

anke feuchtenberger

«Hero und Leander»

The tragic legend of the Aphrodite-priest Hero and her lover Leander is one of the most moving Greek myths of all times. According to Musaios (who wrote the story like a small Epos in 500a.c.), Leander swam across the "Hellespont" night for night to be with his darling Hero. Hero guided the way for him holding a burning torch from her tower. A storm blew the flame out one night and Leander drowned in the flood of the "Hellespont". As Hero discovered her dead lover, she plummeted to her death from her tower.

The material also landed in Daniel Hess' hands (Born 1965 in Zürich- composer), inspiring him for his forth symphony entitled "Hero und Leander". It was a type of opera without a singer, which he composed for Andreas Mildner – the conductor of the "Elbe-Weser International Youth Orchestra".

Anke Feuchtenberger was given the job of transforming the age old myth into a picture story. She decided to set everything in the present: her Leander is a high diver with Hero watching his athletic feats on TV. On one hand she wanted to address the "doubt during puberty", and on the other "the fatale effects created by the media in regards to simple coincidences and misunderstandings".

Born 1963 in East Berlin, Anke Feuchtenberger is one of the most prominent veterans of the European independent comic scene. Her stories lead the reader into a uniquely known but somehow foreign world – no fantasy world, as her stories are always set in reality but appear to project an abstraction of what's actually real. Her characters are mostly women who appear quite often unsettled and naked, confronted with real-life situations of which Anke Feuchtenberger works on in her dreamy tales. Anke Feuchtenberger wants to reflect and open up new angles – with loads of substance. In doing so she has not only radically broadened the picture language of comics with her own aesthetics, but has also conquered the medium itself in regards to new contents.

Her picture stories appear in most of Europe's important comic-publications, but she also draws for the FAZ, Die Zeit, Das Magazin or the Süddeutsche Zeitung, apart from that she exhibits her work in galleries, and has been a professor at the University for Applied Sciences in Hamburg since 1997. Anke Feuchtenberger was Fumetto's guest star back in 2001.