

**TINTA**

WOMCOM: ŽENSKA MOČ V STRIPU /  
**WOMEN POWER IN COMICS**  
mednarodna konferenca /  
*international conference*

www.tinta.si    www.womcom.io

Sofinancira  
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**KINO ŠIŠKA**

FESTIVAL STRIPA LJUBLJANA

LJUBLJANA COMICS FESTIVAL

## **WOMCOM: WOMEN POWER IN COMICS**

### **Building the Communities & Futures of Comics**

*international conference*

**11–12 October 2024 / Kino Šiška, Ljubljana**

At the conclusion of the international project *WOMCOM: Women Power in Comics*, which highlights the strength of diverse original voices and addresses gender equality in the field of comics, the Tinta Comics Festival will host a two-day comics conference in Kino Šiška, Ljubljana.

Alongside female artists, publishers, editors, and researchers, we will reflect on the current and future perspectives of comics production and examine the power of comics as an emancipatory tool for potential social change. We will also highlight various artistic, community, and activist practices that fuel creativity and solidarity within the regional and international comics scene.

Part of the conference will take place within the framework of the traditional Saturday Comics Fair at Kino Šiška. Visiting female comics creators will share their knowledge and experience through masterclasses and talks, offering a behind-the-scenes look at how comics are made.

Kino Šiška will also host an international group exhibition showcasing works by selected artists created during the WOMCOM comics residencies in Croatia, Serbia, Hungary, and Montenegro, offering a broader overview of the creative work within this international project.

The speakers and participants of the conference will mingle with the audiences of the Tinta Comics Festival (9–13 October 2024), which features comics exhibitions, talks, lectures, and masterclasses by visiting artists, workshops, and, of course, social gatherings.

**WOMCOM: Women Power in Comics** is a collaborative initiative involving partners from Serbia, Hungary, Slovenia, Greece, Croatia, and Montenegro. This two-year program (2023–2024) aims to foster collaboration and engagement among comics authors and illustrators, with the goal of investigating and addressing gender issues in comics, as well as empowering female comics artists through residencies, exhibitions, and conferences. An online platform, established as part of the project, showcases and promotes comics creators, their works, and their projects, fostering creativity and encouraging new collaborations in the field of comics art.

*The WOMCOM project is co-funded by the Creative Europe program of the European Union. Project partners: Kino Šiška (SI), SKCNS Fabrika (RS), AKC Attack (HR), Bakelit Multi Art Center (HU), PostScriptum (GR), Association for Comic Affirmation (ME).*  
[womcom.io](http://womcom.io)



WOMEN POWER IN COMICS



Co-funded by  
the European Union



post  
scriptum



Friday, 11 October, 16.00–20.00 / Kino Šiška  
**WOMCOM: WOMEN POWER IN COMICS**  
*international conference (1st day)*

## **Building the Communities & Futures of Comics**

The international conference *WOMCOM: Women Power in Comics* will begin with a lecture by **Dr. Nicole Streeten**, one of Europe's leading researchers in feminist comics and the driving force behind the British association *LDComics*. Following this, we will discuss the importance of building comics communities – from encouraging original production and fostering networks of solidarity to developing (infra)structure – with **Eva Hilhorst**, founder of the international online platform for graphic journalism, *Drawing the Times*, and **Rita Fürstenau**, head of the renowned German publishing house for graphic storytelling, *Rotopol*. Joining the discussion will be **Jana Adamović** and **Dragana Radanović**, comics artists and co-founders of the Serbian collective *Comic-Aunties*, whose mission is to encourage the creation of original comics by young artists, male and female alike, as well as boost the visibility of female comics artists in Serbia.

The first day of the conference will be moderated by **Dr. Eszter Szép**, a Hungarian scholar and researcher of comics.

