

Critical Narrative in Seth's GNBCC and Chester Brown's Louis Riel

Jörn Rüsen describes history as “an interpretation of the threatening experience of time”, and narration as “the process of making sense of the experience of time.” Rüsen’s theory of historical narratives introduces the concept of the critical historical narrative which is described to be “based on humans’ ability to say no to traditions, rules and principles...it clears the space for new patterns.” (92) Critical narratives use stories to question traditional views and patterns, and “open minds for alternatives” (92). Seth’s GNBCC and Chester Brown’s Louis Riel are historical critical narratives presented in the comic book medium. Not only do they offer an alternative perspective on Canadian history, they also present it in an alternative medium. GNBCC and Louis Riel break traditional representations of history by immersing the reader into the narrative, creating a more personal experience of history.