



BRUCE MUSEUM

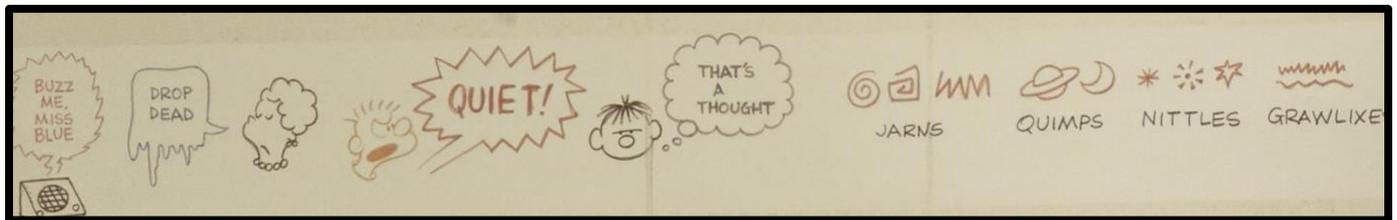
DIGITAL WEEKENDS: COMIC ART

Cartoons and Comics

One unique thing about Greenwich, CT is its place in cartoon and comic history. During the 1970s, it was a center for cartoon art and artists. Not only was there an entire museum in Greenwich dedicated to the art of cartoons and comics, the surrounding area was home to more than 100 artists and illustrators.

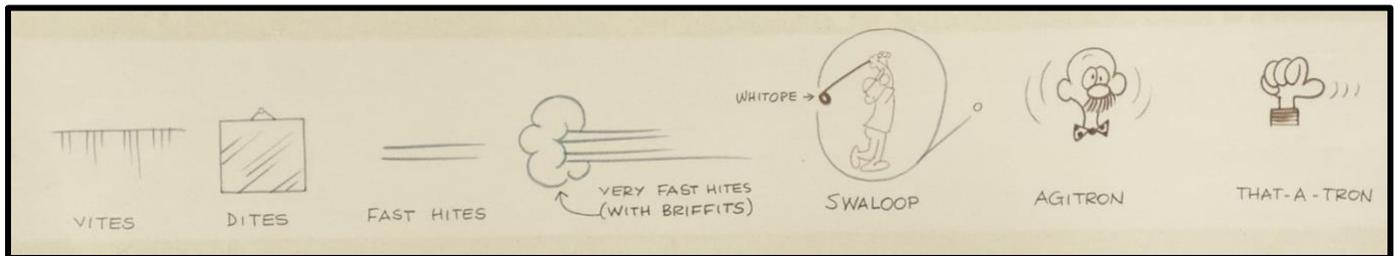
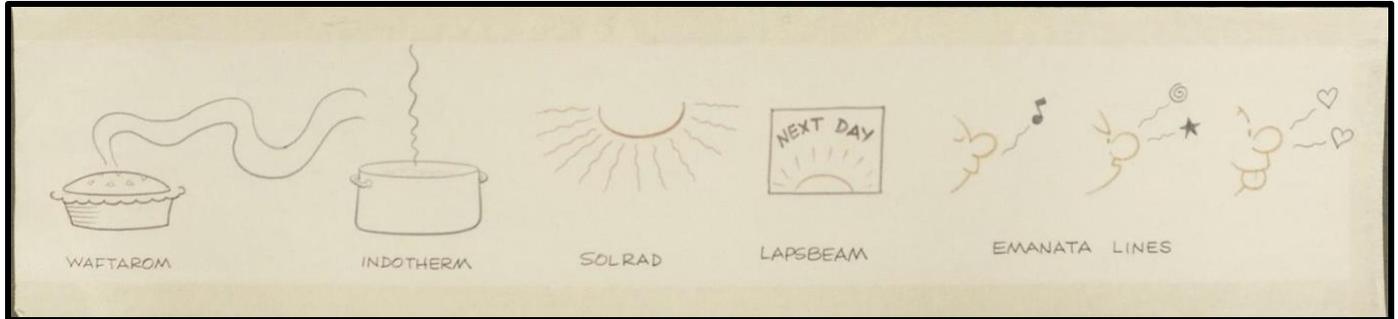
You may be asking yourself why this small part of Connecticut was such a popular location for comic and cartoon artists. There are several reasons including: a short commute to New York City, affordable cost of living at the time, and that many artists already lived near each other. Being an artist means you work alone most of the time, living near other artists provides a community.

