

Bibliographical Analysis  
Nick Sousanis

Modeling models....

[[The unused portion setting up the idea of why using comics. This was all subsumed within the actual piece instead of as a prologue as intended.]]

Horizontal format: WHY Comics?

Experience is complex, all-over, interconnected, nonlinearly.

Language is linear.

How do I express that? Can use metaphor, poetry, juxtaposition, repetition, ravel it tight.  
But want it to be dimensional.

Pictures offer us an all-overness, but there's no time. Sculpture is dimensional but it's flat in terms of time – frozen. Moving sculpture? Sure, (Gregory Barsamian)

<http://www.gregorybarsamian.com/> But I want sculpture that unfolds over time.

Film offers time and image, but it's pretty linear – viewer is locked in step. As cogs turn, so does our attention (Hot medium.)

Books allow us a lot of flexibility in time, no all overness/ but comics, though no less flat on the page, give us this back and forth, all overness, control of a viewer's attention. Leap across the panels – the gutter – we create the action, fill in the blanks (“cool” medium) active, like reading music – reconstruct notes and music (and the choir) in our heads.

Opening page on why comics work, on modeling experience (reality)

Trying to find a way to present the all overness of it – film (cogs); books – linear; image – flat. Sculpture – dimensional, but static. A mobile. Maybe, but I want mine to grow, to take off. So how is it I take a flat page, draw some rectangles (or other shapes) and it grows into something multi-dimensional – you do it! McCloud on the gutters. Check my A. Moore paper for unflattening. We can take it all in at once, and then see multiple perspectives, let it unfold time, and reverse it. Final (?) panel: entire page represented.

Within a flat surface, by placing little boxes around separate images/ideas/text together author and reader create an experience that is multi-dimensional, you do it!

Panel 1: Experience is ALL OVER

P2: Two heads with experience in them

Sculpture – the thinker.

Show time in comics....

Whole – morton salt girl

A model of some things, voices, philosophies, texts, practices, that make their way into what I'm up to:

Metaphors – Lakoff

Models shift over time

THIS IS THE TEXT – more or less as it actually appears in the comic. Many changes were made directly on the page. Actually, looking over it, many things were written directly on the page...

PAGE 1: Experience is all over. All at once. All together and now! Nonlinear, continuous, interconnected,

To make sense of it, we break it up, we organize it, break it down into categories, put structure to it, a frame, divvy it up into little boxes. Mapping our World. We've done this long before Aristotle and Kant formally categorized categorizing ...

What follows is voices, stories, live? Follow strategies...

Each box contains a box of a different sort, a strategy to map it out.  
Organize things into "Little Boxes"

In organizing my readings, influences, sources, thinking about organizing itself, these little boxes, in a medium particularly well-suited...

What follows is a series of little boxes giving structure to various sources that influence my thinking, and within each box a box of a different sort, a different way of "boxing" experience, all in a medium particularly well-suited for putting things in little boxes...

(For a look at how some of these sources shaped my thinking, please see the related piece "Bi(bli)ography")

- Mobile – early days, revolve around small orbit...
  - Superman, Moon, Spider/Butterfly, rocket ship, my hand with Batman,
  - Open the window (moon to moon) Harold and the purple crayon – framing panel
  - Early models. As frame of experience expands, build more sophisticated maps, keep exploring ways of making sense...
- Planetary – Orrery. Planetarium. heliocentric, models change over time, as geocentric gave way to heliocentric, so does this one to others...
  - The Wonderful Wizard of Oz L. Frank Baum
  - The 500 Hats of Bartholomew Cubbins Dr. Seuss
  - Many Moons Thurber/Slobodkin
  - Little Nemo in Slumberland Winsor McCay
- Constellations – kind of flat though.
  - Alice in Wonderland Lewis Carroll
  - Powers of 10 (zoom) Charles and Ray Eames, Philip and Phylis Morrison
  - Life Story Virginia Lee Burton
  - The Little Prince Antoine de Saint Exupery
- Gravity rubber sheet map – tracing orbits, turn on its side. 2 panels
  - Relativity Visualized Lewis Carroll Epstein
  - The Elegant Universe Brian Greene
  - Flatland Edwin A. Abbott
  - The Artful Universe John D. Barrows
- Pinball – bouncing about, ricochet, picking up momentum, retain a bit from each
  - James Burke Connections/Pinball Effect
  - Art and Physics Leonard Shlain
  - Releasing the Imagination Maxine Greene
- Graph Theory – you know this as networks, frozen, flattened
  - Gary Chartand Introductory Graph Theory
  - Mark Lombardi "Global Networks"
  - The Dot and the Line Norton Juster
- Grid/graph, rigid
  - Calvin and Hobbes Bill Waterson
  - Slaughterhouse Five Kurt Vonnegut

