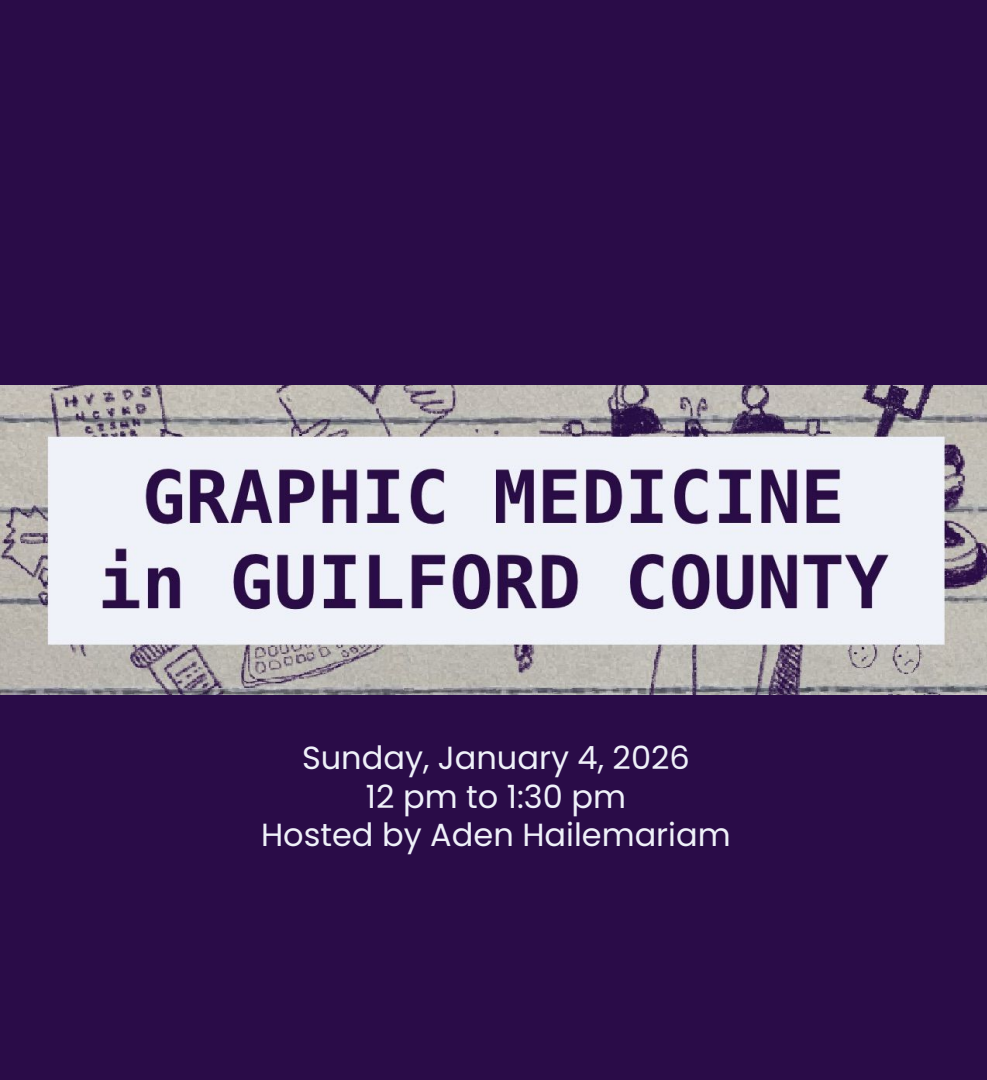


The poster features a dark purple background. A horizontal band of light brown, textured paper with faint, hand-drawn sketches of medical and scientific figures runs across the middle. Overlaid on this band is a white rectangular box containing the title. Below the band, the date, time, and host information are centered in white text.

GRAPHIC MEDICINE
in GUILFORD COUNTY

Sunday, January 4, 2026
12 pm to 1:30 pm
Hosted by Aden Hailemariam

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As you enter the Zoom room, please share some information about yourself in the chat, if you would like to. Share one or more of the following:

- ❑ Your name
- ❑ Your connection to comics
- ❑ Your connection to or interest in Graphic Medicine
- ❑ Where you live/work if you are not in Guilford County

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Agenda

- Welcome
- Introduction to Graphic Medicine
- Examples of Graphic Medicine
- Our interests in comics and healthcare
 - Activity: Mini Research Mapping Prompt
- Resources in Guilford County and beyond
- What's next

Welcome!

Purpose of today's event

The purpose of this event is to foster interest in Graphic Medicine in Guilford County and encourage participation in the 2026 Graphic Medicine Conference.



