

HUBERTY  
& BREYNE

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# Philippe BERTHET

*La Fortune des Winczlav*

26.03.21

> 24.04.21

**BRUSSELS**



La Fortune des Winczlav - Vanko 1848, Volume 1 - Cover, 2021  
Graphite and Indian ink on paper, 17 x 29.5 cm

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# Exhibition

To mark the publication of Volume 1 of *La Fortune des Winczlav* - a prequel focusing on the forebears of the legendary Largo Winch - the Huberty & Breyne Gallery is showing Philippe Berthet's illustrations for Jean Van Hamme's new trilogy. This first volume describes the arrival in America of an earlier member of Nerio Winch's family after fleeing Montenegro.

This is the first time that Philippe Berthet has collaborated with Jean Van Hamme. "It's an entirely new way of working," says Berthet. "The script and the framing were more or less complete, but despite that I was able to work very freely and put something of myself into this trilogy."

It was a new challenge for Philippe Berthet, who has never illustrated the 19th century before. To assist him, the artist's partner Dominique David, an illustrator and colourist in her own right, undertook some weighty historical research, and would also be responsible for the sparsely drawn settings of a burgeoning New World.

Philippe Berthet concludes: "This exciting project resulted in a fascinating new work dynamic."

From 25 March to 24 April 2021, the Huberty & Breyne Gallery will be showing the plates of Volume 1 in this eagerly awaited saga.



La Fortune des Winczlav - Vanko 1848  
Volume 1 - Untitled 16, 2021  
Graphite on paper, 15.2 x 13 cm

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# Philippe BERTHET

Born in Thorigny-sur-Marne (France) on 22 September 1956, Philippe Berthet started learning how to draw cartoons in Brussels in 1974, attending courses run by Eddy Paape at the Saint-Gilles Academy and by Claude Renard at the Saint-Luc Institut.

In 1979, he published his first test pieces (under the temporary pseudonym Philibert) in *Le 9e Rêve*, an anthology of the best works by members of Atelier R, going on to collaborate with his friend Antonio Cossu for *Aie!* magazine, and later *Spatial*. In 1981, *Spirou* magazine published *Couleur café*, a colonial drama scripted by Antoine Andrieu, and then *Hiver 51* and *Été 60* (with Andreas). These were followed by *L'Œil du chasseur* with Philippe Foerster, *La Dame, le cygne et l'ombre* with Dominique David and, most notably, *Le Privé d'Hollywood*, written by François Rivière and José-Louis Bocquet, which Dupuis would later publish in a single volume.

In 1991, Berthet illustrated *Sur la route de Selma*, a powerful story written by the late Philippe Tome and appearing in Dupuis' "Aire Libre" collection. Two years later, he published *Halona*, his first solo work. At the same time, Berthet was working with his friend Cossu on producing the four volumes of *Le Marchand d'idées* (Glénat), an unusual mix of styles that was to produce a work of great originality. In 1994, his ligne claire drawing style and careful framing and lighting effects were deployed in the Pin-up series written by Yann and published by Dargaud, a romanticised evocation of the world of Bettie Page, the queen of erotic photos of the 1940s and 50s. Dargaud also published Pin-up in a single volume and brought out a companion series, *Les Exploits de Poison Ivy*. The series spawned a great many exhibitions and illustrations - a visual feast for all the many fans of what would come to be known as the "Berthet style".

Berthet is a perfectionist, always looking to challenge himself by exploring new avenues. He illustrated *Chiens de prairie* (Delcourt, 1996), a story written by his friend Philippe Foerster and set in the Wild West, and collaborated on a new series with Yann entitled *Yoni* (Dupuis), a futuristic spy thriller. His continued association with Dargaud produced *Nico*, the script written by Fred Duval, and in 2009 a new volume in the XIII Mystery series entitled *Irina* (script by Corbeyran), where he was able to give free rein once again to his astonishing talent for drawing women. This was fol-



La Fortune des Winczlav - Vanko 1848  
Volume 1 - Untitled 16, 2021  
Graphite on paper, 15,2 x 13 cm

lowed by the highly accomplished two-volume Perico, in which Berthet collaborated with Régis Hautière to produce an immaculate roman noir. These two albums launched the "Ligne Noire" collection, a private playground where Berthet could "do his own thing". Other thrillers in this collection include *Le Crime qui est le tien* (2015, with Zidrou), *Motorcity* (2017, with Runberg) and *L'Art de mourir* (2018, with Raule). In 2020, Berthet published (still with Dargaud) the album *De l'autre côté de la frontière*, written by Jean-Luc Fromental.

