

(th)inking

REALISTIC OR
FANTASTIC
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I WAS TOLD IN ART CLASS THAT SERIOUS CHARACTERS ARE BEST USED TO REPRESENT FANTASTICAL STORIES AND FANTASTICAL CHARACTERS ARE BEST USED TO TELL SERIOUS STORIES. THINK ABOUT THE SEMI-REALISM OF THE X-MEN, AND THE ANTHROPOMOPHIZED MICE IN MAUS.

MORE REALISTIC



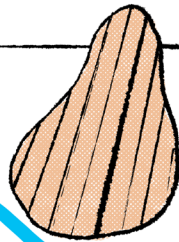
MORE FANTASTICAL



ULTRA REALISTIC



I WOULD ARGUE THAT THE CHARACTERS IN MOST ACADEMIC COMICS END UP AROUND HERE.



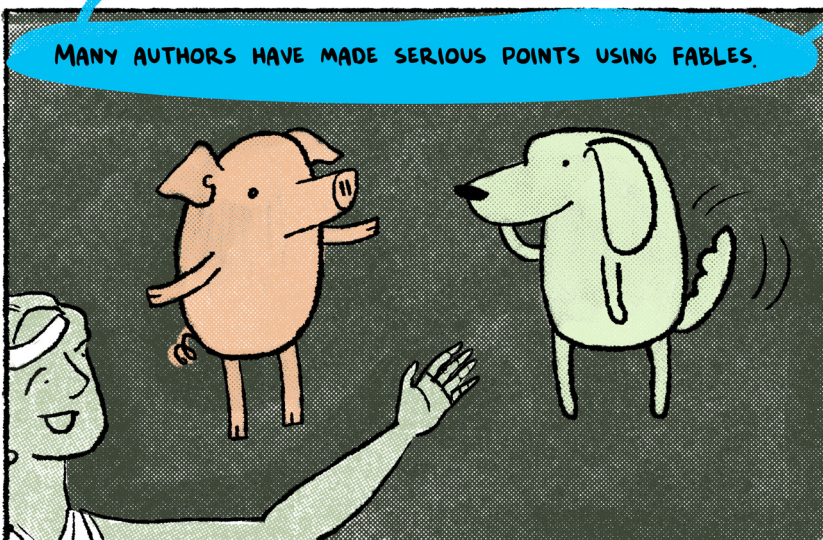
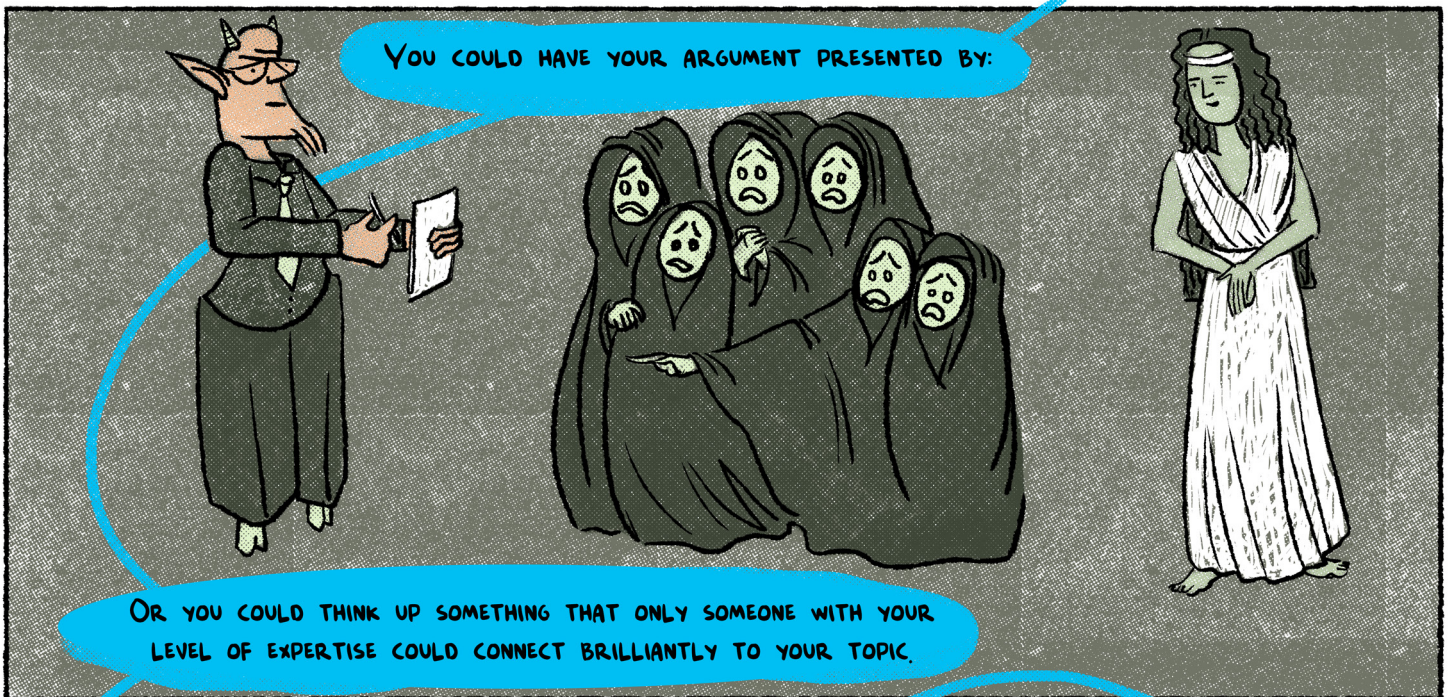
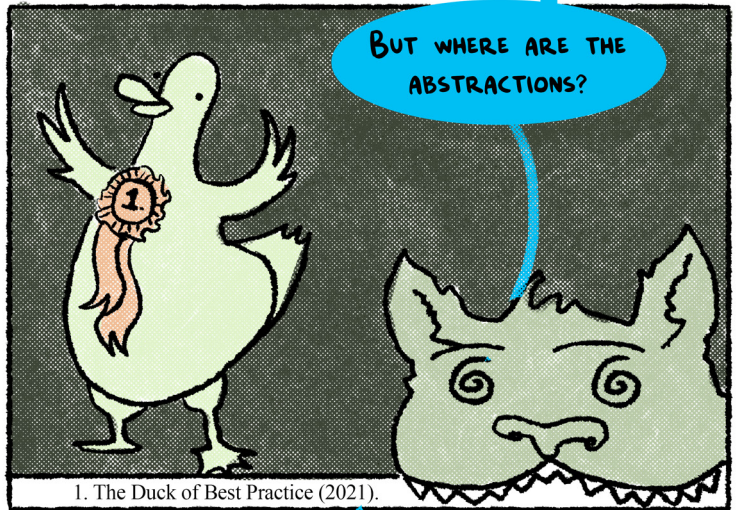
BUT WHY?

