



City of Erlangen – Cultural Office
Department Festivals and
Programmes
Gebbertstraße 1,
91052 Erlangen – Germany

Tel. +49 (0)9131 86-1031
Fax: +49 (0)9131 86-1411
annika.gloystein@stadt.erlangen.de
www.comic-salon.de

Press release

Erlangen, 28 April 2022

20th Erlangen International Comic Salon – 16 to 19 June 2022 Jury nominates 25 titles for the 2022 Max und Moritz Award Lifetime Achievement Award goes to Naoki Urasawa

As part of the 20th International Comic Salon Erlangen, which will take place from 16 to 19 June 2022, the Max and Moritz Award, the most important accolade for graphic literature and comic art in the German-speaking world, will be presented for the 20th time. 25 titles were nominated by the jury, three additional titles by the audience. Eight of the nine award winners will be announced at the Max and Moritz Gala on 17 June, 2022. The lifetime achievement award goes to Naoki Urasawa, one of the most influential living manga artists with a worldwide circulation of 100 million books.

On the evening of 17 June, the award winners in the categories "Best German-language Comic", "Best International Comic in German", "Best Non-fiction Comic", "Best Comic for Children" and "Best German-language Comic Debut / Best Student Publication" will be presented at the Max and Moritz Gala, as well as the Best German-language Comic Artist, the Special Jury Prize - without prior nomination - and the Max and Moritz Audience Award. For the latter, the 25 books nominated by the jury as well as three additional titles chosen by the audience in internet polls are up for selection.

The Max and Moritz Award is presented by an independent jury of experts appointed by the City of Erlangen and has been instrumental in securing artistic and social recognition for comics for more than 30 years. It honours outstanding artists, highlights the commendable work of publishers, directs attention to up-and-coming talent, and promotes high-quality appraisals of graphic literature.

This year's Max and Moritz jury members are Christian Gasser, author, lecturer in art and design at Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts; Andreas C. Knigge, journalist and publisher, Hamburg; Katinka Kornacker, managing director of COMIX Comicbuchhandlung, Hannover; Isabel Kreitz, comic book artist, Hamburg; Lars von Törne, journalist, Berlin; Christine Vogt, director of Ludwiggalerie Schloss Oberhausen; and Bodo Birk, director of the Erlangen International Comic Salon.

Max und Moritz Award 2022

The 25 titles nominated by the jury

in alphabetical order:

Bei mir zuhause by Paulina Stulin. Jaja Verlag

Chartwell Manor by Glenn Head (Translation: Ronald Gutberlet). Carlsen

Contrapaso. Die Kinder der Anderen by Teresa Valero (Translation: Harald Sachse). Splitter Verlag

Das Gutachten by Jennifer Daniel. Carlsen
Der nutzlose Mann by Yoshiharu Tsuge (Translation: Nora Bierich). Reprodukt
Die geheimnisvollen Akten by Margo Maloo by Drew Weing (Translation: Matthias Wieland). Reprodukt
Dragman by Steven Appleby (Translation: Ruth Keen). Schaltzeit Verlag
Dreimal Spucken by Davide Reviati (Translation: Myriam Alfano). avant-verlag
Erdoğan by Can Dündar und Anwar (Translation: Sabine Adatepe). Correctiv / ÖZGÜRÜZ Press
Fürchtetal by Christine und Markus Färber. Rotopol
Im Spiegelsaal by Liv Strömquist (Translation: Katharina Erben). avant-verlag
Melek + ich by Lina Ehrentraut. Edition Moderne
Nachtgestalten by Jaroslav Rudiš und Nicolas Mahler. Luchterhand
Parallel by Matthias Lehmann. Reprodukt
Penelopes zwei Leben by Judith Vanistendael (Translation: Andrea Kluitmann). Reprodukt
Regenbogentage by Nora Dåsnes (Translation: Katharina Erben). Klett Kinderbuch
Rude Girl by Birgit Weyhe. avant-verlag
Sapiens by Yuval Noah Harari, Daniel Casanave und David Vandermeulen (Translation: Andreas Wirthensohn). Verlag C. H. Beck
Sunny by Taiyō Matsumoto (Translation: Martin Gericke). Carlsen
Trip mit Tropf by Josephine Mark. Kibitz
Tunnel by Rutu Modan (Translation: Markus Lemke). Carlsen
Unschlagbar! by Pascal Jouselin (Translation: Marcel Le Comte). Carlsen
Who's the Scatman? by Jeff Chi. Zwerchfell
Work-Life-Balance by Aisha Franz. Reprodukt
Zarter Schmelz. Lucky Luke Hommage by Ralf König. Egmont

Reading samples of the nominated titles are available at www.comic-salon.de/de/nominierungen, videos on the individual nominations from mid-May.

