

Participating artists from the EUNIC Brussels 7 countries:

BASQUE COUNTRY

Ainara Azpiazu (Nickname: *Axpi*) is a Basque artist known for her creative versatility. Formed in the field of sociology, because of her studies she is inclined to tell stories with a social background. The works of this Basque illustrator are part of a wide spectrum; *Axpi*, as is known, has created comics as well as murals. Ainara Azpiazu has published more than a dozen books, mostly in Basque and in Spanish. Widely recognized and rewarded for her work, which is mainly addressed to young people and aimed to touch consciences and sensibilities. Her mural works are in her hometown, which shows the deep connection she has with her roots. Moreover, *Axpi* has been widely awarded in the Basque region. Among other achievements, the first place in the following contests: the comic contest Galtzakomik (2012), the Comic Strip Competition of Mondragon (2013), or the comic fair of Portugalete (2017). <http://ainaraxpi.blogspot.com.es/>

Iñaki Martiarena (Nickname: *Mattin*) Iñaki, or *Mattin* as the Basque artist is called, is a well-known author with many publications, mainly in the press. *Mattin*'s works are full with humour, irony and satire. He covers a wide field of work: graphic humour, comic, illustration, workshops, exhibitions... He is also author of many endearing characters. His magnificent graphic novel (*Zarrakalada*) has given a new impetus and recognition to his work. Its graphics are in constant evolution. He has been awarded several times for his work. Iñaki Martiarena has received several prizes in the Basque Country for his comic publications. He has been awarded the Comic Award (1988) by the Basque Government. Furthermore, in 2003 his work received a special mention at the Bratislava Biennial with the title "*Maripuzker*" and in 2011 IBBY (The International Board on Books for Young People) presented the author at the Bratislava Biennial with the work "*La edad del pavo = Haize adina*".

ESTONIA

AW are Liisa Kruusmägi and Janno Pikkat. Liisa Kruusmägi is a freelance artist and illustrator, who has a BA degree in painting and MA degree in graphic arts from the Estonian Academy of Arts. She uses her life and travel experiences to create zines and exhibitions.

Janno Pikkat studied journalism, economics, philosophy and Estonian at the University of Tartu and software development at ICT, and has also published poetry. In the comics collective AW, Liisa does the drawing while Janno writes, and they focus on potential situations and poignant statements. See: <http://awstuff.xyz/et/aw/>

Mari Laaniste is an art historian working as a researcher at the Estonian Academy of Arts, focusing on visual culture, in particular visual narrative media: film and TV, animation and comics. She is currently completing her PhD dissertation about the Soviet-era works of the Estonian artist and filmmaker Priit Pärn, is active as a film, art and pop-culture critic as well as a curator of comics exhibitions, and has also published fiction. <https://artun.academia.edu/MariLaaniste>

Ivar Laus is a comics blogger, collector and illustrator. He studied IT at the Tallinn University of Technology and has also worked as an animator. He is one of the founders of the Estonian Comics Society and has organized several comics exhibitions. In addition to drawing, he also makes pop sculptures. See: <http://pikseldused.blogspot.com/>

Kivi Larmola is a Finnish comics artist, illustrator, translator, freelance journalist and a musician, who lives in Estonia. His subject matter often reflects on the absurdities of everyday life and he has a particular interest and affinity to the urban rock music scene as a lifestyle. www.kivilarmola.com

Sanna Larmola is a Finnish photographer and film-maker currently living and working in Tallinn, Estonia. In addition to film production, she has also studied art and business administration, has co-produced many comics projects, and also has 25 years of experience in marketing comics. <http://www.sannalarmola.com/>

HUNGARY

Gábor Erdei (1972) – comic writer

Gábor Erdei has graduated from the Hungarian Academy of Fine Arts as an intermedia artist. During his university years, he won the Béla Balázs Film Studio script writer's scholarship with his script *Green Film*. After the university, he worked at international advertisement agencies – Ogilvy & Mather, JWT, Leo Burnett - as a copywriter and screenwriter. As a comics fan, he has always been researching how to combine comics narrative with film language. Since 2010 he has been working with Attila Futaki, their last joint work is the *Budapest's Angel*.

He won the Oskar Glatz Art Award and Golden Razor Advertising Award.

Lajos Farkas (1963) - comic artist, illustrator

Lajos Farkas graduated as sculptor from the Hungarian University of Fine Arts in 1989. For years has been working on portrait caricatures, he designed characters for the Hungarian *Uborka (Cucumber)* television program that was based on the English *Spitting Images*, and he created caricatures of politicians and actors for several satirical magazines.

He made illustrations and storyboards for commercials and movies. He worked on movies such as *Underworld* by Len Wiesman and *Lion in Winter* by Andrei Konchalovski.

