

HUBERTY  
& BREYNE

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PROJET  
MYCÉLIUM

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**Lucas BURTIN**

*Planètes désorientées*



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6.10  
> 31.10.2023

**PARIS | Matignon**  
Mezzanine

36 avenue Matignon, Paris 8<sup>e</sup>

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**From 5 to 30 October, the Mycélium programme is showcasing the subtle and enchanting work of Lucas Burtin in an exhibition entitled “Planètes désorientées”, the first to be devoted to the young graphic artist.**

Lucas Burtin is highly versatile, a cartoonist, illustrator and author but also a skilful manipulator of the printed image. Whatever the focus – page layout, finishing, printing or publishing – Burtin regards the formal elements of his craft as key. For each of his projects, he gives careful thought to the medium, deciding what form will best suit the content. From unique work of art to reproduction, his input is visible at every stage: from the hand that draws to the machine that prints, from the organic to the mechanical, from the thought process to the object perceived as potential field of exploration. Lucas Burtin focuses on the support, the format, playing with

the possibilities offered by the printing process, by the material. Genuine or pseudo-transparencies, choice of technique, support and framing offer him different ways of “structuring” the page.

Exhibiting Lucas Burtin’s work means generating a resonance between single and sequential images, between original works and riso prints. Rather than establishing a hierarchy between plate, illustration and drawing, it means allowing different techniques to coexist and so offer the viewer new visual correspondences that form part of a striking whole.



*Panneau - 50 x 65,5 cm*

With its fine, carefully drawn lines, minimalist decors and airy technique, Lucas Burtin's style is reminiscent of the "ligne claire" movement (whose name was coined by Joost Swarte). The marks he makes in black and white are regular and surgically precise, resulting in an architectural approach to drawing involving controlled straight lines calculated to produce a perfect equilibrium. A landscape, a shape or a posture offer a visual starting point which Burtin models, carves, reworks, deconstructs, like a sculptor at work.

While making his preparatory sketches, Lucas Burtin practises what we might call "non-drawing" as a way of producing this spare graphic writing and an efficient drawing style stripped to essentials. The drawing – a combination of forms and counter-forms, pure white space and areas of solid black – appears to be static, and yet the artist stretches his lines to the point where they vibrate, where they create geometric optical effects. He explores this rigid

aesthetic of black/white contrasts by employing changes of scale: from the micro to the macro, the line stretches and expands to breaking point, to the point of exploding.

Burtin switches from controlled realism to abstraction, setting the implacable purity of his drawing, its hard, straight lines, against the unpredictability of the material. The line metamorphoses, distorts, blurs, collides with the moving, floating texture of the wash drawing, the irregular pigmentation of the watercolour. The line drowns in the water and surprising moss-like structures emerge; random arrangements crystallise into apparently recognisable shapes. An unforeseen texture, a spontaneous beauty, replaces any notion of structured aesthetics. The elegant, solid and carefully ordered drawing is thus confronted with freer forms which veil the artist's compositions in mystery: a statue detaches itself from a vaporous wash drawing, an architecture of glass rises against a backcloth of cotton-wool clouds...



*Le village des hommes qui mentent IV - 28,5 x 19,8 cm*

Lucas Burtin plays with the contrast between the things he controls and those that elude him, like an alchemist observing the transition of an element from solid to liquid, as he seeks molecular equilibrium. An equilibrium that he finds by placing his images in counterpoint to one another. As if he were editing a film, he cuts, assembles, gathers his images in panels on a single page, places them opposite each other or sets them apart, playing with the white spaces like so many ellipses in the story being told. He sets his drawings one against the other so that they neither collide nor fuse but pulse with a poetic rhythm that gives rise to a new image, a different story.

In *La Plus Belle Plage du Nord*, published in 2020 by Fidèle (a publishing house and riso printing studio in Paris), Lucas Burtin has teamed up with Sun Bai to construct a story against the background of a desolate

landscape lit by what seems like an other-worldly light. He has chosen a subtle, limited colour palette to convey this intense, chilly Northern light, the light of the “winter sun” (*Soleil d’hiver* is the name of the desktop publishing business Burtin set up in 2017), giving us a drawing style that has a timeless feel. The text, too, is pared back, at times laconic, and printed in an “old-fashioned” style using simple, upright characters. Lucas Burtin enjoys this aspect of comic strip that offers the artist the chance to work visually through language. The drawing and the text are thus two components set in opposition to one another. The drawn line may be telling us one thing while the text takes us somewhere else, and the sequence equally. Text and drawing may diverge or complement one another. There is a tension between the two: they may engage in a duel or a pas de deux; but either way they serve as a starting point for new narratives. We simply need to take the time to look...