In 2021, Philippe Berthet returned to Éditions Dupuis for an exceptional new series: a trilogy entitled *La Fortune des Winczlav*, a prequel to the adventures of Largo Winch. Scripted by Jean Van Hamme, this series provides an opportunity for Berthet to bring together both his various talents and his various interests, whether we think of the thriller genre, the reconstruction of historical settings or his depiction of wide-open spaces...



La Fortune des Winczlav - Vanko 1848  
Volume 1 - Plate 20, 2021  
Indian ink on paper, 42 x 32 cm

# Jean VAN HAMME

Born in Brussels on 16 January 1939, Jean Van Hamme holds degrees in finance, journalism and civic law, and an advanced degree in political economy. After a brilliant international career, he gave up his job as general manager of Philips Belgium in 1976 in order to make a living from his writing. While working on the six Largo Winch novels for Éditions du Mercure de France, he also started creating comic scripts for Tintin magazine.

In addition to publishing albums, Van Hamme was writing television scripts and screenplays, including for *Diva*, a highly acclaimed film by Jean-Jacques Beineix. In 1977, he started work on the legendary Thorgal saga (Le Lombard) for Grzegorz Rosiński.

In 1984, Van Hamme began collaborating with William Vance on another series destined to enter the Comic Strip hall of fame: XIII (Dargaud), which relates the adventures of a mysterious tattooed amnesiac who finds himself embroiled in intrigues of State. A prototypical cartoon thriller, XIII – like Thorgal – became a bestseller.

From 1987 to 1988, Jean Van Hamme managed Éditions Dupuis, launching the bestselling series Largo Winch with Philippe Francq, and devising what would later become the "Aire Libre" collection.

Van Hamme still had stories to tell and after launching Largo Winch he worked on another project with Rosiński - the graphic novel *Le Grand Pouvoir du Chninkel* (Casterman). He followed this with the trilogy *S.O.S. Bonheur* ("Air Libre" – 1988-1989), illustrated by Griffo. This remarkable story examines the possible future directions of our Capitalist democracies, proving itself both increasingly prescient and as relevant as George Orwell's 1984.

In 1992, Van Hamme launched his *Les Maîtres de l'orge* saga about a dynasty of Belgian brewers, with illustrations by Francis Vallès (Glénat). The series, still scripted by Van Hamme, would later be adapted for the TV channel France 2. In 1996, Van Hamme once again created a stir by "reviving" those comic book legends Blake and Mortimer in his album *L'Affaire Francis Blake* (Dargaud), illustrated by Ted Benoit.



La fortune des Winczlaw - Vanko 1848, Tome 1 - Planche 23, 2021  
Encre de chine sur papier, 42 x 32 cm

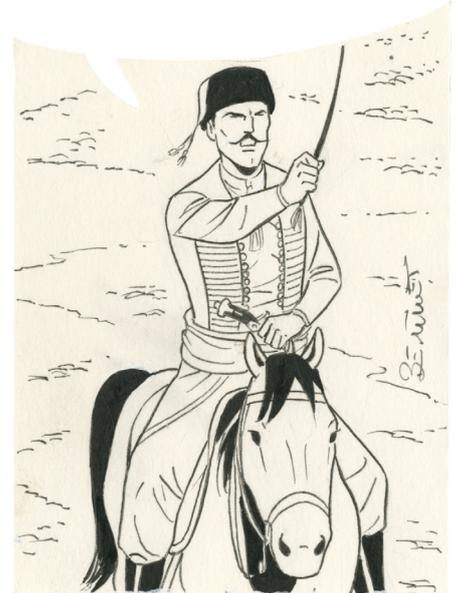


La fortune des Winczlaw - Vanko 1848, Tome 1 - Planche 43, 2021  
Encre de chine sur papier, 42 x 32 cm

In the early 2000s, Van Hamme produced another album for the "Aire Libre" collection - Lune de Guerre, illustrated by Hermann - while Western, with illustrations by Rosiński, appeared in Lombard's "Signé" collection and Dargaud brought out Wayne Shelton, a collaboration with Christian Denayer. In 2004, Van Hamme returned to Dupuis for another big action series, Lady S., featuring a remarkable and alluring protagonist, a female spy with a troubled past.

