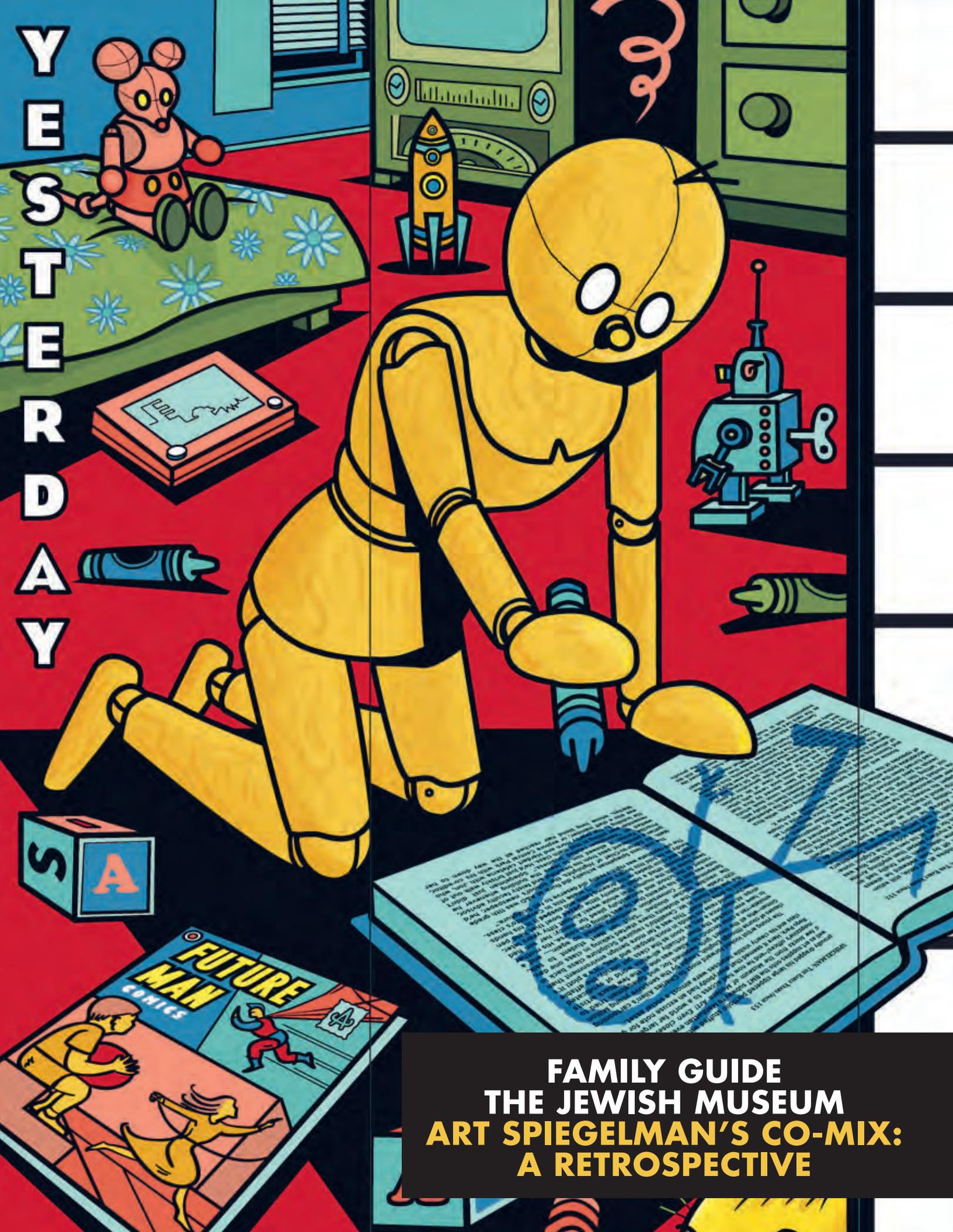


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FAMILY GUIDE
THE JEWISH MUSEUM
ART SPIEGELMAN'S CO-MIX:
A RETROSPECTIVE

Art Spiegelman is a cartoonist, graphic artist, writer, and editor known for his unique and imaginative comics. As you explore the work in this exhibition, you will discover the techniques Spiegelman uses to express his ideas and tell stories.

For the adults: Please note that certain works of art in this show contain adult content. This guide focuses on material for families to explore together.

B R E A K D O W N S

Enter the exhibition to the left and find the work of art entitled, *Don't Get Around Much Anymore*, located on the wall in front of you under the label "Breakdowns."

What comes to mind when you hear the word "comics"? Do you have a favorite comic that you like to read? What is it about?

Comics are often divided into frames and arranged in a sequence to tell a story. Read this work with your friend or family member and discuss the following questions:

- How many frames do you notice on this page?
- Are all of the frames a similar shape or are some different? Why might one be bigger than another?
- Do you think the pace of this story moves quickly or slowly? How can you tell?

Spiegelman's comics are a form of self-expression and often tell stories about real life experiences and everyday people.