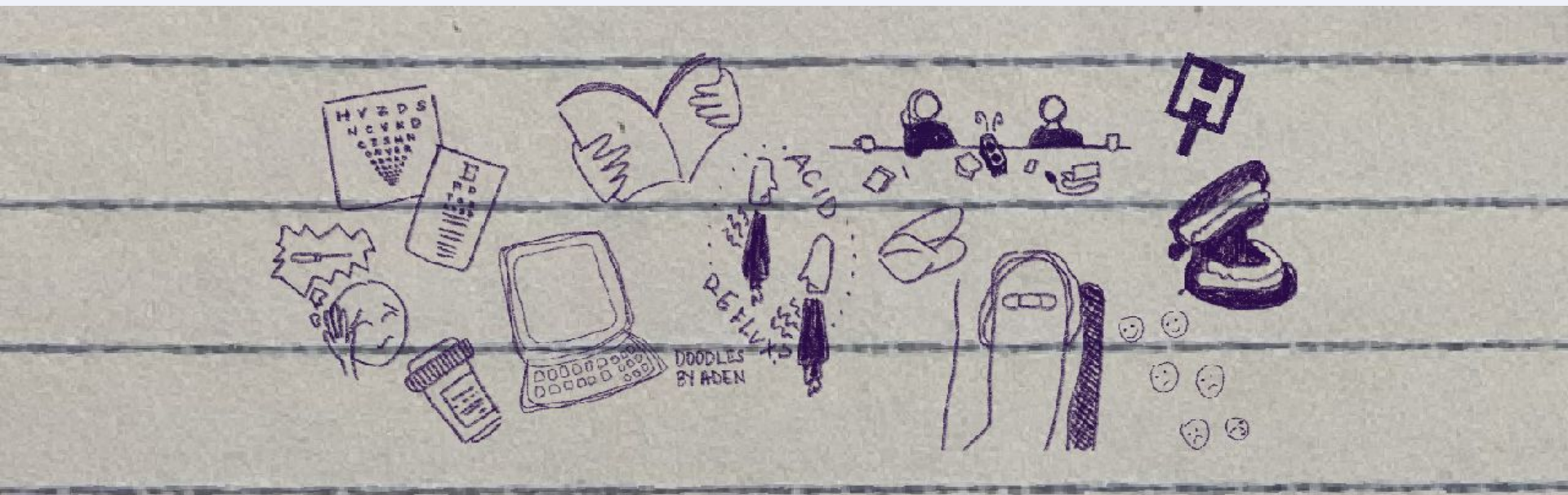
2026
Conference
Baltimore, MD

Call for Submissions!

My background

- Live and work in Guilford County
- Experience in nonprofits, marketing, and healthcare
- Specific healthcare experience
 - Health and human services interpretation
 - Marketing
 - Affordable Care Act navigation
- Comics fan
- Comics creator





OH MY GOD!



WHY DO I HAVE SO MUCH
HEARTBURN LATELY?!

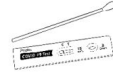


EVERYTHING
WILL
GIVE YOU
HEARTBURN.

AH

adenhailemariam.com

PREPARATION



- Decided on the Covid-19 vaccine I preferred (Novavax).
- Checked my insurance for vaccination costs.
- Kept in mind the last time I tested positive for Covid to time my vaccination.
- Scheduled an appointment for both the flu and Covid vaccines.

DAY OF



- Called the pharmacy to confirm vaccination selections and cost.
- Wore a respirator mask to protect myself and others.
- Monitored pain in my arm right after getting vaccinated; the pain went away soon.
- Ate lunch!

Covid Cautious Clipart available at cleanaire.org/art

I just got my flu shot
and Covid-19 vaccine.
It went a lot like this:



#SwissCheeseModel

AH

#GraphicMedicine

Introduction to Graphic Medicine

by Dr. Ian Williams

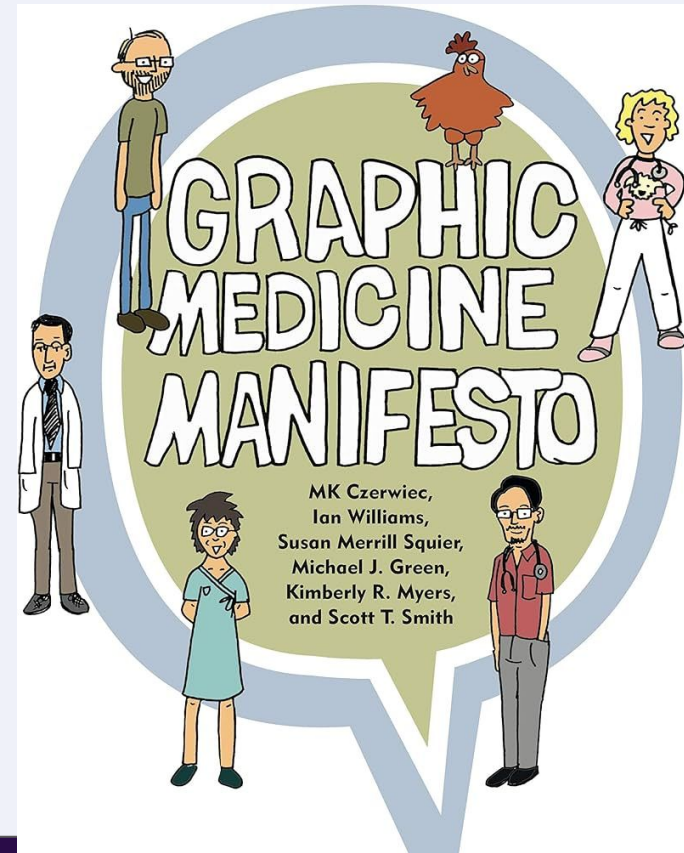
Graphic Medicine



**‘The intersection between the medium of comics
and the discourse of healthcare’**

Definition by Dr. Ian Williams

- “My use of the word ‘medicine’ was not meant to connote the foregrounding of doctors over other healthcare professionals or over patients or comics artists, but, rather the suggestion that use of comics might have some sort of therapeutic potential – ‘medicine’ as in the bottled panacea rather than the profession.”



What are comics?