ULTRA FANTASTICAL



BY COMIC LOGIC, ACADEMIC COMICS - BEING PREDOMINANTLY DRY, SERIOUS CONTENT - SHOULD BE AT LEAST OPEN TO FANTASTICAL ILLUSTRATIONS.

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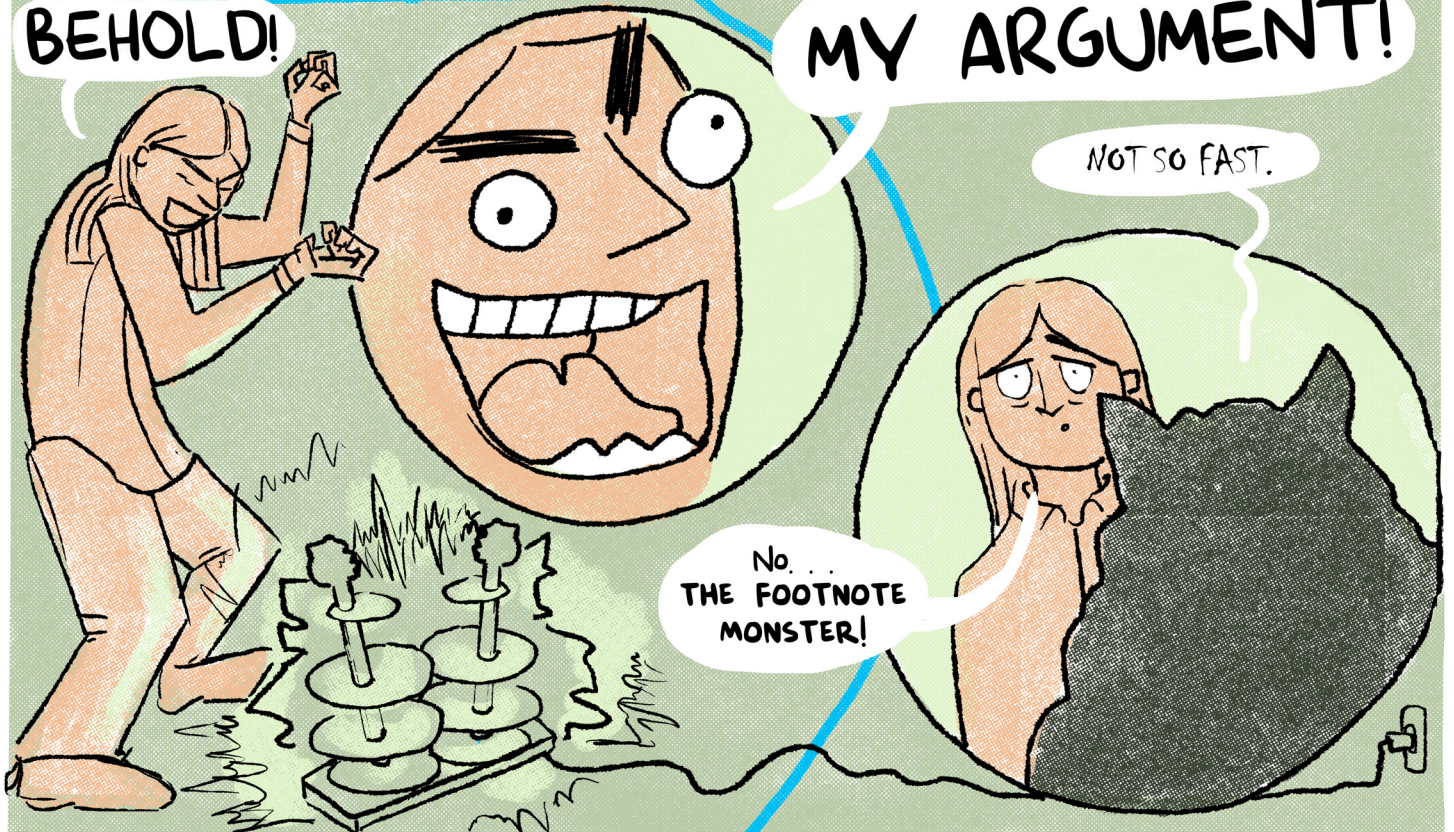
WHY NOT CHANGE THE MODE COMPLETELY?

BEHOLD!

MY ARGUMENT!

NOT SO FAST.

No...
THE FOOTNOTE
MONSTER!

