illustrated. The Book of Genesis Illustrated. Year. 2009. Year. Year of this volume. Publisher. W. W. Norton & Company. The Book of Genesis (2009) is a comic book illustrated by American cartoonist and comic book artist Robert Crumb that purports to be a faithful, literal illustration of the Book of Genesis. It reached #1 the New York Times graphic novel bestseller list and on the Christian books list at Amazon.com. Given Crumb’s past body of work, and his professed rejection of religion, many assumed when the book was announced that it would be a satire or otherwise profane or subversive send-up, and were surprised or...