

BATMAN

LOVES
THE
UNIVERSE

**POP
CULTURE.
ART.
KITSCH.**

BERND HÖLLEN



BERND HÖLLEN
AUGUST, 2019



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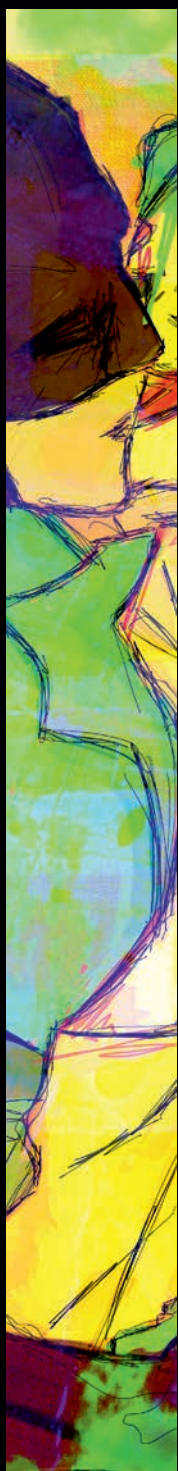
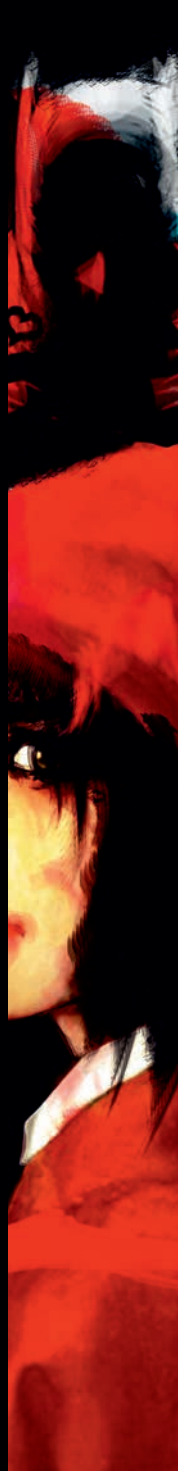


BATMAN LOVES THE UNIVERSE

The masked crusader became an icon over the last 80 years. A vigilante fighting for justice and his inner need to punish those who have killed his parents. Without any super powers like Superman, Captain America or the Mutants from the X-Men he keeps fighting, becoming a symbol – more than a man. The love for his family keeps driving him through the dark alleys of Gotham City. Day by day. Night by night.

This artbook shows different approaches of our pop cultural hero sharing his love to different characters, featuring family, friends and even enemies.

Besides the loving bat this project features multiple references of classical art from Magritte, Vermeer, Klimt, Courbet, Picasso and Warhol.







