

[Free] Blab! Vol. 15

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Monte Beauchamp

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Monte Beauchamp : Blab! Vol. 15 before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Blab! Vol. 15:

An eclectic mix of underground comics and art, including work from established artists such as Peter Kuper and Sue Coe as well as several talented newcomers, comprises the latest volume of the well-respected counterculture series. Original.

From BooklistGiven the conservatism of the comic-book marketplace, cutting-edge anthologies are extremely iffy. That makes the would-be annual Blab!'s 15-number run all the more remarkable, especially since, over the years, it has published more and more noncomics graphics. This edition moves back toward comics narratives, albeit unconventional ones. Standouts include Peter Kuper's succinct depiction of the corruption of the American dream; Sue Coe's harrowing indictment of the food industry for the rise of avian flu; another of Mark Landman's Fetal Elvis adventures; and Spain's autobiographical account of the artistic path that led him to become a 1960s underground cartoonist. The avant-garde is represented by two-page spreads by such Blab! stalwarts as Gary Baseman, Blanquet, David Goldin, and the Clayton brothers. Editor Beauchamp provides a too-brief look at the World War II-era "Kilroy was here" phenomenon, and Lou Brooks' vibrant, Ben Day-bedecked covers give a nod to comics' mainstream roots.

Besides its longevity, Blab!'s lavish and elegant large format, which shows the art to full advantage, sets it apart from most other comics anthologies. Gordon FlaggCopyright American Library Association. All rights reserved "BLAB! presents work that is multi-layered, not just illustration, and not just comics, but work that crosses both boundaries into a new kind of pictorial art form."About the AuthorMonte Beauchamp has also edited New Used BLAB! from Chronicle Books. His work has appeared in Print, Communication Arts, American Illustration, and the New York Festival's Annual of Advertising. He lives in Chicago, IL.