

**FRENCH COMICS FRAMED FESTIVAL BRINGS  
FRANCOPHONE GRAPHIC NOVELS AND THEIR  
CREATORS TO NEW YORK CITY SEPTEMBER 26 –  
NOVEMBER 5**

**Featuring an unprecedented exhibition of 50 graphic novel  
illustrations and panel discussions with 18 European  
graphic novelists**

**Private press preview to be held on Monday, September 26, 9:30  
- 11am Exhibition: The Cooper Union Foundation Building, 7 East 7th  
St, NYC**

**September 14, 2016, New York—**The French Comics Association is pleased to present the inaugural *French Comics Framed*, a month-long festival devoted to presenting the best work of francophone graphic novelists, **September 26 - November 5**. The festival comprises an exhibition at Cooper Union and a series of discussions around New York City. Most events are free and open to the public.

*French Comics Framed* will offer a rare opportunity to hear from best-selling authors, along with French and American publishers.

An **exhibition** in the Fourth Avenue Colonnade of The Cooper Union Foundation Building, of over 50 graphic novel illustrations—presented for the first time in the United States—will take viewers through the history of Franco-Belgian comics art. Some panel discussions exploring the graphic novel creation process will feature 18 francophone graphic novelists, American artists such as **Matt Madden** and experts including **Heidi McDonald** and **Alex Dueben**. The festival will also include multiple illustration workshops throughout the city and a strong French presence at the **New York Comic Con**, where the French Comics Association will have a permanent booth October 6-9.

At the 2015 San Diego Comic Con, comiXology CEO David Steinberger called for “the ‘French Invasion’ of comics in the English language market.” Over a year later, *French Comics Framed* exposes English-speaking audiences to French language comics translated into English and showcases the excellence and remarkable variety of French language graphic novels today.

“Since the early 1900s, graphic novels have remained a firmly-rooted staple of Franco-Belgian culture and an essential element of French creativity,” said **Philippe Ostermann, Head of the French Comics Association**. “Our graphic novel industry is the third largest worldwide and French-language graphic novels have introduced major characters such as Asterix, Tintin, the Smurfs and Lucky Luke onto the global landscape. The Franco-Belgian graphic novel industry has developed a particularly strong presence in the American market, with between 60 and 100 translations published every year in the U.S. We are excited for *French Comics Framed* to give voice to major contemporary figures of Franco-Belgian comics and deepen their presence on the American landscape.”

The centerpiece of the festival, the *French Comics Framed* exhibition, will be on view September 26 - November 5 at The Cooper Union, an institution known for its high-quality arts, architecture and engineering programs. The show will feature a selection of the best of French comics, presented through images and illustrations highlighting architecture in the design Franco-Belgian comics as well as Franco-Belgian comics narrative style. The exhibit takes the viewer on a journey through time and space, from **Hergé’s** well-known “ligne claire” to groundbreaking structural innovations by artists such as **Fred (Philémon)**, and to the new scene of French comics today, with images from cutting-edge artists such as **Julie Maroh, David B., and Pénélope Bagieu**.

“Beyond its reputation as an entertaining literary and artistic medium, the graphic novel is a true art form in France—it has even garnered the title ‘the ninth art,’” said **Bénédicte de Montlaur, Cultural Counselor of the Embassy of France**. “It feels extremely important to us to contribute to sharing this integral part of our culture with the American public. We have long been committed to this goal, and in recent years have organized events featuring the new generation of younger and edgy graphic novelists such as Joann Sfar and Marjane Satrapi (*Persepolis*), in addition to offering graphic novels at our reading room and bookshop, Albertine. *French Comics Framed* furthers our work to support French graphic novels and goes one step further. By making these works our focus, through an exhibition and a series of talks, we expose the unique artistry of Franco-Belgian graphic novelists in the U.S.”

Eighteen of the exhibited illustrators will travel across the Atlantic to participate in the festival. New York Comic Con hosts **Pénélope Bagieu, Olivier Balez, Alessandro Barbucci, François Boucq, Stéphane Créty, Etienne Davodeau, Asaf Hanuka, Matz, Jean-Claude Mézières, Nicolas**

**Otero, Arthur de Pins, Jean-Marc Rochette and Anne Simon**, who will each participate in book signings and talks. The **Kerascoët** duo (**Marie Pommeuy** and **Sébastien Cosset**), who have been nominated for an Eisner award for *Beautiful Darkness*, will also come to New York as part of a U.S. tour, starting with a participation in MICEXPO in Boston (October 29-30).

