

## **INVISIBLE LINES: OVER 400 APPLICATIONS BY UNDER-30S FROM ALL OVER EUROPE FOR THE PROJECT TO DRAW THE INVISIBLE**

Co-funded by the Creative Europe Programme of the European Union, *Invisible Lines* will take 12 young artists, chosen from over 400 applicants, on a tour of Europe in the company of three renowned figures from the world of comics and book illustration

Art never stops: over **400 applications** from all over Europe were made to take part in the *Invisible Lines* project, co-funded by the Creative Europe Programme of the European Union, a sign that despite the restrictions imposed by the pandemic, there is a great willingness to study, get together and create.

Hundreds of talented young comic-book artists and illustrators from **over 32 EU countries** responded to the call for applications: an impressive result for the project, highlighting the vitality of the artistic and cultural world, one of the sectors most badly hit by the pandemic.

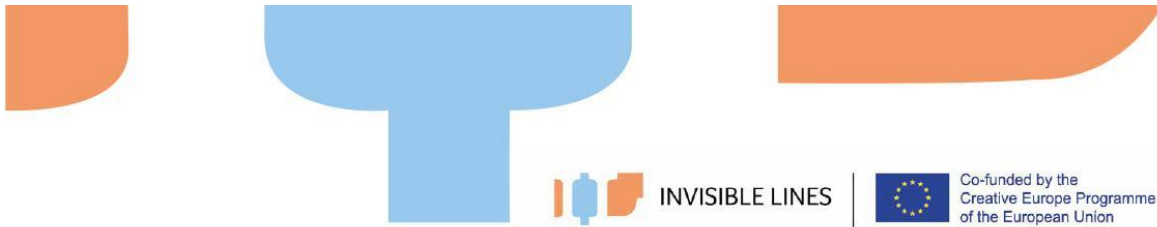
The jury had the arduous task of starting from 400 to arrive at 12. The process was made even more difficult due to the overall high standard of the applications, providing a picture of a highly proficient young generation, capable of combining traditional art with original and hybrid styles. One particularly striking aspect is the multiform nature of most of the works sent in: they show an increasingly powerful blend of comic book, illustration, painting and graphic arts.

This hybrid aspect is also reflected in the composition of the jury, made up of three international artists, **Stefano Ricci**, **Juraj Horváth** and **Yvan Alagbé**, who readily cross the boundaries between comic book, illustration, painting and design.

The three members of the jury, who will lead a travelling advanced course in the summer of 2021, were assisted in their decisions by the project partners: the **Fondazione Giorgio Cini Centre for Comparative Studies of Civilisations and Spiritualities**, creator of the project with the consultancy of **Matteo Stefanelli**, the **Hamelin Associazione Culturale** (Italy), the publishing house **Baobab Books** (Czech Republic) and **Central Vapeur** (France), an association that brings together publishing and arts professionals.

After two days' evaluating, the jury chose the names of the 12 winners, based on the quality of their art work, the narrative power of their images and the motivations that led them to respond to the call.

The group reflects the highly varied mixture of cultures and experiences that increasingly makes up the DNA of European identity. The winners come from Sweden, France, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Italy, Poland and Germany.



There is a very significant number of women, both in the overall applicants and in the final shortlist, confirming a trend that sees the growing participation of talented female artists in the world of contemporary comic books and illustration.

All detailed profiles of the 12 selected artists are available at [www.invisiblelines.eu/artists](http://www.invisiblelines.eu/artists)

From May to July, the 12 selected artists will take part in a series of three workshops, each designed to explore a different aspect of the invisible: **revelations**, the theme of the workshop that Stefano Ricci will hold at the Fondazione Giorgio Cini Centre for Comparative Studies of Civilisations and Spiritualities in Venice; **landscapes**, in this case of the Sudetenland region in the Czech Republic, where designer Juraj Horváth will literally lead the young participants on an artistic pilgrimage; and **migration**, told through the stories of migrants at the Bernanos Reception Centre in Strasbourg, where Yvan Alagbé will guide the group of artists on the *24 heures de l'illustration #5*, a 24-hour drawing marathon, organised every year by Central Vapeur

The original works produced during the three workshops will already be on show in the second half of the year in two exhibitions hosted by Tabook (September 2021) and BilBOlbul International Comics Festival (Bologna, 26-28 November 2021), respectively. The same works will then be published in a **concluding book**, which will also include the papers from a conference on the theme of the relationship between the visible and the invisible.

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### **Invisible Lines**

A project co-funded by the Creative Europe Programme of the European Union, coordinated by the Fondazione Giorgio Cini in partnership with Central Vapeur (France), Baobab Books (Czech Republic) and the Hamelin Associazione Culturale (Italy).

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