MTHOMBOTHI
STUDIOS

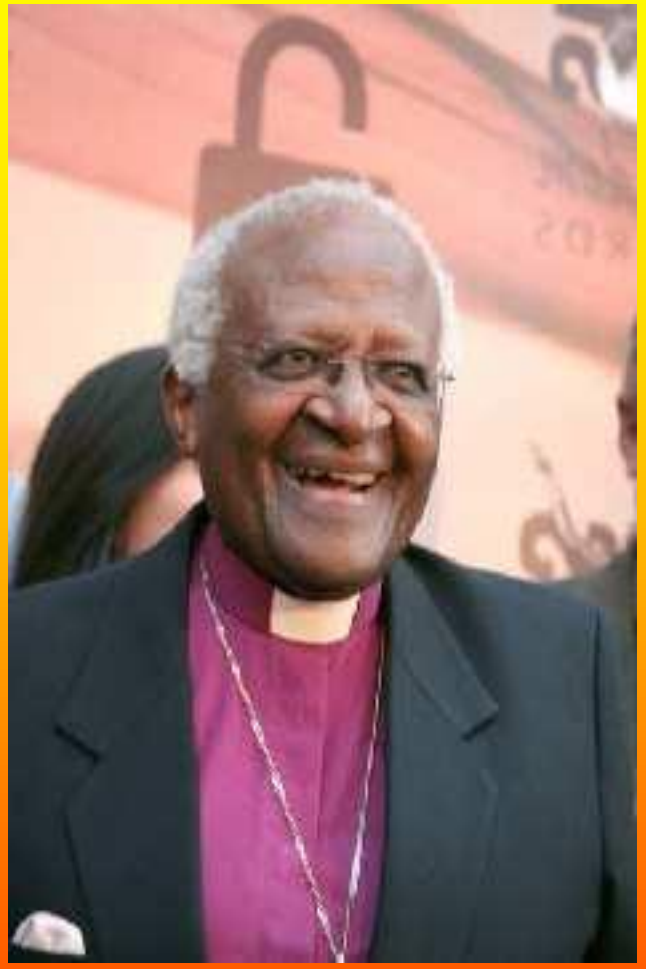
"Thinking in Pictures precedes thinking in words"

- Kant (1724 – 1804)
Philosopher

“Thinking in Pictures precedes thinking in words”