Graphic recording of the conference: **Anna Júlia Benczédi** (HU), comics artist

### Conference program:

16.00–16.15 / **Welcome**

16.15–17.15 / **Dr. Nicola Streeten** (UK), feminist comics historian, scholar, graphic novelist, director and co-founder of *LDComics*

**DOING IT OURSELVES (DIO): Generosity, Reciprocity and Conviviality**, opening lecture of the conference, followed by a Q&A

In her lecture, Dr Nicola Streeten will trace historical examples from her research into feminist comics and cartoons in the UK to argue for the importance of the small, the slow, the convivial. Her point is to demonstrate how such an approach, positioned within a framework of generosity and reciprocity, can affect positive change. She will then outline how such characteristics have influenced and shaped *LDComics* – the UK-based women-creator-led organisation she co-runs, as well as her own comics works. In the conclusion, she will propose the urgent need to foreground a DIO approach in current times, combined with friendship as methodology, to call attention to the necessity of working together towards change.

17.30–18.00 / **Eva Hilhorst** (NL), illustrator and comics artist, founder and editor of the international platform for graphic journalism *Drawing the Times*

***Drawing the Times & Comics Journalism***, presentation

*Drawing the Times* is a platform where committed graphic journalists and cartoonists worldwide publish work that informs, entertains, engages, and challenges readers on global issues and local stories. They can be background stories in comic form, reportages, live sketches, infographics, cartoons and more. With a diversity of perspectives and personal

styles, *Drawing the Times* shows what graphic journalism can accomplish. *Drawing the Times* wants to be a frontrunner in publishing non-fiction visual stories and convince its readers of the importance of visual literacy. They believe that graphic journalism has great potential. Visual language is universal. It can play an important role in connecting people who work in all kinds of disciplines worldwide, like artists, journalists, scientists, teachers, developers, decision makers, and many more.

[drawingthetimes.com](http://drawingthetimes.com)

18.00–18.30 / **Rita Fürstenau** (DE), head of the award-winning publishing house Rotopol for graphic storytelling

***Publishing Comics: The Case of Rotopol***, presentation

*Rotopol* is an award-winning German publishing house for graphic storytelling, exploring the boundaries of what illustration and comics art can accomplish. Their publishing program invites readers to discover high-quality books by artists with strong personal styles, unique stories, unconventional visual ideas, and innovative approaches to storytelling. Founded in 2007 in Kassel, Germany, *Rotopol* collaborates with an international network of comics artists and illustrators. Adjacent to their office is a bookstore focused on comics, graphic novels, picture books, zines, and artist books. Rotopol acts as a platform that brings together the creative potential within its community, developing and showcasing it in diverse ways.

[www.rotopol.de](http://www.rotopol.de)

18.45–19.45 / ***Comics Communities (Virtual & In Person)***, debate

Participants: **Dr. Nicola Streeten (UK)**, **Eva Hilhorst (NL)**, **Rita Fürstenau (DE)**, **Dragana Radanović (RS)**, **Jana Adamović (RS)**

19.45–20.00 / ***WOMCOM Digital Platform***, presentation

WOMCOM invites you to become part of our vibrant community of comics authors and illustrators. A digital platform, established as part of the project *WOMCOM: Women Power in Comics*, serves as a meeting point and a repository for the current comics art scene in the region, with a focus on promoting female comics artists. While it already features artists who have participated in the project's activities, it remains open to other creators who wish to join.

## Tinta Comics Festival program (Friday):

Workshop at the DobraVaga Gallery:

16.00–19.00 / ***Cantastoria: Comics or Theater?*** performative drawing workshop

*Cantastoria*, or *canta historia*, is a form of storytelling or singing that is accompanied by a series of drawings. Illustrator **Zsófi Rumi**, from the Ukmukfukk festival team, will explore the history of this unique genre and bring it to life with her own performance. Afterwards, workshop participants will have the opportunity to create their own *cantastoria*. You are welcome to bring instruments, interesting newspaper clippings, favourite songs, or nothing at all – you can still tell a drawn story even if empty-handed.