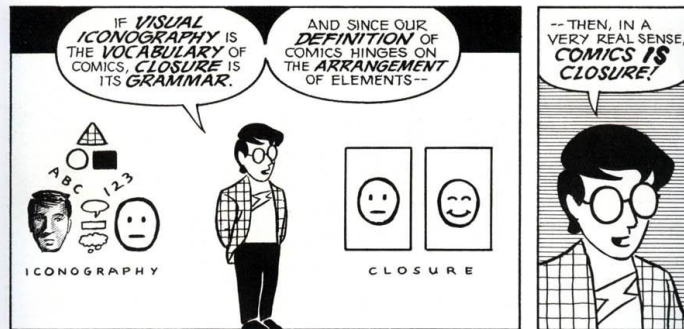
- Medium
- Art form
- Sequential art
- Illustration
- Writing
- Physical
- Digital
- Fiction
- Nonfiction
- Entertaining
- Informational
- Historical



COMICS PANELS *FRACTURE* BOTH *TIME* AND *SPACE*, OFFERING A *JAGGED, STACCATO RHYTHM* OF *UNCONNECTED MOMENTS*.

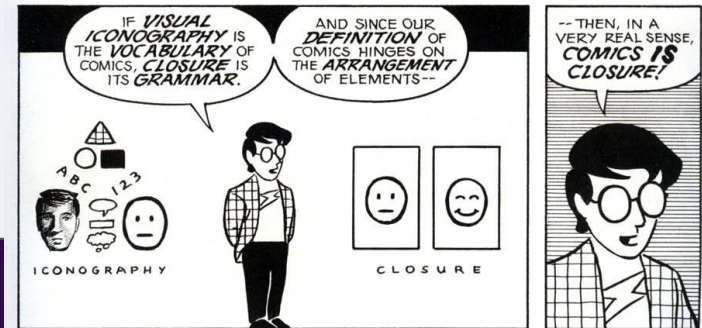
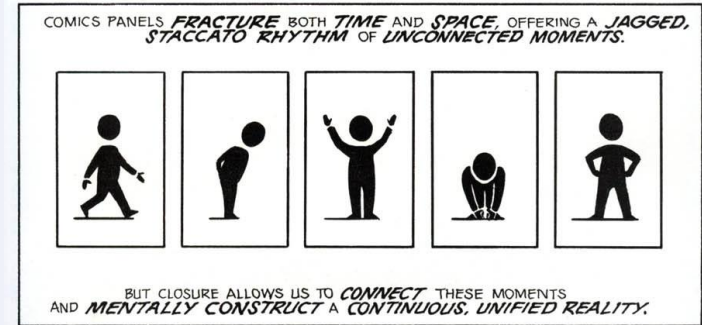


BUT CLOSURE ALLOWS US TO *CONNECT* THESE MOMENTS AND *MENTALLY CONSTRUCT* A *CONTINUOUS, UNIFIED REALITY*.



What kind of healthcare?

- Is Graphic Medicine a genre?
- Patient perspective
- Provider perspective
- Educational
- Depictions of healthcare
- Destigmatizing and cathartic



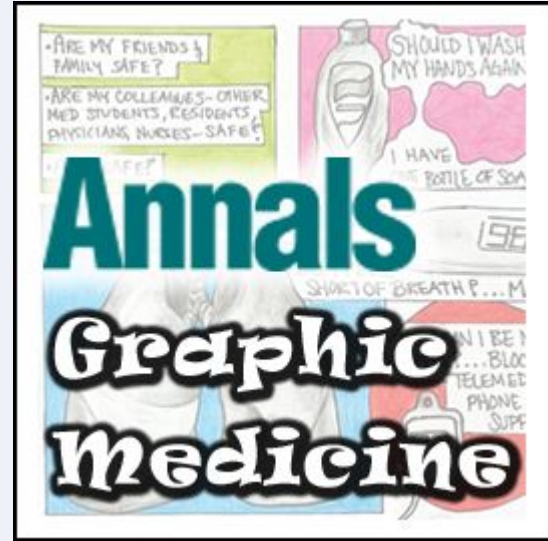
What kind of healthcare? Patient perspective

- “Scholars have even coined a term for the subgenre of biographies (in comic form) that focus on a person’s illness: graphic pathography. These works help diversify the depiction of diseases.”
- “Formerly the domain of doctors and medical illustrators who standardized the way diseases were visualized, graphic medicine gives patients and caregivers the power to share how they are individually affected.”

Quotes pulled from NIH Record May 12, 2023
Vol. LXXV, No. 10

What kind of healthcare? Provider perspective

- “Medical comics also can serve an instructional purpose—consider, for instance, the informational posters in your doctor’s office.”
- “Provider narratives touch on a wide range of topics, from the struggles of being a working parent to the lingering guilt of losing a patient.”



Quotes pulled from NIH Record May 12, 2023
Vol. LXXV, No. 10

Graphic Medicine is also a community

- Graphic Medicine International Collective
- graphicmedicine.org
- The mission of GMIC is to guide and support the use of comics in health.
- Board, conference, reviews, award program, curation of multimedia

