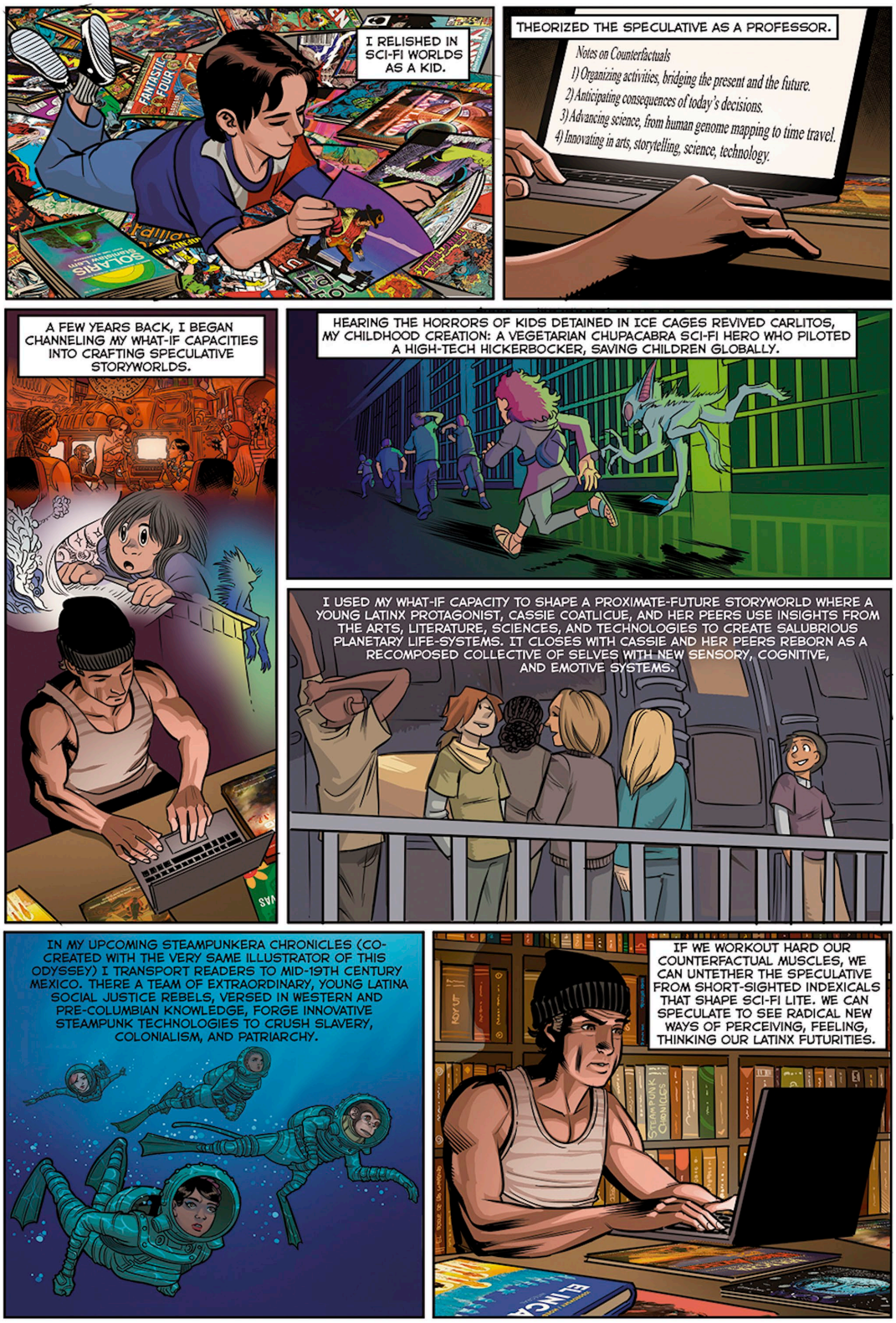
An AutoSpeculative Odyssey by Frederick Luis Aldama
Art by Miguel Hérnandez


I RELISHED IN SCI-FI WORLDS AS A KID.
THEORIZED THE SPECULATIVE AS A PROFESSOR.
Notes on Counterfactuals
1) Organizing activities, bridging the present and the future.
2) Anticipating consequences of today's decisions.
3) Advancing science, from human genome mapping to time travel.
4) Innovating in arts, storytelling, science, technology.
A FEW YEARS BACK, I BEGAN CHANNELING MY WHAT-IF CAPACITIES INTO CRAFTING SPECULATIVE STORYWORLDS.
HEARING THE HORRORS OF KIDS DETAINED IN ICE CAGES REVIVED CARLITOS, MY CHILDHOOD CREATION: A VEGETARIAN CHUPACABRA SCI-FI HERO WHO PILOTED A HIGH-TECH HICKERBOCKER, SAVING CHILDREN GLOBALLY.
I USED MY WHAT-IF CAPACITY TO SHAPE A PROXIMATE-FUTURE STORYWORLD WHERE A YOUNG LATINX PROTAGONIST, CASSIE COATLICUE, AND HER PEERS USE INSIGHTS FROM THE ARTS, LITERATURE, SCIENCES, AND TECHNOLOGIES TO CREATE SALUBRIOUS PLANETARY LIFE-SYSTEMS. IT CLOSES WITH CASSIE AND HER PEERS REBORN AS A RECOMPOSED COLLECTIVE OF SELVES WITH NEW SENSORY, COGNITIVE, AND EMOTIVE SYSTEMS.
IN MY UPCOMING STEAMPUNKERA CHRONICLES (CO-CREATED WITH THE VERY SAME ILLUSTRATOR OF THIS ODYSSEY) I TRANSPORT READERS TO MID-19TH CENTURY MEXICO. THERE A TEAM OF EXTRAORDINARY, YOUNG LATINA SOCIAL JUSTICE REBELS, VERSED IN WESTERN AND PRE-COLUMBIAN KNOWLEDGE, FORGE INNOVATIVE STEAMPUNK TECHNOLOGIES TO CRUSH SLAVERY, COLONIALISM, AND PATRIARCHY.
IF WE WORKOUT HARD OUR COUNTERFACTUAL MUSCLES, WE CAN UNTETHER THE SPECULATIVE FROM SHORT-SIGHTED INDEXICALS THAT SHAPE SCI-FI LITE. WE CAN SPECULATE TO SEE RADICAL NEW WAYS OF PERCEIVING, FEELING, THINKING OUR LATINX FUTURITIES.