Evening program at Kino Šiška:

20.00 / **WOMCOM Touring Exhibition**, exhibition opening

The international group exhibition presents artists from Slovenia, Croatia, Serbia, Montenegro, Greece, and Hungary, with works created during four comics residencies as part of the project *WOMCOM: Women Power in Comics*. The comics and zines on display explore the different stories, perspectives, and experiences of women.

21.00 / **Drawing Tournament**

Sharpen your drawing skills, grab your markers, and join a tournament for all brave artists! Pairs of contestants will face off, drawing according to the audience's instructions and striving to create a more entertaining, beautiful, or wacky drawing than their opponent. In each round, the audience will choose the winner. These are gladiator games with no victims except your pride, no sharp objects except pointy pencils, and no lions – unless they are on paper!

Saturday, 12 October, 13.30–19.15 / Kino Šiška  
**WOMCOM: WOMEN POWER IN COMICS**  
*international conference (2nd day)*

## **Making Comics: A Closer Look**

The Saturday program of the *WOMCOM: Women Power in Comics* conference at Kino Šiška joins the traditional accompanying fair of the Tinta Comics Festival. Through a range of masterclasses, conversations, and comics presentations, audiences will have the opportunity to learn about the artists and their work.

The second day of the conference will be moderated by **Pia Nikolič**, a Slovenian journalist and comics critic.

### Conference program:

13.30–14.15 / **Comics Connections**, presentation and debate

We will focus on artistic collectives, initiatives, and projects that foster creativity and broaden the diversity of comics scenes both locally and internationally. The Serbian comics collective **Stripotetke**, the Croatian comics magazine **Strip-PREFIKS**, as well as **Ukmukfukk Zine Festival**, **International Comics Festival Budapest**, and independent publisher **Hurrikan Press** from Hungary, will participate in the debate, which will be moderated by **Pia Nikolič**.

Participants: **Jana Adamović (RS)**, **Mihaela Erceg (HR)**, **Zsófia Rumi (HU)**, **Eszter Szép (HU)**

14.30–15.15 / **Noémie Marsily (BE)**, masterclass

The Belgian author **Noémie Marsily**, known for her various books and short animated films, will provide an in-depth look into the creation of the children's comic book *Memet*, which is now available in Slovenian. She will also discuss the overlaps and differences she encounters when working across different mediums, ranging from illustration and comics to animation.

15.30–16.00 / **Katarina Šeme: *From the Cave***, graphic novel launch

Comics artist Katarina Šeme made a strong entrance into the Slovenian comics scene with her autobiographical novel *Sumatra – A Year on a Tropical Island*. At this year's Tinta Festival, she will present her second reportage graphic novel *From the Cave*, which has just been published. It covers last year's high-profile and large-scale rescue operation of a severely injured caver from Vranjedolska Cave near Cerknica, in which Šeme actively participated as a cave rescuer.

16.15–17.00 / **Nina Bunjevac (CA)**, conversation

**Nina Bunjevac**, one of the most prominent comics artists of our time, uncompromisingly and engagingly explores complex and socially sensitive topics such as sexual violence and childhood trauma in her works. She will discuss her work and creative career with journalist and comics critic **Pia Nikolič**, as well as the role and position of female artists in the contemporary comics scene, and how to live and survive as an artist.

18.15–19.00 / **Anna Haifisch (DE)**, masterclass & comics reading

The German comics artist and illustrator **Anna Haifisch** has captivated readers around the world with her popular comic series *The Artist*, which explores the timeless struggles of artists through stories of anthropomorphic animals. She addresses similar themes in *Von Spatz*, while her latest work, *Ready America*, is a unique drawing diary and portrait of Los Angeles. In the masterclass, she will share insights and challenges from her creative work, as well as perform live interpretations of select excerpts from her comics.

## Tinta Comics Festival program at Kino Šiška (Saturday):

10.00–20.00 / **Comics Fair**

Local and visiting comic book publishers, comic book shops, and sellers of used yet never expired comic book classics will be offering their latest issues. The extensive all-day program includes masterclasses, talks, and socialising with the many international guests of the festival. There will also be a varied children's program, screenings of short Hungarian animated films, comic book signings, and more!

