



“TO EMERGE FROM ITS TRANSITIONAL FUNK”: *THE AMAZING ADVENTURES OF KAVALIER & CLAY*’S INTERMEDIAL DIALOGUE WITH COMICS AND GRAPHIC NOVELS

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ABSTRACT

The article traces the current critical debate on the phenomenon of the graphic novel through an analysis of Michael Chabon’s novel *The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier & Clay* (2000). It argues that the novel problematises a tendency in comics criticism to construct a teleological historiography of progression that sees the graphic novel as the aesthetic apex of the form. Next to a reading of the principal characters that argues for an inclusion of Rosa Saks in addition to Joe Kavalier and Sam Clay, the article focuses on *Kavalier & Clay*’s representation of comics history. The novel is set in the Golden Age of Comic Books, but features elements of comics history to the present day, and thus proposes a cultural logic of juxtaposition rather than progression. According to this logic, serial forms like the comic book exist alongside more recent forms like the graphic novel and are not made obsolete by them.