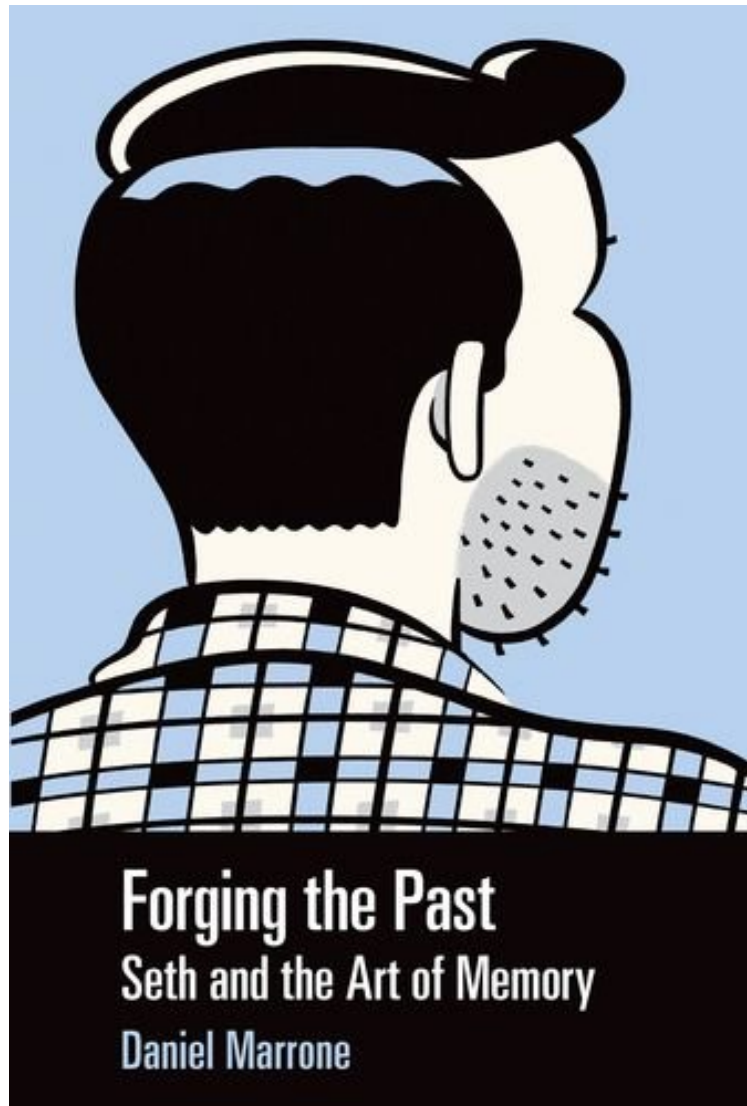


(Online library) Forging the Past: Seth and the Art of Memory (Great Comics Artists Series)

Forging the Past: Seth and the Art of Memory (Great Comics Artists Series)

Daniel Marrone

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#2919796 in Books 2016-08-11Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.02 x .63 x 5.981, .0 #File Name: 1496807316252 pages | File size: 65.Mb

Daniel Marrone : Forging the Past: Seth and the Art of Memory (Great Comics Artists Series) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Forging the Past: Seth and the Art of Memory (Great Comics Artists Series):

At once familiar and hard to place, the work of acclaimed Canadian cartoonist Seth evokes a world that no longer

exists and perhaps never existed, except in the panels of long-forgotten comics. Seth's distinctive drawing style strikingly recalls a bygone era of cartooning, an apt vehicle for melancholy, gently ironic narratives that depict the grip of the past on the present. Even when he appears to look to the past, however, Seth (born Gregory Gallant) is constantly pushing the medium of comics forward with sophisticated work that often incorporates metafiction, parody, and formal experimentation. *Forging the Past* offers a comprehensive account of this work and the complex interventions it makes into the past. Moving beyond common notions of nostalgia, Daniel Marrone explores the various ways in which Seth's comics induce readers to participate in forging histories and memories. Marrone discusses collecting, Canadian identity, *New Yorker* cartoons, authenticity, artifice, and ambiguity all within the context of comics' unique structure and texture. Seth's comics are suffused with longing for the past, but on close examination this longing is revealed to be deeply ambivalent, ironic, and self-aware. Marrone undertakes the most thorough, sustained investigation of Seth's work to date, while advancing a broader argument about how comics operate as a literary medium. Included as an appendix is a substantial interview, conducted by the author, in which Seth candidly discusses his work, his peers, and his influences.

Marrone offers carefully articulated and significant insights into Seth's work, especially in his comprehensive consideration of all of Seth's major work to date, most of which has received little critical attention. . . . He is not the first to recognize that Seth's interest in the past extends well beyond simple nostalgia, but he is the first to devote extensive attention to a troubling of nostalgia as Seth's defining trait, making instead a case for Seth's complex and transformative engagement with the past. Dominick Grace, associate professor of English at Brescia University College and coeditor with Eric Hoffman of *Dave Sim: Conversations*, *Chester Brown: Conversations*, and *Seth: Conversations About the Author* Daniel Marrone, Toronto, Canada, teaches English and visual culture. His work has appeared in *Studies in Comics*, *ImageText*, and *Canadian Journal of Comparative Literature*, as well as in the anthology *The Canadian Alternative: Cartoonists, Comics, and Graphic Novels*.