



General conditions

I. The project

This call is part of the “COMIC ART EUROPE” project.

The «COMIC ART EUROPE» project is a pilot project bringing together five European organisations representing different elements of the comic book ecosystem: a higher education institution, festivals and a museum.

It aims to strengthen the comic book sector in Europe by experimenting with collaborative working methods. It promotes the transnational mobility of artworks, workers and creators as a means to significantly upscale the work. It prefigures a European comics community capable of positioning creators and organisations at a European level and challenging the historical dominance of the American and Japanese giants.

The project will experiment with professional training methods (summer camp and residency pathways), creative assistance (grants and residencies), dissemination of results in Europe and outside Europe (European comic book catalogue, large-scale dissemination channels) and research about the transformational power of comics (in particular through literacy workshops with comics).

This project, supported by the European Commission, will run from 1 September 2020 to 31 December 2023.

II. The partners

Belgian Comic Strip Centre – Brussels, Belgium

The CBBB is located in the heart of Brussels: an unmissable attraction, it has been celebrating the authors and heroes of the 9th Art for more than 30 years and welcomes more than 230,000 visitors every year.

The regularly renewed permanent exhibitions and a vast programme of temporary exhibitions lead visitors to discover the countless facets of comic strips.

The Comic Strip Museum is as much a tribute to the pioneers as it is a window on today's comics.

Escola Joso – Barcelona, Spain

Escola Joso specialises in comics, illustration, concept art and animation but also has courses on manga, digital creation, tattoo drawing, comics for children, etc. Joso school has been adapted to the necessities of the visual and leisure industry, training high level professionals thanks to the skilled teaching team.

Joso trains future authors and illustrators in the contemporary issues of comics: digitalisation, entrepreneurial stance, rights and understanding of markets.

The school enjoys international recognition thanks to privileged partnerships with international festivals such as Québec BD, BDFIL Lausanne, the Lakes International Comic Art Festival and Lyon BD Festival. Joso also enjoys national renown for the quality of its training modules, making it one of the leading comic book schools in Spain.

Escola Joso is the major European school in number of students specialises on comics.

Lakes International Comic Arts Festival – Kendal, United Kingdom

The Lakes International Comic Arts Festival takes place every year in Kendal, in the north of England and brings together more than 14,000 visitors. Its mission is to promote and celebrate the transformational power of comics by supporting the development of the medium, both with artists and audiences.

Throughout the year, they are committed to supporting young contemporary comics creation and focus on the social impact of comics as a tool for literacy and working with communities.

Lyon BD Organisation – Lyon, France

Lyon BD Organisation (LBDO) is an association created in 2005 on the «initiative of a few friends who have a passion for comics». Its objectives are to foster paths between comics and other arts and sectors and to extend and diversify comics' audience. The association is structured into 4 areas of activity:

- **Festival:** Every year, bringing together more than 230 authors and 80,000 people during the month of June in Lyon and around.
- **Events:** Organisation of comics events in France and around the world. For example, LBDO co-produced the NCS Fest in California in 2019.
- **Creation:** Hosting residencies, design and production of shows and exhibitions based on original creations by comics artists.
- **Editions :** Development of editorial projects in conjunction with institutional partners.

The structure is widely supported by the French public authorities and in 2022 a residence and production space dedicated to comics in the heart of Lyon will open.

III. Theme

Visions of tomorrow

Where do we go from here? European comic artists on what comes next.

As nations struggle to deal with unprecedented social, economic, and political unrest during a time of global pandemic, people around the world are challenged into questioning our ways of living, how they brought us to the present situation, and what they could become to ensure better outcomes.

As the comic art has often proved over the past decades to be able to comment on contemporary issues, whether they are of political, economic, or social relevance, this project calls for comic artists to offer us their visions of tomorrow, of what comes next. Optimistic or pessimistic, realistic or abstract, from the day after to far in the future, comic artists will give us their visions of tomorrow.

IV. Conditions of participation

Your project must be centered on the use of the comic art and medium and embrace the theme described above. It can be of different shapes: a comic story, a show including live drawing, a comic exhibition, a digital comic art creation, or else as long as it is making use of the comic art narrative specificities and focuses on the theme « Visions of tomorrow ».

Comic Art Europe calls for artists from all EU countries! It is aimed at artists who are resident in Europe and who work around comics. Applicants should be 18 or over. There is no obligation to have already been published.

To complete the application, the applicant must fill out the form below with:

- a high level overview of the project in 5 lines`
- an explanation of their reasons for applying
- a proposal for an output format
- a biography and/or portfolio

If selected, the candidate will:

- receive a 5000€ grant
- go on a two-week residency in Europe
- present their work in a format to be agreed with the project's partner festivals (e.g. exhibition, installation, graphic novel etc)
- be part of a more global presentation of the project

A contract will be drawn up between the artist and the partners, specifying the conditions of production and distribution of the work. Upon entering any agreement, the artist will commit to completing the project.

The partners will cover the costs involved in the artist's residency, the production of the and distribution of the commissioned work. The partners do not undertake to produce the artist's final work.

V. Selection process

5 artists will be selected.

We may request further information after the application deadline.

The jury comprises the project partners and five European comics experts (to be confirmed).

VI. Calendar

The application deadline for the open call is February 1st, 2021.

Successful candidates will be announced on March the 7th, 2021.

Contracts will be signed by the end of March 2021.

The residencies will take place over periods to be defined according to the place of residence of each candidate, between April and September 2021.

Presentations of the completed work will take place at the 2022 festivals as follows: Lyon BD Festival (June), Art Bubble Festival (September) and the Lakes International Comic Arts Festival (October).

VII. Residencies

Each project partner will be responsible for the residency of one of the five selected artists. Each selected artist will go on a two-week residency in one of the project partner cities (or countries). The artist will have a working space at their disposal and will organise, in conjunction with the partner, meetings which will enable them to work on their project. Each partner will accompany the artist hosted in residency.

Comic Art Europe will cover the following costs :

- Travel costs within Europe (flight, train, taxi as appropriate)
- Accommodation for a 2 week period (studio/apartment/hotel)
- Subsistence payment limited to 40€ per day

VIII. Grants

Five creator grants of €5,000 are planned for the selected artists. These bursaries are creative support for the artists. They will be paid in two stages:

- 50% deposit after signature of the contract between the selected artist and the project partners.
- 50% after delivery of the artist's completed work

IX. Outputs presentation

The completed works will be presented during the project's partner festivals. Each applicant will have to make a proposal for an output format around their project which will be presented during the partner festivals (e.g. exhibition, installation, graphic novel etc)

X. Rights

The artist commits to inform the project partners if the project presented is already receiving funding from a third party.

The artist undertakes to transfer the distribution rights of their completed work to the project partners.

XI. Force majeure

If a residence is prevented by a case of force majeure, it will be postponed until it can be held as provided for in these conditions, within the limits of the project schedule (possible postponement until November 2021).

If it is impossible to set up the residency as provided for in the present conditions, another residency format will be considered, by mutual agreement between the responsible partner and the selected artist.

In the absence of agreement on a new residency format, an amicable agreement will be drawn up between the responsible partner and the selected artist specifying the financial conditions of this cancellation.

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

XII. Contact

For any further information, please contact the project coordinator, Lisa Weill by email at info@comicareturope.eu

 **Apply here**

 **More about the project**