Max und Moritz Award 2022

The 3 titles nominated by the audience

in alphabetical order:

erzaehlmirnix. Leben mit Menschen by Nadja Hermann, riva Verlag / erzaehlmirnix.wordpress.com

Kplx by Kplx, <https://www.kplx.de/blog>

Lisa und Lio by Daniela Schreiter, Panini Comics

Audiences can vote online at www.comic-salon.de. Voting opens on 2 May and closes at 7 p.m. on 16 June (first day of the 20th International Comic Salon). The winner of the Audience Award will be announced at the Max und Moritz Gala. For more information, visit www.comic-salon.de/en/max-und-moritz-publikumspreis.

Max und Moritz Gala

Presented by Hella von Sinnen und Christian Gasser

Friday, 17 June 2022, 8:30 pm

Markgrafentheater, Theaterplatz 2, 91054 Erlangen

Touring exhibition "The Best German Comics"

For the fifth time in 2022, the German-language Max und Moritz award winners will go on tour for two years in a specially designed touring exhibition entitled "The Best German Comics".

This year marks the third time that DATEV eG is the title sponsor of the Erlangen International Comic Salon. As IT service provider for tax consultants, auditors and lawyers and their clients including medium-sized companies and municipal administrations, the cooperative is one of the largest private employers in the Nuremberg metropolitan region and also one of the most important software houses in Europe.

Organiser

City of Erlangen – Cultural Office
Department Festivals and Programmes
Gebbertstraße 1, 91052 Erlangen – Germany
Tel. +49 (0)9131 86-1408, Fax: +49 (0)9131 86-1411
E-Mail: info@comic-salon.de
Website: www.comic-salon.de

Below you will find more information about Naoki Urasawa, winner of the Lifetime Achievement Award, and texts by the jury about each of the nominated works.

Max und Moritz Award 2022

Lifetime Achievement Award

Naoki Urasawa

"Monster", "20th Century Boys", "Pluto", "Billy Bat" - Naoki Urasawa's bibliography reads like a list of the best, most racy and successful manga epics of the last decades. Nothing indicated this career when Naoki Urasawa graduated in economics in 1982 and received a job offer from a toy manufacturer. He turned it down, because he wanted to seek his fortune in manga first. Urasawa has probably never regretted this decision: he is a superstar with a total worldwide circulation of over 100 million books. Born in 1960, Naoki Urasawa is a gifted storyteller who likes to base his stories on relevant social, political and contemporary issues and always adds historical speculation and a fantastic, supernatural layer over the realistic foundation.

"Monster" is a disturbing serial killer thriller set in reunified Germany. In the autobiographically based "20th Century Boys", the doomsday fantasies of six teenagers suddenly become a threatening reality 30 years later when a cult guru wants to wipe out everyone with the very prophecies and weapons from their play scenarios. In "Pluto", Urasawa combines set pieces from Osamu Tezuka's "Astro Boy" into a clever, modern thriller about machine people and artificial intelligence. With "Billy Bat" he takes his readers on a wild flight through human history, interspersed with abstruse conspiracy theories bearing the marks of a mysterious bat figure. He has just launched a new series, "Asadora!", his interpretation of the history of Japan since 1945.

The pace of his stories is almost breathlessly fast, the dramaturgy compelling and dynamic, and the plots contain virtuosic and surprising breaks and twists. His stories are each several thousand pages long, combine entertainment and complexity, popularity and substance of the highest quality. Reading his epics is always a sly and thrilling pleasure.

