

Fumetto

Internationales Comix-Festival Luzern, 16.–24. April 2005

Media Information from 1st April 2005

International and national comic stars will be displaying their work at Fumetto 2005 and also creating new comic-worlds on site!

Lucerne will plunge into a world of comics on the 16th of April, the start of this year's festival. Both international and national comic artists will be on hand, presenting a wide selection of work varying between pop culture and art in numerous venues throughout downtown Lucerne. The program will be enhanced with satellite exhibitions and shop-window installations, plus a broad side program including talk shows, autograph sessions and a party with three live acts from the comic-scene.

Comic-Competition "Homeland"

This year's competition includes 668 pieces from 24 different countries, all of which will be on display in the competition exhibition in the festival centre. Prizes will be awarded in the ABC Mixx Club on the 23rd of April at 6.30pm. The jury member and ex-cabaret artist Emil Steinberger will be on stage to personally present the awards.

Homeland, Migration and Integration Project

The great number of competition entries received presents Fumetto with a very unique collection of personal opinions relating to the theme "Homeland". Fumetto will put these opinions to good use (for the youth of today) as teaching/discussion material, complimented with professional articles. The material is available (in German only) for free on the Fumetto website and will be worked-over/added to after the festival. The project came to be due to the cooperation of the Lucerne Social Worker's School (HSA) and the financial support from the EKA/ BFM, a national integration credit.

International Exhibitions

Fumetto will present **Max** at this year's festival, undoubtedly one of Spain's leading personalities in the comic-scene. **Jean-Christophe Menu** from France is one of the key figures of the European independent-scene and a multi-talent like no other. His exhibition shows a broad spectrum of his work as a comic artist, publisher and critic. **Blab!** will be on display this year in the Art Museum, the magazine by the award-winning art director Monte Beauchamp from Chicago. He has been bringing top class artists together, who move between the comic, illustration, folk art, design and graphic worlds, in an annual edition since 1987. The French comic artist **Edmond Baudoin** will exhibit his intimate, quiet autobiographical stories in the Schweizerhof Hotel, Lucerne. He will not only have work on display, but will also be the hotel's so-called **Artist in Residence**. Baudoin will record the hotel atmosphere on a daily basis just like a photographer, except he'll use a paintbrush, ink and paper, creating an ever-growing exhibition. **Pakito Bolino** and **Caroline Sury**, the go-getting artist and publishing couple from Le Dernier Cri, will show an exhibition that doesn't shy away from extremes and taboos, tackling the subject of "religions sauvages" with pictures, comics and texts. After Italy, Spain, South Africa, Israel and Hong Kong, this year's guest group comes from **Finland**. A country that doesn't only have thriving music and literature scenes, but also one of Europe's most creative comic-scenes. **Mawil**, the

shooting star on the new German comic scene shows the helpless attempts of “Die Band”, the somewhat ironic comic involving four high school students and their dreams of stardom.

Swiss Comic Artists

Fumetto starts the **Forum Swiss Romand** together with **Nicolas Robel** from Geneva. In years gone by there have been more and more comic artists on display from the french part of Switzerland. As of 2005 this will be institutionalised and will kick off this new forum with the extremely active and talented artist Nicolas Robel. His exhibition entitled “How should I know” shows him searching for memories in picture form. **Claude Jaermann and Felix Schaad** continue to demonstrate that they are masters at telling stories. Their “**Eva**” **comic strip series** is a prime example and appears daily in the Zurich “Tages Anzeiger” newspaper. The exhibition presents visitors with loads of humour and Eva Grdjic. **Ingo Giezendanner** from Zurich, better known under the pseudonym GRRRR, places the observer into the role of an “extra” when viewing his (drawn) world. **Melk Thalmann** (from Lucerne) is one of the original, hard-working and also successful representatives of the Swiss comic-scene. His latest comic “Zwischenfall” (The Incident) starts out as a thriller and ends up as a “nuclear spy novel”. The thematic exhibition entitled “**Dances of Death**” came to be due to a joint venture between both Graphic Design and Illustration graduates from the Lucerne School of Arts and Design. The exhibition aims to connect both historical and modern day dances of death performances. The exhibition for kids shows work from the “La Fourmi” book by comic artist **Isabelle Pralong** from Geneva.