Just before the opening of the exhibition at The Cooper Union, an intimate, **private press preview** will take place in the gallery on **Monday, September 26** from 9.30 to 11am. It will include a tour with exhibition curators **Philippe Ostermann** and **Colombine Depaire**, followed by a conversation and book-signing session with authors **Jacques Ferrandez, Clément Oubrierie** and **Julie Birmant**. To RSVP, please contact Blake Zidell or John Wyszniwski at Blake Zidell & Associates: [718.643.9052](tel:718.643.9052), [blake@blakezidell.com](mailto:blake@blakezidell.com) or [john@blakezidell.com](mailto:john@blakezidell.com)

On social networks throughout the festival and at the New York Comic Con event, special exhibition tours and book signings can be booked with the artists. Join us on Instagram #ComicsFramed, Twitter @FrenchBooksUSA and Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/ComicsFramed/> @ComicsFramed.

*French Comics Framed* is led by the French Comics Association, in partnership with the Centre National du Livre, the Bureau International de l'Édition, the Syndicat National de l'Édition and the Cultural Services of the French Embassy in the U.S.

### **FRENCH COMICS FRAMED SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 6pm, free Panel discussion: *The Influence of French Comics in Children's Literature*** Albertine Bookstore 972 Fifth Avenue, New York NY 10075 Featuring authors Jacques Ferrandez and Clément Oubrierie, and publishers Françoise Mouly and Mark Siegel. An event in partnership with the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators

Comics and graphic novels have found a readership across generations. In recent years, comics adaptations of literary classics have even allowed younger audiences to discover complex masterpieces. As children become more discerning readers, artists need to develop captivating stories to hold their interest. What makes a children's comic a bestseller? How best to address younger audience?

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 4, 7pm, \$15, Student price \$10**Panel discussion: *Conversation with Asaf Hanuka and Tomer Hanuka*The Society of Illustrators 128 E. 63rd Street, NY 10065 Twin brothers Asaf and Tomer Hanuka discuss their opposing approaches to storytelling and their collaborative work on *The Divine*. Asaf Hanuka just won an Eisner Award for *The Realist* at this year's San Diego Comic Con.

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 5, 6:30pm, free**Exhibition party at The Cooper Union The Foundation Building, 7 East 7th Street, NY 10003 RSVP at [VIP@frenchculture.org](mailto:VIP@frenchculture.org)

**THU-SUN, OCTOBER 6-9, with pass**Booth and Book Signing: New York Comic Con Javits Center, 655 W 34th St, NY 10001 A wide selection of Francophone comics in English translation, presented by numerous American publishers, at booth #1558. *French Comics Framed* artists will present their innovative works and best-selling books at New York Comic Con and in the convention's Artist Alley, where a book signing will be held.

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 6, 7pm, free**Panel discussion: *French Comics on Screen: Film Adaptations of Franco-Belgian Graphic Narratives* Featuring Etienne Davodeau, Matz, Jean-Claude Mézières, Arthur de Pins and Jean-Marc Rochette Moderated by Alex Dueben (*The Paris Review* and *The Believer*) The School of Visual Arts, 209 E 23rd St, NY 10010 (3rd floor) Jean-Claude Mézières, creator of the classic francophone graphic novel series *Valerian and Laureline*, will discuss his role in Luc Besson's 2017 film adaptation of the series, and Jean-Marc Rochette will detail his involvement in the movie version of his *Snowpiercer* (with Chris Evans). Matz will explain how legendary *Warriors* director Walter Hill's unproduced screenplays became comics, and Arthur de Pins and Etienne Davodeau will speak about indie adaptations.

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 7, 6:30pm, free**Panel discussion: *Drawing Life: Who is the Parisian Roz Chast?* Featuring Olivier Balez, Pénélope Bagieu, Etienne Davodeau, Asaf Hanuka, and Anne Simon Moderated by Heidi Macdonald (*The Comics Beat*) Museum of the City of New York, 1220 Fifth Avenue, NY 10029 Accompanying the current exhibition *Roz Chast: Cartoon Memoirs*, this discussion will focus on the ever-lively and inventive world of French cartooning. Who is the Parisian Roz Chast (if there is one)? What are the major themes explored through the rise of graphic biography in France ?