Biography

Naoki Urasawa, born in Tokyo Prefecture in 1960, debuted as a mangaka in 1984. His international breakthrough came with the crime thriller series "Monster", published from 1994 onwards. It was followed by more series, including "20th Century Boys," followed by the science fiction epic "Pluto," a graphic adaptation of Osamu Tezuka's "Astro Boy". The 20-volume series "Billy Bat" was awarded the Max und Moritz Award for "Best International Comic" in 2014. Naoki Urasawa is considered the "Osamu Tezuka of his generation" and has received numerous other prizes in addition to two Eisner Awards. His most recent work "Asadora!" combines contemporary history with the fantastic, has been published in Japan in six volumes so far, the first volume of which already been translated into German. In most of his stories, he spans a narrative arc between past, present and future.

Publications by Naoki Urasawa in German (selection):

- Monster, 17 volumes. Egmont. Cologne, 2002–2006
- Monster. Perfect Edition, 9 volumes. Carlsen Manga. Hamburg, 2019–2021
- 20th Century Boys, 22 volumes. Panini Comics, Stuttgart, 2002–2009
- 21st Century Boys, 2 volumes. Panini Comics, Stuttgart, 2010
- Pluto, 8 volumes. Carlsen Verlag. Hamburg, 2010–2012
- Billy Bat, 20 volumes. Carlsen Manga. Hamburg, 2012–2018
- Asadora!, 1 volume so far. Carlsen Manga. Hamburg, 2022

Max und Moritz Award 2022
The 25 titles nominated by the jury
in alphabetical order:

Bei mir zuhause
by Paulina Stulin
Jaja Verlag

Inside a monumental 613 pages, the Darmstadt illustrator Paulina Stulin gives us an insight into her everyday life. In the form of a diary, she takes us into her attic flat, to parties, on trips and into her circle of friends. The story begins wordlessly with one eye looking at us, lets us share in the "last cigarette together" and the break-up with her boyfriend. Being newly alone is just as much a theme as fetish happiness, drug intoxication, one-night stands - even prevented ones - and self-doubt. The life of a young woman in a big German city is on display, and an entire generation's attitude is exemplified. With painterly strokes and varied panels, some of them entire double pages, she describes her everyday life. The strong facial expressions, especially those of the protagonist, vividly bring out all the emotional states. A kaleidoscope of life in the 21st century.

Chartwell Manor
by Glenn Head (Translation: Ronald Gutberlet)
Carlsen

In "Chartwell Manor", the American Glenn Head describes his years at boarding school in unsparing realism and in the harshness of the underground. There he - like all the other boys - is sexually abused by the headmaster, whom they have to call sir. Music and comics form places of escape. Head's role model Robert Crumb and his teacher Art Spiegelman are unmistakably recognizable in his style. Head describes the effects of two years of torture at school, where corporal punishment was also part of the daily educational methods, with at time shocking frankness. Alcohol and drugs, but above all his sex addiction, he portrays in dynamic, often panel-splitting, black and white images. A double-page spreads prints of the original newspaper clippings accusing Principal Lynch, and there are references to Rolling Stones records.

Contrapaso. Die Kinder der Anderen
by Teresa Valero (Translation: Harald Sachse)
Splitter Verlag

Madrid 1956, Franco has been in power for 20 years. Emilio Sanz has been working for the daily newspaper "La Capital" for almost as long. But he has long since lost his illusions in the face of censorship. He takes refuge in researching a series of murders committed against young women. Apart from him, however, no one wants to believe in a serial killer ... In her German-language debut "Contrapaso", Teresa Valero stages a cleverly constructed, atmospherically dense thriller against the backdrop of the Franco dictatorship. Her detailed images are as gloomy as the era she recounts. When another body is found, however, it does not fit into Sanz's pattern of perpetration and points in a completely different direction: behind the walls of a mental hospital and on the trail of a doctor with macabre theories. We can only hope for a sequel to this gripping and graphically convincing tale in the near future!