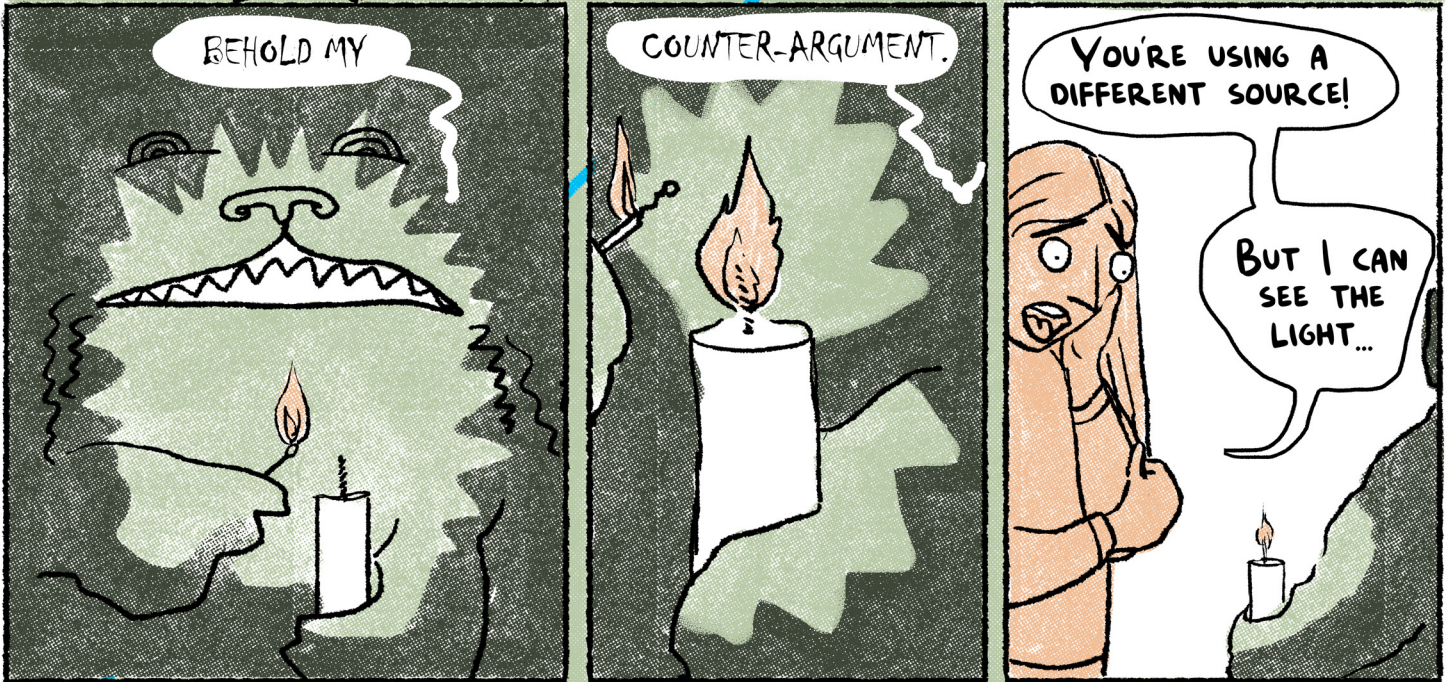


BEHOLD MY

COUNTER-ARGUMENT.

