

helge reumann & gunnar lundkvist

Confort vertical

Gunnar Lundkvist (Sweden), challenged Helge Reumann (Switzerland) to a battle – the result of this battle between two heavy-weights of the alternative comic scene was “Confort Vertical”. The result of bringing two completely different picture worlds together to create one inspired piece just proves that cooperation counts for more than the number of individual parts.

Gunnar Lundkvist (from Stockholm) sits in the right corner. He’s dressed in black, with a surly look on his face and a laconic mode of expression but still pleasantly contemporary. What can be said about Klass Kat can also be said about Gunnar Lundkvist. Influenced by American underground comics, Gunnar Lundkvist has been drawing his gloomy black & white street stories about a depressed tomcat for decades. He stopped drawing from time to time as no one seemed to be interested in his comics, moving on to children’s books (with Anna Höglund) or publishing story books, for which the Swedish government overwhelmed him with scholarships. Then Klass Kat and his philosophical breakdowns migrated and the pessimistically absurd fables continued throughout Europe.

Helge Reumann (from Geneva) sits in the left corner. He too has broken away from the classic album traditions and has re-orientated himself with an expression that is quite close to art-brut form and colour language. His comics, illustrations, objects, toys, posters and screen prints tell stories without words. At first they appear naïve and childish but in actual fact are horrendous and underhand with a pinch of cynicism, loads of driving roguishness, a perfect sense of timing and an almost “tex-avery-esken” feeling for making sense out of the nonsense involved in our daily struggle to survive. His favourite antihero: Sawphantom.

Klass Kat and Sawphantom take a stroll through a burning landscape in “Confort Vertical”. An inferno laid out over eight black & white and eight coloured pictures. The screen-printed book in which Reumann and Lundkvist documented their antihero was released in a 700 copy series by Drozophile publishing, Geneva. The original sketches/ prints will be on display as a world premiere at this year’s festival in Lucerne.