

Belgian Comic Strip Centre

Diary of Exhibitions 2008



From 23 October 2007 to 10 February 2008

Inner Space, Outer Space **Comic Strips and Space**

To celebrate the anniversary of the launch of Sputnik I on 4 October 1957, the Belgian Comic Strip Centre will look at fifty years of space exploration through the eyes of comic strip artists who have been inspired by Space. On the one hand, there are those who have taken it upon themselves to represent reality as it is; on the other hand, there are those who use reality as a starting-point for their imagination. Just like man's view of Space or like the human brain itself, "Real Space, Imagined Space" consists of two hemispheres: one is concerned with reality, the other with the imagination. And discoveries in the real world constantly invite us to imagine new challenges, new worlds, even new dreams. Produced in collaboration with the Euro Space Society, the exhibition charts the evolution of the conquest of Space by means of a collection of exceptional objects. At the same time, the exhibition also shows how the view which comic strip artists have held of this evolution has changed, as well.



From 12 February to 8 June 2008

Spirou Journal **The adventures of an Editorial Office**

The first issue of Spirou Journal – a pioneer in the development of European comics – rolled off the presses at publishing house Dupuis in Marcinelle on 21 April 1938. Nobody could have foreseen the impact this journal would have on the popularity of comics in Europe. The goings-on at Spirou Journal have always been plain for all readers to see, an attitude reflected in the transparent architecture of Dupuis' present offices. The exhibition by the Belgian Comic Strip Centre will invite visitors to discover the life of a journal from the inside, by means of the masterpieces it produced. Close attention will also be paid to the journal's relationship with its readers, with Spirou Club and the Internet.



From 10 June to 16 November 2008

Smurf for All, All for Smurf **50 Years of Smurfs**

Fifty years after their birth, the Smurfs remain among the most popular characters ever created by a Belgian comic strip author. Born out of Peyo's imagination, they made their début in Spirou Journal in the autumn of 1958, in a Johan et Pirlouit story: "La flûte à six trous". To honour this

anniversary – which is celebrated the world over – the Belgian Comic Strip Centre will invite visitors to consider Peyo's work from a new and original angle: it is because of their individual weaknesses that the Smurfs discover their strength...

From 18 november 2008 to 22 February 2009

The New Children's Comic Strips

Their names are Sfar, Trondheim, Robin, Cornette and Larcenet. With the creation of new graphic forms, in the '90s these storytellers assumed a role of ever-increasing importance. But they were not content to write comics just for adults. With *Toto l'Ornithorynque*, *Ludo*, *Le Petit Vampire* or *Le Petit Père Noël*, they also created new graphic worlds for a younger audience.

*This exhibition is part of the Belgian Comic Strip Centre's 2009 program with which, to celebrate its 20th anniversary, it would like to bring a year-long salute to **everything which has changed in comics** since the Centre's opening on 6 October 1989.*



Petit Père Noël © Thierry Robin/Lewis Trondheim & Bâtiments Dupuis

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