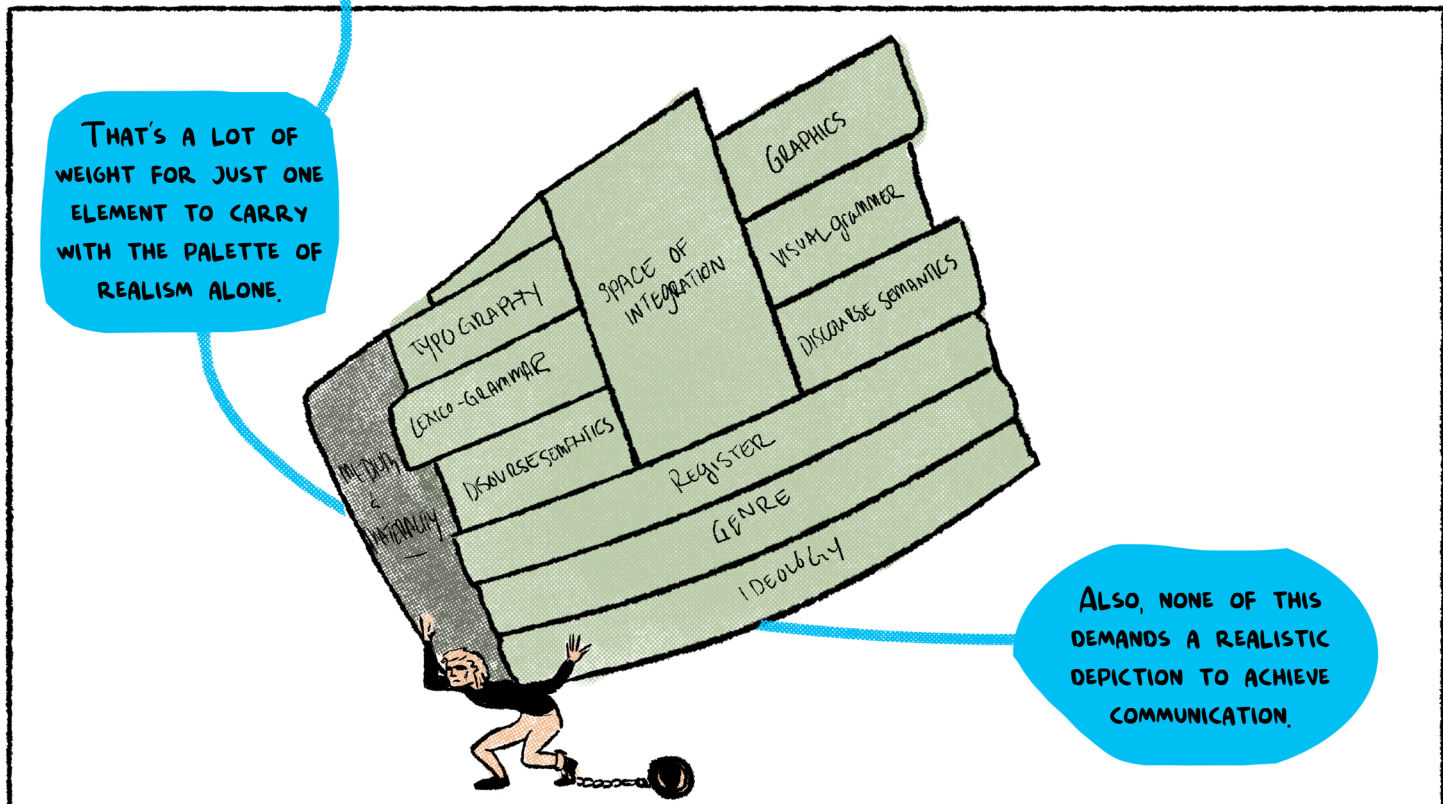
