

Jacob Bladders and the State of the Art

By Roman Muradov



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Jacob Bladders: illustrator, braggart, and victim of assault by thugs sent by the mysterious Charlie. Part satire of commercial art, part noirish detective story, part puzzle to be solved or left in pieces. Roman Muradov's latest is an ink-smeared Blakean vision of 1940s New York where Twitter exists as a network of pneumatic tubes, but artwork is still delivered by hand.

Roman Muradov was born in Moscow, Russia. He now resides in San Francisco, California. As an illustrator he has worked for *Vogue*, *Random House*, the *New Yorker*, the *New York Times*, and Penguin. In 2013, Muradov received a Gold Medal from the Society of Illustrators. His first book, (*In a Sense*) *Lost and Found*, was published last year by Nobrow Press.



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Jacob Bladders and the State of the Art By Roman Muradov Bibliography

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Editorial Review

Review

"Forget about pens being mightier than swords. Roman Muradov's pen is more like an exploding bomb. There is so much graphic innovation in this book that Muradov can hardly contain it in a panel. It's exciting to see this much talent let loose on a piece of white paper. Beauty and chaos in perfect harmony."—Seth, Author of

Palookaville

"The State Of The Art also reflects his current concern with a kind of parallax aesthetic, seemingly clear but just out of grasp. In a panel, a figure may be clear, but read with the kind of gusto the book invites, images quickly blur into one another; speech balloons from one panel appear to be picked up by a different character in another, and curlicue dialogue trails off or is irredeemably smeared by ink. Muradov builds The State Of The Art on non sequitur, elision, and circumlocution."—Onion A.V. Club

"But also cartooning, also comix here—Muradov's jutting anarchic tangles, often recoiling from the panel proper, recall George Herriman's seminal anarcho-strip Krazy Kat. (Whether or not Muradov intends such allusions is not the point at all. Rather, what we see here is a continuity of the form's best energies). Like Herriman's strip, Muradov's tale moves under the power of its own dream logic (more of a glide here than Herriman's manic skipping)."—*Biblioklept*

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