In 2009, Éditions du Lombard began publishing the Rani series, giving Van Hamme and co-writer Alcante the opportunity to develop an 18th-century saga packed with high-voltage action and sexual intrigue. Illustrated by Francis Vallès, Rani was the comic book adaptation of the eponymous series Van Hamme had written for France 2. In 2018, Van Hamme surprised his readers once again with another Lombard album, Kivu (illustrated by Christophe Simon), which criticises the deadly exploitation of precious minerals in the Congo and involves a meeting with Dr Denis Mukwege, 2018 winner of the Nobel Peace Prize for his work with female victims of sexual violence. In 2021, Jean Van Hamme launched a terrific new series with Éditions Dupuis: the trilogy La Fortune des Winczlav, a prequel to the adventures of Largo Winch, whose fascinating family history has remained shrouded in mystery until now. For this series - which promises to be essential reading for fans of the 9th Art - Van Hamme teamed up with illustrator Philippe Berthet, whose impeccable reconstruction of historical settings is infused here from the outset with his inimitable aesthetic sense.

Jean Van Hamme is a comic book legend, whose multiple creations have enthralled generations of readers. To date, he has sold almost 44 million albums.



La Fortune des Winczlav - Vanko 1848  
Volume 1 - Untitled 26, 2021  
11.2 x 8.3 cm



La Fortune des Winczlav - Vanko 1848  
Volume 1 - Plate 54  
Indian ink on paper, 42 x 32 cm

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# *La fortune des Winczlav*

## Tome 1

Montenegro, 1848. An idealistic young doctor, Vanko Winczlav, sides with a peasant revolt against the tyranny of the prince-bishop. A peasant betrays his whereabouts to the soldiers in exchange for money and Vanko is forced to flee. At an inn, he encounters Veska, a young Bulgarian woman who has been forced into slavery, and the two of them set sail for the New World. Veska has no identity papers and during the crossing Vanko marries her. When they arrive, he finds employment as a nurse, since his doctor's qualifications are not recognised. Sometime later, Veska gives birth to a baby boy, Sandor; she rejects him and the couple separate. Vanko is held in high regard in the private hospital where he works. He falls for the charms of a nurse called Jenny. When one of the patients dies in childbirth, Vanko is tried for her murder and for illegally practising medicine. He ends up in prison, and his two grandsons are left to their own devices following the death of their mother...

Jean Van Hamme has taken up his pen again to uncover the origins of Largo Winch's inherited fortune in an enthralling historical family saga extending to three volumes and spanning three generations.

*LA FORTUNE DES WINCZLAV*

*Volume 1 - Vanko 1848*

*Dupuis' "Grand Public" collection*

*SCRIPT Van Hamme*

*ILLUSTRATIONS Berthet*

· 26 MARCH 2021

· Price: 15.95 EUROS

· Format: 237 x 310

· Hardcover album, 56 colour pages

· ISBN: 9791034751761



La Fortune des Winczlav - Vanko, 1848, Volume 1 - Cover, 2021  
Indian ink on paper, 32 x 74 cm

## Philippe BERTHET

*La fortune des Winczlav*

### PREVIEW

Thursday 25 March 2021 from 11.00am to 6.00pm  
In the presence of the artist

### EXHIBITION

From Friday 26 March to Saturday 24 April 2021

33 Place du Châtelain  
1050 Bruxelles  
Tuesday > Saturday 11.00am – 6.00pm

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HD visuals available on request

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# HUBERTY & BREYNE

The Huberty & Breyne Gallery is a key reference point in the world of Comic Art and has been specialising in original cartoon work for almost 30 years now. Operating out of Brussels and Paris, Huberty & Breyne offers collectors a choice selection of original works by the greatest comic book illustrators of all time - the likes of Hergé, Franquin, Martin, Hubinon and Schuiten. It is the only gallery to represent the work of Milo Manara and also collaborates with contemporary artists such as Philippe Geluck, François Avril, Jean-Claude Götting, Loustal, Miles Hyman and Christophe Chabouté.

The Gallery is closely involved with the international art market scene and a contributor at major art fairs such as Brafa (Brussels Antiques & Fine Arts Fair), 1 – 54 London, Art Paris Art Fair and Drawing Now.

Alain Huberty and Marc Breyne are also advisors to Christie's regarding the sale of works of Comic Art.

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