



PEACE by Camilo Aguirre

WHY WE LIKE IT: *Pictures were the first words and strings of images the first stories. And though they eventually parted company to become 'art' and 'literature', the combined medium has never lost its appeal. From comic books and yaoi to the sophisticated 'pic lit' of Art Spiegelman it is still with us and the message is strong. In Camilo's Aguirre's short double language hybrid, the black and white images, like virtual linocuts, bolster the stark meaning behind the words to become icons of protest. A talented young graphic writer who parks his conscience front and center and whose foreboding words/images hit hard.*



Afuera de los campamentos
merodeaban asesinos. El
tiempo pasaba y el gobierno
no actuaba

Killers were hanging outside
the camps. Time passed and
the government did not act.



Muchos intentaron escapar,
a muchos los mataron.

Many tried to escape, many
were killed.



Algunos jóvenes escaparon y
los reclutaron otros grupos.

Some young people escaped
and recruited other groups.



AUTHOR’S NOTE: Peace is a small comic narrating the violence in the aftermath of the Colombian armed conflict. Peace's panels are based on testimonies from interviews to former FARC guerrillas who demobilized after the peace treaty and then were violently persecuted by different forces including the State's. It is an attempt to explain the continuity of violence and how peace is a laborious effort that implicates all the members of a society. Stylistically it is inspired in the wordless novels from the early twentieth century with authors such as Frans Masereel, Lynd Ward or Laurence Hyde, and of course the graphic artists during the Mexican revolution such as Jose Guadalupe Posada or Alfredo Zalce. The image sequences in wordless novels have an economy in terms of storytelling that

appeal to symbolism and allegory mixing lyricism with communication effectiveness.

AUTHOR'S BIO: Camilo Aguirre is a Colombian cartoonist. Visit him at <https://camilo-aguirre.wixsite.com/comics/>