

Radical America Komiks

Editor: Gilbert Shelton

Introduction: Paul Buhle • Foreword: Jay Kinney

"Underground comix," an artistic expression of rambunctious rebellion in the Vietnam War era, started off with a bang. *Radical America*, a journal affiliated with Students for a Democratic Society published a memorable comic art edition in 1969. Its principal artist and editor, Gilbert Shelton, whose *Fabulous Furry Freak Brothers* would be enjoyed in many editions across the world, brought to the project his Texas pals Frank Stack and Jack Jackson. Also on hand, among others, were Chicago comics innovators Jay Lynch and Skip Williamson. Together, these and other contributors issued a veritable artistic manifesto: a new vernacular art had arrived!

A half century after its original appearance, *Radical America Komiks* retains its rebellious spirit and its rollicking humor. Dopey but also militantly antimilitarist, the comics in this reprinted volume speak to the ideas, sentiments, and artistic experiments of a generation.

Longtime underground artist Jay Kinney, coeditor of the satirical series *Young Lust* and *Anarchy Comics*, adds a foreword, and *Radical America* editor Paul Buhle offers an extensive introduction to the saga of comic art, radical and otherwise.

ABOUT THE CONTRIBUTORS

Gilbert Shelton attended university in Austin, TX, where he became editor of the student magazine, *The Texas Ranger*. This was to prove Shelton's last "real job." For in 1967, after contributing to various underground comix with his earliest character, Wonder Wart-Hog, and designing posters for rock concerts, Shelton created the *Fabulous Furry Freak Brothers*. In 1969 he and some friends from Texas moved to San Francisco to set up Rip Off Press from which *Freak Brothers* strips were soon syndicated, borrowed (or stolen!) by a host of American underground newspapers and magazines. Shelton currently lives in Paris, France, with his wife and three cats.

Paul Buhle was the editor of *Radical America* in the late 1960s. He has edited comics biographies of figures including Emma Goldman, Che Guevara, Rosa Luxemburg, and Isadora Duncan.

Jay Kinney was an active participant in the underground comics movement from 1968 through the '70s and into the '80s. He cofounded the romance comic satire *Young Lust*, founded and edited *Anarchy Comics*, and contributed to numerous other comics.

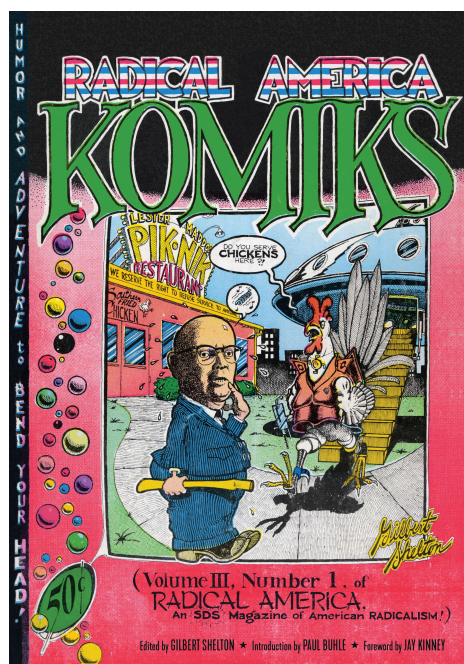
ACCOLADES

"*Radical America Komiks* was the funniest issue of that whole series of New Left magazines because it included the best cartoonists in the underground. Gilbert Shelton, master humorist, creator of the *Furry Freak Brothers*, edited the extra-thick comic book as one of the earliest projects at his fledgling company Rip Off Press. Nothing like funnies to liven up political discussions."

—Patrick Rosenkranz, author of *Rebel Visions: The Underground Comix Revolution*

"*Radical America Komiks* is a treasury of Austin's radical artists from the 1960s and '70s, especially Gilbert Shelton, truly a global figure of comix innovation."

—Thorne Dreyer, founding editor of *The Rag*



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