

## Comics & Cartoons: an art form?

*Discussion at The Park*

Wednesday 3 January 2018 7:30pm at *The Park Tavern, Macclesfield*

Participants are invited to bring along examples of their favourite comics and cartoons, which they may wish to use, to illustrate points during this discussion.

### Introduction:

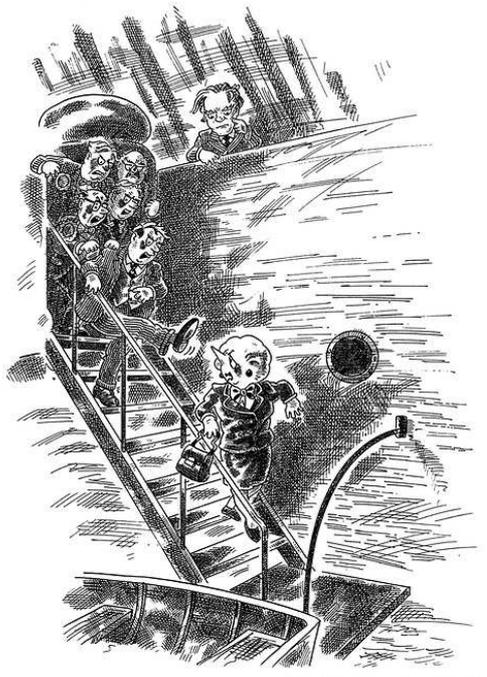
In asking if comics and cartoons are art forms, it is necessary to think through "What is art?" On one hand, this sounds like a fool's errand. On another, we may all have our own understandings, out of which a few common threads could emerge. Leo Tolstoy, for example, wrote, "Art is a human activity consisting in this, that one man consciously, by means of certain external signs, hands on to others feelings he has lived through, and that others are infected by these feelings and also experience them." A personal selection of cartoons is overleaf.

### Questions:

1. Going around the circle, what brief opening comments does anyone wish to make in answering the question, "What is Art?"
2. What responses have we got to any of these opening comments?
3. Do comics and cartoons fit within any of the definitions of art we have suggested?
4. The one thing which is clear, however, is that a network of museums dedicated to displaying comics and cartoons as art has been established across the world. For example, London's *Cartoon Museum* has been established by the *Cartoon Arts Trust*. Has any member of the circle heard of this before or, even, visited it?
5. Are all our examples of cartoons and comics on the table? Off we go.

### Further Reading and Viewing:

1. Some snappy definitions of art have been collected together by
  - i) Mental Floss: <http://mentalfloss.com/article/57501/27-responses-question-what-art>
  - ii) Brain Pickings: <https://www.brainpickings.org/2012/06/22/what-is-art/>
  - iii) Thoughts.com: <https://www.thoughtco.com/what-is-the-definition-of-art-182707>
2. The Cartoon Museum, London - <http://www.cartoonmuseum.org>
3. Digital technology has made it so much easier to make cartoon movies although the need for creativity remains. A personal favourite is *Simon's Cat*. An example is here: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?time\\_continue=16&v=pTBjHjRhX\\_Y](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=16&v=pTBjHjRhX_Y)



*Continued from J. Penick*

**DROPPING THE PILOT (BY FORCE IF NECESSARY)**



**DROPPING THE PILOT.**