While a majority of cartoons are no longer made locally, the history and importance of these comics remains. In 2019, the Bruce Museum exhibited *Masterpieces from the Museum of Cartoon Art*. This exhibition displayed part of the Hall of Fame collection from the Museum of Cartoon Art along with other pieces important to the history of comics and cartoons as well as tools and techniques used to create these masterpieces. These pieces were displayed at the Museum of Cartoon Art, once located in Greenwich Ct, and Rye, NY. They now reside at the Ohio State University Billy Ireland Cartoon Library and Museum. Now let's explore these techniques together, starting with four panels of *Comicana symbolia* from cartoon artist Mort Walker, creator of *Beetle Bailey* and other famous comics.





BRUCE MUSEUM



Lexicon of Comicana four strips

Mort Walker, 1974

CGA.IMCA.029.004a-e

International Museum of Cartoon Art Collection, The Ohio State University Billy Ireland Cartoon Library & Museum

Vocabulary:

Cartoon: a simple drawing showing the features of its subjects in a humorously exaggerated way, especially a satirical one in a newspaper or magazine.

Comic: also called comic magazine or simply comic, is a publication that consists of comics art in the form of sequential juxtaposed panels that represent individual scenes.

Comic Art: is a medium used to express narratives or other ideas through images, usually combined with text.

Illustration: a picture or diagram that helps make something clear or attractive.

Symbolia: different symbols and marks used to indicate movement, excitement, and surprise, even thoughts in cartoons and comics as defined by Mort Walker.

BEFORE YOU BEGIN:

Visit these links to read more about the exhibition: [Masterpieces from the Museum of Cartoon Art](#), [Billy Ireland Cartoon Library and Museum](#)



BRUCE MUSEUM

Materials:

- Pencil
- Eraser
- Paper
- Colored Pencils

DIRECTIONS:

Prep:

Ask an adult to help you find all the materials listed above. If you don't have an item listed, get creative and use something else from around your house. Some other items you can use include markers and crayons. If you are looking for inspiration, don't forget to explore the links above..

STEP 1:

Begin by looking at the above images of cartoon and comic symbolia. Have you ever read a comic before? Do you watch any television shows that are animated or illustrated? Have any of the comics and cartoons you have watched used symbolia? If you have never read a comic before visit Greenwich Public Library for some [age appropriate comics](#). Then spend some time thinking about those comics and cartoons you have watched and if you saw similar symbols. Once you are done thinking about those things, it's time to watch the video.

STEP 2:

Watch teaching artist Grayson Kennedy as she creates her own comics that use symbolia to tell a story. Make sure to look at the symbolia sheet above to see some of symbols that exist in cartoons and comics.

STEP 3:

You can follow along with teaching artist Grayson Kennedy or choose symbols you want to draw. Use a pencil first so that you can erase any mistakes that occur.

STEP 4:

As you draw your symbols out, include additional drawings of objects or people that are associated with the symbols you chose. For example, if you like the waftaron symbol drawn above, used to show steaming vapors, you can draw a fresh baked pie with that symbol.

STEP 5:

Draw as many symbols as you like! When done drawing, color in the images you created.

STEP 6:

Once you are done drawing and coloring your symbols, share it with your friends and family. You and your adult can also share your cartoons with our hashtag [#BruceMuseum](#).



BRUCE MUSEUM

Bruce Museum Youth and Family programs are generously supported by The Guardian Life Insurance Company of America and by the Steven & Alexandra Cohen Foundation.