Das Gutachten
by Jennifer Daniel
Carlsen

The Bonn Republic 1977 in pictures: cigarettes, alcohol, VW Beetles, Mercedes S-Class, horn-rimmed glasses and large-patterned wallpaper. Between Beethoven and concrete, yesterday and today. The "German Autumn", a crack in the mirror, the satiated surliness of the perpetrators - against the self-righteousness of the sixty-eight generation. Mr Martin, a 46-year-old family man and photo assistant at the Institute of Forensic Medicine, is haunted by ghosts of the past, which he tries to conquer with alcohol. He meets the challenges of the present with rigour and discipline. A traffic accident with fatal consequences does not give him any peace; he wants to do "the right thing." He starts to investigate on his own and gets involved with old networks. Jennifer Daniel already found her own style in 2014 with the album "Earth unplugged". With her first extensive graphic novel, she demonstrates great narrative skill. No diary or correspondence from the attic was needed for this "crime scene" worthy whodunit. A few discarded snapshots were enough ...

Der nutzlose Mann
by Yoshiharu Tsuge (Translation: Nora Bierich)

Reprodukt

Sukezo Sukegawa is a celebrated mangaka, and yet he suddenly stops drawing. As a seller of stones, which he collects on the riverbank, he is so unsuccessful that he plunges his family into misery. A man who cannot feed his family, they say, is useless. Yoshiharu Tsuge was also a celebrated cartoonist who revolutionised manga in the 1960s like no other: he founded the autobiographical manga and uncompromisingly explored the spaces between dream, reality and perception. Despite his success, Tsuge, who was depressed throughout his life, turned away from manga in 1987, but not without having delivered his artistic legacy with "The Useless Man", a disillusioned reflection on the artist as outsider. The stories and drawings may seem simple, but the mixing of this everyday tristesse with symbolic and metaphorical elements is haunting in both narrative and drawing, highly complex, deeply emotional and above all, timeless.

Die geheimnisvollen Akten by Margo Maloo
by Drew Weing (Translation: Matthias Wieland)

Reprodukt

When they arrive in Echo City, Charles Thompson feels vindicated. "Nasty," he grumbles moodily. His parents want to renovate a half-ruined hotel here, built in 1925, true Art Deco. But Charles has no desire whatsoever to live in the big city. "Have you looked at the crime statistics?" he asks his mother. She, however, just raves about all the city has to offer. "It'll be a dream!" "More like a nightmare" suspects Charles who, as soon as he has taken a step into the hotel, is fully aware: "This place is haunted!" The spooky adventures of little Charles in a gloomy house teeming with goblins, ghosts and ghouls were started by the US American Drew Weing as a webcomic back in 2014. The mysterious monster mediator Margo, who appears in Charles' room one day, soon gives the scaredy-cat a run for his money. However, he quickly realises that children can take on any monster - if only they are a little clever and don't have any muffs.

Dragman
by Steven Appleby (Translation: Ruth Keen)

Schaltzeit Verlag

August Crimp alias Dragman is a very unusual kind of superhero. On the surface he is a bland husband and father, but he has a secret identity. He loves women's clothes, and women's clothes give him wings and superpowers. Dressed in women's clothing, August Crimp becomes Dragman. However, for the sake of his wife, he has sworn off this secret existence. But when a serial killer murders transwomen and steals their souls, Crimp must become Dragman again. This double conflict is the trigger for a brilliant story in which Steven Appleby blithely mixes genres and links plots: There is the superheroine parody within the serial killer thriller, there is science fiction about a scientist who commercialises the human soul, and there is romantic relationship drama. All this is underlaid with satire, philosophical musings and social criticism and realised with great verve in lovingly caricatured drawings. "Dragman" is a grand superhero comic beyond all clichés and stereotypes.

Dreimal Spucken
by Davide Reviati (Translation: Myriam Alfano)

avant-verlag

It's the 60s in the countryside. Endless boredom dominates the lives of the village youth and repeatedly drives them to stupidity and drug use. "Three times spitting" is the story by Guido, who sometimes suffers from the brutality of his elders, and sometimes cause his own suffering with naïve aggression. And the story of the Stančičs, who live in a car away from the village, "not made to live in houses like us". Again and again, the family is held responsible for all sorts of misfortunes. Their daughter Loretta, who is said to have lost her mind, wants to fit in with her peers, and the bored boys are both attracted and repelled by her. In brilliant black-and-white drawings, Davide Reviati tells of the xenophobia towards a Sinti family and, at the same time, of the atrocities that the Sinti and Roma ethnic group suffered and continues to suffer under fascist racial hygiene as well as the recurring resentment of their fellow human beings. At times rich in detail, at times dynamically sketched, the images draw us into their maelstrom. We experience the narrator's feelings and striving for recognition with all his fears and prejudices.

