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In a discussion of contemporary Italian graphic novels, we will see how the comic medium—with its hybrid language and focus on reader participation—is uniquely adept at storytelling in the post 9/11 era.

An analysis of the works of the comics artist, Gipi, reveals the comic form's potential for melding the personal and the universal, and for engaging with contemporary problems of visuality in terms of looking, seeing, and understanding. Ultimately, Gipi's comics comment on the ethical implications of our participation, or lack thereof, in the events that surround us, as he implicates himself and his readers in our current historical moment.