The Book of Genesis Illustrated

R. Crumb

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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.

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he once did, I can't help believing there must be more spirit in the old devil than this tome suggests. Michel Faber's latest book is The Fire Gospel (Canongate). Topics. Books. 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. The comic book follows every word of Genesis, and for once is not interested to whitewash the Bible for modern readers. Actually seeing roughly what the Bible says happened reveals the myth and violence of it in a way that Christians may either hate or really, really enjoy. The Amazon reviews are almost universally ecstatic: "As a theologian… I was really curious to see this book… In a word, stunning! Crumb has not watered down or distort