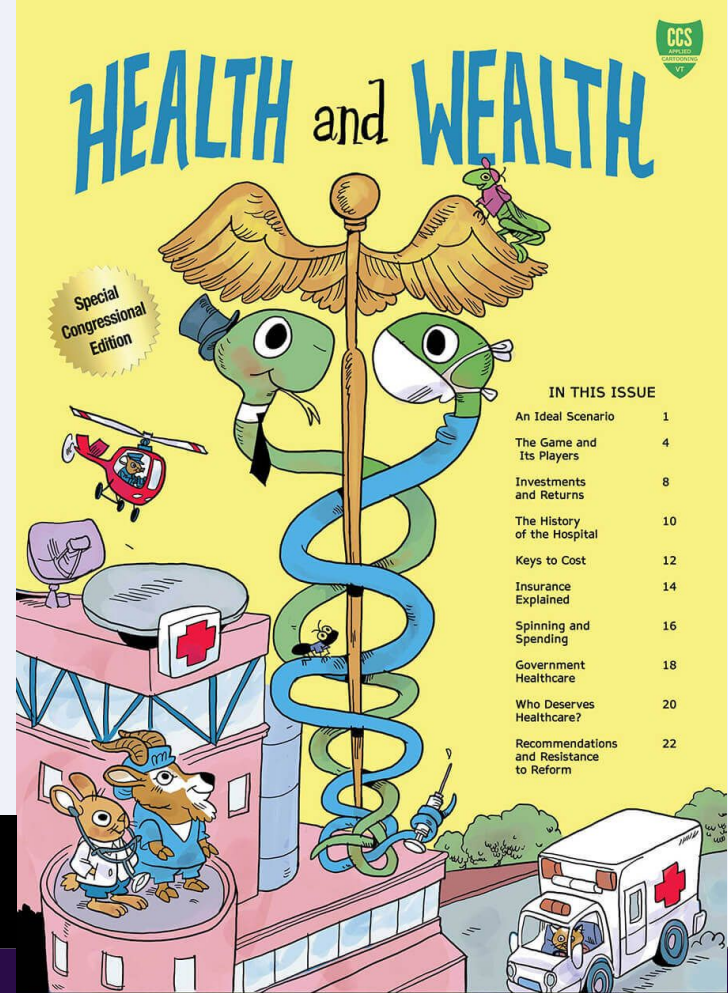


Examples of Graphic Medicine

Health and Wealth

- Created by The Center for Cartoon Studies
- Sent to all 535 members of Congress and partner organizations that promote healthcare education
- Engagement Guide includes a personal healthcare checklist, privilege check, activities, and more

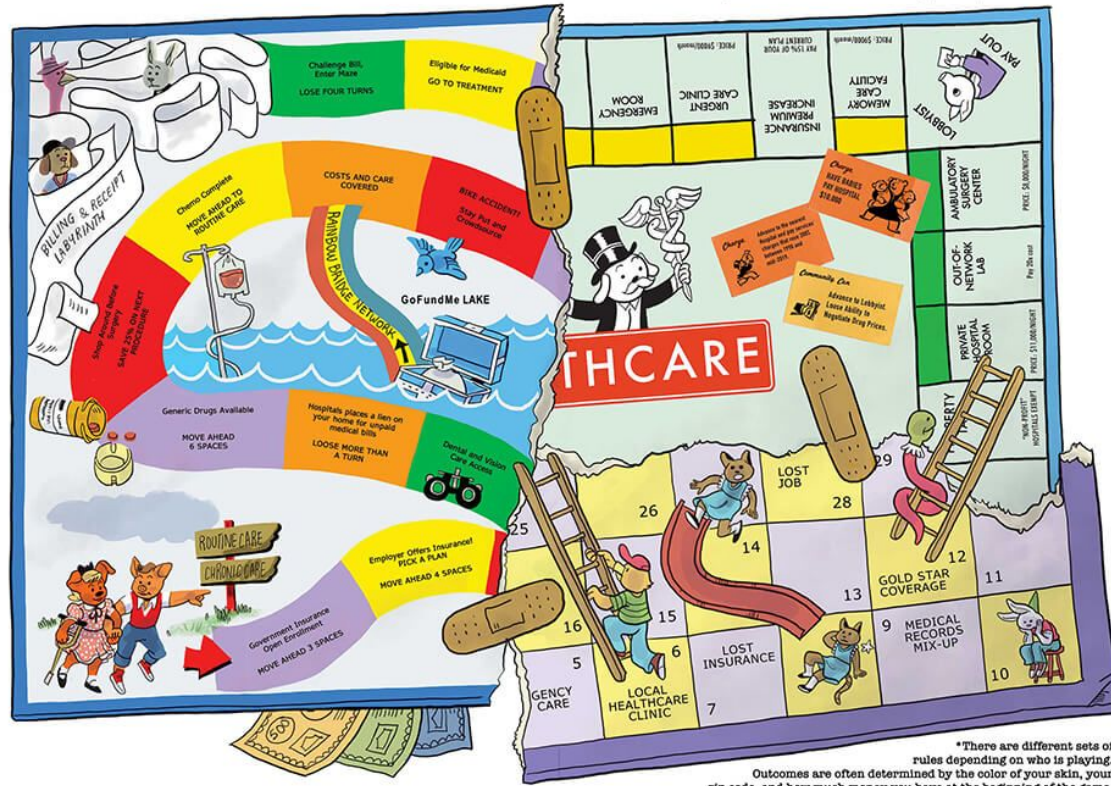
GRAPHIC MEDICINE
in GUILFORD COUNTY



A GRAPHIC GUIDE to the US HEALTHCARE SYSTEM

Unfortunately, then US healthcare system is not so straightforward.

The system feels more like a board game—or several board games—each designed by a different company, mashed together into a confusing, complicated



*There are different sets of rules depending on who is playing. Outcomes are often determined by the color of your skin, your zip code, and how much money you have at the beginning of the game.

Mom's Cancer

- By Brian Fies
- A true story
- Metastatic lung cancer
- Originated as a webcomic



Mom's Cancer: characters

- **Mom:** the author's mother; she is in her 60s, and suffers from stage IV metastatic lung cancer.
- **Me:** The author, a "self-employed writer" in his 40s, and the eldest child.
- **Nurse Sis:** One of the author's sisters; slightly younger than him, and a registered nurse.
- **Kid Sis:** The author's youngest sister; an actress and writer who lives with her mother.