ELEKTRA & BATMAN







ELEKTRA & BATMAN

Bernd Höllen, 2019



GIRL WITH A PEARL EARRING

Johannes Vermeer, 1665

A DEADLY LOVE

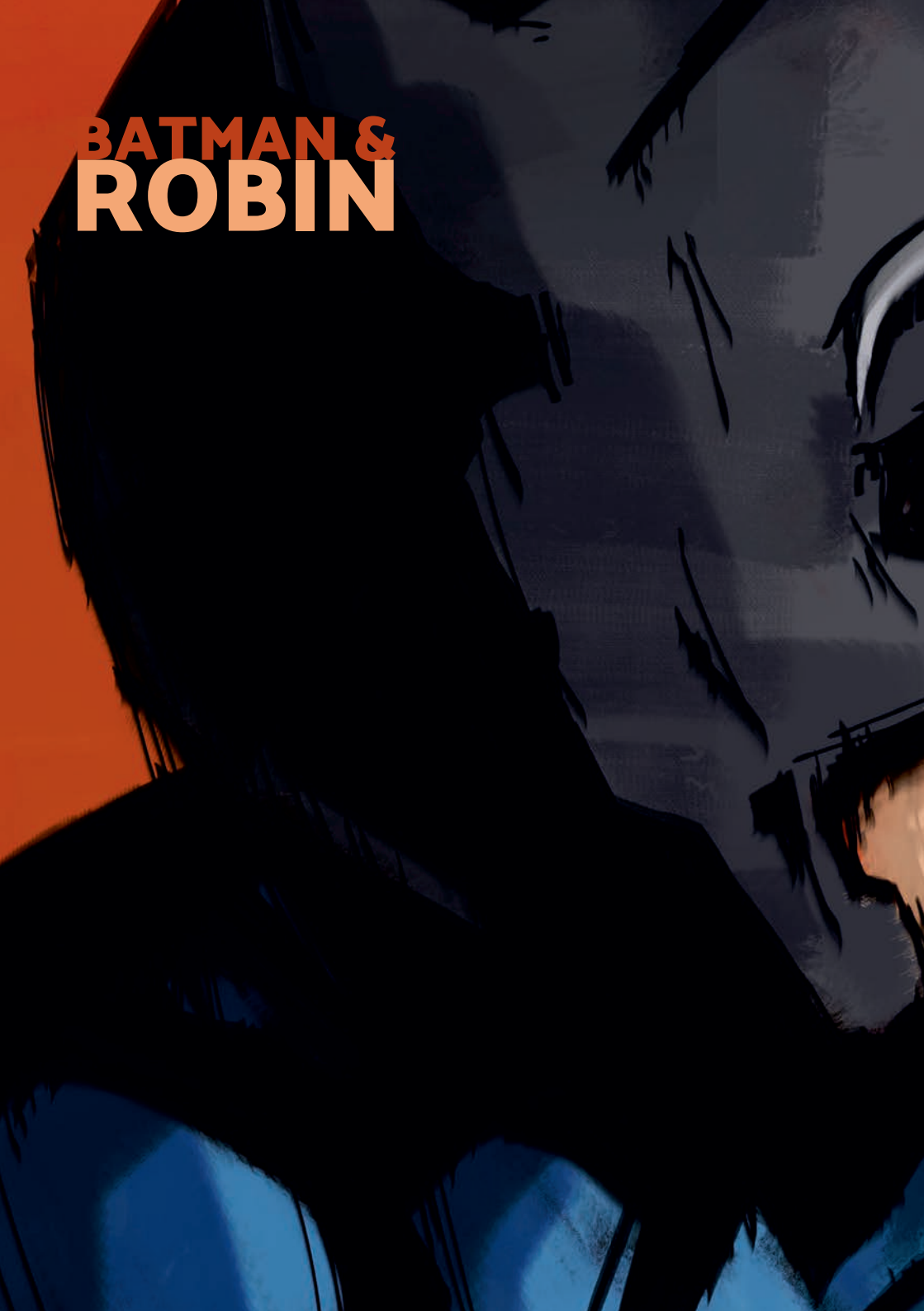
Batman met a lot of different people throughout storylines that have last for decades.

This artwork imagines him in a love relationship with Elektra - a deadly assissine. What if this relationship is far more cruel than most of Batman's encounters with street gangsters or even super villians?

Both characters are well trained fighters, but even if they fight for the right purpose, their actions often end up between black and white.

I wanted to set the image in contrast to an innocent, almost virgin like girl like the „Girl with a pearl earing“, to make this unpleasant feeling even more powerfull.

BATMAN & ROBIN







BATMAN & ROBIN

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MY GOD, HELP ME TO SURVIVE
THIS DEADLY LOVE

Graffiti, Berlin Wall, 1990

THE KISS OF BROTHERS

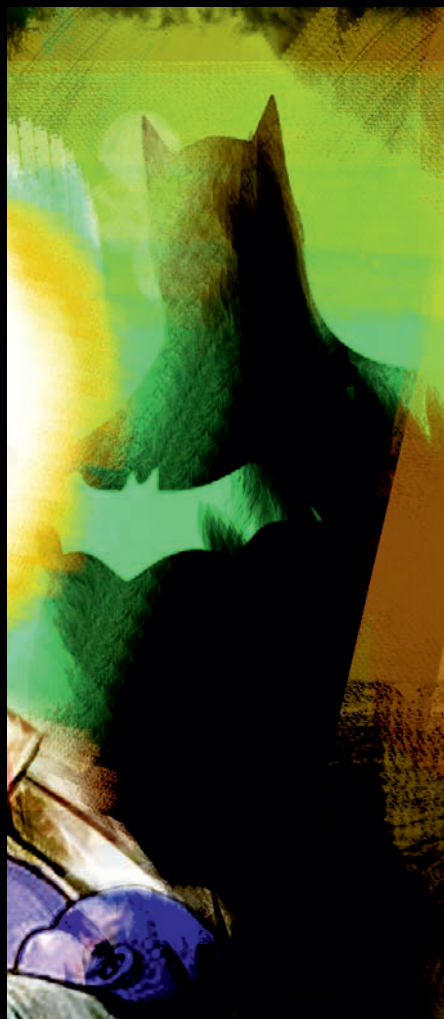
The socialist fraternal kiss is a special form of greeting between Marxist-Leninist socialists. It represents a special connection between the two parties kissing each other. It is not a kiss of love but the one of brothers.