Erdoğan

by Can Dündar und Anwar (Translation: Sabine Adatepe)

Correctiv / ÖZGÜRÜZ Press

Not so long ago, Recep Tayyip Erdoğan was seen by the West as a beacon of hope, and Turkey's accession to the EU was almost a done deal. But then came the turning point. But was it a turning point at all? Or were Erdoğan's democratic appearances just a sham? Can the behaviour of autocratic rulers - like Putin these days - be calculated at all? In their meticulously researched biography, the journalist Can Dündar and the illustrator Mohamed Anwar, both regime critics who had to leave their home country, trace Erdoğan's path from poor circumstances to the pinnacle of power and illuminate the stages of his life that shaped him religiously, politically and as a person. A portrait of a man who knew early on where he wanted to go and who would do anything to achieve his goals emerges ever more clearly. The 300-page biography not only tells the story of a despot, but is also an insightful contribution to the understanding of political Islam.

Fürchtetal

by Christine und Markus Färber

Rotopol

There can hardly be a more difficult experience than the suicide of a parent - especially when this suicide comes as surprisingly as in the case of Christine and Markus Färber's father. Christine Färber is a journalist and author, Markus is a comic artist; together the siblings try to understand and come to terms with their father's death in "Fürchtetal". She writes to her brother; he answers her with drawings. The siblings manage their four-handed mourning work without lamentation, without sentimental self-pity. They remember, they conjure up emotions, and they seek out important places like the forest of their childhood in the "Fürchtetal". In this way they circle their father and their relationship to him; they encode their memories and reflections metaphorically and only hint at essentials. "Fürchtetal" is personal, but not private - for all its intimacy, the comic tells a universal process. The drawings by Markus Färber express beguiling poetry and depth.

Im Spiegelsaal

by Liv Strömquist (Translation: Katharina Erben)

avant-verlag

Why do so many people spend so much time looking at Kylie Jenner? Why is Kylie Jenner considered so desirable and worthy of imitation, and what is the connection between her looks and her wealth? Beauty - that is the topic that the Swedish comic essayist Liv Strömquist approaches from different perspectives in "In the Hall of Mirrors": Beauty and the human impulse to imitate, narcissism, the economy of desire, ageing and how ideals of beauty and their meanings have developed over the centuries, up to the present-day terror of images in social media. Smart, profound, engaging, feminist and very funny: Liv Strömquist's comic essays are scientifically informed and illustrated stand-up comedy with a punk twist, or sharply humorous cultural studies essays that both enlighten, inform and splendidly entertain, revealing startling insights and connections.

Melek + ich

by Lina Ehrentraut

Edition Moderne

Rarely has a debut been presented that is so lively and, for all its unfinishedness, as strong as "Melek + I" by Lina Ehrentraut. Scientist Nici has built a machine that can be used to travel through dimensions. Nici creates an alter ego for it and names it Melek. The first journey takes the scientist to herself: Melek meets Nici in the parallel universe where she is the complete opposite of the original Nici, that is to say, messy and screwy. The scientist embarks on an affair with her alter ego and sparks fly. It's crude. But it doesn't matter, because Lina Ehrentraut draws the emotions so clearly with her brusque black strokes that Melek and Nici seem like open books. Lesbian relationships are so prevalent and normal in Lina Ehrentraut's comics that not a word is said about them. She draws sex so explicitly that some pages seem almost pornographic. Lina Ehrentraut wants pleasure to be visible in all its diversity. She also mixes brightly coloured paintings between her black and white drawn comics - abstract colour explosions or people swimming, singing, kissing or having sex. It's powerful and seems as if the protagonists are on an endorphin trip.

