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Questions: “The Manga Artist”, “Full House”, “In Defense of Graphic Novels”

1. From “A Conversation With PEN America Best Debut Short Stories 2019 Author Doug Henderson,” Henderson said that “The form often comes separately from the narrative arc. I’ve always liked when I go to a museum and the sign next to the art says mixed media.”

“**mixed media**” may be his inspiration and intention to use this medium in his story. So, do you think using “mixed media” in stories is effective as in art works? Does this technique help the reader understand the story better or make the story more fun? Do you see differences or similarities in using this technique with art works and fictions?

***สื่อผสม** (อังกฤษ: mixed media) เป็นจิตรศิลป์ ในการนำสื่อมากกว่าสองสื่อ หรือศิลปะมากกว่าสองแขนงมารวมกันขึ้นไปมาสร้างเป็นงานชิ้นเดียวกัน โดยนิยมใช้สื่อที่แตกต่างกัน มานำจุดเด่นของแต่ละสื่อมาใช้ร่วมกัน เช่น การสร้างภาพชุดชีวิตของนักบุญฟรังซิสแห่งอัสซีซีตามโบสถ์น้อยต่าง ๆ ที่กุเอซาคัตส์ลิตซ์แห่งที่ดมอนต์และลอมบาร์ดีทางตอนเหนือของประเทศอิตาลีที่ใช้ทั้งประติมากรรมและจิตรกรรมมาผสมผสานเข้าเป็นการทำงานชิ้นเดียวกัน ที่ทำให้เป็นงานที่มีลักษณะเป็นสามมิติ

2. What do you think about the relationship between a teacher and a student in the story? Do you think it is appropriate? Should it be applied to Thai educational society? Why?

(Panel 37: But in Fujieda, there are not many places for foreigners to mix with the Japanese, or for the Japanese to mix with foreigners. And the students were eager for contact. So, teachers taught in their free time. They met up with students in the bars on the weekends. They fucked the women crazy and broke their hearts.)

3. What does “too serious” in the gay world mean? Is it similar or different in the straight world?

(Panel 46: Masashige and Scotty are naked in bed. The panel shows them from the chest up. "Is this getting too serious?" Scotty asks

Panel 48: Masashige closes his eyes and says, "The gay world is sad.")

4. Do you think Alfonso and Hamuchan are representatives of Scotty and Masashige? When Hamuchan is chewing on a wire and Alfonso yells “That’s dangerous” and he replies “But it’s delicious,” does the narrator try to communicate something?

If yes, why do you think he (Masashige) represents himself and Scotty in the manga?

(Panel 66: In another panel, Alfonso shouts 'Abunail' when Hamuchan chews on a wire. "Demo oishii desu," Hamuchan say, looking embarrassed, the wire still hanging from his mouth. A word balloon floats at the bottom of the page. "Alfonso yells, 'That's dangerous!' And Hamuchan says, 'But it's delicious.'")

5. What do you think about the fact that the narrator decided to delete the scene that Scotty and Masashige tell that they love each other? Why did he leave the message telling that he deleted it instead of simply excluding it from the story?

(Panel 83-84: Scotty collapses on top of Masashige. They are both huffing and puffing, but eventually their heartbeats slow down. Their bodies press together. "I love you," Masashige whispers. "I love you too," Scotty says. Their word balloons are small and perfectly round. **These two panels are sketched in pencil I never inked them. Heavy black lines cross through them.**)

6. What do you think about the end of the story? Do you think the end of the manga "Alfonso" was created by whom? Scotty or Masashige? (Will they see each other again? Will they end up together?)

(Panel 115: Alfonso and Hamuchan have left the school. They are running down the wide front stairs, fear and excitement in their eyes. Before them a field of wild grass stretches tall and terrifying beyond the final edges of the page. Doug Henderson received his MFA from the University of San Francisco and lives in the Castro District with his husband and daughter.)

7. Why does David hide his gayness? (Compared to Scotty)
8. What is interesting in "Full House"? Do you like it? Why?
9. The Author Sedaris has long insisted that his nonfiction stories are both true and exaggerated. Which parts of the story do you think are the truth or exaggeration?
10. As Liesl Shurtliff in "In Defense of Graphic Novels" supports children to read all kinds of books to develop a positive relationship with reading, whatever medium it is should not be denied, do you agree with that? What kinds of books make you become a book lover?

11. Corey in “In Defense of Graphic Novels” says that “She (her teacher) said there are too many pictures and it’s not enough of a challenge for my brain.” Do you agree that pictures are not enough of a challenge for the brain compared to words?