He has been interested in comics since his childhood. At the very beginning of his comics carrier he worked with Attila Futaki as his assistant on books such as *Percy Jackson* and *Severed*. Later on, his three comic books have been published in France at Soleil and Delcourt: *Redemption I-II* in 2014 and 2015 and *Le ballade des Pendus* (part of the series *Jour J*) in 2016.

<http://canaislupus.blogspot.hu>

Attila Fazekas (1948) - comic artist, illustrator

Attila Fazekas is the most prominent Hungarian comic book artist from the generation of Korcsmáros, Sebők and Zórád. Generations grew up with his works.

His works has been exhibited several times, he is a constant partaker in the collective comic book exhibitions eg. in Helsinki, Tallinn or the *Frame Up* exhibition in Holdudvar Gallery on the Margaret Island in Budapest. He is an active member of the Hungarian comic community: he frequently takes part in comic-themed round table discussions and has been invited to the jury of several competitions. He had his own stands four times at the Hungarian Comic Book Festival, the Hungarocomix and at several comic book events. Fazekas also illustrated dozens of novels, including the first ten books of the *Tarzan* series.

Attila Futaki (1984) – comic artist, illustrator

Attila Futaki is a representative of the newest generation of the Hungarian comics. He is the first Hungarian comic book artist who had his own album published in France. From his young years he has consciously prepared his comic artist career. He has been accepted to the International Comic Book School in Florence (Scuola Internazionale di Comics) and studied anatomy at the Academy of Fine Arts in Hungary.

In 2009 Futaki signed with the Walt Disney Entertainment to adapt Rick Riordan's novel *The Lightning Thief* to comic book. It was published in USA in October 2010, followed by 2 other books of the series. All three graphic novels became New York Times bestsellers.

He also worked on other cultic comic books like *Severed*, written by Scott Snyder. He drew a *Conan* miniseries for Dark Horse and, recently, the first *Hypnos* BD for *Le Lombard*. His illustrations has been published in *New York Times*, *GQ* and the *Intercept* magazine.

<https://hu-hu.facebook.com/Attila-Futaki-Art-189819081220213/>

Csaba Kopeczky (1955) – Owner of E(as)t-caetera and agent for comic artists

Since 1996, Csaba Kopeczky has been an agent of Central, Eastern and Southern European comic artists and script writers at the French and Belgian markets. He has collaborated on several hundred mainstream projects published by leader comic strip houses, notably: Glénat, Delcourt, Soleil, Les Humanoïdes Associés, Casterman, le Lombard, Dupuis, Dargaud, and smaller ones like 12 bis, Mosquito, Psikopat, Jungle. Besides of the comic world he works also as a journalist, editor, translator, and an interpreter.

Ádám Márton (1988) – Student of the MOME University - Visual storytelling

Ádám Márton currently works in the video game industry as a leading character artist. At the Budapest based Primal Game Studio he works on the figures of various vehicles, monsters, soldiers, outfits and wildlife for a Sci-Fi game called *Supernova* as well as, for other, yet unannounced titles. His enthusiasm for drawing dates back to his childhood. Currently he studies Visual Storytelling techniques, namely drawing storyboards and comic books in his free time. <https://www.artstation.com/artist/mam>

Csaba Szabó (1984) - MOME University - Visual storytelling

Csaba Szabó is an architect who graduated in 2008 from Szent István University Ybl Miklós Faculty of Architecture and Civil Engineering. Between 2007 and 2012 he worked for Épszerk-Pannónia Invest Ltd. as an engineer. Currently he is a 3D modellist at Burken Ltd. where he makes CAD/BIM models, still/animated renders and VR experiences.

In 2015, he started to work with a Hungarian science-fantasy writer and made illustrations and the cover painting for his novel set in his imagined world called "Apokaliptika". In 2016, he joined to the project Basiliscus, a group of game developers as character artist.

In 2017, he attended MOME's Visual Storytelling course and realized that his interest is the comic books. <http://www.szabocsaba.net>

Gábor Tallai (1970) - writer, historian

Gábor Tallai has graduated from the Teacher Training University ELTE in Hungarian and history. Later, he has studied media sciences and television journalism in Munich with a scholarship. Between 1995 and 2001 he worked as a teacher at American Berlitz Kft. In 1995-96 he became the deputy leader of the cultural section of the daily paper *Új Magyarország (New Hungary)*. Since 1997, he had been the cultural director of *Napi Magyarország (Daily Hungary)*, and after 2000, the cultural columnist of *Magyar Nemzet (Hungarian Nation)*. Between 2001 and 2003, he was the strategic director of the Hungarian news agency, MTI. Since 2003, he has been the program director of the House of Terror Museum. He is a founder-member of the Young Writers' Association. In 2000, he received the Péter Hajnóczy Literary Scholarship. Since 2013, he has been working in the First World War Centenary Project as a project manager of the Central and Eastern European History and Society Research Foundation.