I reimagined this concept and started thinking of what would it look and feel like if our Dark Crusader would greet his brother in arms Robin with such a kiss.

The Batman that is featured in this image represents the iconic Adam West, who played him during the 1960s TV-Series. Robin is based on the Dark Knight Returns Version by Frank Miller from 1986.



MYSTIQUE & BATMAN







MYSTIQUE & BATMAN

Bernd Höllen, 2019



VIRGIN OF THE LILIES

William Adolphe Bouguereau, 1899

BIRTH OF DIVERSITY

One of the most popular images in christian art is the symbol of Maria Magdalena - The Madonna. It often represents the love of a mother and her child.

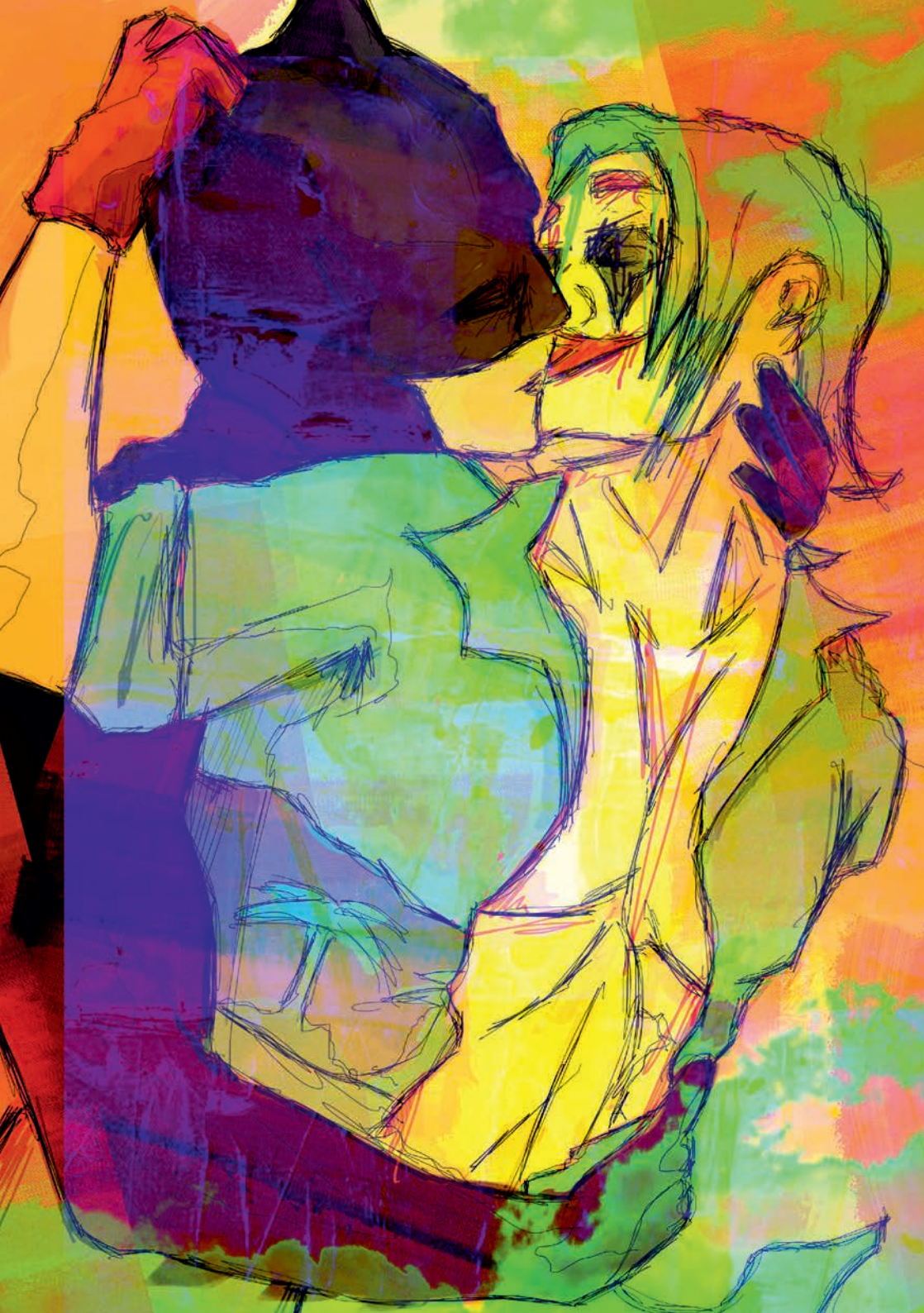
The image of Mystique, a mutant, a shape shifter and Batman who often has to overcome his humanity shows the love of diversity. It's a play of light and shadow, of a human and a pariah, of parents and a newborn, of life and death.

