

Philippe FRANCO

Largo Winch, 30 ans déjà !

10.11.21

> 04.12.21

BRUSSELS



Largo Winch - Les Voiles Écarlates (Scarlet Sails)
Volume 22 - Pencil sketch 8, 20.9 x 29 cm

Exhibition

The billionaire Largo Winch himself will be appearing at Huberty & Breyne's Brussels gallery for an exceptional exhibition, due to run from 10 November to 4 December 2021. He won't be alone, of course: for over thirty years, the life of Largo Winch has been closely – inextricably – linked with the life of Philippe Francq...

"One thing the two men have in common is that neither can easily be summed up in a few words. The labels that have come to be attached to each over the course of time are necessarily reductive and distort the truth. To really know a person, we're told, is a question of bypassing appearances..." explain Christelle and Bertrand Pissavy-Yvernault in their superb book *L'Art du dessin de Philippe Francq*, published by Éditions Dupuis.

Philippe Francq and Largo Winch will be offering visitors the chance to view dozens of pencil sketches – each staggeringly well executed – from a monumental series that has sold 11 million albums to date. A series that spans 31 years, almost to the day, from *L'Héritier* (published in November 1990) to *La Frontière de la nuit* (volume 23), due out on 5 November 2021.

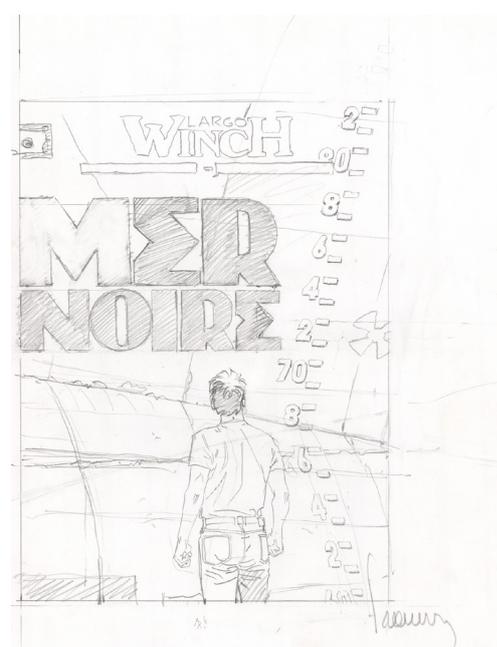
"I don't think I have a style as such," says Francq. "Or, at least, I try not to have one. It has become what it is by omission and because it perfectly reflects my personality. A drawing style is like handwriting, or the look in a person's eyes: it's the reflection of their soul."

As the years have passed, Philippe Francq has been polishing and fine-tuning his drawing technique. "We're living in an age where we can watch films in 4K," he says. "There's stiff competition from cinema and video games. I'm aware that you can't carry on making comics the same way as twenty years ago. You have to get better at the colours and the detail of the drawing. I thought I would have more time as I got older, but in fact I have less because I spend more and more time on the strips. I am less and less satisfied and so I spend more and more time honing my work."

This is a Philippe Francq, unquestionably, at the height of his powers!



Largo Winch - Dutch Connection
Volume 6 - Pencil sketch 11, 19.8 x 20.8 cm



Largo Winch - Mer noire (Cold Black Sea)
Volume 17 - Pencil sketch 13, 27.8 x 20.9 cm

Philippe FRANCO

Philippe Francq was born in Etterbeek on 13 December 1961. After an unremarkable start to his schooling, he decided to take his studies in an artistic direction and in September 1978 he enrolled at the Saint Luke Art Institute.

It was here that Francq really learnt how to hold a pencil and to fill a sheet of paper. In 1981, he re-enrolled for a further three years in the cartoon section, which at the time was directed by Claude Renard. Now it was not just drawing he had to deal with but also the bigger issue of the text.

Aged 23, he graduated from Saint Luke's with a string of academic qualifications and started looking for a publisher – and some inspiration. He worked first with writer Gabrielle Borille on the first ten strips for a story that was never completed, and then later with Bob de Moor at the Hergé Studios.