Comics-Country Switzerland

Fumetto 2005 will present (at the same time as Lausanne) the Swiss Art Foundation Pro Helvetia’s Comics-Country Switzerland exhibition. It presents the unique history of Swiss-comics in an unmistakable, vivid way. Twelve comic artists have put together a single page short story just for the event. The exhibition itself is a part of Pro Helvetia’s culture program that will be presented at this year’s world exhibition in Japan.

Shop-window and Satellite Exhibitions

From the 6th to the 24th of April, a total of 48 window installations and satellite exhibitions will put Lucerne in the mood for Fumetto 2005. An exclusive album will also complement this unique collection for the first time this year. The album (plus picture from the respective artist) can be collected at the various exhibition points. What starts out as a plain, single-coloured album will then transform into a beautiful bright little book.

Side Program

The three bands performing at the Fumetto Party prove just how successful comic artists can also be as musicians. Familiar faces from the comic scene including Thomas Ott, Christophe Badoux and Hösli will all hit the stage in the ABC Mixx Club on Saturday the 23rd of April. Fabrique Fanzines will be our guest in the festival centre “Kornschütte” from the 23rd to the 24th of April; the place where the pros create comics from A to Z with the fans. Also included in the side program are the beloved comics-market in the “Boubaki”, talk shows with both international and national comic stars, book launches, cartoon movies by the “Fantoche” Animated-Film Festival (in Baden) plus autograph sessions. Fans can mingle and meet with comic artists from all over the world during the festival at the Fumetto Bar – we lounge around on the Hofstrasse 13.

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Exhibition Overview

International Comic Artists

- Competition Exhibition entitled "Homeland", in the Lucerne Town Hall's "Kornschütte"
- Max - Spain's most extraordinary artist, in the "Maskenliebhaber" function room
- Jean-Christophe Menu – A key-figure in European Independent Comics, "Brandgässli" Gallery
- BLAB! – Comics, illustrations and graphics from the USA, in the Lucerne Art Museum
- Comics from Finland, in the "Löwengraben" Hotel
- Isabelle Pralong – An exhibition for kids, in the "Orell Füssli Raeber" function room
- Edmond Baudoin – Artist in Residence, in the "Schweizerhof" Hotel
- Le Dernier Cri – Screen printing and Animation Brut, in the Lucerne "Kunstpanorama"
- Mawil: The Band – Rather ironic, autobiographical comics, in the "Löwengraben" Hotel
- School Trip – Students from Hamburg and Berlin, Lucerne School of Arts + Design

Swiss Comic Artists

- Comics-Country Switzerland, in the "Heilig Geist" Chappel, Stadthauspark
- Dances of Death – Tradition and change, in the Lucerne School of Arts + Design
- Nicolas Robel – How should I know?, in the "Partikel" Gallery
- Melk Thalmann – A Swiss "nuclear spy novel", in the "Heilig Geist" Chappel, Stadthauspark
- Jaermann/Schaad – EVA newspaper strips, in the Picasso Museum's "Sala Terrena"
- GRRRR (Ingo Giezendanner) – Drawings and installation, Lucerne School of Arts + Design
- Raffinerie Street Art + Graphics – CH-Forum, in the Lucerne "Kunstpanorama"
- Art of Modern Rock – International Rock posters, in the "Löwengraben" Hotel
- Daniel Bosshart – Eloquent comics without words, "wave advertising"
- Jürg Benninger – Crocheting instead of painting, in the "Das Ding" Gallery
- Andy Kamber – New picture panels and three soul-suckers, in the "Löwengraben" shop

More info:

Check out the Fumetto website for pictures and more info about the various exhibitions (see section Ausstellungen) and program. Don't hesitate to contact us for interview times or other special wishes.