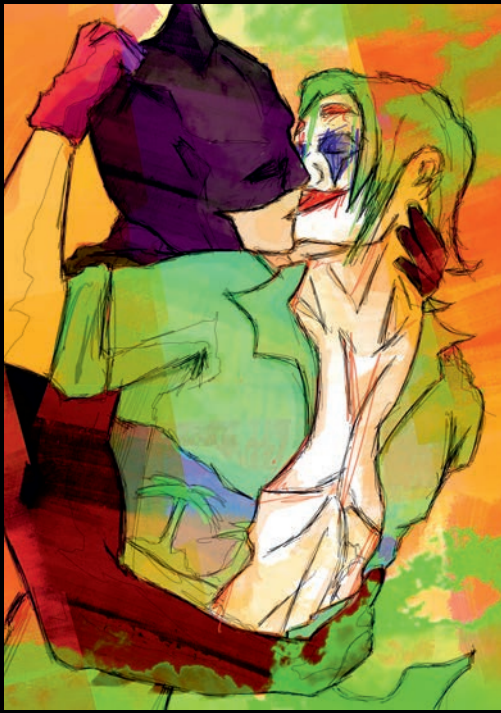
The whole image is not only representing a modern Madonna, it's also a so called „Cover Swipe“ of one of the most popular independent comics of all time - SAGA. In this comic two parents from different races and backgrounds fight for the life of her daughter.



JOKER & BATMAN







JOKER & BATMAN

Bernd Höllen, 2019



GAY LOVE

Suzann Sines

LOVE OF ENEMIES

Batman and The Joker, two characters that could not live without each other. Their relationship was always special and is one of the most iconic in comic book history.

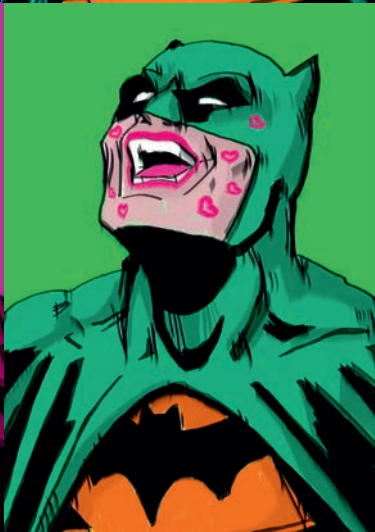
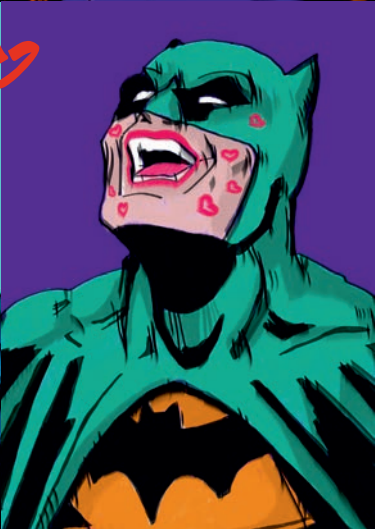
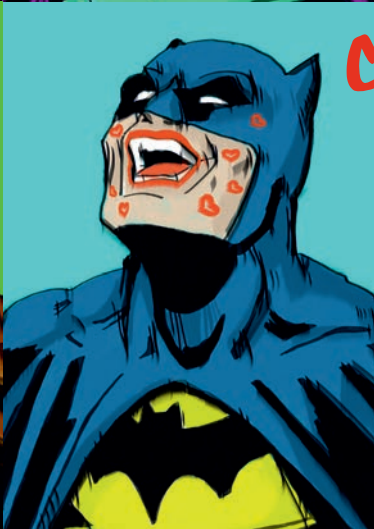
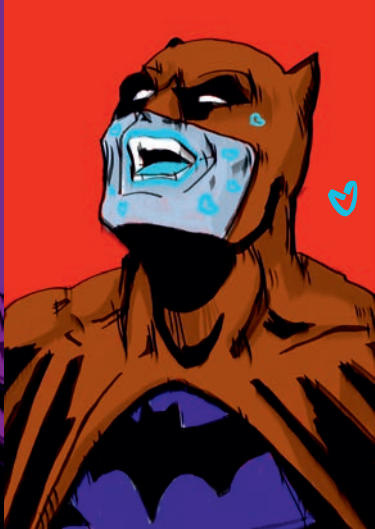
A man that would do almost anything to protect the people and the city he loves and a man that symbolizes pure chaos. A synergy of action and reaction, of love and hatred at the same time.

