

Synopses for the Direct Action Comics Exhibit at the Herter Art Gallery. This work was chosen to be shown at the exhibit. Beyond a blurb on the contents of the comic, relations to societal events and relevance to culture has been gleaned and integrated into the pieces.

Bill Campbell, Jason Rodriguez, John Jennings
Artists Against Police Brutality
Rosarium Publishing, Greenbelt, Maryland 2015



Artists Against Police Brutality edited by Campbell, Rodriguez, and Jennings is an anthology detailing the discrimination African Americans endure by law enforcement through the combination of different comic strips and short narratives to create a didactic collage to raise awareness and get these stories out to the public in a more accessible manner. This work combines the reality that most have seen through pictures or on TV as well as personal narratives and accounts of the brutality to make an even more convincing argument. The different styles of comic art in each section allows for variety in stories that generally end in the same way: the death of an innocent. To display such a hot button issue with comics allows for the harsh realities to reach a wider range of readers and, in a way, make the reality easier to digest. The anthology is in black and white, which adds to the sober yet hopeful tone of the work. The lack of color helps to not detract from the main topic, allowing one to focus on the text and images without getting too overwhelmed with what is presented on the page.

Josh Blaylock, Hoyt Silva, David H. Krikorian
Operation Nemesis: A Story of Genocide and Revenge
Devil's Due Entertainment, Chicago, Illinois April 2015



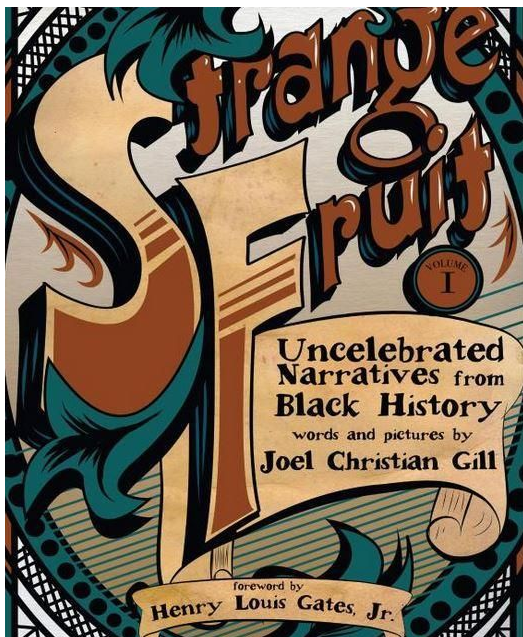
Blaylock's *Operation Nemesis: A Story of Genocide and Revenge* is a graphic novel that depicts the Armenian Genocide through the eyes of Soghomon Tehlirian, the Armenian who killed Talaat Pasha, the leader of the Turkish Ottoman Empire. This work details a lesser known historically accurate story in a fast-paced, stylized art form. At the beginning, the reader experiences the murder of Talaat Pasha, and from there the story unfolds through the perspective of Tehlirian with scenes from the trial, flashbacks, flashforwards, hallucinations, etc. The varying panel sizes and color schemes from page to page create a fast-paced read that is broken up by newspaper clippings. There is not much text from panel to panel, but instead an emphasis on the drawings to tell the story. The colors are vivid and gory, so they capture the eye and leave an impression. As this graphic novel was created to go along with the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, its purpose is to ultimately compete and connect with the Holocaust stories that are ever-present in society and put a name to this equally horrifying

event.

Joel Christian Gill

Strange Fruit: Uncelebrated Narratives from Black History

Fulcrum Publishing, Golden, Colorado 2014



Gill's *Strange Fruit: Uncelebrated Narratives from Black History* is an anthology of nine African Americans who have largely been forgotten by history. It is looking to pique the interest of readers and approach topics of black history in an informative manner. This work can be considered a graphic novel, a historical novel, or even a children's book. Gill's colloquial tone allows for the material to be accessible to younger readers while still appealing to older readers with adult humor sprinkled throughout. For example, when a racial slur is being used against a character, a speech bubble with a black face appears instead of the word. This helps to shield the children from the usage of these words while still clearly conveying what is happening. The use of actual crows to represent the Jim Crow laws also makes broaching the topic easier.