- Kant (1724 – 1804)
Philosopher

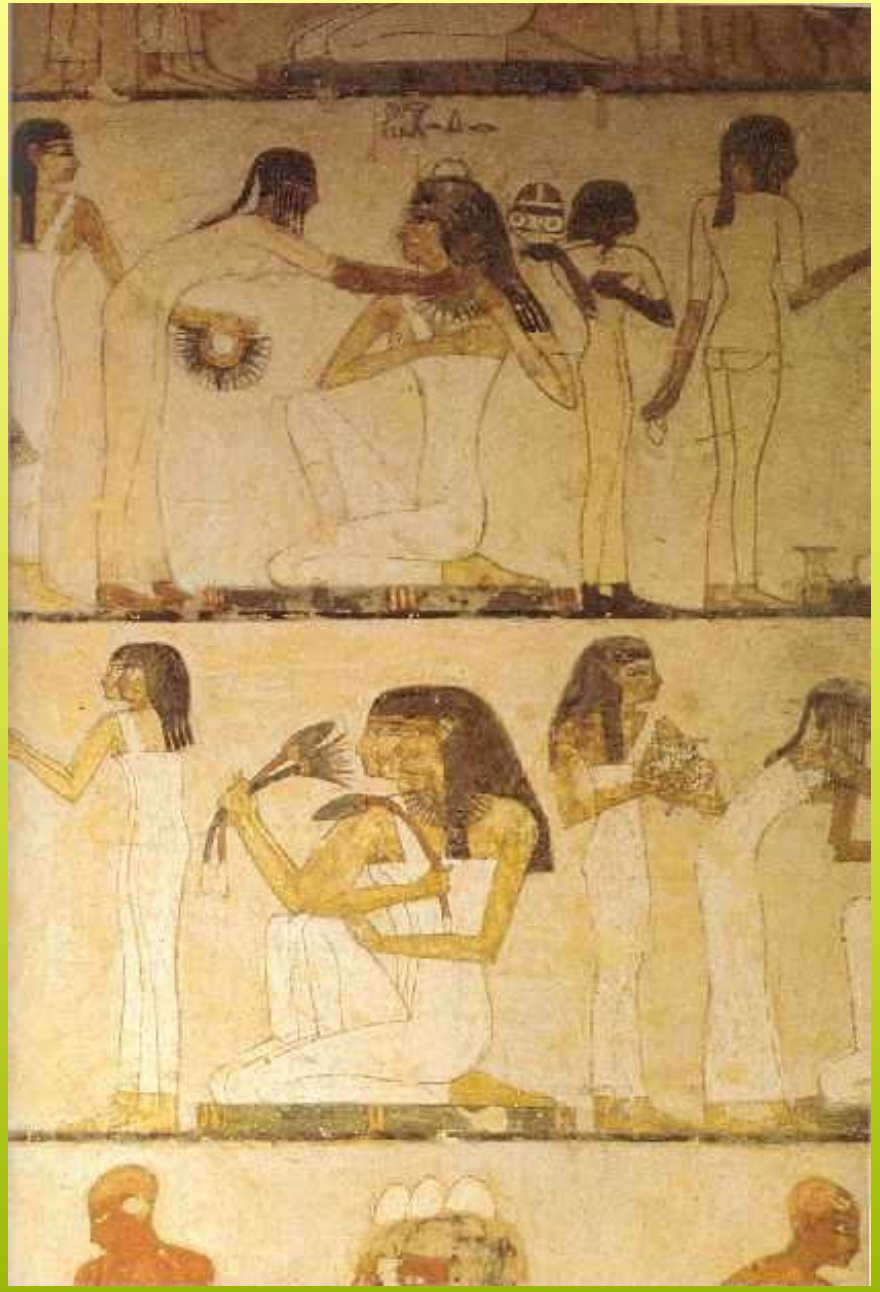
The French philosopher Jean-Paul Sartre
says in his autobiography that
he started off reading comics books as a child,
and that if it wasn't for comic books,
he never would have stuck with books.



"One of the things I am very
grateful to my father for is that,
contrary to conventional
education principles,
he allowed me to read comics.
I think that is how
I developed a love
for English
and for reading."

- Bishop Desmond Tutu

A VERY BRIEF HISTORY OF GRAPHIC NOVELS



This fragment is part of a large Egyptian wall-painting that gives a detailed narrative of many aspects of death and daily life in ancient Egypt.

From the tomb of Reckmire at Western Thebes

c. 1430 BC

In the Middle Ages, sequential art was often used in the so-called 'centsprent'. These printed sheets were produced for public viewing, and often depicted the lives of saints.

The martyrdom of
St Erasmus
a. 1460

Text balloons were sometimes used,
As in this detail of an illustrated letter written
by the Dutch Count of Meurs.
1493

In the 19th century,
magazines often featured
political cartoons
and comic sequences.

This one depicts a
political discussion
before the elections.

The first real comic?

'M. Vieux Drink'
is widely recognised
as the first real comic.
It was published
in Europe in 1842
as a 40-page story.

A New York paper
printed it as a
supplement in 1842.
That version was called
'Obadiah Oldbuck"

Speech bubbles again

I, THE YELLOW KID, WAS THE FIRST TO APPEAR IN A COMIC SERIES WITH SPEECH BUBBLES, IN 1895, IN NEW YORK. THAT MAY WELL MAKE ME THE FIRST MODERN COMIC BOOK HERO.

Comics were growing in genre and popularity

SUPERHERO

ADVENTURE

1940

'BRENDA STARR'

First comic strip by a woman

HUMOUR

DETECTIVE

UNTIL 1948... THE DARK AGES OF GRAPHIC NOVELS

Dr. Fredric Werthham, a distinguished psychologist, in a 7-year study set out to prove comics were bad for children.

1949: Canadian Government enacted a law that made it an offence to be involved with crime and superhero comics.

Still, Werthham's efforts reverberate to this day.

BATMAN
1939
BUT DESPITE THESE EFFORTS, GRAPHIC NOVELS HAVE SURVIVED, AND HAVE GROWN TO CAPTURE THE HEARTS OF YOUNG AND OLD.
LUCKY LUKE
1946
ASTERIX
1961
Themba and Bizza
1997
MANGA
1945