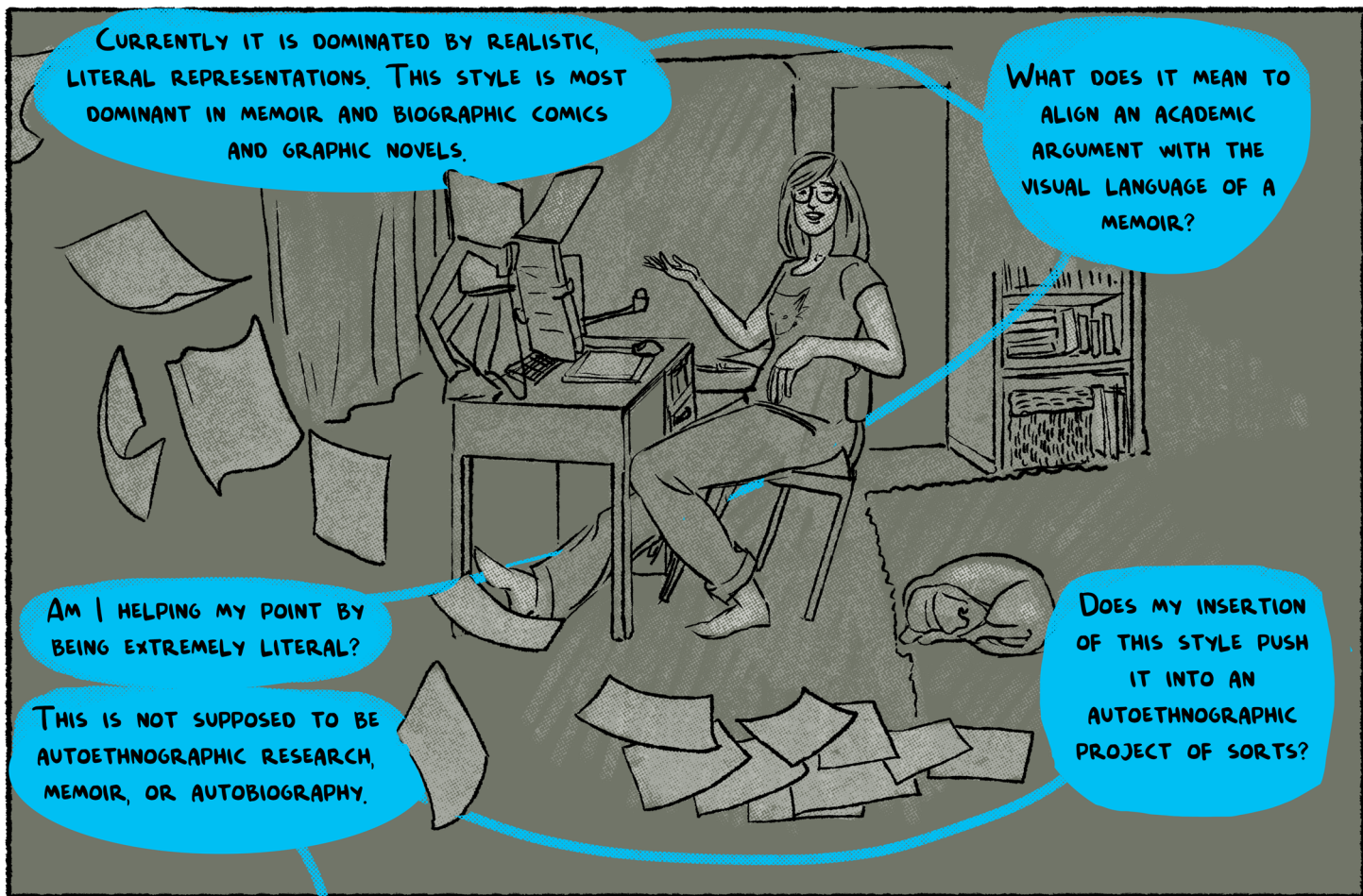
YOU'RE USING A
DIFFERENT SOURCE!

