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California Polytechnic State University

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Pulitzer Prize-winning Comic Book Artist Comes to Cal Poly April 22**

SAN LUIS OBISPO - When artist Art Spiegelman won a Pulitzer Prize for "MAUS," his masterful Holocaust comic book narrative, the genre of adult comics was established as a legitimate art form. Art Spiegelman will present "Comix 101" at 8 p.m. on Tuesday, April 22, 2003 at the Cal Poly Theatre.

Cal Poly Arts presents Spiegelman, whom the Los Angeles Times called "One of the New Yorker's most sensational artists." Of his work, the Times declared: "Art Spiegelman's cartoons don't fool around."

In his slide presentation, "Comix 101," Spiegelman takes his audience on a chronological tour of the evolution of comics, explaining the value of the medium. He believes that in a post-literate culture, the importance of the comic is on the rise.

"Comics echo the way the brain works," says Spiegelman. "People think in iconographic images, not in holograms, and people think in bursts of language, not in paragraphs."

A question and answer period will follow the "Comix 101" lecture. (Please note the artist will be smoking during the event.)

Spiegelman's comics are best known for their scratch-board, illustrative style, and controversial content. With "Maus" and "Maus II," by portraying Jews as mice and Nazis as cats, he created an unusual and controversial context for his powerful narrative.

These efforts were groundbreaking for their combined use of text and drawings in serialized comic form.

In more recent years, Spiegelman's work has been published in many periodicals, including the New Yorker, where he is a contributing editor

and illustrator for many of the magazine's covers.

Spiegelman's drawings have been exhibited both nationally and internationally. His many honors include a Guggenheim Fellowship and a nomination for the National Book Critics Circle Award. He is also co-founder and editor of RAW, the acclaimed avant-garde comics magazine.

Spiegelman published a children's book, entitled "Open Me. I'm A Dog," as well as the illustration accompaniment to the 1928 book, "The Wild Party," by Joseph Moncure March. Most recently, he edited a children's anthology, "Little Lit."

Spiegelman is currently working on the story and sets for a new opera entitled, "Drawn to Death: A Three Panel Opera," with composer Phillip Johnston.

Tickets for the performance are \$28 & \$34, with student discounts available, and may be purchased at the Performing Arts Ticket Office, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. weekdays and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturdays. To order by phone, call 805/756-2787; to order by fax: 805/756-6088.

This performance is sponsored by the Cal Poly College of Liberal Arts.

The event is also supported in part by funds from the California State Lottery.

In an auxilliary event, Cal Poly's prestigious WriterSpeak lecture series presents "A Conversation with Art Spiegelman" at noon on Wednesday, April 23 at the Cal Poly Theatre.

The event, co-sponsored by Cal Poly Arts, is free to students and the public. (Please note the artist will be smoking during the lecture.)

For audio and video samples of Cal Poly Arts events, visit [www.calpolyarts.org](http://www.calpolyarts.org).

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