

Training week

General conditions

I • The project

This training week is part of the project "Comics Beyond", which is a result of the applications' approval to the program Creative Europe.

The project 'Comics Beyond' will last for 33 months, corresponding to three years (2023-2026) and it will involve the following main European partners: Centre Belge de la Bande Dessinée (Belgium), On a Marché sur la Bulle (France) and VISIONA Società Cooperativa a r.l./Comicon Napoli (Italy). Nevertheless, the project will also have associated partners, which are: Art Bubble - Danish International Comic Art Festival (Denmark), Escola Joso (Spain) and Lakes International Comic Arts Festival (United Kingdom).

"Comics beyond" is the experimentation of a European comics incubator, with the objective of strengthening the employability of European comics artists.

European comics artists suffer from a precarious situation; very few of them manage to develop their careers and make a living from their artistic activity. They lack networking spaces, continuous training and development of new skills that would allow them to expand their professional and creative activity, at different scales.

This project aims to develop new skills for European comic artists on a European scale, in particular by implementing a week of training for twelve artists on the development of new skills: the entrepreneurial author posture, the creation of live drawing shows, collaboration with museums, games. Also, throughout the project, attention will be paid to comics workshops and their implementation: guidelines, lectures and webinars will be set up in order to provide training for comics artists, as well as for schools and other interested organizations. Forty comics workshops will be set up in Europe.

It seeks to foster the creation and circulation of European works and artists by overcoming the language barrier associated with books, in particular by supporting the creation, production and international distribution of four transnational comic shows, which can be seen and understood without translation - and the circulation and networking of the four artistic groups behind these works.

The creation of a database of transdisciplinary comics will enable the networking of artists and distribution spaces, so as to promote and structure the transdisciplinarity of comics on a European scale, encouraging transnational and transdisciplinary creation and helping comics to reach new audiences.

II • The partners

Belgian Comic Strip Centre - Brussels, Belgium

Opened in 1989, the Comic Art Museum - Brussels (CAMB) is one of the major comics museums in Europe and a must see cultural attraction in Brussels. The CAMB isn't just a museum !

We also organize masterclasses, events, residencies or workshops. Not convinced yet ? For the past five years, the CAMB has been developing international cooperation through various means (prospection missions, professional seminars, cooperation projects), from Lebanon to Japan, via the Congo, Cuba and many more. Definitely not just a museum !

Amadora BD / Amadora Municipality - Amadora, Portugal

Amadora BD is the most important comic festival in Portugal. Founded in 1990 and organized by the Municipality of Amadora, it welcomes more than 15,000 visitors every year. In addition to organizing workshops, exhibitions, book launches, autograph sessions, conferences, and guided visits all year round with schools and other educational institutions across the country. Amadora BD holds a 30-year expertise in: comics artistic direction; hosting international delegations; organizing comics workshops and especially in setting up major seminars with professionals. Amadora BD has been involved in international projects since its creation, and was notably part of the France/Portugal Season led jointly by the French Institute and the Portuguese Ministry of Culture.

Visiona (NCC) / Comicon Napoli - Naples, Italy

Visiona/Comicon Napoli is one of the most productive event creators when it comes to comics-related contents and pop culture in Europe for almost twenty-five years. Every year, COMICON - International Pop Culture Festival attracts more than 170,000 visitors to Naples (Italy) for four days of comics, games and video games, animation and manga, cinema and series televised, which places it among the five largest European pop festivals. Visiona (NCC) also organizes national and international exhibitions, publishes comic books under the COMICON Edizioni label, represents renowned international artists, and its co-founder is in charge of the European Network of Comics Festivals and the RIFF - Rete Italiana Festival Fumetto.

On a Marché sur la Bulle - France

It is an association which organizes both the Rendez-Vous de la Bande Dessinée of Amiens (3rd Comic Strip Festival in France), but also a resource center made up of an educational service (6 full-time employees) which offers many formats around comic books, focusing on school and adult audiences and book professionals; as well as a Centre dedicated to the creation of exhibitions and tools of mediation in connection with the publishing house "Les éditions de la Gouttière"; supporting projects around comics with various stakeholders (authors, communities, national educational professionals). The festival welcomes 21,000 people each year and it is a key place for promoting the transdisciplinarity of comics: each year, cartoon shows, and music/comics performances are presented at the festival. It's the only structure in France of this size to work on both the educational dimension, authors' service, and a major festival.

III • Associated partners

Art Bubble - Danish International Comic Art Festival – Denmark

Art Bubble aims to bring comics, their artists and their methods of creation to the Danish people. Every year they organise a festival in Aarhus (Denmark) with international guests of the highest caliber. Art Bubble promotes Danish artists and creators internationally by working with cultural institutions from all over the world (Canada, USA, Netherlands, Germany). Art Bubble is headed by Lars Jakobsen, director and founder of Art Bubble.