BUT I CAN
SEE THE
LIGHT...

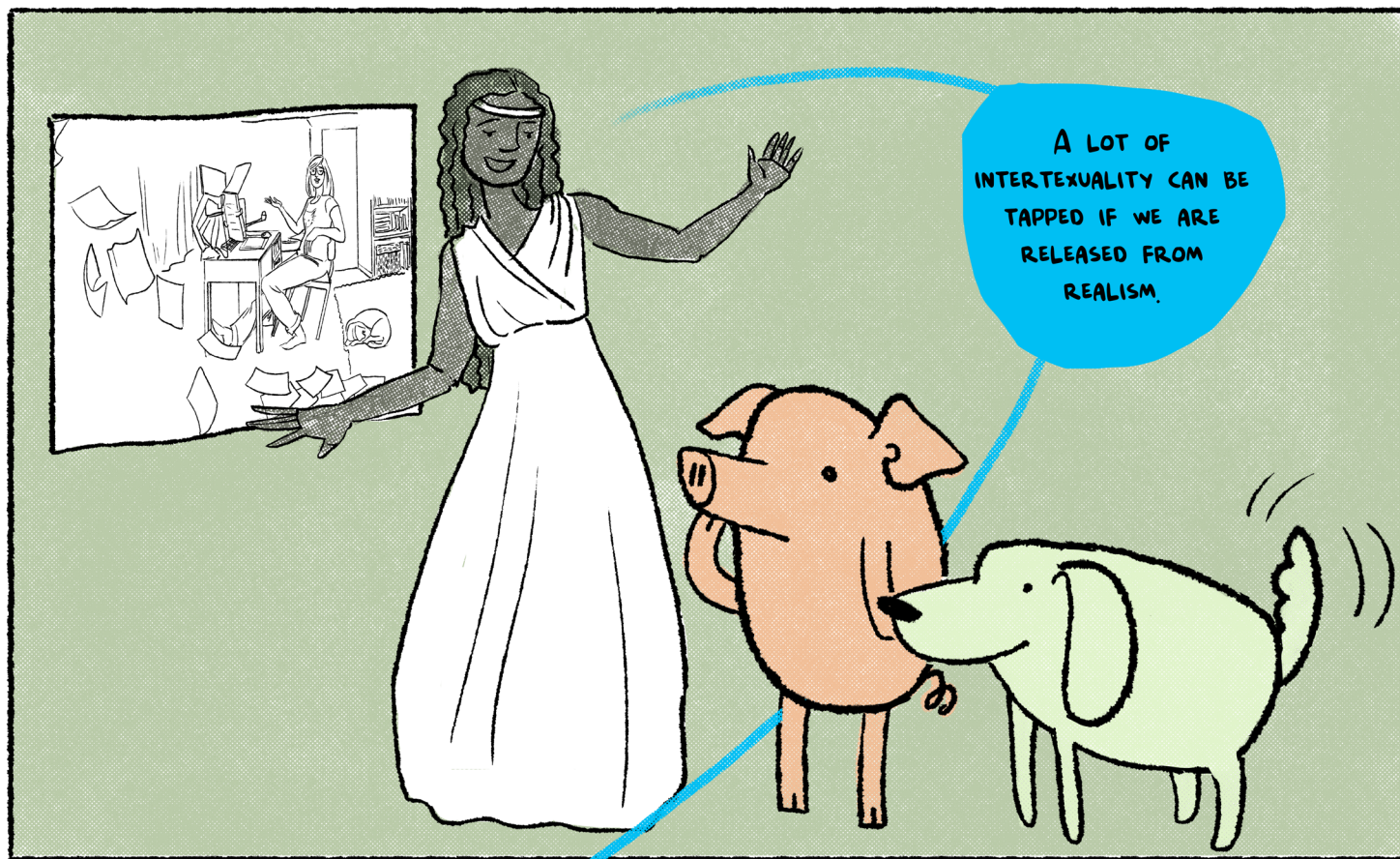


JOKES ASIDE, WHAT IF THE ACADEMIC COMIC WAS A TEXT WHICH COULD BE POSITIONED WITHIN A STYLE OR INSIDE A GENRE? THE WHOLE ENVIRONMENT COULD BE REFERENTIAL AND CREATE AN ADDITIONAL LAYER TO THE ARGUMENT.

