

Larissa Bertolasco

«La nonna, La cucina, La vita»

Each year's festival consists of an extremely broad range of exhibitions, continually crossing the borders of what is generally considered to be a comic. That Fumetto is actually dedicating an exhibition to a cook book is still quite a surprise.

The curiosity subsides as soon as Lara Bertolasco's „La nonna, La cucina, La vita“ is opened – the first glance at this extraordinary cook book explains exactly why this particular artist really should be at Fumetto.

Lara Bertolasco's „La nonna, La cucina, La vita“ is pleasantly different. Totally different in fact. This 220 page thick book is many things: A cook book, an ode to Italian cooking, a homage to her grandmother, and the story of an Italian man's daughter (whose mother is German) coming to terms with her Italian-side whilst growing up in Germany. In-between the recipes she dedicates pages of pictures reliving her longings, and short texts describing her summer holidays on the Liguria coast, the beaches, those summer nights and homesickness. Some pages include her grandmother talking about men and shoes, about kitchens, faith, the past and whatever else was important in life.

“The whole of Liguria”, wrote Bertolasco on her book sleeve; “holds the scent of my childhood. My memories seem to have captured the fragrances of the ocean and wood, of rosemary and salve, as well as mothballs and spirits, somehow protecting them like treasures. That's how I came up with the idea of making a cookbook full of recipes from my grandmother/ nonna, and also capturing my personal memories and stories in picture form. Included in this book are many simple, extremely tasty, tried and true dishes of which I got to know from day to day with my Italian family. Not forgetting those more complicated special recipes of course. Have fun on the trip to my nonna in Finale Ligure that lies on the coast between Genoa and the boarder to France. E buon appetito.”

Lara Bertolasco was born in 1972, studying Italian and Art History in Sienna and Hamburg, and then following on with Illustration at the Fachschule für Gestaltung in Hamburg. She currently lives as a freelance artist and illustrator in Hamburg.

Lara Bertolasco: „La nonna, La cucina, La vita“ (Gerstenberg Publishing, 2005)