Find more information about the program at [www.tinta.si/en](http://www.tinta.si/en).

## Speakers:

**Dr. Nicola Streeten** (UK) is a UK-based multi-award-winning graphic novelist and comics scholar. Her graphic memoir *Billy, Me & You* (Myriad Editions, 2011) was followed by *The Inking Woman* (Myriad Editions, 2018), a 250-year illustrated history of British women cartoonists. This was complemented by the theoretical publication *UK Feminist Cartoons and Comics: A Critical Survey* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2020). She is currently working on *Yield*, her second graphic novel, based on the origin story of the radical American alternative community Black Mountain College (1933–1957), told through her familial eyes as the great niece of founding member John Evarts.

Nicola is the founding director of *LDComics* – a women creator-led forum welcoming all and championing graphic novel and comics works, particularly by women. In 2022–2023, she received a British Council International Collaboration grant through *LDComics* to deliver *REVEAL! Women's Comics East Africa–UK* with a Kenyan partner, storying gender and climate change.

[www.streetenillustration.com](http://www.streetenillustration.com)

[ldcomics.com](http://ldcomics.com)

**Eva Hilhorst** (NL) is an illustrator from Amsterdam specialising in graphic journalism and documentary drawing. She is the founder and editor-in-chief of the international platform for graphic journalism *Drawing the Times*. Eva is a keynote speaker in the field of graphic journalism and documentary drawing, both in the Netherlands and internationally. In addition, she teaches at the University of the Arts (HKU, Sint Joost) and is a passionate advocate for the language of drawing.

[drawingthetimes.com/](http://drawingthetimes.com/)

**Rita Fürstenau** (DE) is an author, illustrator, and publisher. Born in Berlin in 1982, she currently lives and works in Germany and Sweden. Rita is the co-founder and editor-in-chief of the award-winning publishing house *Rotopol*, which specialises in graphic storytelling. As an illustrator, she works with various magazines, book publishers, and museums, and also as a surface designer. Her own work is published by *Rotopol* in the form of books, folded booklets, and printed paper goods, and can be found alongside other comic and picture books from around the world in her bookstore in Kassel. In addition to her artistic and publishing work, she teaches as a guest lecturer in illustration and graphic storytelling at several universities.

[www.rita-fuerstenau.de](http://www.rita-fuerstenau.de)

**Jana Adamović** (RS) is a comic book author and illustrator from Belgrade. Her comics have been published in Europe and the U.S. In her personal work, she draws inspiration from significant social issues such as the refugee crisis, climate crisis, and women's rights, as well as autofiction. In addition to her artistic work, she actively promotes the visibility of women in the field of comics. She is the author of *Ona se Budi / BD égalité*, a group exhibition that featured over 50 female artists from Serbia, Slovenia, Croatia, and France (2018). In 2023, she co-founded *Comic-Aunties (Stripotetke)*, a collective of female comics artists in Serbia, whose mission is to encourage the creation of original comics by young artists, both male and female, and to boost the visibility of female comics artists in Serbia. In 2019, she was awarded the title of Knight of the Order of Arts and Letters by the Republic of France.

[www.yanaadamovicart.com](http://www.yanaadamovicart.com)

**Dragana Radanović** (RS), a Serbian comic book author and illustrator, has showcased her artwork in exhibitions across Serbia, Belgium, and France. She has a keen interest in literature exploring challenging themes, unconventional illustrated books, and graphic narratives depicting marginalised experiences worldwide. Currently serving as an assistant teacher at the LUCA School of Arts in Brussels, Dragana aids students in crafting their graphic novels. Alongside her artistic pursuits, she is working on a doctorate, delving into the



portrayal of childhood in comics and the transformative potential of comics-making as a cognitive process. Supported by the esteemed Research Foundation – Flanders, her comics research endeavours are at the forefront of scholarly inquiry. Committed to amplifying the visibility of emerging comics authors, Dragana co-founded *Comic-Aunties (Stripotetke)*, an organisation dedicated to championing women and young authors in comics. She is also completing her graphic novel *What Should We Tell Them?*, which is part of her PhD research. In this graphic novel, she explores her memories of the 1999 bombing of Serbia and societal perceptions of childhood in general.