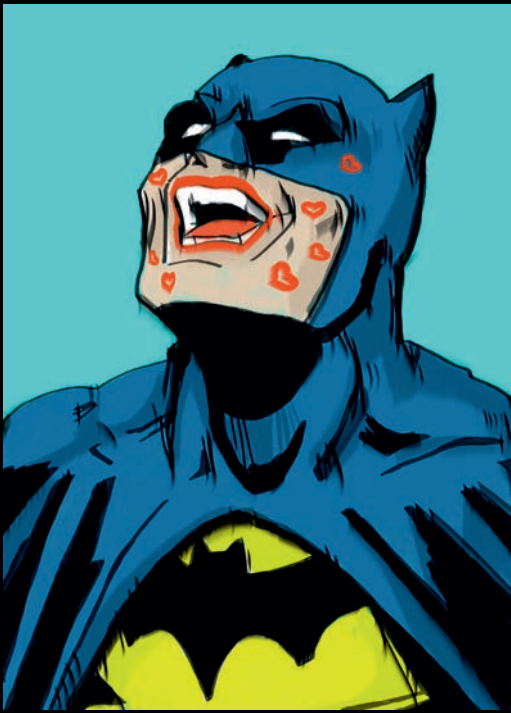
In Batman #40 from 2015, The masked Crusader and his archenemy battle each other until death. Right before Batman passes out, lying right next to The Joker he calls his butler Alfred Pennyworth saying: „I'm just going to rest here a little while with my friend.“

So what if these two became more than just friends?



BATMAN & THE MULTIVERSE





BATMAN AND THE MULTIVERSE

Bernd Höllen, 2019



MARILYN DIPTYCH

Andy Warhol, 1962

COLOURFUL LOVE

Batman has always fascinated me since I was a kid and as a graphic designer I love to play around with colours and graphic elements in art.

Andy Warhol has created a lot of amazing and colourful pieces of art featuring celebrities like the iconic Marilyn Monroe.

I took a shot at another pop cultural icon full of laughter and love. An image of Batman and The Joker combined.



POISON IVY & BATMAN





POISON IVY & BATMAN

Bernd Höllen, 2019



ROMEO AND JULIET

Sir Frank Bernhard Dicksee, 1884

LOVE AND DEATH

Another famous piece of art is the tragic story of Romeo and Juliet. A love that should last, even in death itself.

Poison Ivy is a well established comic book character in the DC Universe. She is one of Batmans villains that seduces her victims and simply kills them with a poisonous kiss.

In this artwork I tried to catch the romantic but tragic atmosphere of this image and combined it with our beloved pop culture icons.

This image is another Cover Swipe of this years comic book wedding series of Batman and Catwoman, which also turned out pretty bad.

BATMAN BUSTED







BATMAN BUSTED

Bernd Höllen, 2019



DESPERATE MAN

Gustave Courbet, 1843-1845

GOT'CHA, BRUCE

The Desperate Man - A phrase that couldn't describe Batman as a character any better. He is desperate to find the killer of his parents, he is desperate to keep his family safe and he is desperate to fight for justice.

But what if he is not in control? What if The Joker caught him, strangled him or even tried to rape him? A disturbed but surprised Batman in a weird and almost comedic scenario who felt caught after the act of love.