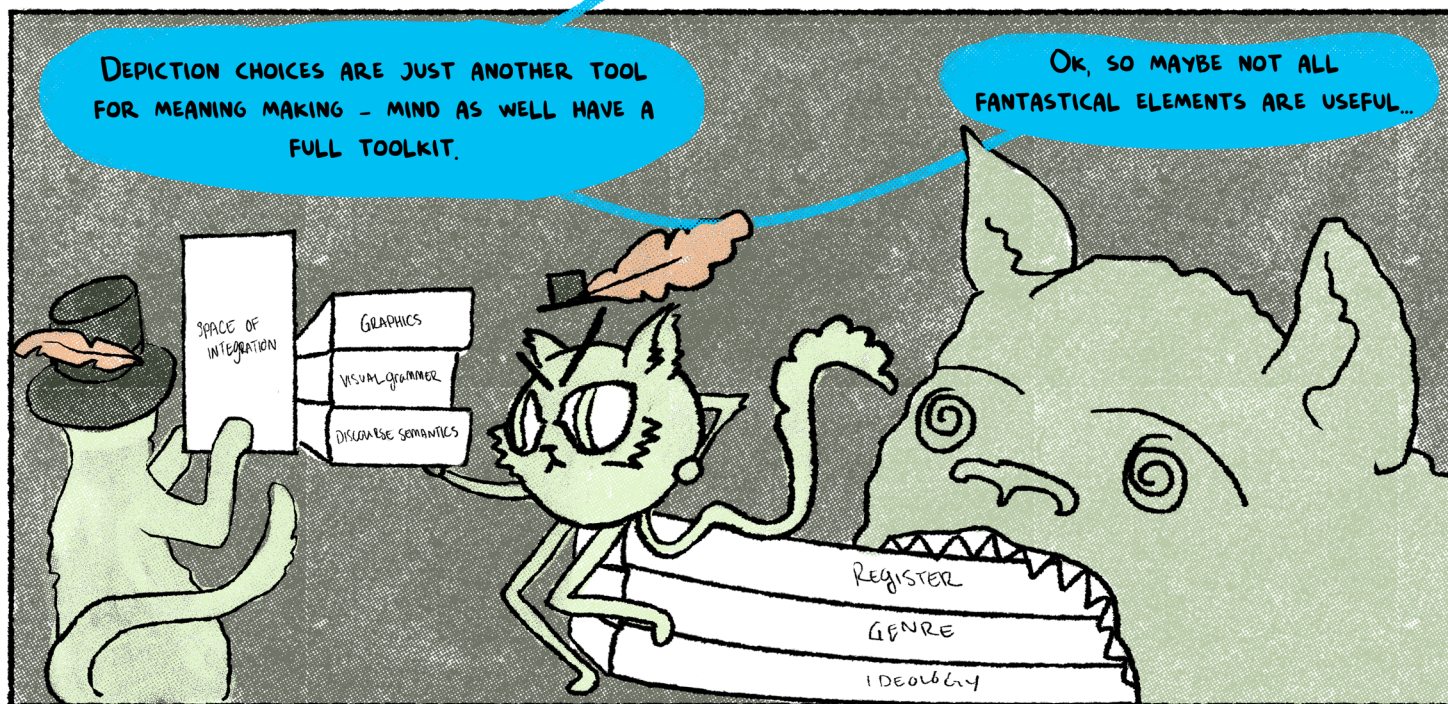
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A LOT OF INTERTEXTUALITY CAN BE TAPPED IF WE ARE RELEASED FROM REALISM.



DEPICTION CHOICES ARE JUST ANOTHER TOOL FOR MEANING MAKING - MIND AS WELL HAVE A FULL TOOLKIT.

OK, SO MAYBE NOT ALL FANTASTICAL ELEMENTS ARE USEFUL...

I CAN'T REALLY SAY WHAT WILL WORK FOR EACH ESSAYISTIC OR ACADEMIC COMIC, BUT THERE HAS TO BE ANOTHER WAY.

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