[draganaradanovic.com/](http://draganaradanovic.com/)

**Dr. Eszter Szép** (HU) works to promote and advance comics in various roles. She teaches comics and visual culture studies at Moholy-Nagy University of Art and Design and at the Milestone Institute of Advanced Studies, both in Budapest. She believes that theory should not be separate from practice. Dr. Szép served as the director of the *International Comics Festival Budapest* from 2019 to 2023. She frequently writes about comics for international and Hungarian websites and journals, and she is the author of *Comics and the Body: Drawing, Reading, and Vulnerability* (Ohio State University Press, 2020). Additionally, she is the book reviews editor of the *Journal of Graphic Novels and Comics*. In 2022, she edited two collections of her students' comics, *Igaz volt egyáltalán?* and *It Used to Be Easy: Comics about Growth and Change*.

[eszterszep.com](http://eszterszep.com).

**Anna Júlia Benczédi** (HU) is a Romanian-Hungarian illustrator and comics artist based in Cluj-Napoca, Romania. She has published short stories in anthologies in Hungary, Poland, Romania, and Serbia. Benczédi is the artist behind the award-winning graphic novel *Știma apelor*, which she created in collaboration with writer Maria Surducan. Over the past decade, she has been involved in various editorial and advertising projects, ranging from board games and picture books to video explainers and interactive comics apps. Benczédi wants to explore the vast territory of new media and create her own AR comic book experience, VR story, or infinite canvas narrative to push the boundaries of the comic medium. She believes that comics offer nearly limitless possibilities for self-expression and hopes to see the medium flourish in her country, just as it has in the West. She participated in the *WOMCOM AiR* program in Hungary.

[annabenczedi.com/](http://annabenczedi.com/)

**Zsófi Rumi** (HU) is a versatile artist with a BA in Graphic Arts and Printmaking from EKF (now EKKE) in Eger, Hungary. She is a printmaker, illustrator, and occasionally a puppet and costume designer, as well as a gardener. She self-publishes up to three short comics per year and has exhibited her work at Raum Für Illustration in Hamburg and the *LUSTER* festival in Prague. She participated in the *WOMCOM AiR* program in Zagreb. Together with her partner Árpád Szigeti, Rumi runs Hurrikan Press, a small risograph print shop and publishing house based in Budapest. Hurrikan Press focuses on alternative comics, street art, and drawing, primarily publishing their own work along with that of local artists. Rumi is also an integral part of the organising team for *Ukmukfukk Zinefest*, Budapest's largest zine-focused gathering, which has been running for the past eight years.

[cargocollective.com/rumizsofi](http://cargocollective.com/rumizsofi)

[hurrikanpress.bigcartel.com/](http://hurrikanpress.bigcartel.com/)

**Mihaela Erzeg** (HR) is a comics artist and illustrator from Croatia with an MA degree in Animation and New Media from the Academy of Fine Arts in Zagreb. She has self-published more than a dozen zines and comics, and has taken part in many exhibitions. She has won multiple awards for her work, including the award for Best Croatian Cartoonist in 2019. She is one of the editors of the Croatian comics magazine *Strip-PREFIKS* and her work is also published in the zine *OHOO*.

[artistotel.neocities.org/](http://artistotel.neocities.org/)

**Noémie Marsily** (BE) is a multidisciplinary author and artist. Trained in illustration at Saint-Luc in Brussels, she has published several comics, including *Fétiche* with Les Requins Marteaux and *Memet* with scenarist Isabella Cieli. More recently, she illustrated *Mori*, a graphic novel written by Marie Colot (CotCotCot Editions). At the same time, she also directed several animated short films, including *Around the Lake* and *I Don't Feel Anything Anymore* with co-director Carl Roosens. Her latest short film *Whatever Moves Is Alive* is an intimate and poetic self-portrait. Her artistic practice has been evolving for several years through projects and encounters, ranging from comics, illustration, and animation to teaching.  
[www.instagram.com/noemimarsily/](http://www.instagram.com/noemimarsily/)