*La fée Morgane IV* - 24,6 x 16,7 cm

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# *La plus belle plage du Nord* Lucas Burtin & Sun Bai

The waters are rising, and Planet Earth is deserted. In the North, a restaurant is serving one last coffee to two friends who have come to say goodbye. Two friends who have just long enough to reminisce about those walks along the windy coastline... before they must decide whether to stay or go. In the distance, a dense smoke is rising from the silent depths of the North Sea.



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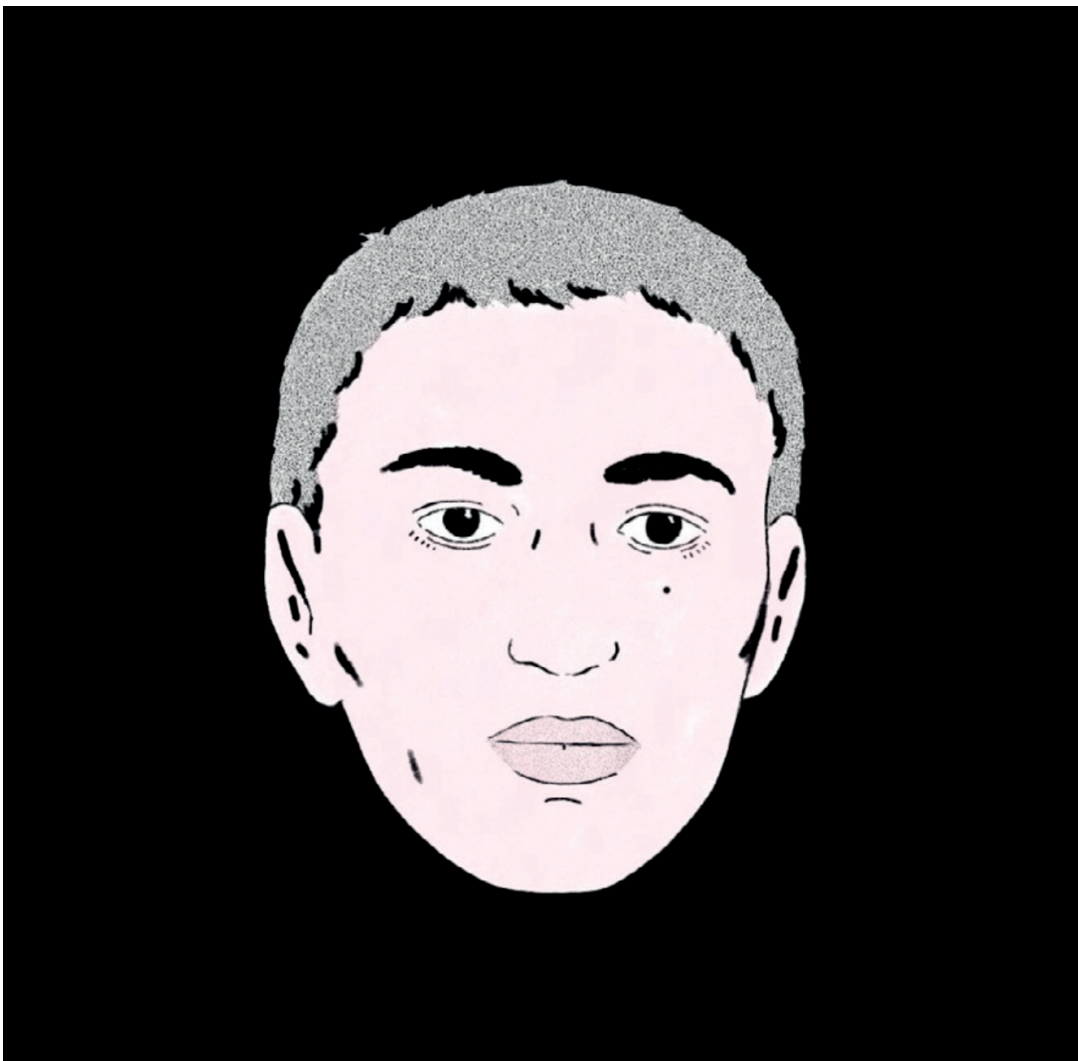
# Biography

Born in Bordeaux, Lucas Burtin graduated from the Le Mans School of Fine Arts in 2017, then moved to Lille, where he currently lives and works as an illustrator and comics author.

