



INVISIBLE LINES: YOUNG COMIC-BOOK ARTISTS, GRAPHIC NOVELISTS AND ILLUSTRATORS WILL JOURNEY ACROSS EUROPE TO LEARN HOW TO DRAW THE INVISIBLE

Co-funded by the European Commission, the project will take 12 young artists around Europe in the company of renowned names from the world of comics and book illustrating

This **travelling advanced course** for young artists starts from a paradox: **how do you draw the invisible?** Invisible Lines (www.invisiblelines.eu) has been developed around this question. The educational project for young comic-book artists and illustrators from the European Union has been conceived by the Fondazione Giorgio Cini Centre for Comparative Studies of Civilisations and Spiritualities with the consultancy of Matteo Stefanelli and in partnership with three first-rate European players in the field of illustration, the graphic novel and comics: the Hamelin Associazione Culturale (Italy), the publishers Baobab Books (Czech Republic), specialized in children's books, and Central Vapeur (France), an association bringing together professionals from the worlds of publishing, the visual arts and education.

Invisible Lines will enable 12 young artists, selected through an international call for applications (see details on www.invisiblelines.eu) to go on a **two-year** course that is also a journey through Europe and various artistic practices. Three workshops in Italy, the Czech Republic and France will be led by three major artists: **Stefano Ricci, Juraj Horváth** and **Yvan Alagbé**.

Giving form to the invisible: this is the philosophical and, to an even greater extent, aesthetic challenge the selected artists will have to meet. In a world where images multiply and often distort the perception of reality, questioning what is not seen and then drawing it becomes an essential undertaking. The importance of the invisible can be grasped in spiritual and religious phenomena, often considered to be in crisis, but which today have become more potent and have new spaces. Paradoxically, the invisible is the migrant and the refugee, prominently featured in the media and yet rarely present with their own history and voices. We can sense the invisible also in many abandoned places scattered all over Europe, created by the ever-changing cityscapes.

These ramifications will be compared in the specific languages of comics and illustrated books, which are narratives, but whose DNA is in the blanks and ellipsis.

Each stage in the Invisible Lines training path explores a different thematic nuance of the concept of the invisible in a place linked to it: **revelations**, the theme of the workshop at the Fondazione Giorgio Cini Centre for Comparative Studies of Civilisations and Spiritualities in Venice; the **landscapes** of the region in the Czech Republic historically inhabited by the Sudetens and now mostly abandoned and transformed by continuous urban development; the experience of **migration**, told through the individual stories of migrants at the Bernanos Reception Centre in Strasbourg, where the 12 participants will be joined by a group of artists chosen by Central Vapeur for the *24 heures de l'illustration #5*, a 24-hour drawing marathon.



Invisible Lines will involve a dialogue between young artists and renowned experts focused on the creation of original works. Each stage is led by an exceptional master: **Stefano Ricci**, a leading contemporary Italian artist, who has crossed over languages and styles in his work, from comics to illustration, painting and performances; the architect and illustrator for children's books **Juraj Horváth**, winner of the Most Beautiful Book in the World Award at the Leipzig Book Fair in 2001; and the Franco-Beninese cartoonist **Yvan Alagbé**, founder of Frémok, an important French publishing house, whose stories describe the effects of migration and colonialism on the lives of ordinary people.

Under their guidance, the 12 chosen young talents will produce drawn stories that will then be exhibited at three major comic-book and illustration festivals in Europe: BilBOLbul International Comics Festival (Italy), Central Vapeur (France) and the Tabook Festival (Czech Republic).

The same works will then be published in a **final book**, which will also include the papers given by critics and experts at a **conference** on the relationship between the visible and invisible, and imagery and mystery.

The project image

Dozens of faces – masks, animal heads and human faces – stare out at the viewer from an image that reveals new details at every look. From a distance, it becomes a single figure. This official image of the Invisible Lines project is by **David B.**, master of French esoteric storytelling. There are several reasons why David B. was chosen to depict the identity of the project. A great contemporary narrator and founder of L'Association, a historic European independent comics publisher, he not only has a highly refined style with a strong personality but uses drawing as a tool to investigate the relationship between individual and history, and reality and fiction: his way of seeing is perfectly suited to tackling the mysterious, complex theme of invisibility. David B. will also be a special guest at one of the workshops: he will assist Stefano Ricci in exploring the invisible as an element of spirituality inherent in everyday life.

The call for applications on www.invisiblelines.eu is open from 5 October to 10 December 2020.

To find out more about the project and how to take part, please visit www.invisiblelines.eu

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