Nachtgestalten

by Jaroslav Rudiš und Nicolas Mahler

Luchterhand

Oh, the misery of closed pubs when you urgently need one, two, three more beers to continue an important conversation! Because there are nights that should be endless - and such an endless round of two increasingly drunken existentialists is conjured up by Nicolas Mahler and the author Jaroslav Rudiš in "Nachtgestalten". The two men stagger from bar to beer, from beer to bar, from deep to shallow; they talk, ramble, blather, slur and remain silent about unhappy childhood loves, the nonsense of life and embarrassing mishaps. The ideal life for a man: living like a bison in the Polish forest. Now and then the dead from the past intrude into the conversation and with them, feelings of guilt. It is laconic, minimally drawn and highly comic. "Nachtgestalten" is a comic like a beer glass that never gets empty: You can open it again and again and read yourself drunk.

Parallel

by Matthias Lehmann

Reprodukt

Not often does a graphic novel succeed in providing such an intense and profound view into the inner life of its protagonists as does Matthias Lehmann's "Parallel". Lehmann lets us travel back to early German post-war history - and in Karl Kling's memories also to the time before. Despite marriage, a house and the economic miracle, something is missing from Karl's happiness. A longing that he first felt at Willi's side, Willi who then fell in the last days of the war, throbs ever stronger in him, a longing for men. Thus begins a secret double life, until Karl's cover is blown: "A few years ago they would have lined people like you up against the wall. Too bad that's over." With precise, unobtrusive drawings in watery grey that precisely capture situations and aptly reflect the atmosphere of the time, Matthias Lehmann tells of a grey time in which gays were "warm brothers" and persecuted according to laws that originated with National Socialism. "Parallel" is also a multi-layered comic novel about divided Germany and the conflict between the war and post-war generations.

Penelopes zwei Leben

by Judith Vanistendael (Translation: Andrea Kluitmann)

Reprodukt

The story begins with a quotation from Homer and a confession that the protagonist has not seen her daughter for four years. In a parallel narrative, the upper part of the picture shows the safe life in Brussels and the lower part Penelope's reality in war-torn Aleppo in 2015. While the 14-year-old daughter struggles with the blood of her first menstruation, Penelope, the surgeon, fights for the life of a girl after a bloody attack in the northern Syrian city. When Penelope travels home, the dead girl accompanies her as a red stain in her luggage and does not leave her side. Empathically, Judith Vanistendael describes the difficulties of getting used to each other again and understanding the different worlds: the loving husband, the growing daughter, the worried mother, the twin sister ... In wonderfully delicate watercolours, we gain insight into the inner life of the protagonist. In the epilogue, Vanistendael describes her own journey to the Moria refugee camp and thus brings the great hardship of refugees to our attention once again.

Regenbogentage

by Nora Dåsnes (Translation: Katharina Erben)

Klett Kinderbuch

Tuva is twelve years old, lives with her dad and writes a diary. She is looking forward to the first day of school because she will see her best friends Linnéa and Bao again. So far, so good. But after the summer holidays something has changed. Enter puberty! Linnéa has a boyfriend! It becomes important to be in love. With one of the boys, of course. But they are all so stupid. Bao and Tuva feel betrayed, girlfriends are more important, aren't they? How do you know you're "mature" enough to fall in love? You become interested in other things: Boys, fashion, make-up, healthy eating, romantic movies. But what if it's a girl you think about all the time, whose sight makes your stomach tingle and who makes you jealous when she smiles and hugs others? This sensitive comic in the guise of a diary takes its audience seriously, without embarrassment and as a source of insight for parents who have forgotten what it was like during puberty when emotions were on a rollercoaster ride.

Rude Girl

by Birgit Weyhe

avant-verlag

In "Rude Girl" Birgit Weyhe tells the story of the empowerment of Crystal, a black US-American woman from a simple background. The model for this character is Priscilla Layne, a German professor in North

Carolina with Caribbean roots. Birgit Weyhe researches this biography with the same curiosity that has made her previous works powerful. Because she draws people with all their facets and does not cater to stereotypes. For "Rude Girl" this means that the protagonist in the literature course at university wants to discuss texts not only by Rilke, Storm or Lasker-Schüler, but also by the Afro-German May Ayim. That gender roles are too narrow for her in Caribbean society and that she joins the left-wing skinhead movement. And that she is not recognised by the Afro-American community in the USA. "Rude Girl" is especially powerful because Birgit Weyhe asks more questions than she answers. As in, are white people even allowed to tell the story of black people at all? In response, Birgit Weyhe creates a multi-perspective narrative in which she shows how she repeatedly presents passages of her comic to Priscilla Layne for discussion and thus also reveals the insecurities and the prejudices that the author consciously reflects.