- Lattices – extruded grid into space, 3D. Atoms – crystalline model (see Escher)
  - The Structure of Scientific Revolutions Thomas S. Kuhn
  - Ulysses James Joyce
  - Watchmen Alan Moore/Dave Gibbons
- Blocks
  - Constructive Anatomy George Bridgman
  - The System of Comics Thierry Groensteen
  - Understanding Comics Scott McCloud
- Cities – Buildings
  - The Works Kate Ascher
  - The Dark Knight Returns Frank Miller
  - The Big City Will Eisner
  - Maus Art Spiegelman
  - Chris Ware Jimmy Corrigan: The Smartest Kid on Earth
- Book Shelves story by story
  - The Sandman Neil Gaiman
  - The Greek Myths Robert Graves
  - Myths to Live By Joseph Campbell
  - The Hero with a Thousand Faces Joseph Campbell
  - The Rites of Passage Arnold van Gennep
  - The Old Man and the Sea Ernest Hemingway
  - The Prophet Kahlil Gibran
  - Poems of Constantine Cavafy
  - Invisible Cities Italo Calvino
- Labyrinths easy to get lost. Some constructs might send us searching out of lost...
  - Labyrinths Jorge Luis Borges
  - Parables and Paradoxes Frank Kafka
  - Einstein's Dreams Alan Lightman
  - Mazes and Labyrinths W. H. Matthews
  - If on a midwinter's night a traveler Italo Calvino
- Escher Staircase – everything keeps raveling together Spiral staircase? Feel like you're going round and round in circles Others keep us going around in circles.
  - M.C. Escher Complete Graphic Work
  - Godel, Escher, Bach Douglas Hofstadter
  - Arcadia Tom Stoppard
  - The New York Trilogy Paul Auster
- Venn Diagram – Circles which overlap, claim territory over one another.
  - The Medium is the Massage Marshall McLuhan
  - Ferdinand Tönnies Community and Civil Society
  - Outliers Malcolm Gladwell
- Maps – Categories can be seen as maps to navigate terrain, help us find our way.
  - Maps of the Imagination Peter Turchi
  - A Field Guide to Getting Lost Rebecca Solnit
- Globe. Rolled up flat surface. The globe gives more dimensionality, of course, but it's just flat curled up, stretch and wrapped...
  - Operating Manual for Spaceship Earth R. Buckminster Fuller
  - A People's History of the United States Howard Zinn
- Torus – more dimensions. Punch a hole through it, More connections possible. Coffee cup?
  - The Metaphysical Club Louis Menand
  - The Omnivore's Dilemma Michael Pollan
  - The Prison Notebooks Antonio Gramsci

