

## Adrian Tomine

né en 1974, à Sacramento (Etats-Unis)

Since 2025, Adrian Tomine has undertaken a series of drawings made in ink and watercolor, conceived as a visual diary of the films he watches. Each image corresponds to a screening, not as a commentary or critique, but as a trace—quick, spontaneous, almost intimate.

Faithful to his sketchbook practice, Tomine finds here a freer space, freed from the narrative constraints of comics. In a few lines and areas of color, he captures an atmosphere, a fragment, a detail—less the film itself than the memory that remains of it.

In these small-format images, one finds the precision of his gaze and his attention to silences, to in-between moments, to those discreet instants where everything seems to take place. Cinema is not represented here; it is filtered, absorbed, and then rendered in a minimal, almost fragile form.



Adrian Tomine, *Sentimental Value* by Joachim Trier, aquarelle et encre sur papier, 13,5 x 9 cm  
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## BIOGRAPHIE

Adrian Tomine is an American author, illustrator and editor recognised as one of the major voices of independent North American comics.

Born into a Japanese-American family whose parents had experienced internment camps as children during the Second World War, he grew up in an environment of constant change. After his parents divorced, he followed his mother through many moves, living notably in Europe before returning to settle in the United States.

A precocious artist, he self-published his first mini-comics and fanzines from the age of sixteen. Still in high school, he launched *Optic Nerve*, an intimate series deeply rooted in the observation of everyday life. From 1994 onward, when he was only twenty years old, the Canadian publisher Drawn & Quarterly took over publication of the series, giving it an international audience. It became one of the landmark works of independent North American comics, distinguished by the acuity of its gaze on human relationships, solitude, emotional awkwardness and the intimate fractures that run through modern life. Published irregularly but pursued over several decades, it remains one of the most significant titles in the American independent scene.

Initially marked by a tone oscillating between spleen, cynicism and vulnerability, Tomine's work explores contemporary malaise, the emotional chaos of urban dwellers, the gap between the apparent superficiality of his young characters and the latent depression inhabiting them, as well as the difficulty of communicating or finding one's place in societies he often depicts as fragile. Over time, he has developed his graphic language, gradually incorporating colour, movement, humour and formal elements such as thought balloons, motion lines or visual evocations of interiority.

Among the influences he openly claims are Jaime Hernandez, Daniel Clowes and Chris Ware, essential figures of alternative American comics.

In 2020, Jacques Audiard drew inspiration from Adrian Tomine's story *Les Intrus* to make *Les Olympiades*, a film co-written with Léa Mysius and Céline Sciamma, transposing his visual and emotional universe into contemporary Paris.

A graduate in English literature from the University of California, Berkeley, he has also developed a major career as an illustrator for leading magazines and journals, including *The New Yorker*, *Esquire*, *Rolling Stone* and McSweeney's publications. He also supervised the North American publication of the works of realist manga pioneer Yoshihiro Tatsumi, helping to bring them to a wide readership.

Adrian Tomine now lives and works in Brooklyn.

## BIBLIOGRAPHIE

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2011 — *Scenes From an Impending Marriage*, Drawn & Quarterly

2008 — *Insomnie et Autres Histoires*, Delcourt

2008 — *Loin d'être parfait*, Delcourt

2007 — *Shortcomings*. Recueil d'histoires publiées dans *Optic Nerve* n° 9 à 11.

2004 — *Scrapbook – Uncollected Work 1990-2004*, Drawn & Quarterly

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2003 — *Blonde platine*, Seuil

2002 — *Summer Blonde*. Recueil de quatre histoires publiées dans *Optic Nerve* n° 5 à 8.

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1995 — *32 Stories: The Complete Optic Nerve Mini-Comics*, Drawn & Quarterly