

## kramers ergot

The future of American comics

No doubt about it: "Kramers Ergot" is the most spectacular and exciting comic-anthology in America at present. Now in its sixth edition, publisher Sammy Harkham invites us to join him and take a dizzy trip through a colourful, never-ending picture world, through comics, newspapers and illustrations.

"I don't think in terms of any sort of balance between narrative or „decorative“ comics. I publish stuff I think is exciting and good."

That's why Sammy Harkham shows no fear of breaks and contradictions when putting narratives with abstracts, naivety with intellect, virtuosos with scribble, crudity with stylized, colourful with black & white, autobiographical with fantasy; he seeks the point where modern art discovers narration (and in reverse). He confronts the big, and not so big names (like Gary Panter, Marc Bell, Elvis Studio, Ron Régé Jr.) with very interesting newcomers and has also opened up his anthology to European artists including the Frenchman, Fabio Viscogliosi and the Swiss, Xavier Robel & Helge Reumann (who drew the spectacular sixth edition cover). The depth of content and graphic in the pieces is impressive, and also the individuality and maturity of the artists published as well – such combinations promise a very interesting, variety-packed future.

"I am glad when I meet someone and they say they discovered someone's work in Kramers. That's the point, isn't it?"

The enthusiasm. The passion. The devotion. The possessiveness. That's what drives Kramers Ergot, this great love of drawing and drawn stories. That also comes across to the reader and observer. It's for that same reason that one agrees with Art Spiegelman when he says: "If there is to be a future for comics, then it is somehow hidden in Kramers Ergot. A waste of packaging, in which the whole is actually better than the number of pieces it entails."

What can be said about the anthology, can also be said about the very first Kramers-Ergot exhibition outside the USA: The Fumetto exhibition will be presenting 40 various Kramers-Ergot authors, nothing less than a real, sense-wracking and inspiring kaleidoscope of modern comics.

**Bibliography** Sammy Harkham (Hrsg): „Kramers Ergot 4-6“ (Buenaventura Press/ Ginkgo Press)

**Links** [www.sammyharkham.com](http://www.sammyharkham.com), [www.kramersergot.com](http://www.kramersergot.com), [www.buenaventurapress.com](http://www.buenaventurapress.com)

\* The quotes from Sammy Harkham were taken from interviews in the Comic Journal and [www.comicreporter.com](http://www.comicreporter.com)