

Temporary exhibitions

From 22 March to 2 October 2011

The Publiart adventure ***Advertising discovers comic strip artists***



Although the press had been associated with advertising since the first half of the nineteenth century, it would be 1950 before an advertising agency was established with the express purpose of employing comic strip writers, and sometimes their paper heroes as well. The agency, Publiart, was set up in Brussels in 1950 by Raymond Leblanc, the founder of Lombard publishing, *Tintin* magazine and later, Belvision. Guy Dessicy, who remained the head of Publiart from its inception till the 80s, saved the treasures that chronicle the history of this agency, which is also to some extent the history of the comic

strip in Belgium. Rapidly departing from the single pages of *Tintin* magazine, the campaigns run by Publiart provided employment for many comic strip writers who were to become giants of their art.

From 14 June 2011 to 15 January 2012

Bob De Moor and the Sea ***A famous comic strip artist's great love***

In 1956, two remarkable men boarded the freighter, the *Reine Astrid*, for a fact-finding cruise in the North Sea. This was how Hergé and Bob De Moor did the preparatory work for the publication of the *Tintin* story *The Red Sea Sharks*. Over and above his very important collaboration with Hergé which was part of his life from 1950, Bob De Moor (1925-1992) produced a rich and original body of work that is one of the most significant in European comic strip, while at the same time remaining faithful to his Antwerp and maritime roots.

The exhibition to be held at the Belgian Comic Strip Center has decided to focus on the attraction he felt for the sea and boats. From the first evidence of this passion in his schoolboy exercise books to the progressive development of his masterpiece, *Cori le Moussaillon* (Cori the Cabin boy), Bob de Moor never stopped looking at the sea, dreaming of boats and inventing stories of sailors.

Curator: Toon Horsten



From October 25th 2011 until May 20th 2012

77 years of Roumanian comics



It is to the credit of Romanian comic strip artists that they have been able to produce such original work of great talent – the fruit of a long inheritance – in the trials and tribulations of a century during which their society has suffered particularly. Sustained by the few European magazines that penetrated the Wall, readers had to wait for the arrival of democracy to see the gradual blossoming of the various genres that make up the rich tapestry that is present-day comic strip. Since then, Dodo Nita, who is president of the Romanian Association of Comic Strip enthusiasts, has worked tirelessly to uncover the works that pepper the history of Romanian comic strip, encouraged by current authors who have no hesitation in entrusting their works to them. It is this

unexplored treasure – original illustrations and panels – that is the subject matter of the exhibition that the Belgian Comic Strip Centre is proud to present.

With the support of the Romanian Cultural Institute



From February 7th until September 23th 2012

Maarten Toonder



In 2012, Maarten Toonder would have been 100 years old, and it is also the start of the Toonder year. We will be made well aware of it too! In addition to a number of exhibitions in the Netherlands, the publication of a new *Tom Puss* story and the première of a new *B. Bumble* musical, the Belgian Comic Strip Center also very much aims to be part of the celebrations. In February, the museum will be dedicating a magnificent exhibition to the life and work of this Dutch Grand Master. The main focus of the exhibition will be on the *Panda* and *Tom Puss* series, which have also been very popular abroad. Even if *Tom Puss* was originally intended for children,

an increasingly older readership seemed to be drawn to the ironic undertones, the ideas, the outbursts of social criticism, the strong personalities (the heavy-set hippopotamus as mayor, the dog as police commissioner, the cockerel as the marquis) and the sharp comments from the human mammal. Social problems such as the drug issue, environmental pollution, politics, poverty

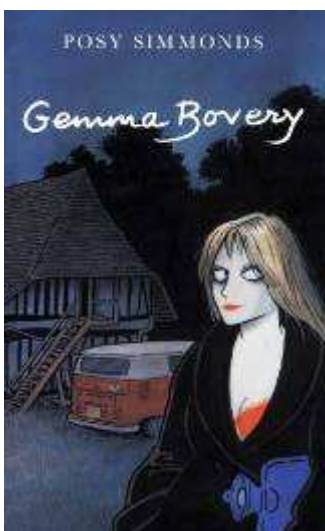
or unemployment were drip-fed into the stories. The animals also showed typically human traits, such as (the inability to) love, friendship, deceit and egotism. Whether they are portrayed in fish scales, fur or feathers, Tom Puss is mainly about you and me.

