

## anna sommer

Real Life



It was eleven years ago now that Anna Sommer's first piece "Damen Dramen" was released, making her one of Switzerland's most famous comic authors over night (even internationally). The following books, countless exhibitions both nationally and internationally, plus a spotless career as an illustrator confirm just how talented she really is. In 2006 she was awarded the Zurich, "Comic-Werkjahr", allowing her the opportunity to dedicate/ name her new album "Die Wahrheit un andere Erfindungen" (The Truth and other Inventions), which will be presented to the public with an exhibition at Fumetto 2007.

Anna Sommer (born in 1968) may have fed us with bittersweet, frivolous relationship-dramas in her earlier books (sometimes slightly absurd or even horrid). But in her new book about the "Truth" she puts herself on centre stage of the goings on and draws episodes from her own life – from her childhood through till now.

"I like reconstructing memories, actually trying to reproduce something in an interesting way, sticking as close as possible to the truth", said Anna Sommer about her book. "The plunge into the past shows me just how vague our memories really are. I often think I've got an experience clearly in sight and only when I start to draw I realise that the memories aren't really made up of pictures. The peeling of these pictures is exciting and at the same time moving, when I'm lucky, giving the memory a face."

A fine line of discontinuity can be found in everything that Anna Sommer does: Her pages don't look like comic pages – but she's a gifted comic-narrator. The drawings appear quite correct – and still she presents frivolities at their best. Her stories are sad – and jammed with caustic humour. Anna Sommer toys with the reader and his or her expectations, but the tension between the various levels, between appearance and reality, plus truth and invention all contain the same value of artistic mastery and clever entertainment.

Christian Gasser

### **Bibliography (selection)**

„Damen Dramen“ (1996, Arrache Coeur), „Amourette“ (2002, Buchet Chastel, Paris), „Baies des bois“ (2002, United Dead Artists), „Eugen und der freche Wicht“ (with Michael Grotzer, 2003, Edition Moderne), „Die Wahrheit und andere Erfindungen“ (2007, Edition Moderne)

### **Podcast**

A special audio clip, (by Christian Gasser) is available for this exhibition. iPods can be borrowed at the exhibition or you can load the Podcast of your choice onto your own iPod at [www.dataquest.ch](http://www.dataquest.ch)