Sapiens

by Yuval Noah Harari, Daniel Casanave und David Vandermeulen (Translation: Andreas Wirthensohn)

Verlag C. H. Beck

In his international bestseller "Sapiens. A Brief History of Mankind", the Israeli historian Yuval Noah Harari explored why Homo Sapiens, of all people, rose to dominate our planet. The four-volume comic adaptation is more than an illustration of the original; it conveys Harari's theses with the means of comics, in drawings that are no less lively than Harari's arguments. The principle is simple: Harari is travelling with his niece Zoe; she asks him questions, and Uncle Yuval answers them by leading her across space and time to the important sites of human evolution. Harari and illustrators Daniel Casanave and David Vandermeulen play extensively with pop culture references; the agricultural revolution is exemplified by a couple that suspiciously resembles Fred and Wilma Flintstone. Harari has no fear of contact. "Sapiens" is a wild ride through history, and the pictures add an additional, vivid layer to the theory. This is how fun knowledge transfer through comics can be.

Sunny

by Taiyō Matsumoto (Translation: Martin Gericke)

Carlsen

In the autobiographically based manga "Sunny", Taiyō Matsumoto describes everyday life in the children's home "Star Kids". The barely controllable Haruo, the cheeky Miiko, the dreamy Megumu and the withdrawn Kenji live there. They are all in the home for different reasons; what they have in common, says one child, is that they are the children nobody wants. Fortunately, there is an unroadworthy Nissan 1200 Sunny on the grounds of the home. In this wrecked car, the children dream of a different life. Here they are car racers, cosmonauts, pop stars, and sometimes they just give in to their homesickness or longing for a family. Despite the individual dramas that have led the children to the home, "Sunny" is at no moment bleak. Matsumoto describes the life in the "Star Kids" home in a differentiated and truthful way, at eye level with the children. There is a beguiling and fragile balance of reality, poetry and dreams, of melancholy and happiness, solidarity and conflicts, homework and household chores.

Trip mit Tropf

by Josephine Mark

Kibitz

Chance and a bit of luck help the wolf code to bring the wolf and the rabbit together. Thus begins this crazy road trip of these two, who could not be more different from each other. Despite fleeing from the hunter, the wolf lovingly looks after his sick companion and caringly provides him with vital infusions. After all, the code commands it, and so it is beyond question! With wry humour and charm, Josephine Mark thrills us through car theft, bar fights, sinister motels and bear dens, metre-long medication plans and freezing cold nights. Will the two manage to outwit all adversity? And perhaps, in the end, will they become friends after all? "Trip mit Tropf" tries to show us how the difficult subject of illness can be dealt with in a warm-hearted, gentle and also highly amusing way. And it succeeds with flying colours!

Tunnel

by Rutu Modan (Translation: Markus Lemke)

Carlsen

A motley crew of amateur Israeli archaeologists dig their way under the border fence into the West Bank, suspecting that nothing less than the Ark of the Covenant is there. Halfway through, however, they come across two Palestinians digging a tunnel in the opposite direction to smuggle food, people and weapons. A situation that could spark conflict, cooperation and comedy. With "Tunnel", Israeli comic author Rutu Modan succeeds in reducing the Middle East conflict to an illegal tunnel digging. In her internationally acclaimed graphic novels "Blutspuren" and "Das Erbe", Rutu Modan has already dealt with her homeland

Israel in subtle, clever and always humorous ways. "Tunnel", however, is clearly more political and also more satirical. Modan collides contradictory personalities, convictions and agendas and thus stages a small theatre of Israeli-Palestinian madness.

