

HUBERTY
& BREYNE

Christophe CHABOUTÉ

Yellow Cab

05.03.21

> 20.03.21

PARIS



Yellow Cab - album cover, 2021
Indian ink and watercolour on paper, 40.5 x 29.5 cm

Exhibition

From 5 to 20 March 2021, the Huberty & Breyne Gallery will be roaming the streets of New York aboard Christophe Chabouté's "Yellow Cab". In this new album, Chabouté provides a cathartic adaptation of Benoît Cohen's autobiographical novel, upon which the album is loosely based. This powerful graphic narrative tells the story of a filmmaker short on inspiration who becomes a taxi driver in order to research the screenplay for his new movie. Chabouté paints a majestic portrait of the Big Apple as seen from behind the wheel of Cohen's taxi. From Manhattan to Brooklyn via the Bronx, we follow the movements of a French migrant roaming the city in search of his "American Dream". In panel after panel, Chabouté tells an extraordinary human story beautifully complemented by the subtlety and elegance of his black and white line drawings.

The "Yellow Cab" exhibition, hosted by Huberty & Breyne, avenue Matignon, Paris, unveils a selection of original plates from the album published by Glénat together with several unpublished large-format illustrations of New York by Christophe Chabouté.



Yellow Cab - Plate 161, 2021
Indian ink on paper, 37 x 26.6 cm

New York - the French Version

"Whenever I pick someone up in my taxi, anything can happen. There will be moments of no interest, just as there will be hours of filmed raw material that I won't use. But there will also be extraordinary situations, I'm quite sure, and I have this feeling that, just as with an actor, the work will become part of me over time."

Yellow Cab, Benoit Cohen

New York, June 2015. Benoit Cohen decides to become a taxi driver as a way of helping him write a new screenplay. He attends a driving school in Queens, gets his licence and then spends several months roaming the city. Behind the wheel of the taxi which he hires each morning, he hopes to find inspiration and get to grips with America's strange, frenetic capital. Littered with cinematic references and personal recollections, *Yellow Cab* is a surprising piece of travel writing that may be limited to a handful of blocks but nevertheless says a great deal about America.

It was Christophe Chabouté's friend CharElie Couture who introduced him to Benoit's autobiographical novel. "In 2016, I had done a great many illustrations of New York for the *Real Dream of New York* exhibition with CharElie Couture at the Huberty & Breyne Gallery. I had just finished adapting 'Moby Dick' and I was feeling exhausted and drained. CharElie gave me the book and this story of a filmmaker who's feeling uninspired and becomes a New York taxi driver in the hope of having new experiences and coming up with new ideas totally resonated with me. I read the book in a single night and decided to adapt it," he tells us.



Yellow Cab - Plate 56, 2021
Indian ink on paper, 37 x 26.5 cm

Chabouté collected 20,000 photos of New York and sat through hours of films, documentaries and music so he could recreate the atmosphere of the "city that never sleeps". He based his drawings of the characters on Benoît Cohen's descriptions in a determined effort to respect the text and the writer's own experiences. "I have put a lot of myself in this book, while hiding behind Benoît," he acknowledges. Using bold, expressive lines, Chabouté captures New York in all its diversity - the endless urban sprawl, skyscrapers reaching for the clouds, hordes of people rushing from place to place... The results are sober, elegant images in black and white. Densely drawn panels to reflect the city's excesses; wordless scenes to convey its deafening silences. And, just ghosting through, that particular Chabouté trick of using his narratives to plumb the human soul.



Yellow Cab - Plate 124, 2021
Indian ink on paper, 37 x 26.6 cm

Yellow Cab

From book to comic

By Benoit Cohen

New York is such a graphic city that, as soon as my book came out, I pictured Yellow Cab in comic form. And I immediately thought of the New York work Chabouté had produced in collaboration with our mutual friend CharleElie Couture. It was thanks to something CharleElie posted on Instagram, by the way, that Christophe discovered my book and sent me a message of congratulations. I contacted him to ask if he would be prepared to adapt it. He replied that he only tended to adapt authors who had died so that he was completely free to do what he wanted. I had just spent a year and a half driving my taxi and writing the book and I was in the middle of writing the screenplay for a film on the same subject: the idea of letting him interpret my story in his own way suited me perfectly. He thought about it for a few weeks and finally accepted my proposal. I was absolutely delighted. The only question I permitted myself to ask him before he set to work was: "What will your taxi driver look like?" "Like you" came the simple answer, making this whole experience all the more novel.

In the months that followed, Chabouté often contacted me to ask for details and for photos of my office, my house, my district and my taxi (which I hired again especially for the occasion). We got on well and, in the end, he seemed to think it was no bad thing that I wasn't dead. He sent me photos of his plates as he finished them, causing me quite a rush of emotion each time.

At the end of the day, I'm really grateful to him for having succeeded in preserving the DNA of my story while at the same time creating a world of his own. I have always read a lot of comics - Rabaté, Jourdy, Larcenet, Bechdel and Chabouté himself of course - and to see my adventures as a New York taxi driver captured on glossy paper today is rather magical.

Christophe CHABOUTÉ

Christophe Chabouté was born in Alsace in 1967. He has won a number of awards at the Angoulême International Comics Festival, notably for *Quelques jours d'été* (1998), *Pleine Lune* (2001) and *Un îlot de Bonheur* (2001), and his adaptation of Herman Melville's *Moby Dick* received the Gens de la Mer prize at the Etonnants Voyageurs (Amazing Travellers) Festival (2104). This taciturn and very private artist, a proponent of the *ligne sombre* ("dark line"), demonstrates, in album after album, his talent for story telling - his ability to make silences speak and to bring the unfamiliar to life with incredible vividness. His powerful black and white drawings are frequently compared to the work of Pratt and Comès.

Benoit COHEN

Born in 1969, Benoît Cohen is a writer and filmmaker currently living in New York. After making several films, including *Nos enfants chéris* (2003) and *Tu seras un homme* (2013), he wrote *Yellow Cab* (2017) and *Mohammad, ma mère et moi* (2018), two stories published by Flammarion to both public and critical acclaim. *Le Prix du paradis*, his next novel, will be published in April 2021.



Yellow Cab - Plate 74, 2021
Indian ink on paper, 37 x 26.6 cm



Yellow Cab - Plate 158, 2021
Indian ink on paper, 37 x 26.5 cm

Christophe CHABOUTÉ

Yellow Cab

PRIVATE VIEW

Thursday 4 March 2021 from 11.00am to 6.00pm
in the presence of the artist

EXHIBITION

From Friday 5 March to Saturday 20 March 2021

36 avenue Matignon
75008 Paris
Monday > Saturday 11.00am - 7.00pm

PRESS CONTACT

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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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