



## Will Eisner Centennial News

Will Eisner (March 6, 1917 - January 3, 2005) was an artist, writer, cartoonist, educator, publishing entrepreneur, and an early advocate for comics as literature and art. Born in NYC of poor immigrant parents, during an almost eight decades-long career he co-founded an early comics packaging company, created *The Spirit* comics syndicated Sunday newspaper section, developed the use of comics to train GI's and workers, taught cartooning at the prestigious New York School of Visual Arts, and wrote 15 graphic novels and three sequential art textbooks. During 2017 - his centennial year - and beyond - Will Eisner is being recognized for his many achievements and for his lasting influence on culture and society.

### Special Events

- **Annual Comics Festival**, Angoulême, France celebrates the Centennial with a Will Eisner original art exhibition officially recognized by the French Ministry of Culture as being of national significance – January to October.
- **The New York Public Library**, Main Branch, exhibits its Will Eisner Collection and presents a speakers' panel – March.
- **The NY Comics & Picture-story Symposium**, Pulitzer Prize winning cartoonist and screenwriter, **Jules Feiffer**, remembers his mentor and friend, Will Eisner - March 28.
- **The American Library Association** presents the Will Eisner Graphic Novel Grants for Libraries, ALA Summer Conference - June 24.
- **The 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Will Eisner Comic Industry Awards** presented at San Diego Comic-Con - July 21.

### Art Exhibitions

- **The New York Society of Illustrators** celebrates the Centennial with a Will Eisner original art exhibition - March to May.
- **The Lakes International Comics Arts Festival**, Scotland, UK presents a Centennial Exhibition of Will Eisner giclées – October.
- **The Memorial of the Holocaust**, Paris, France presents “Shoah et Bande Dessinée” (The Holocaust and Comics) including Will Eisner original art. – January to October.
- **The Pittsburgh Toonseum** hosts an exhibit and artist's panel about “The Lost Work of Will Eisner” – February to March.
- **Geppi's Entertainment Museum**, Baltimore, Maryland presents an exhibition and panel: “Will's War” Will Eisner's WWII Pioneering Role in Using Comics for the Military” – March.
- **The Sherwin Miller Museum of Jewish Art**, holds a Comics Gathering, Tulsa, Oklahoma – March.

## Will Eisner Centennial News, continued...

### Will Eisner Week Events

- **Will Eisner Week**, held annually in March since 2009, celebrates sequential art, graphic novel literacy, free speech, and Will Eisner's legacy with an estimated 100 2017 events in 80 cities in the US and internationally.
- **Events in 2017** include those at the Ohio State University Billy Ireland Cartoon Library and Museum, the Center for Cartoon Studies, the New York School of Visual Arts, the Savannah College of Art & Design, the Minneapolis College of Art & Design, the Sequential Artists Workshop, the Parsons School of Design, and many others.

### Comic Con Events

- **San Diego Comic-Con**, San Diego, California
- **New York Comic Con**, New York, New York
- **CCXP**, Sao Paulo, Brazil
- **Emerald City Comic Con**, Seattle, Washington
- **C2E2 Comic Expo**, Chicago, Illinois
- **Lakes International Comics Festival**, Kendal, Scotland
- **Big Apple Comic Con**, New York, New York
- **Wizard World Comic Con**, Various Cities

### New Publications

- ***A Contract with God, Centennial Edition***, including all new scans from the original artwork, W.W. Norton & Co.
- ***A Contract with God, Norton Critical Editions***, including scholastic annotations, W.W. Norton & Co.
- ***A Contract with God, Curator's Edition***, including never published original pencil roughs, Kitchen Sink Books, an imprint of Dark Horse Comics.
- ***Will Eisner: A Centennial Celebration*** (English/French), the catalogue for the Angoulême, France and New York Society of Illustrators, Will Eisner original art exhibitions, Kitchen Sink Books, an imprint of Dark Horse Comics.

### New Videos & Podcasts

- **Midtown Comics Monthly Podcast**
- **Comics Alternative Podcast**
- **WorkxWork Eric Molinsky Podcast**

Centennial celebrations are being added frequently. For the most current information follow [@willeisner](#) on Twitter; friend the "Will Eisner Official Site" on Facebook; and visit [www.willeisner.com](http://www.willeisner.com). Direct questions to [info@willeisner.com](mailto:info@willeisner.com).