Character info from
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mom%27s_Cancer

Smile

- By Raina Telgemeier
- Autobiographical
- Dental procedures after an accident
- Originated as a webcomic

From the #1 New York Times Bestselling Author

Raina Telgemeier

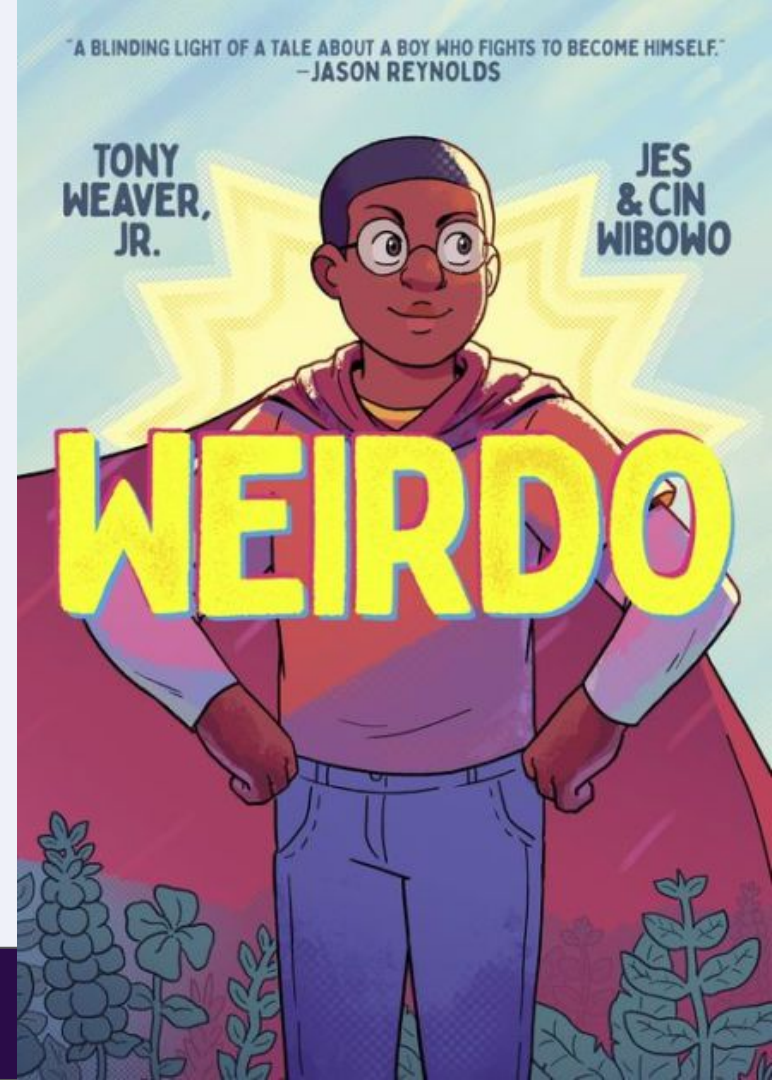


Smile

 SCHOLASTIC

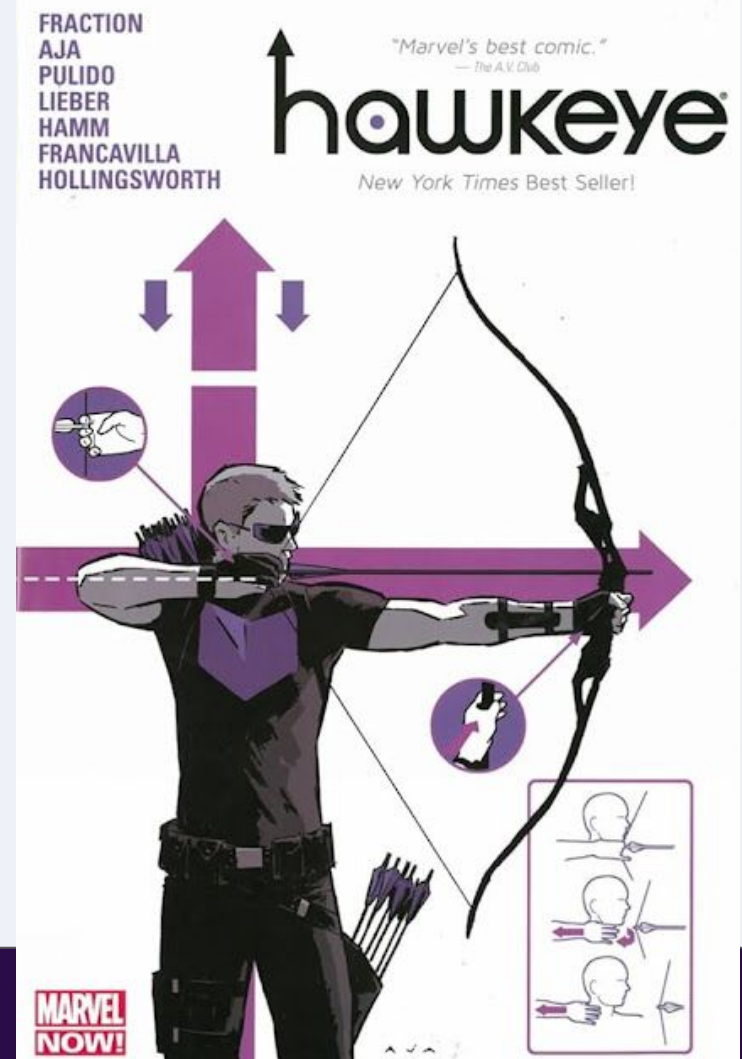
Weirdo

- Written by Tony Weaver, Jr., art by Jen and Cin Wibowo
- Autobiographical
- Bullying and mental health
- Depictions of therapy