POLAND

Wojciech Stefaniec is a graphic and comics artist who is considered to be one of the most outstanding of his generation in those fields. He is the author of more than a dozen comics, two of which, *NOIR* (2013) and *Wróć do mnie, jeszcze raz* (Come Back To Me Once Again; 2016) have won the Polish Comics Association's Album of the Year award. He lives in the city Słupsk in northern Poland.

Maciej Palka is a visual artist, illustrator, creator of computer games and graphic novels. He is also an animator of comics culture. He has authored a dozen comics and has more than a hundred publications. He participated in international comics projects such as *Citystories* (Ukraine), *W sąsiednich kadrach* ("In neighbouring frames" in the Czech Republic) and in exhibitions of Polish comics (Tokio, Budapest, Moscow, Tel Aviv, Athens). He leads a comics workshop in "Brama Grodzka - Teatr NN" in the city of Lublin.

PORTUGAL

Paulo Monteiro was born in Vila Nova de Gaia, Oporto, in the North of Portugal, in 1967. From the age of 13 he has illustrated poetry fanzines and drawn posters and mural paintings. He studied in the Faculty of Letters of the Lisbon University from 1987. During that period, he has also studied Painting and Theatre Design. After graduation in 1991 he went to live in the southern town of Beja, his adoptive city.

He had (and still has) a lot of interests and activities: he has worked as a grape-picker, brought films of Buster Keaton and Charlie Chaplin across small villages via a travelling cinema, wrote for the radio and newspapers as a young journalist, has worked in the Alcântara's Maritime Pier (in Lisbon), composed songs and played guitar (often in old people's homes), worked as a Geography and Nature Sciences teacher, made set and costume design for theater plays, set and costume design as well as writing scenarios for Chinese shadows puppetry and puppets theater, worked in several archaeological excavations, etc., etc. He has also curated dozens of exhibitions on sculpture, illustration, ancient and contemporary painting, etc.

He has written and published four poetry fanzines: *Poems* (1988), *Poems for a car journey* (2003), *Japanese Poems* (2005), and *25 laps around the Ecuador just to find you* (2014).

Since 2005 he has been the director of the Beja Comics Library and of Beja's International Comics Festival, hosting many exciting leading comic artists like Craig Thompson, Dave McKean, David B., Gipi, Lorenzo Mattotti, and Miguelanxo Prado, among others.

In 2010, he publishes his first long form comic, *The Infinite Love I have for you*, published in 6 languages and distributed in 20 countries, from Canada to Romania. Now he is currently hard at work on his second book, *Estrela*, a long form love story. He regularly travels all over the South of Portugal, visiting schools in little towns and villages to talk about comics. He has a son: Manuel.

ROMANIA

Xenia Pamfil is a Romanian artist, 35 years old, who studied fine arts at the Arts University in Iasi. In 2004, she attended The Manchester Metropolitan University in UK with an Erasmus scholarship. She published her work in many local collective publications such as: "the Book of George" 2011 (published by Hardcomics), "Glorioasa Fanzina" (Comics Club Cluj), "Otaku Magazine", "Revista Comics", "Urmatorul Cadru", ... as well as in foreign publications and events as: "VCM illustre", art for "Zombie Tramp" issue 14, cover art for "Zombie Tramp", "Doll Face" and "Raven-the Pirate Princess" published by Action Lab (United States), "Artaction" exhibit in Paris, Romanian talents exhibit from Bernay in France.

Xenia Pamfil also participated at local events as: Comics Museum exhibit in Bucharest, 2013; The European Comics Salon (2013) that took place in Bucharest, with a workshop about her web-comic: "Papoi". She gets her first book, *Mishka and the Sea Devil*, published by Action Lab (United States), released at Comic Con, New York, 2014. Her book here: <https://www.bookdepository.com/Mishka-Sea-Devil-Xenia-Pamfil/9781632290700>

TURKEY

Uğur Gürsoy Just as many other cartoonists, he started off as an amateur and developed his skills and fame exponentially thanks to his ever so popular leading cartoon characters 'Baattin' and 'Firat'. Originally a dentist, Uğur Gürsoy was one of the lead cartoonists whom established the weekly cartoon magazine 'Uykusuz' and following its success, he quit his job as a dentist and dedicated his time to 'Uykusuz'. Not only he draws and publishes on 'Uykusuz' but also actively functions as editor in chief, a job he still 'does not understand' as he argues himself and still struggling with managing deadlines and coordinating artistic works of other cartoonists.