Escola Joso - Barcelona, Spain

Joso School (JOSO) specializes in comics, illustration, visual development and 2D animation. The School has adapted to the needs of the visual and entertainment industries, training high-level professionals thanks to a team of teachers specialized in visual arts. JOSO offers artistic training and a knowledge of the comic environment and teaches future authors and illustrators in the contemporary challenges of comics: entrepreneurial posture, rights, understanding of markets. The school enjoys international recognition due to its privileged partnerships with international festivals, such as Québec BD, BDFIL Lausanne, the Lakes Festival and the Lyon BD Festival. JOSO also enjoys a national reputation due to the quality of its training modules, making it one of the largest comic book schools in Spain. Every year, 1000 students and 60 teachers pass through the school's doors.

Lakes International Comic Arts Festival Kendal, United Kingdom

The Lakes International Comic Arts Festival (LICAF) is dedicated to promoting and celebrating the transformational power of comics by supporting the development of the medium, both with artists and audiences. Each year, their international comics festival brings over 14,000 visitors to Bowness-on-Windermere, in the north of England. LICAF has a wealth of expertise in terms of delivering workshops, using comics in a variety of fields, producing cross-sectoral projects - and has built strong international partnerships from around the world.

IV • The Training Week

Driven by "Comics Beyond" and coordinated by Amadora BD/Amadora Municipality, this Training Week will last for 5 days, and it will take place in Amadora, Lisbon, Portugal, mostly in two locations: the Public Comics Library and the Portuguese Comics Club. During this week, we aim to stimulate and provide skills to 12 European comic artists, for instance, in the following areas: contracts, administration, negotiation, creation, and other creative areas. All the activities will focus on three main issues: museum, games, and music; despite approaching other related issues. Most academic research doesn't recognize technical and professional expertise as structural to an artist's career growth. Therefore, most of the comic artists don't have the knowledge or expertise in dealing with aspects of their professional careers and as result they can't project themselves worldwide or take the necessary actions to increase their business income.

This project aims to give them a broader perspective about their artistic positioning, namely, stimulate them to work and experiment different art subjects in relation to their practices. The project's strategy is to help them achieve their professional and artistic goals through a training week that will host several masterclasses, workshops, and lectures by experts in the three issues – museum, games and music. All these activities will take place in the locations mentioned before.

Dates and location

The Training Week will take place in Amadora, at the Comics Library of Amadora, the Cultural Centre of Recreios da Amadora and the Portuguese Comics Club in Amadora - between the

- **1st and 6th of July 2024:**
- **Arrival day: 1st of July 2024**
- **Training Week activities: from 1st till the 5th of July 2024**
- **Departure day: 6th of July 2024**

Conditions of participation

Any comic artist that lives in one of the 27 EU Member States: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Republic of Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden.

+ United Kingdom, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Iceland, Montenegro, Norway, Serbia, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine, Tunisia, Armenia, Kosovo, Liechtenstein.

The project will only consider applications from comics creators who have already one publication.

Applicants need to have a good level of English, spoken and written.

Selection process

The deadline to apply to the Training Week is 17th March 2024.

Applying is free of charges, you just need to fill the form on the project's website: www.comicsbeyond.eu with: your personal information and a digital portfolio (in English)

About the portfolio:

You must present a digital portfolio (pdf) of between 10 and 20 pages including the following content:

- **Projects, independently or corporate;**
- **Published work, namely books and/or fanzines;**
- **Digital overview of the artistic style with examples of original artwork;**
- **Motivation letter.**

COMICS BEYOND

Optional:

If you have started any type of independent comic project and you would like to present it during the Training Week to the experts invited by the project and ask for their help, you must include a short plot summary and a selection of your drawing work.

The project will select a maximum of 12 participants.

The jury will be composed of professionals, teachers and one representative from each partner of the project.

Calendar

The deadline to apply to the Training Week is 17th March 2024.

1st April: jury's selection of the 12 participants.

1st April: the selected participants receive a notification by email.

8th April–15th April: the selected participants will have 5 days to answer the email and confirm their participation in the Training Week by filling the form attached.

Financial conditions

Comics Beyond will cover the following costs:

- **Travel costs within Europe (flight, train, taxi as appropriate)**
- **Accommodation for 5 nights in Amadora (hostel/hotel)**
- **Subsistence: 1 meal a day**

The participants will be responsible for any additional costs that aren't mentioned above.

Academic programme

Schedule of activities. From the 1st to 6th of July 2024

MONDAY 1ST

Arrival Day.
Welcome Drink.

–

TUESDAY 2ND

Activities throughout the day.

–

WEDNESDAY 3RD

Activities throughout the day.

–

THURSDAY 4TH

Activities throughout the day.

–

FRIDAY 5TH

Activities throughout the day.
Farewell dinner and kits.

–

SATURDAY 6TH

Departure Day.

Commitment

Selected students undertake to follow all the activities offered during the Training Week as well as to participate in any additional activities that may be organized.

Force majeure

If the training camp is prevented by a case of force majeure, it will be postponed until it can be held, within the limits of the project schedule (possible postponement until the end of April 2025).

If it is impossible to set up the training camp, another training format will be considered, by mutual agreement between AmadoraBD/ Amadora Municipality and the training camp participants.

Force majeure being defined by the following list: war, riots, earthquakes, hurricanes, lightning, explosions, energy blackouts, unexpected legislation, lockdown, or other pandemic consequences.

Contact

For further information, please contact the project Comics Beyond, per email at info@comicsbeyond.eu

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