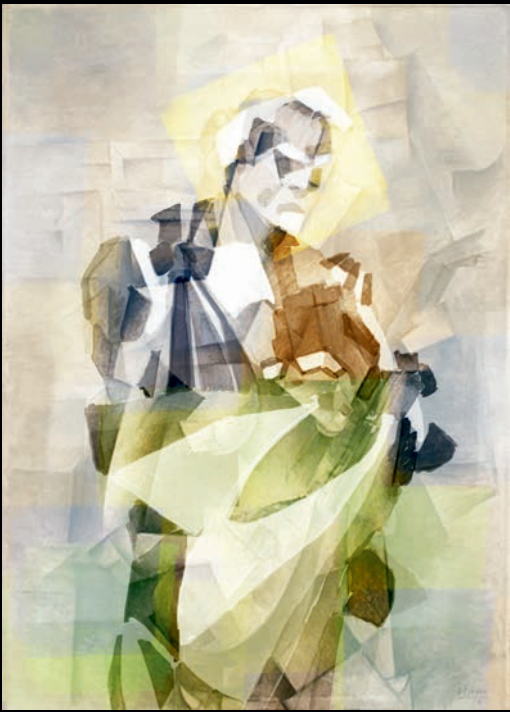


BATMAN

FATHER&SON







BATMAN & ROBIN

Bernd Höllen, 2019



GIRL WITH MANDOLIN

Pablo Picasso, 1910

A FATHER'S LOVE

Batman and Robin, in all his different variations and characters, always had a loving relationship not only as friends but more as a father and a son.

This image shows a scene from *The Dark Knight Returns* by Frank Miller. The old Bruce Wayne hugs his sidekick after he has been injured. Without his iconic armor he shows his more human side which makes this scene so much more powerful.

I have chosen the artstyle of Pablo Picasso, because of his use of different fragments and elements that almost feel like a shattered image. It represents all the fights that both of them have been through.



BATMAN
SAD LOVE





BATMAN - SAD LOVE

Bernd Höllen, 2019



THE LOVERS

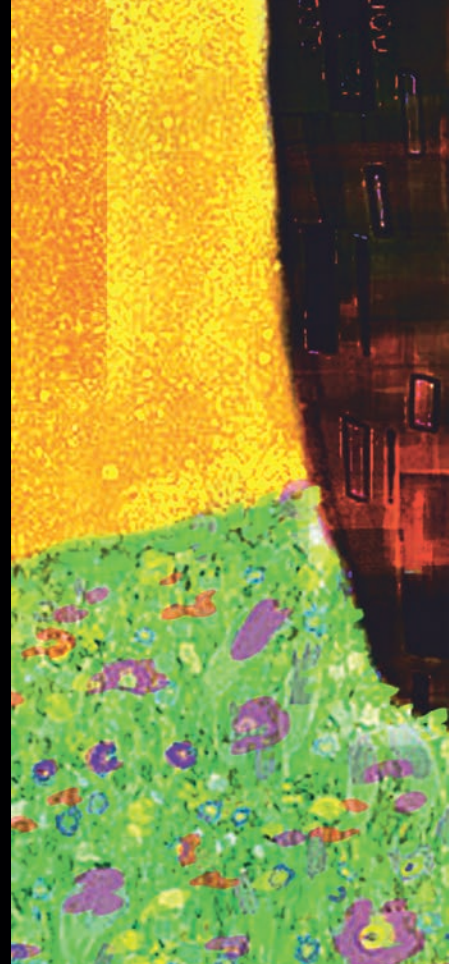
René Magritte, 1928

THE MASKED AND LONELY

The Masked Crusader - A strong man hiding behind a mask to protect his loved ones. But all this hiding leaves a scar, even on the strongest man.

This artwork imagines Batman trying to connect to other people but still not being able to face them. He is a sad and broken individual trying to be loved.

He stands out of the mass even if he tries to blend in.



DARK KNIGHT **LOVE & DEATH**







DARK KNIGHT - LOVE & DEATH

Bernd Höllen, 2019



THE KISS

Gustav Klimt, 1907-1908

SURROUNDED BY THE NIGHT

The last image of this artbook shows The Dark Knight in a love scene with Poison Ivy. This time his black cloak surrounds her and covers almost her whole body.

The passion of this act tilts in an almost cruel interaction. Like a vampire that feasts on a virgin.

The creature of the night overcomes his human form and becomes one with his victim. A bitter sweet symphony.



**POP
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H O C H
S C H U L E
T R I E R





BATMAN THE UNIVERSE

This artbook shows the masked crusader and comic book icon **Batman** in a different perspective. The Dark Knight becomes a creature trying to quench his thirst for love.

Pop Culture and Kitsch meets historic artworks combining those with comic book characters from publishers like Marvel, DC and Image Comics created by Motion Book Artist **Bernd Höllen**.



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H O C H
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