



**Will Eisner**  
COMIC INDUSTRY  
AWARDS

# 2021 EISNER AWARDS

Jackie Estrada, Administrator  
Under the auspices of  
Comic-Con International

**ENTRIES ARE NOW BEING ACCEPTED** for the 2021 Will Eisner Comic Industry Awards, to be given to the best publications and creators of 2020. Awards will be presented in the following **tentative** categories:

- Best short story
- Best single issue/one-shot
- Best continuing comic book series (at least two issues must have been published in 2020)
- Best limited comic book series (at least half of the series must have been published in 2020)
- Best new series
- Best publication for early readers
- Best publication for kids
- Best publication for teens
- Best anthology
- Best humor publication
- Best U.S. edition of international material
- Best U.S. edition of international material—Asia
- Best graphic album—new material
- Best graphic album—reprint material (not archival)
- Best reality-based work (graphic album or comic)
- Best adaptation from another medium
- Best digital comic (published online in 2020)
- Best webcomic (long-form stories published online in 2020)
- Best archival collection: comic strips/Best archival collection: comic books (material must be at least 20 years old)
- Best writer (who does not also do the art on a title)
- Best writer/artist (cartoonist)
- Best penciller/inker or penciller/inker team (nonwriter)
- Best painter (interior art, not covers)
- Best cover artist (must be for multiple covers)
- Best coloring
- Best lettering
- Best comics journalism publication or website
- Best comics-related book (book about comics)
- Best academic/scholarly work
- Best publication design

**THE SELECTION PROCESS:** An independent panel of judges will carefully consider all entries and choose the items to be included on the final ballot. The judges may add or drop categories at their discretion. In May the final ballot will be available online to the comics industry (publishers, creators, distributors, retailers). The winners will be announced at Comic-Con International: San Diego in July.

**WHO CAN SUBMIT ENTRIES:** Publishers and creators are invited to submit entries. A publisher can submit a set of entries for each of its imprints or subdivisions.

**ELIGIBILITY:** Any comic, graphic novel/album, or comics-related periodical/book shipped to retailers or bookstores or first made available online in the U.S. between January 1, 2020 and December 31, 2020 is eligible. Publications must not be more than 50 percent reprint material (except in the graphic album—reprint and archival categories); international material published for the first time in English the United States in 2020 is eligible.

**CRITERION:** The primary criterion for submissions should be overall quality. Popularity and sales should not figure into selection of entries.

**HOW TO SUBMIT ENTRIES:** One copy of each comic, album, book, or periodical must be provided for the judges to consider. **Publishers may submit up to a maximum of five nominees in any one category.** For items entered in multiple categories, **only one copy** need be submitted. (Sorry, entries cannot be returned. Nominated items will be kept for display at the Comic-Con and will go into the awards archives at Virginia Commonwealth University; the remaining items will be donated to the Comic-Con blood drive.) For webcomics, digital comics, and journalism websites, please submit URLs and access information.

A **cover letter** must accompany your submissions, indicating what you are submitting and in what categories. Be sure to supply contact information, **including a mailing address and an e-mail address.** For each category, the cover letter should provide the title and the writer and artist credits. Example:

Dear Eisner Awards:

I am enclosing the following items for consideration: Best continuing series: *Help Me* by Sarah Smith (w) and Edward Jones (p/i); Best graphic album—new: *Agita* by Kim Soon; Best writer/artist: Guy Gilowitz for *Leaving Town*; Best cover artist: Edward Jones for *Help Me* and Kim Soon for *Agita* . . . (and so on).

All entries must be **received** at the Eisner Awards offices by March 15, 2021. If you have any questions, call Jackie Estrada at (619) 414-1020 or e-mail her: [jackie@comic-con.org](mailto:jackie@comic-con.org).

**DEADLINE: March 15, 2021**

**Mail submissions to:**  
**Jackie Estrada/Eisner Awards**  
**Comic-Con International**  
**PO Box 128458**  
**San Diego, CA 92112-8458**  
*(for UPS/FedEx inquire about street address)*

## Eisner Awards Submission Letter Guidelines

A printed submission letter should accompany your Eisner Awards submissions. In addition, it is helpful to send a copy via email to [jackie@comic-con.org](mailto:jackie@comic-con.org) (preferably a Word file but can also be a pdf).

It will be very helpful for us in compiling a master list of all submissions if you can follow these guidelines to ease the cut-and-paste process in Word:

### **Do:**

- List submissions in the order of the categories listed on the Call for Entries (and not, for instance, in alphabetical order by title or in random order).
- List multiple submissions in a single category in alphabetical order.
- For publication-related categories (comics' series, kids' categories, graphic album, etc.) provide the title plus the writer and penciller/inker (do not include the colorist, letterer, cover artist, editor, etc.).
- For individual-related categories (writer, writer/artist, penciller/inker, painter, etc.) provide the titles of all the works you are submitting by that person.
- Provide a separate cover letter for each imprint, if you have multiple imprints.

### **Don't:**

- Put anything in all caps.
- Use boldface (italics are okay for titles of works).
- Use any special formatting (bullets, indents, numbered lists, boxes).
- Nominate creators in the individual categories for work that was reprinted (and not original) in 2020.
- Nominate graphic novels or kids' books in the "series" categories (continuing, new), as those categories are for comic books only.
- Nominate single issues as "short stories." A short story must be within an anthology or bigger work or else appear online.
- Provide blurbs/descriptions/background of the works being submitted.
- Send promotional materials.

If you have questions about the most appropriate categories for particular publications, please feel free to email [jackie@comic-con.org](mailto:jackie@comic-con.org). Note that ultimately, it will be up to the judges to make the final decisions about what items go in which categories.