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8, 1:30-2:30pm, with pass**  
**Panel discussion: *Drawing From the World: Franco-Belgian Comics in Global Context***  
**Featuring Olivier Balez, Alessandro Barbucci, François Boucq, Asaf Hanuka, Nicolas Otero**  
**Moderated by Matt Madden (author of *Drawing Words and Writing Pictures: Making Comics*)**  
**New York Comic Con (room 1B03), Jacob K. Javits Convention Center, 655 W. 34th St., NY 10001**  
In both style and subject matter, Franco-Belgian comics are unprecedentedly diverse thanks to creators' thriving exchange with the world. Hear how U.S. pop culture shapes setting (for Nicolas Otero and Olivier Balez), or how collaborators like Jerome Charyn (for François Boucq) add fresh spirit to the work of French artists. Publishers also embrace the unique perspectives of international artists like Alessandro Barbucci and Asaf Hanuka leading them to worldwide success.

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8, 5:30-6:30pm, with pass**  
**Panel discussion: ComicsBeat Presents: The European Comics Invasion**  
**New York Comic Con (room 1A05), Jacob K. Javits Convention Center, 655 W. 34th St., NY 10001**  
**Featuring Heidi MacDonald, Jean-Marc Rochette, Arthur DePins, Simon Fraser, Leeann Hamilton**  
An annual look at the European comics scene, with the cartoonists from around the world talking about their work and the comic tradition of their countries. This time we'll talk to Jean-Marc Rochette (*Snowpiercer*, France), Arthur DePins (*March of the Crabs*, France), Simon Fraser (*Judge Dredd*, Scotland), Leeann Hamilton (*Cash Cow*, Ireland) and more about their careers, their influences and how comics are becoming an international language without borders.

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8, 7pm, free**  
**Panel discussion: *Reconstructing Comix: The "Architecture" of Franco-Belgian Graphic Narratives, from Tintin to Today***  
**Featuring Anne Simon, Matz, Philippe Ostermann and Nicolas Otero**  
**The Great Hall of The Cooper Union, The Foundation Building, 7 East 7th Street, NY 10003**  
Over 70 years of creation and innovation, French and Belgian comics artists have pushed the boundaries of the frame, the panel and the page, drawing influence from film and international comic styles to produce unique visuals in the graphic narrative form. In this panel, leading comic artists from France discuss with Dargaud's publisher the ways in which disruptive formal and thematic conventions have influenced their work and pushed the genre forward into its groundbreaking present form.

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 1—6pm, free**  
**Panel discussion: *Drawing the***

**Unspeakable** Featuring Kerascoët, Pénélope Bagieu and Catherine Meurisse  
Columbia University, Butler Library (Room 523), 535 West 114th St, New York, NY 10027  
Four renowned illustrators discuss the challenges of expressing emotion through drawing.

## **ABOUT THE FRENCH COMICS ASSOCIATION**

The French Comics Association brings together many of the major publishers of French comics, including Dargaud, Casterman, Delcourt, Dupuis, Futuropolis, Gallimard BD, Glénat, Le Lombard, Rue de Sèvres, Soleil and Steinkis. As part of its mission to promote Franco-Belgian comics in the United States and worldwide, the association aims to promote comics translated into English, to support the U.S. publishing industry, and to stimulate cultural exchanges on the basis of literature and visual narratives.

The book festival is part of ambitious projects led by the association in the United States. The target audience of the Association's programming is Americans interested in reading, art, comics and French culture. The association aims to reach a wide audience beyond comics fans and in this framework, partnerships will be developed with various venues to spread the word throughout the city. <http://frenchcomicsassociation.com/>

## **CO-PRESENTERS**

**About the Cultural Services of the French Embassy**  
The Cultural Services of the French Embassy promotes the best of French arts, literature, cinema, digital innovation, language, and higher education across the US. Based in New York City, Washington D.C., and eight other cities across the country, the Cultural Services brings artists, authors, intellectuals and innovators to cities nationwide. It also builds partnerships between French and American artists, institutions and universities on both sides of the Atlantic. In New York, through its bookshop Albertine, it fosters French-American exchange around literature and the arts. [www.frenchculture.org](http://www.frenchculture.org)

**About The Cooper Union**  
Through outstanding academic programs in architecture, art and engineering, and a Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, The Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art prepares talented students to make enlightened contributions to society. The College admits undergraduates solely on merit and currently awards a minimum of a 50 percent tuition scholarship to all enrolled students. The institution provides close contact with a distinguished, creative faculty and fosters rigorous, humanistic learning that is enhanced by the process of

design and augmented by the urban setting. Founded in 1859 by Peter Cooper, industrialist and philanthropist, The Cooper Union offers public programs for the civic, cultural and practicable enrichment of New York City. [www.cooper.edu/](http://www.cooper.edu/)

## **PRESS CONTACT**

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