

m.s. bastian/isabelle l.

The world between Art & Comics



„100 Ansichten von Bastropolis“ is M.S. Bastian's latest book which will be released in May this year (the third book with Benteli publishing). And just like its predecessor it will be celebrated and presented with a Fumetto exhibition. This year's exhibition almost seems normal or correct when compared to Bastian's spectacular installations of previous years: In actual fact, M.S. Bastian & Isabelle L. are mainly displaying pictures on canvas. But have no fear, the approach is the same: Even the pictures out of Bastropolis tell wild stories.

M.S. Bastian: "I always stay close to the edge. In one way I've developed a particular style of illustration, one that culminates extremely black and gloomy. But at the same time I've always created colourful, androgynous, funny things, an opposing world to my dark and gloomy cosmos."

It was during his studies at the "Schule für Gestaltung" in Biel, Switzerland that M.S. Bastian (born in 1963) came across comics, discovering Thomas Ott and Muñoz/ Sampayo in a "Strapazin" magazine. He was tempted by the possibilities of this particular form of expression and not long after he-too belonged to the Zurich comic magazine's in house drawers. The next important stop was his time spent in New York in 1990-1991. It was here that he came in contact with Gary Panter and David Sandlin (from Art Spiegelman's "Raw" magazine), two artists who had mastered the split between comics and art, plus high and low. This finally encouraged M.S. Bastian to forget all the artistic boundaries and to concentrate on doing what ever he felt like doing. He then began, without a fear in the world, to be known for his triviality, incorporating it in his work with extraordinary casualness.

M.S. Bastian: "Trivial culture is what's exciting in life. It's the whole dream world. That's really what life is. That's the bible. That's the meaning of life. What we live for."

Christian Gasser

Bibliography (selection)

Päng" (1995, Edition Moderne), „ComixArt“ (1996, Benteli publishing), „Squeeze“ (1997, self published), „It's a wonderful world“ (2001, Benteli publishing), „Pulp“ (2004, Edition Clandestin), „100 Ansichten von Bastropolis“ (Mai 2007, Benteli publishing)

Podcast

An audio-podcast (with background information) is also available for this exhibition. iPods can be borrowed at the exhibition itself, or you can download it yourself at www.dataquest.ch