He explores narratives that are always anchored in the real world but take us somewhere else entirely. Thanks to his interest in photography, he began working more and more

with books; but since 2016 Burtin has been focusing once again on his first love – comic strip.

He regularly contributes illustrations to a range of international newspapers and magazines, including The New York Times, The New Yorker, Le Monde, Les Échos, De Standaard and GQ China.



©Lucas Burtin

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## UNE PROGRAMMATION MYCÉLIUM

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**Lucas BURTIN**  
*Planètes désorientées*

### BOOK SIGNING

Thursday 5 October from 5pm

### VERNISSAGE

Thursday 5 October 2023 from 6pm to 9pm, in the presence of the artist

### EXHIBITION

From Friday 6 October 2023 to Tuesday 31 October 2023

### PARIS | MATIGNON

Mezzanine  
36 avenue Matignon, 75008 Paris  
Tuesday > Saturday 11am - 7pm

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### CONTACT

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HD visuals available on request  
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## MYCÉLIUM

The Mycélium project is a new Huberty & Breyne initiative. Conceived as a novel approach to the graphic arts, exploring the point at which these arts (in all their ramifications) intersect with one another, Mycélium aims – through a mixture of collective and solo exhibitions – to establish an artistic identity that is both coherent and eclectic.

Amélie Payan, who devised the project, is passionate about literature and the visual arts and eager to explore what happens when the two come together – the tenuous relationship between words and drawing, narrative and emotion, reading and looking.

Seen from this perspective, the hybrid art of comic strip offers an ideal medium for the artist who is simultaneously the writer – or vice versa – to keep coming up with new ideas and breaking formal rules, and so invent a potent sensory writing that mediates an artistic dialogue where the mark drawn can become a word, and the

word can become a mark. In this “amphigraphic” art, drawing and narration come together to create a new visual language.

The idea behind the Mycélium project is to be present at this cross-over point and explore just what the drawn line can do – to go beyond drawing as a utilitarian or transitional concept and treat the medium as an experimental “vocabulary”, explore different artistic “ways of writing” and thereby consolidate the continuum of the arts.

The artists involved in this project – both established and emerging – explore multiple graphic forms that enable them to keep extending the expressive power of drawing. Drawing is affirmed as a creative, organic and living act, a vibrant thing that resonates with other art forms, in the same way that, for the poet Charles Baudelaire, “perfumes, colours and sounds correspond”. The idea is to explore the porousness of artistic boundaries, allow drawing to vibrate, like a living language, and so provoke thought.

### Represented artists:

Donatien Mary - Sabien Clement - Margaux Meissonnier - Lisa Blumen - Florent Chavouet - Louise Duneton - Vahram Muratyan...

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# HUBERTY & BREYNE

Huberty & Breyne is a contemporary art gallery specialising in original cartoon work. Operating out of Brussels and Paris under the direction of Alain Huberty and Marc Breyne, the gallery – which has been in existence for almost 30 years – represents both established and up-and-coming artists linked to, or inspired by, the 9th art.

Its exhibitions of original plates, paintings and sculptures champion contemporary art in all its guises and provide a platform for the crossover of different disciplines. A key reference point in the world of comic art, the Huberty & Breyne gallery offers collectors a rigorous selection of works by both household names and promising newcomers.

The gallery is closely involved with the contemporary art market scene and a contributor at major international fairs such as Brafa (Brussels Antiques & Fine Arts Fair), 1 – 54 London, Art Paris and Drawing Now. It occupies a 1,000m<sup>2</sup> exhibition space in Brussels, in place du Châtelain, and two further exhibition spaces in Paris, in avenue Matignon and rue Chapon.

Aside from running the gallery, Alain Huberty and Marc Breyne also advise auction houses regarding the sale of works of comic art.

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## BRUXELLES | Châtelain

33 place du Châtelain  
1050 Bruxelles  
+32 (0)2 893 90 30

Wednesday > Saturday  
11.00 am – 7.00 pm

## PARIS | Matignon

36 avenue Matignon  
75008 Paris  
+33 (0)1 40 28 04 71

Tuesday > Saturday  
11.00 am – 7.00 pm

## PARIS | Chapon

19 rue Chapon  
75003 Paris  
+33 (0)1 71 32 51 98

Wednesday > Saturday  
1.30 pm - 7.00 pm

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