Unschlagbar!

by Pascal Jouselin (Translation: Marcel Le Comte)

Carlsen

At first glance, "Unbeatable!" may look like a typical funny story about a clumsy superhero. But in fact, Unbeatable is the smartest of all comic book heroes: His superpower comes from his ability to use the language of the comic itself to defeat the bad guys and protect the population. Unbeatably, he not only travels backwards, forwards and sideways through time and space, but also from panel to panel, from page to page. No panel edge, no paper, no page break can stop him. He is also able to send messages to his former or future self, and if necessary, save himself from a tricky situation with a mere page or panel jump. Pascal Jouselin plays virtuously with the language of comics and its self-reflexive potential. "Unbeatable!" is possibly the funniest and most playful meta-comic - comic theory translated into crazy stories. An enriching and empowering read for all readers from 7 to 77 and beyond, who love comics and believe in their superpowers.

Who's the Scatman?

by Jeff Chi

Zwerchfell

Who is John Larkin? A stuttering jazz pianist with a drinking problem who hides behind the piano to avoid having to speak. He keeps his head above water with gigs in bars and clubs, the fee is often only enough for the necessary booze. One song runs through his life in more ways than one: "Leave your worries on the doorstep just direct your feet to the sunny side of the street", by Dorothy Fields and Jimmy McHugh. At an AA meeting he meets and falls in love with Judy McHugh, Jimmy's daughter. Judy encourages him to go to Europe, his "sunny side of the street". At the age of 45, Larkin accepts his problem as a challenge, turns stuttering into a profession and realises: disability is in truth a gift. He becomes a "Scatman" - Ski-Bi-Dibby-Dib-Yo-Da-Dub-Dub! Everybody stutters one way or the other, so check out my message to you! "I've just discovered an amazing artist!" posts a certain Jeff at the end of the comic. We join in! Writer and illustrator Jeff Chi, who describes himself as a friend of straightforward implementations without a lot of frills and spectacle, has created a worthy monument to John Larkin with his graphic novel debut.

Work-Life-Balance

by Aisha Franz

Reprodukt

Welcome to the unattractive new work world of shoe-free offices, in which people toil creatively but earn poorly, of ghastly-chic art galleries, pizza couriers and trendy therapies (also offered online)! Four typical employees in this working world struggle to find their work-life balance - and find only frustration and precarity: Ceramicist Anita is a thwarted artist; sexually hyperactive start-up employee Sandra celebrates her banality in much-maligned MeTube videos; IT genius Rex delivers pizzas. The common point of reference is a therapist of dubious sensitivity. Their stories cross, tangle and unravel until everything is guaranteed to have tumbled out of balance. Clichés? And how! Aisha Franz exaggerates and dissects these stereotypes with satirical verve. Her narrative style is fast-paced, the drawings are stylised, dynamic, full of quirky details and wonderfully coloured. "Work-Life-Balance" is a rousing pleasure in which contemporary criticism, satire and the pleasure of storytelling are perfectly balanced.

Zarter Schmelz. Lucky Luke Hommage

by Ralf König

Egmont

The Lonesome Cowboy is now 75 years old, holy shit! Probably because he switched from finger-snapping home-rolled to hand-pulled weed, he still sits in the saddle as elegantly as ever. All the more so when, for the second time already, he comes up against a German performer. Where Mawil put Lucky Luke on a bicycle three years ago, Ralf König now takes over. "Zarter Schmelz", the title of his homage, foreshadows what lies ahead. With his characteristic wit, Ralf König takes a gay look at Lucky Luke's Wild West and lets the man who was quicker ... remain the same, and true to his heterosexual disposition. Instead, Bud Willis, a mutton herd driver in the Bareback Mountains, tells how Lucky once helped him out of a jam. Back in Straight Gulch, when Cliff Hanger dressed him down as a "turnip". Bud still raves about his rescuer's slender neck: "You could just eat it! "He was a handsome guy," admits Bud's current beau. "But too skinny! No ass in his pants!" Admittedly - but Ralf König easily makes up for that elsewhere.

Organiser

City of Erlangen – Cultural Office

Department Festivals and Programmes

Gebbertstraße 1, 91052 Erlangen – Germany

Tel. +49 (0)9131 86-1408, Fax: +49 (0)9131 86-1411

E-Mail: info@comic-salon.de

Website: www.comic-salon.de