Bob de Groot suggested they work together on a series called *Des villes et des femmes*, and they produced two albums for Dargaud. Francq then went on to publish two volumes of *Léo Tomasini* (also with Dargaud), with text by Francis Delvaux.

Meeting the novelist and comic book writer Jean Van Hamme in 1988 was to prove life-changing. Van Hamme suggested that Francq illustrate the adaptations he was planning for a series of six novels published, to great acclaim, with Mercure de France, early on in his career.

Largo Winch is a series of modern thrillers set in the world of high finance and often involving exotic locations. The project was initially far ahead of its time and was not widely distributed. Francq's precise, highly efficient drawings placed the series amongst the top bestselling cartoons.

Launched in the *Repérages* collection, the first volume sold more than 50,000 copies and the tenth some 500,000! The novels were reissued at the same time, in various forms, and a major 39-episode TV series has been broadcast worldwide.



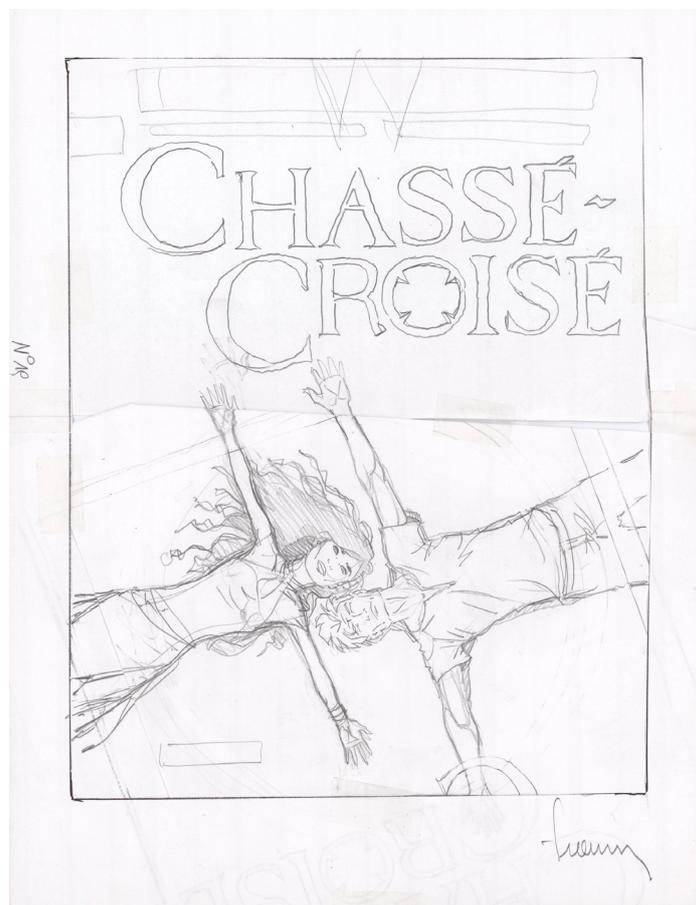
Largo Winch - La Frontière de la nuit
Volume 23 - Pencil sketch 7.25 x 17.5 cm



Largo Winch - Le Prix de l'argent (The Price of Money)
Volume 13 - Cover design, 29.2 x 19.3 cm

In 2007, Philippe Francq and Jean Van Hamme were awarded the "Sanglier" prize for best adult album (one of the Albert-Uderzo awards) for *Les Trois Yeux des gardiens du Tao*, 15th album in their *Largo Winch* series.

In 2017, Francq teamed up with the new series writer, Éric Giacometti, with whom he has since produced the 21st, 22nd and 23rd volumes of the Winch saga.



Largo Winch - Chassé-Croisé
Volume 19 - Cover design, 33.5 x 24 cm

Largo Winch

Tome 23 – La frontière de la nuit

Following their first hugely successful diptych, Éric Giacometti and Philippe Francq are back with a Largo more than ever in tune with its times, where the green economy meets cutting-edge technology and the spiritual sons of Elon Musk.