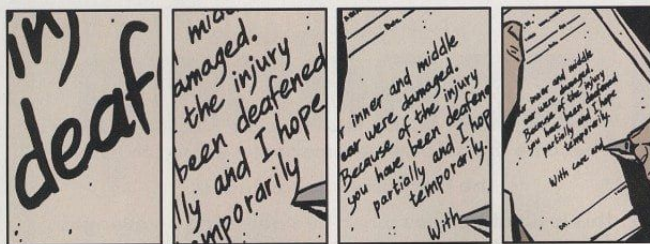


Hawkeye

- Written by Matt Fraction, art by David Aja and more
- Autobiographical
- Healthcare for heroes, deaf and hard of hearing, abuse



Hawkeye



GRAPHIC MEDICINE
in GUILFORD COUNTY

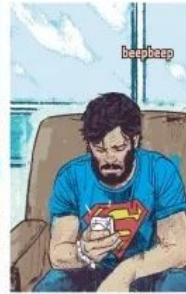
Mister Miracle

- Written by Tom King, art by Mitch Gerads
- Mental health, parenthood

GRAPHIC MEDICINE
in GUILFORD COUNTY

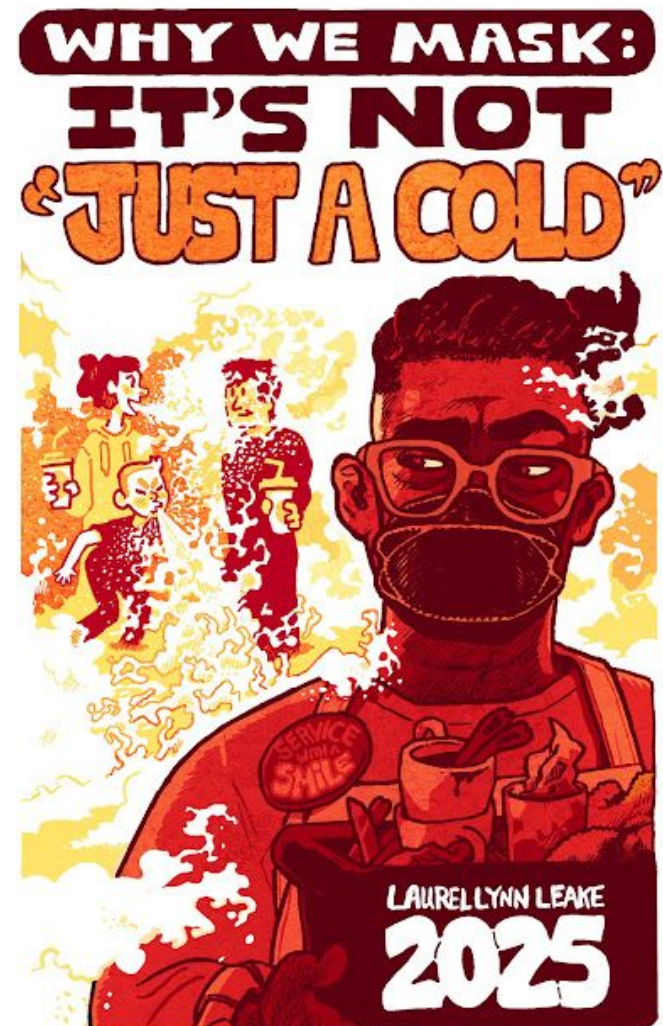






Why We Mask

- By Laurel Lynn Leake
- Zine format
- Covid, pandemic, health disparities, prevention
- 2025 edition



THE BASICS:

COVID-19 is an illness caused by the virus SARS-CoV-2, and mainly spreads through the air.¹

A single infection, even one that seems "mild", can cause severe damage throughout your body. What's worse, each new infection risks new damage to your brain, immune system, lungs, heart, and more, and can add up to permanent disabilities or death.²

Right now, at least 75% of all adults³ (and 30% of children⁴) are at a high risk for catching severe infections that could hospitalize or even kill us.

And if you have EVER had COVID-19, even once, YOU are now officially high risk too.

THE VIRUS:

SARS-CoV-2

Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome

Corona Virus (crown-shaped, round with spikes)

similar to 2002-2003 SARS-CoV outbreak

THE ILLNESS:

COVID-19

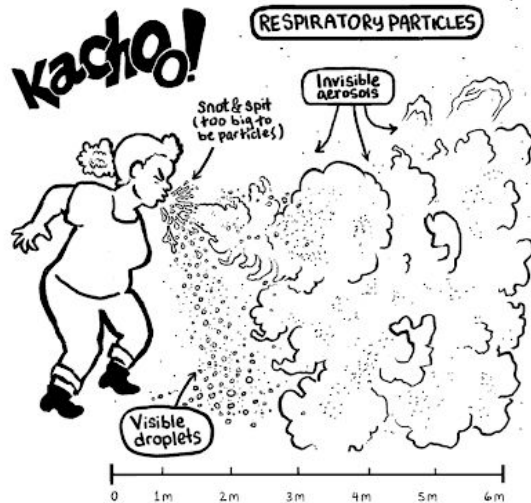
Corona

Virus

Disease

discovered in 2019

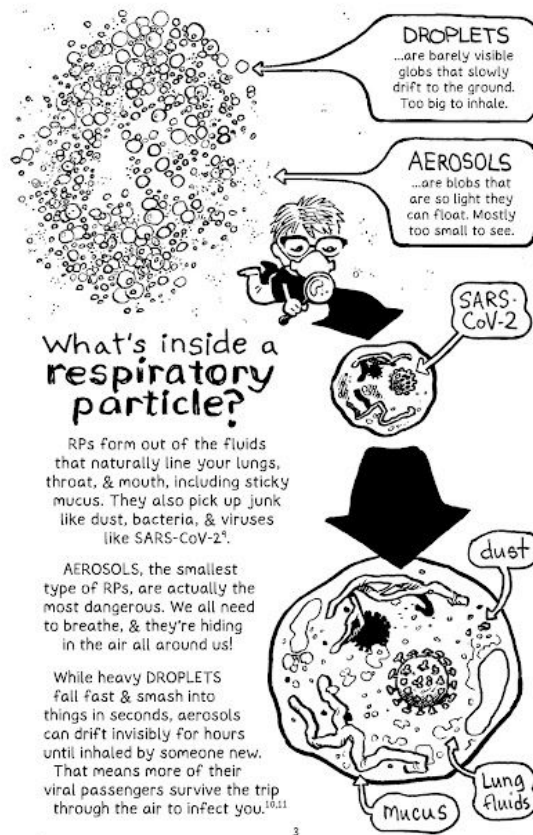
COVID-19 is an AIRBORNE ILLNESS.⁵



It spreads when infected people exhale clouds of mostly invisible **RESPIRATORY PARTICLES** carrying hidden viruses. RPs are the tiny drops of fluid that shoot out of our mouths whenever we cough, sneeze, talk, or even breathe.

If you're infected and contagious, you can breathe out enough virus to infect others in just 20 seconds!⁶ And in places with no fresh air or ventilation, the tiniest RPs can float around like smoke for HOURS.^{7,8}

Laurel Lynn Leake



What's inside a respiratory particle?

RPs form out of the fluids that naturally line your lungs, throat, & mouth, including sticky mucus. They also pick up junk like dust, bacteria, & viruses like SARS-CoV-2⁹.

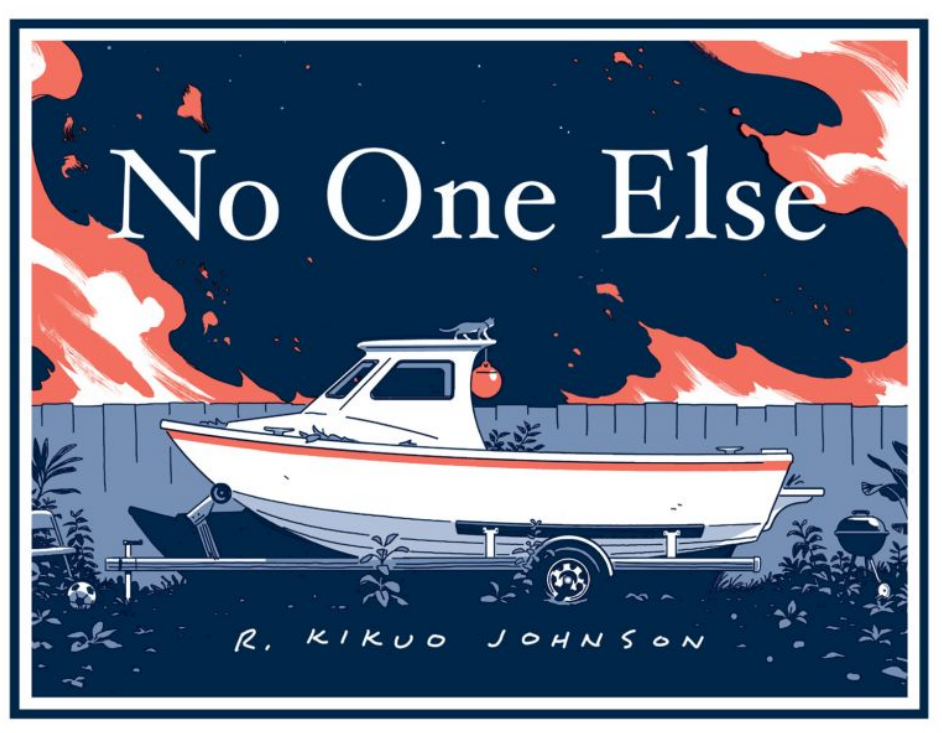
AEROSOLS, the smallest type of RPs, are actually the most dangerous. We all need to breathe, & they're hiding in the air all around us!

While heavy **DROPLETS** fall fast & smash into things in seconds, aerosols can drift invisibly for hours until inhaled by someone new. That means more of their viral passengers survive the trip through the air to infect you!^{10,11}

Laurel Lynn Leake

No One Else

- By R. Kikuo Johnson
- Caregiving, environmental health, mental health





Our interests in comics and healthcare

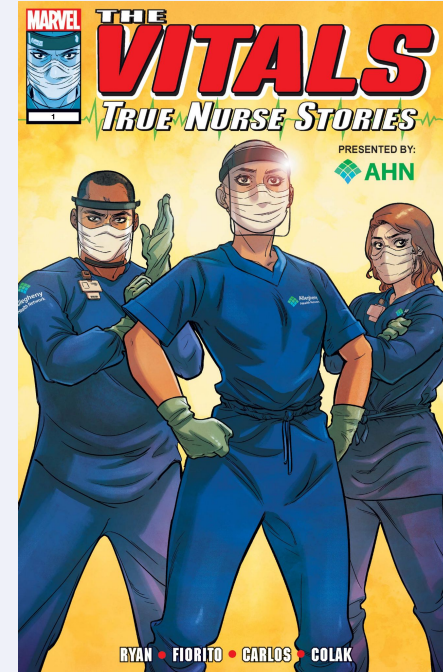
What got me interested in Graphic Medicine

