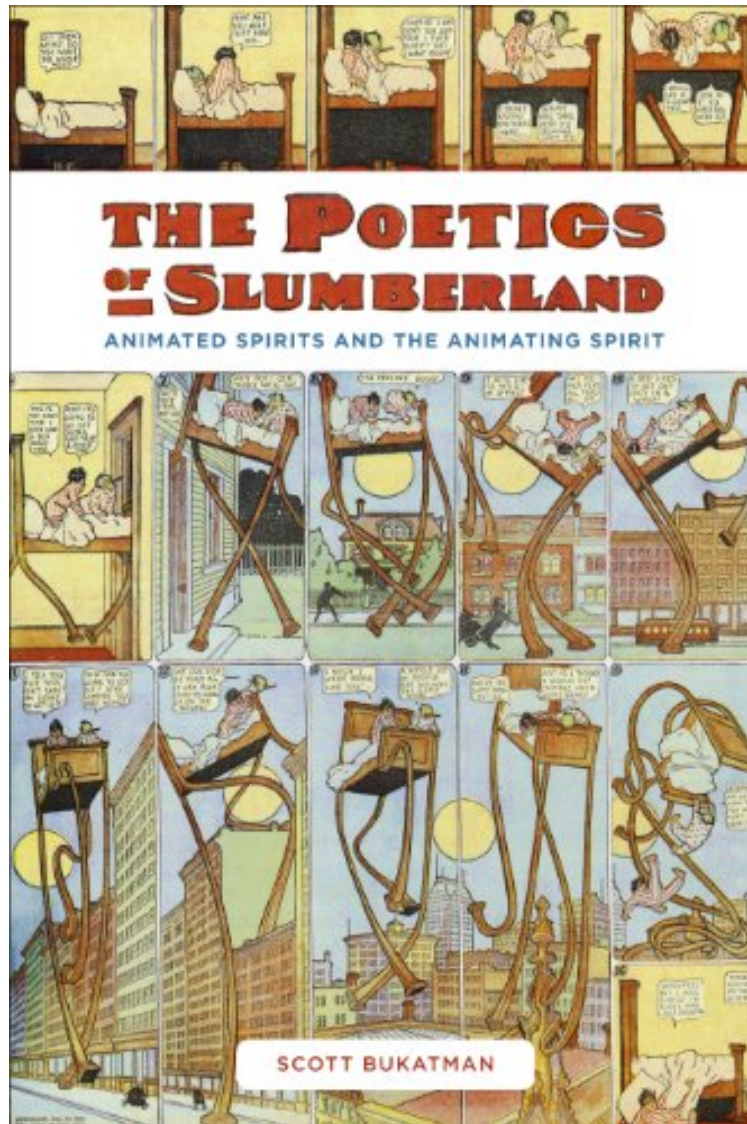


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# The Poetics of Slumberland: Animated Spirits and the Animating Spirit

Scott Bukatman

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**Scott Bukatman : The Poetics of Slumberland: Animated Spirits and the Animating Spirit** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Poetics of Slumberland: Animated Spirits and the Animating Spirit:

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Very very fun, insightful readBy skyla2186I don't know much about comics, but I'm glad my first foray was with Bukatman! As a literature student I wasn't sure what I was getting myself into, but the book reads easily and intelligently even for novices in comics like myself. I was expecting a narrow,

period-specific reading of Nemo and met instead a stylized, relevant musing on heroes, dreams, literary criticism, psychology, pop culture and art. While this book is framed around the Nemo comic strip, expect to see Benjamin, Morrison, Bachelard, Deleuze, Marx, Veblen and Ngai, to name an infinitesimal few. Take a look through the chapter headings, they can explain the impressive range of work this book performs better than I can. I think both novices and comic connoisseurs would find this book both entertaining and useful.

In *The Poetics of Slumberland*, Scott Bukatman celebrates play, plasmatic possibility, and the life of images in cartoons, comics, and cinema. Bukatman begins with Winsor McCay's *Little Nemo in Slumberland* to explore how and why the emerging media of comics and cartoons brilliantly captured a playful, rebellious energy characterized by hyperbolic emotion, physicality, and imagination. The book broadens to consider similar "animated" behaviors in seemingly disparate media—films about Jackson Pollock, Pablo Picasso, and Vincent van Gogh; the musical *My Fair Lady* and the story of *Frankenstein*; the slapstick comedies of Jerry Lewis; and contemporary comic superheroes—drawing them all together as the purveyors of embodied utopias of disorder.

“Delightfully Chestertonian. . . . Bukatman shows the marvelous animated poetics of visual media. . . . Essential.”