- Economic and Philosophical Manuscripts of 1844 Karl Marx
- Crumpled – crinkliness (medium?) creativity
  - Flow Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi
  - Man, Play, and Games Roger Callois
  - Lateral Thinking Edward de Bono
  - The Creative Evolution Henri Bergson
- Brain – cognitive science, etc.
  - Multiple Intelligences Howard Gardner
  - The Language Instinct Steven Pinker
  - Homo Aestheticus Ellen Dissanayake
  - Ways of Seeing John Berger
  - Conversations Theodore Zeldin
- Clouds amorphous
  - Herbert Marcuse One-Dimensional Man
  - Georg Simmel The Conflict in Modern Culture
- Lightning Illuminates, clarity. Forking paths Circulatory System. Branches
  - Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance Robert Pirsig
  - The Inner Game of Tennis Timothy Gallwey
  - Zen and the Art of Archery Eugen Herrigel
  - The Art of War Sun Tzu
  - The Tao of Pooh Benjamin Hoff
  - Tao Te Ching Lao Tzu
- Tree – and grow upward. Taxonomy. Trunk – main field... branches.
  - Fractal Geometry textbook
  - Chaos Under Control Peak/Frame
  - The Curves of Life Theodore Cook
  - Life's Other Secret Ian Stewart
  - On Growth and Form D'Arcy Wentworth Thompson
- Tree ring – subsumed within, even as we grow outward
  - A Sand County Almanac Aldo Leopold
  - Selected Writings Ralph Waldo Emerson
  - Walden Henry David Thoreau
  - Life is a Miracle Wendell Berry
- Planetary core model, strata
  - The Undressed Art: Why We Draw Peter Steinhart
  - Art and Fear Ted Orland/David Bayles
  - Stone Andy Goldsworthy
- Layers – Charles
  - Signature: the Art and Life of Charles McGee N. Sousanis
  - John Dewey Art as Experience
  - Entropy and Art Rudolph Arnheim
  - James Elkins The Poetics of Perspective
- Collage – cuts
  - The Cutouts of Henri Matisse
  - Henri Matisse Jazz
  - Art Practice as Research Graeme Sullivan
  - Over the Line: Art and Life of Jacob Lawrence
  - The Accidental Masterpiece: On the Art of Life and Vice Versa Michael Kimmelman
- Weaving interspersed layers
  - The Two Cultures C.P. Snow
  - Consilience E.O. Wilson

- Interdisciplinarity Julie Thompson Klein
  - Bruno Latour Politics of Nature
- Rhizome – tree model, more connections. All still here, still connected
  - A Thousand Plateaus Deleuze & Guattari
  - Super-Organism Holldobler and Wilson
  - Pedagogy of the Oppressed Paolo Freire
  - Rhythm Science DJ Spooky
  - DeSchooling Ivan Illich
  - Rabindranath Tagore
- DNA – braided, become an integral part of us, woven into us
  - Evolution Carl Zimmer
  - Games of Life Karl Sigmund
  - Heaven’s Touch James Kaler
  - The Origins of Knowledge Jacob Bronowski ?
  - The Critique of Pure Reason Immanuel Kant
  - Five Great Dialogues Plato
- Webs – you Build a frame, things just seem to fall into place within it. Things get caught, trapped, fit in, how we see. Frameworks are maps, locate things within. How we make sense, construct, fit onto. Open to change – Dewey, Pragmatism. Reconstruct, rebuild them as new ideas enter. Mine right now is comics....
  - Democracy and Education John Dewey
  - The Dialogic Imagination Mikhail Bakhtin
  - The Dialectic of Freedom Maxine Greene
  - The Public and Its Problems John Dewey
  - Imre Salusinszky “Criticism in Society”
  - Politics and Vision Sheldon S. Wolin
  - Dewey’s Dream: Universities and Democracies in an Age of Education Reform Benson, Puckett, Harkavy
    - “The function of American Scholars to act as engaged ‘Public Intellectuals’ not as solipsistic scholastics engaged in intramural battles for power, prestige and cash within an ivory tower.” Benson/Puckett 2007

All structures are a fiction.

Whatever the maps we settle on...

Important we don’t confuse the map/model with experience itself. Or the frame for what’s inside.

Crystallize

Ingenious

#### LEFT OUT BITS

- Fractals? – trees within trees, broccoli?
- Meteorites?
- Games
- Shoulders of Giants...
- Pigeon hole
- Target
- Songs – of course they matter, they count
  - Food: The History of Taste Freedman
  - Cat’s Cradle Kurt Vonnegut
  - From Hell Alan Moore Eddie Campbell
  - The Sleepwalkers Arthur Koestler
  - V for Vendetta Alan Moore/David Lloyd

It's all still there. Look up, look left, (Watchmen) still connected, it's all still happening.  
All still here, still connected. Shuffle them around.