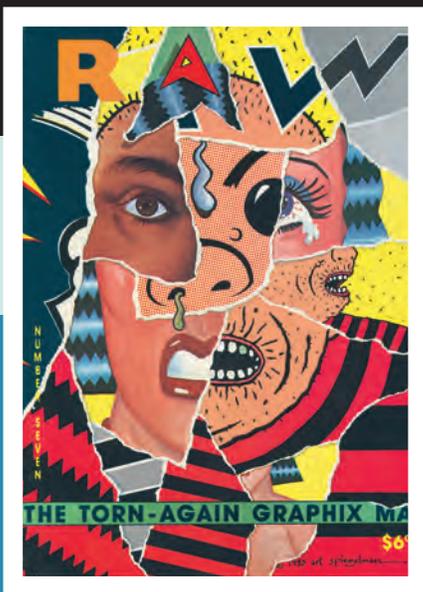
- Who is the main character?
- What sounds might you hear if you were to walk into this scene?

T O P P S

Turn around and find the wall across from the window entitled "Toppo."

Look through the images and objects both on the wall and in the display case. Find Spiegelman's *Garbage Pail Kids* and focus on a character that interests you.

- What is unique about this character?
- What are three words you would use to describe this character?
- Come up with a character of your own and give it a name that describes something about who they are. Tell your partner about this character.



RAW

Move to the right of the window behind you and past the display case. Look closely at the suite of twelve images of cover art for RAW no. 7, *The Torn-Again Graphix Magazine*.

Spiegelman often creates many drafts of an image before the final work is ready to print. Look through the multiple drafts of this cover art and discuss the following:

What are the similarities and differences between the early sketches in the upper left corner and the final cover art on the bottom right?

- What materials did Spiegelman use?
- Art Spiegelman's work often shows the connection between the printed comic and the artist's original hand work. Spiegelman made each copy unique by tearing and gluing a piece of each cover to the inside of the magazine

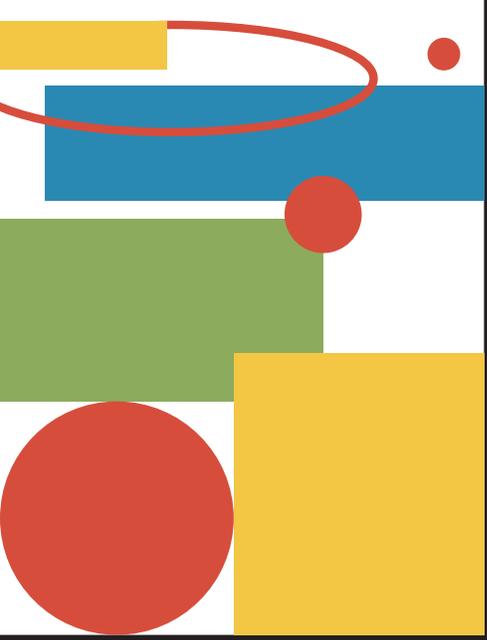
Slowly tear this family guide on one of the dotted lines on this page and fold it over in the direction of your choice. Does this booklet feel more personal to you now? Why?

KIDS COMICS

Move through the *Maus* section into the final gallery before the glass doors and find the section entitled "Kids Comics."

Comics artists use text as a tool to tell us what is happening in a story. Read the comic for kids called *Prince Rooster* and discuss the following:

- What is this story about?
- Do you notice different styles of text? Where?
- Do some words seem like they might be louder or quieter than others? Why?
- Pick one sentence or phrase. How do you think it would sound? Quietly say it aloud to your friend or family member the way you imagine it sounding in the comic.



Go through the glass doors and look at the drawing called "Study for Yesterday panel," *It Was Today, Only Yesterday*.

Discuss what is happening in this scene with your partner. Compare this place with your own room. What do you like to do when you spend time in your room?

At home, create your own comic about something you like to do such as playing in the park, exploring your neighborhood, or going to a museum. You can refer to the cover of this guide for inspiration. Think about the following questions before you begin.

- Who are the characters in your story? What do they look like?
- Where does your story take place?
- What text or dialogue will you include?
- Using the space below, sketch your comic into a sequence of frames in pencil.
- Once you are ready, go over your final sketch with pens and colored pencils.



Congratulations on completing the *Art Spiegelman's Co-Mix: A Retrospective* family guide. We hope you enjoyed the exhibition!

For more info on Family Programs visit TheJewishMuseum.org/Families

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Front cover: Art Spiegelman, *It Was Today, Only Yesterday* (detail), 2012, digital drawing for a painted glass installation at The High School of Art and Design, New York. Copyright © 2012 by Art Spiegelman. Used by permission of the artist and The Wylie Agency LLC. Courtesy Drawn + Quarterly

Page three: Art Spiegelman, original art for RAW no. 7: *The Tom-Again Graphix Mag*, 1985. Copyright © 1985 by Art Spiegelman. Used by permission of the artist and The Wylie Agency LLC.

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