The Representation of the Female Self in Graphic Autobiographies through the Dynamics of Words and Pictures

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Texts and theories


- **graphic autobiographies:**
  - Joe Sacco’s *Palestine* (1993-2001)
  - Alison Bechdel’s *Fun Home* (2006)
The Relational and Individualistic Self

‘Growing girls come to define themselves as continuous with others; their experience of self contains more flexible and permeable ego boundaries. Boys come to define themselves as more separate and distinct, with a greater sense of rigid ego boundaries and differentiation. The basic feminine sense of self is connected to the world, the basic masculine sense of self is separate ... Masculine personality, then, comes to be defined more in terms of denial of relation and connection ..., whereas feminine personality comes to include a fundamental definition of self in relationship’.

Nancy Chodorow

The relational self (Bechdel Fun Home, pp. 3&232)
The relational self (Satrapi Persepolis, p. 161)
The distanced/individualistic self
(Sacco Palestine, pp. 137 & 148)
The appropriative/distanced self
(Spiegelman Maus, p. 201)

Vladek started working as a tinman in Auschwitz in the spring of 1944...
I started working on this page at the very end of February 1987.

At least fifteen foreign editions are coming out. I've gotten 4 serious offers to turn my book into a TV special or movie. (I don't wanna.)

In May 1968 my mother killed herself. (She left no note.)

Lately I've been feeling depressed.

Alright Mr. Spiegelman, we're ready to shoot!