Curator: Geert De Weyer



From June 12th until November 25th 2012

Posy Simmonds ***Essentially English***

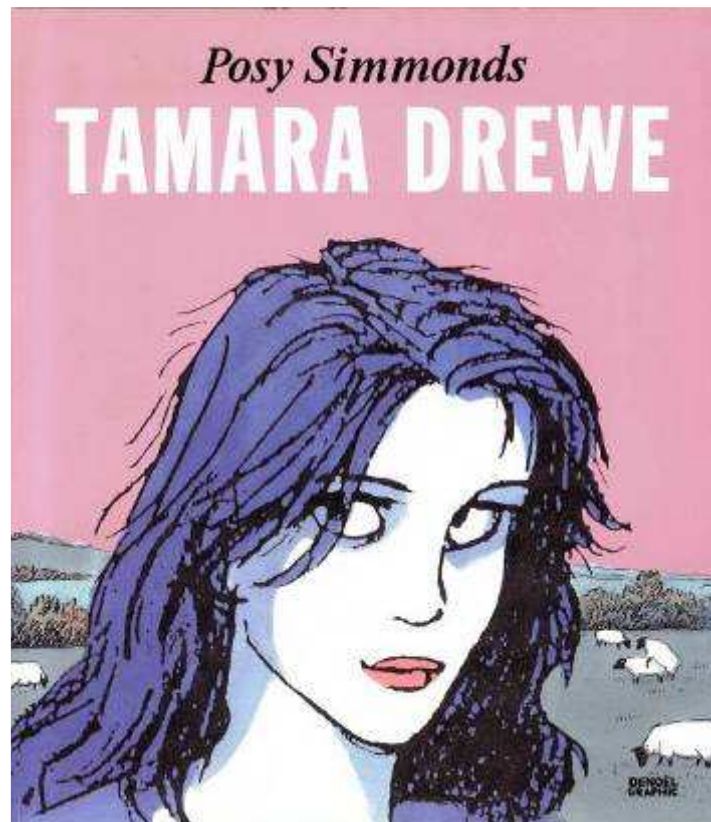


and unseen sketches to span her entire career. It confirms that Posy Simmonds, now widely

Riddled with literary allusions, class clashes and repressed desires, the comics of Posy Simmonds are quintessentially English. Don't be fooled by her demure appearance and upper-class, cut-crystal accent. Her powers of observation are laser-sharp, her mimicry of accents and types stingingly precise. For years, hardly anybody outside of Britain had heard of Posy, unless they read her weekly *Guardian* social satires featuring the liberal Weber family or her children's books, including Fred adapted into an Oscar-nominated cartoon. But all that has changed with the tragic leading beauties of her murder-mystery graphic novels, *Gemma Boverly* and *Tamara Drewe*, in which she cleverly updates and reinvents novels by Gustave Flaubert and Thomas Hardy. The French edition of *Tamara Drewe* (Denoel) won an Essential Prize at the 2009 Angoulême International Comics Festival and in 2010 Stephen Frears adapted it into a highly successful film. The Belgian Comics Centre in Brussels is honoured to host her first exhibition of original art

translated and acclaimed, is no longer a secret but a national treasure delighting an international audience.

Curator: Paul Gravett



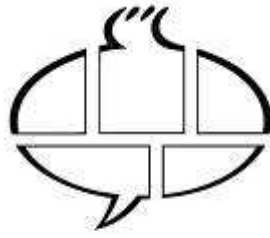
From October 9th 2012 until February 26th 2013

François Walthéry ***50 years of comics***



A native of the heights of Liege, François Walthéry decided very early in life that he would become a comic strip artist. His first panels, published in 1962 when he was scarcely 16 years of age, were noticed by Peyo, the creator of the Smurfs, who immediately appointed him as his assistant. It was with Peyo and his colleague, Willy Maltaite (Will), that the young François learned his trade, and would soon be ready to launch his own personal series featuring Natacha, a very glamorous air hostess who, from 1970, was involved in adventures full of suspense and intrigue. The heir to the masters of Belgian comic strip before becoming their friend, François Walthéry is also a real celebrity in the Liege region, where he has extolled the scenery, language and customs in local productions full of wit and nostalgia.

Curator: JC de la Royère



www.comicscenter.net

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**Open every day
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