- Migraines
- Oral health, dental care
- Public health
- Patient education
- Pregnancy, childbirth, parenthood

My current interests

- Eye health, vision care
- Superheroes and health/healthcare
- AI and ableism
- Visual accuracy, accuracy in illustrations
- “Making the invisible visible”
- How people experience time differently
- Discharge materials, patient instructions, pharmacy instructions
- Comics literacy

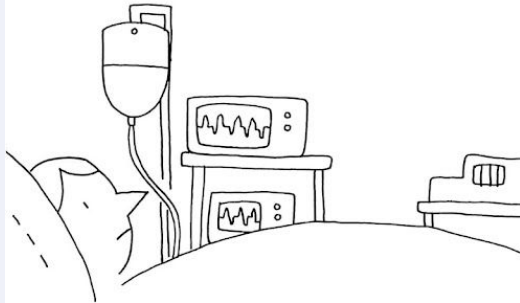
My current interests



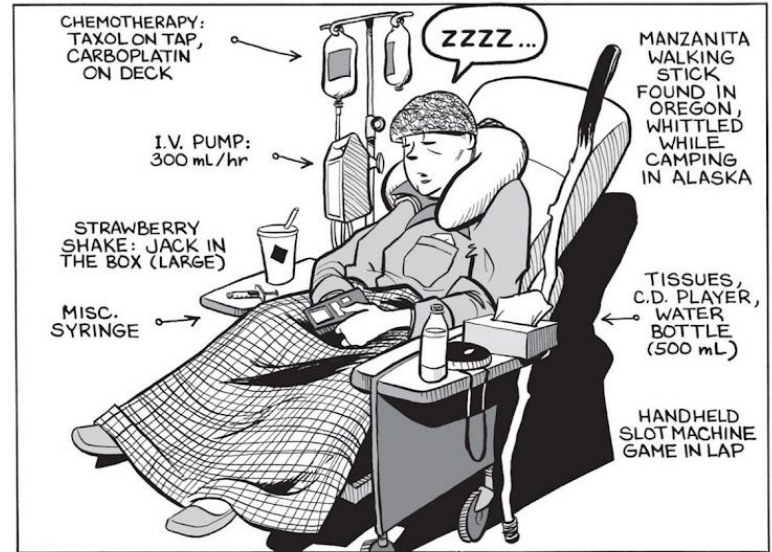
My current interests

THE HOSPITAL SUITE

John Porcellino



ARRANGEMENT IN GREY AND BLACK



Activity: Mini Research Mapping Prompt

Think of an idea for a comic that might be considered Graphic Medicine.

Take 5 minutes to note:

- 1 question you would need to research for this comic
- 1 visual detail you would need to get right
- 1 source you might use



Activity: Mini Research Mapping Prompt

5 minutes

Think of an idea for a comic that might be considered Graphic Medicine.

Take 5 minutes to note:

- 1 question you would need to research for this comic
- 1 visual detail you would need to get right
- 1 source you might use

Resources in Guilford County and beyond

Where are comics?

- Buy
 - New
 - Used
- Borrow
 - Library
 - People you know
- Social media
- Subscriptions (like webtoons)
- Creator websites

Where are comics in Guilford County?

- Libraries
 - High Point Public Library
 - Greensboro Public Library
 - Jamestown Public Library
 - College and university libraries

Where are comics in Guilford County?

- Comic book shops/local comic shops
 - Acme Comics
 - Parts Unknown
 - Ssalefish Comics
 - The Comic Dimension
 - Eastgate Comics
 - Nerdbombers
 - Strange Ways Comics & More

Where are comics in Guilford County?

- Other bookstores
 - Scuppernong Books
 - Next Chapter Books & Gifts
 - Barnes & Noble

Other opportunities in or near Guilford County?

- Toshi's Cafe
- McKay's
- Medical libraries?
- Narrative/graphic illustration?
- Arts councils
- Attending classes
- Creating your own classes, programs

Events and opportunities for community

- Eastgate Comicon (fall and spring)
- Other Greensboro comic-cons
- Greensboro Zine Fest
- Drink & Draw (Greensboro Public Library)
- Art festivals
- Anime and manga cons (like at Greensboro Public Library)
- Piedmont Area Health Education Center (AHEC)
- Books clubs (like at Acme Comics)

What's next

2020 Graphic Medicine Conference

- **July 23–25, 2026** in Baltimore, MD at Johns Hopkins University
- The conference theme is **Drawing Perspectives: Health Graphic Narratives Under Pressure.**
- Proposals should be submitted by **January 11, 2026**. The abstract of the proposal should not exceed 300 words.
- Variety of presentation formats



2026 Graphic Medicine Conference

Drawing Perspectives: Health Graphic Narratives Under Pressure.

“We will explore this theme broadly to include the many ways our community of graphic medicine authors, artists, and scholars leverage the medium of comics to propose diverse perspectives on healthcare, illness, disability, or social medicine, often working under various pressures, whether these relate to living with chronic illness, shifting institutional conditions for health and medical research and care practices, or other constraints such as time, healthcare disparities, ableism, and various forms of marginalization and prejudice.”

<https://www.graphicmedicine.org/2026-gm-conference-call-for-submissions/>

Other upcoming events and opportunities

- January 11–Silent Book Club at Scuppernong Books
- January 14–Drink and Draw at Hemphill library
- January 26–Acme Comics book club meeting
- Spring 2026–Eastgate Comic Con, Chapelboro Zine Fest
- June 2026–HeroesCon in Charlotte
- July 2026–Greensboro Zine Fest
- Fall 2026–Zine Machine in Durham

How do comics and healthcare intersect for you?