While visiting a tin mine in Indonesia incognito, Largo Winch is appalled to discover that one of his own subsidiaries is employing children to supply components essential for manufacturing smartphones. The discovery prompts the billionaire to bring Group W in line with a more responsible economic model while simultaneously developing cutting-edge technologies, notably relating to space (satellites and removal of space debris). This brings Largo Winch into contact with Jarod and Demetria Mankind, a couple of brilliant young entrepreneurs with disturbing ideas and dubious morals who take every opportunity to ridicule him in the media. The encounter is just the start of some major trouble for Winch, including a space flight that could go very badly wrong... Mysterious killers are at work in the shadows, their motivation uncertain...

The business world may be changing. But the way some criminals do business is not...

Publisher: Éditions Dupuis

Publication date: 05/11/21

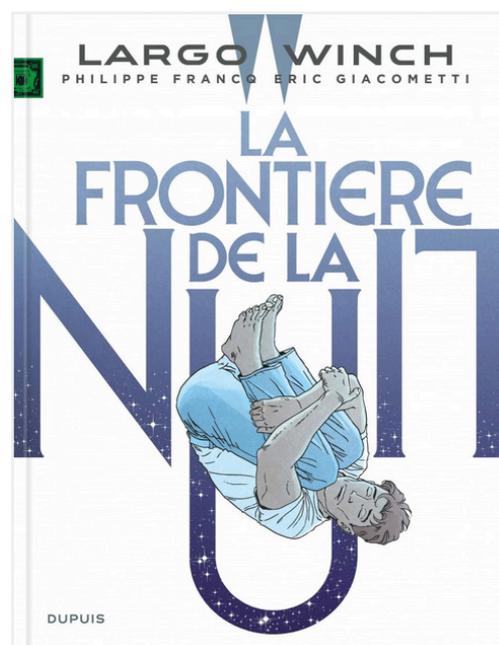
Script: Éric Giacometti

Drawings: Philippe Francq

Format: 310 x 237 mm

Number of pages: 48

EAN: 9791034742950



Esquisses et croquis

30 ans d'études pour LARGO WINCH

Publisher: Éditions Dupuis – Huberty & Breyne

Publication date: November 2021

Drawings: Philippe Francq

Paper: Arena Smooth White 140 g

Print run: 2,500 copies

20 copies numbered from I to XX, accompanied by an original drawing by the artist

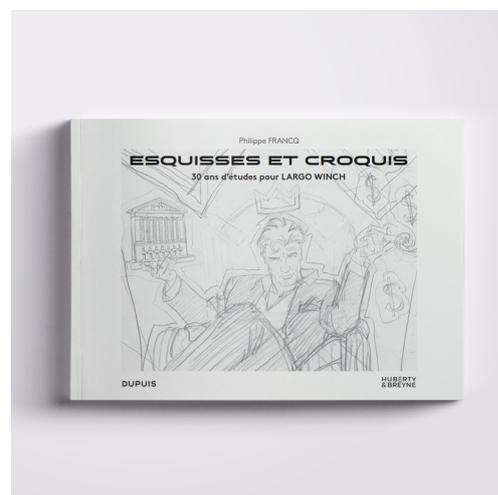
50 copies numbered from 1 to 50, accompanied by a numbered ex-libris signed by the artist

50 copies numbered from 1 to 50, accompanied by a second numbered ex-libris signed by the artist

Format: 190 x 270 mm

Number of pages: 320

ISBN: 979-1-0347-6529-4



Philippe FRANCO

Largo, 30 ans déjà !

PRIVATE VIEW

Tuesday 9 November 2021 from 5.00 pm to 8.00 pm
in the presence of the artist

Covid-19 passes must be shown

EXHIBITION

From Wednesday 10 November to Saturday 4 December 2021

33 place du Châtelain
1050 Bruxelles

Tuesday > Saturday 11.00 am – 6.00 pm

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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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11.00am - 6.00pm

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