



Multimedia Library Collection: Periodicals

“Ecocomics: Vivid Worlds in Images and Text”

Ludewig, Julia



© 2025 Maile McFarland. Used by permission.

The copyright holder reserves, or holds for their own use, all the rights provided by copyright law, such as distribution, performance, and creation of derivative works.

Ludewig, Julia. “Ecocomics: Vivid Worlds in Images and Text.” *Springs: The Rachel Carson Center Review*, no. 8 (November 2025). <http://doi.org/10.5282/rcc-springs-17076>.

I grew up on Disney's *Duck Tales* (1988–) comics, casually enraptured by the adventures of ducks, mice, and dogs. Later, I encountered the chilling kind of rapture that comes with Art Spiegelman's *Maus* (1992), a Shoah family memoir in comics form and likewise a page-turner with mice and cat protagonists. Yet another foray took me into abstract comics where blobs and squiggly lines were the only “protagonist” available. In hindsight, I appreciate how normal it is for comics to feature nonhuman agents. Comics invite nonanthropocentric characters and stories with a certain nonchalance, and they do so arguably not despite, but because they've been a marginal medium for a long time: The cover of a lesser literature left much space for artistic liberty. Add to that comics' inherent multimodal complexity, that is to say, the fact that they stitch together images and text. By nature, then, comics ask a lot of readers. It should therefore not surprise us that, thematically and structurally, comics are well suited for complex topics including those that pertain to the relation between humans and the environment—the genre critics have termed “environmental comics,” “ecocomix,” or, as I do here, “ecocomics.” (From the article)

This article was originally published in [Spirings: The Rachel Carson Center Review](#) . *Spirings* is an online publication featuring peer-reviewed articles, creative nonfiction, and artistic contributions that showcase the work of the Rachel Carson Center and its community across the world.

2025 Julia Ludewig



This work is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License](#) .

This license refers only to the text and does not include any image rights.

Please see captions in the PDF for individual licenses.

Download:

PDF: https://www.environmentandsociety.org/sites/default/files/key_docs/ludewig_ecocomics_spirings_8_2025.pdf

Related links:

- *Spirings: The Rachel Carson Center Review*
<https://spirings-rcc.org>
- Full article on *Spirings: The Rachel Carson Center Review*
<https://spirings-rcc.org/ecocomics/>

Websites linked in this text:

- <http://doi.org/10.5282/rcc-spirings-17076>
- <https://spirings-rcc.org/>