**Katarina Šeme** (SI) is an illustrator and 2D computer animator. In 2017, she graduated from the Academy of Fine Arts and Design in Ljubljana with a degree in visual communications. She has worked as a graphic designer in Slovenia, Cyprus, and Belgium. A grant enabled her to study traditional arts and culture in Indonesia for a year, which served as the inspiration for her first graphic novel, *Sumatra – A Year on a Tropical Island*. Her second reportage graphic novel *From the Cave* has just been published. Šeme has participated in two WOMCOM AIRs, in Novi Sad, Serbia, and in Podgorica, Montenegro.  
[anikat.si/](http://anikat.si/)

**Nina Bunjevac**, a prominent Canadian-Serbian comics artist, is recognized as one of the most significant creators in contemporary original comics. She first gained attention with her debut comic book *Heartless* and cemented her place in the global comics canon with the shocking autobiographical work *Fatherland* and the dark noir masterpiece *Bezimena* (*Nameless*). Her work is distinguished by an extremely detailed and expressive style, rich in pointillist hatching. In terms of content, Bunjevac boldly tackles autobiographical, socially sensitive, and engaged topics, often exploring them from a feminist perspective. Her comics have been highly praised by critics, winning major awards and being translated into numerous languages, including Slovenian.  
[ninabunjevac.com/](http://ninabunjevac.com/)

**Anna Haifisch** (DE) is one of the best-known contemporary German comics artists, best known for her series of short comics *The Artist*. With a humorous touch and a hint of (self-)irony, she explores the perennial struggles of artists, from financial uncertainty to existential doubts about the value of artistic work. Her debut graphic novel, *Von Spatz*, which has recently been published in Slovenian translation, tackles similar themes. Her unique style and disturbingly honest stories have won over a wide audience, and her books, which have been translated into several languages, have become true classics in both Europe and North America. She has drawn comic series for the Museum of Modern Art in New York, the French newspaper *Le Monde*, the US website *VICE*, and the magazine *Texte zur Kunst*. In 2020, she received the Max & Moritz Award for Best German-Language Comics Artist, and a year later, she was awarded the LVZ Art Prize.  
[www.hai-life.com](http://www.hai-life.com)

**Pia Nikolič** holds a master's degree in sociology of culture and is a journalist, moderator, comic book and film reviewer, and lecturer. She is the editor of *Megafon* magazine and hosts two shows on *Megafon TV*: her talk show *In vivo veritas* and a film-focused show *Ilin ... Akcija!*. Pia is a member of the organising board for monthly comics events at Kino Šiška (*Spilt Ink*) and for all three Slovenian comics festivals: *Tinta International Comics Festival Ljubljana*, *Grossman Fantasy, Sci-Fi and Comic Festival*, and *Celje Comic Festival*. She has also participated in roundtables and given lectures at the *OHOHO Festival of Comics and Street Art* in Zagreb and the *Balkanska Smotra Mladih Strip Autora* in Leskovac. Since its inception, she has coordinated the main comics award in Slovenia, Zlatirepec. Nikolič is also the president of the *Packa Association of Slovenian Comics and Related Sequential Arts* and regularly lectures, leads workshops, and moderates roundtables in the field of comics.

**Tanja Skale** (SI) is a freelance editor and producer working in the field of art and culture. For over a decade, she has collaborated with the Kino Šiška Centre for Urban Culture and the international comics magazine *Stripburger* as an editor and producer of various comics projects, exhibitions, workshops, discussions, and other events in Slovenia and abroad. She is a co-founder and the artistic director of the *Tinta International Comics Festival Ljubljana*. Skale also serves as the program coordinator for the *WOMCOM: Women Power in Comics* project at *Kino Šiška* and is a curator of the *WOMCOM* conference program in Ljubljana.