

HUBERTY
& BREYNE

Judith VANISTENDAEL & Simon SPRUYT

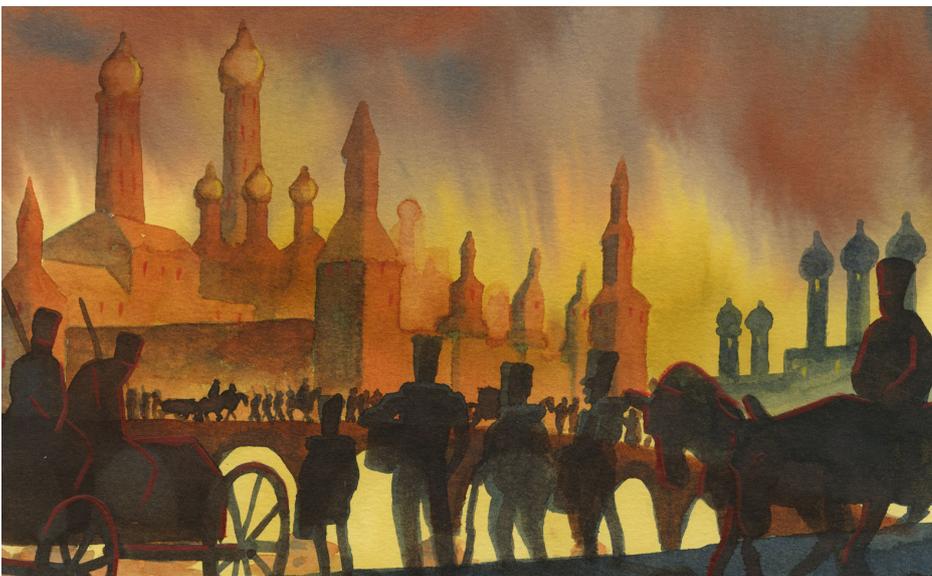
La Nouvelle Vague du Lombard

04.06.21

> 26.06.21

BRUSSELS

ESPACE RENCONTRES



Judith VANISTENDAEL
La Baleine Bibliothèque - Pages 43 and 44
Mixed technique on paper, 42.7 x 59.5 cm

Simon SPRUYT
Le Tambour de la Moskova - Plate 33
Mixed technique on paper, 35 x 27.3 cm

Exhibition

For its new exhibition, the Huberty & Breyne Gallery's Espace Rencontres will be showcasing the work of two Belgian artists, Judith Vanistendael and Simon Spruyt, who have both just brought out a new album with Le Lombard.

Judith VANISTENDAEL

Daughter of the famous Brussels poet and essayist Geert Van Istendael, Judith Vanistendael is an author and illustrator who has chosen a rather different medium for self-expression - comic strip.

Her most recent album *La Baleine Bibliothèque* - written by Zidrou and published by Le Lombard on 28 May 2021 - tells the story of a postman and a blue whale behind whose smile lies the biggest library in the ocean. This is a sensitive and poetic ode to reading that deals with grand themes - life, death and eternity.

"I work almost exclusively in watercolour and coloured pencils," Vanistendael says. "The fact is that I use ordinary lead pencils as little as possible because I have a problem with my muscles and pressing hard on the paper is painful. I've had to adapt how I work as a result and now I only use a lead pencil to sketch out the story; then I 'throw' my drawing at the paper, in colour, without filling in the detail. It's rather restricting, but it's also been an opportunity because it's taught me how to draw with limited means."

Aside from this latest offering, the exhibition will be showcasing other albums by Judith Vanistendael, including Indian ink and watercolour plates from *Les Deux Vies de Pénélope* and *David, les femmes et la mort* and originals from *Salto* (in collaboration with Mark Bellido), drawn in coloured pencil.

"This naive, childish material offers masses of scope for playing with light and atmosphere," says Vanistendael. "It's very structured, very dense, very light and very opaque, all at the same time. There's a lot you can do with coloured pencils."



Judith VANISTENDAEL
Les deux vies de Pénélope - Couverture 1
Indian ink and watercolour on paper, 30 x 24.3 cm



Judith VANISTENDAEL
La baleine bibliothèque - Pages 45
Mixed technique on paper, 31.7 x 24.3 cm

Simon SPRUYT

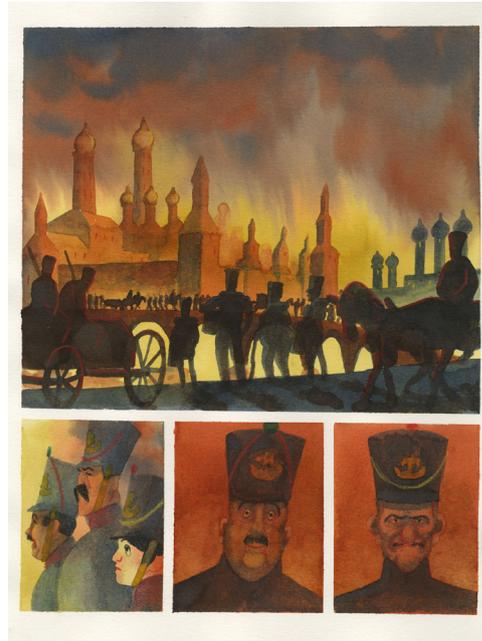
Simon Spruyt describes himself as a "comics engineer". The style, tone and atmosphere of his graphic novels vary from one book to the next, but there is one common denominator: they are always a perfect fit for his theme. Spruyt's most recent graphic novel, *Le Tambour de la Moskova*, was published by Le Lombard in March 2020 and focuses on one of the peripheral characters in Tolstoy's great masterpiece *War and Peace*. It tells the story of a young drummer boy in Napoleon's army and his experiences of the Russian campaign, which he manages to survive.

While *Le Tambour de la Moskova* may be read as a straightforward historical narrative, it holds up a mirror to the great masterpieces of Russian literature and offers its own reflections on the themes of greatness and innocence in times of conflict.

From the very first plates, executed in a mixture of watercolour ink and coloured pencil, readers of *Anna Karenina*, *War and Peace* and *Resurrection* will feel entirely at home. Decor, characters, themes - everything, or almost everything, reminds us of the work of Leo Tolstoy (1828-1910).

"I'm Flemish and pretty ignorant about the Napoleonic era. So, my inspiration was primarily War and Peace," Simon Spruyt explains. "I certainly had my Russian period as a reader (...) I still love those books but, having said that, I prefer the exoticism of slightly crazy Russian authors - crazy from my point of view, I suppose - like Dostoyevsky, Gogol and Goncharov. Tolstoy is sometimes a bit too systematic in his theories for my taste."

A number of other works by Simon Spruyt will also be on display, including plates from the albums *Papa Zoglu* (Les Éditions même pas mal) and *Bouvaert, élégie pour un âne* (Casterman).



Simon SPRUYT
Le Tambour de la Moskova - Planche 33
Mixed technique on paper, 35 x 27.3 cm



Simon SPRUYT
Le Tambour de la Moskova - Planche 33
Mixed technique on paper, 35 x 27.3 cm

Judith VANISTENDAEL

Judith was born in 1974 and is a Belgian illustrator and comic book author. Her first album *La Jeune Fille et le nègre* proved an instant bestseller. It is the love story - told in two volumes - of a political refugee from Togo and a young Belgian girl. Twice nominated at the Angoulême International Comics Festival, the book has been translated into several languages.

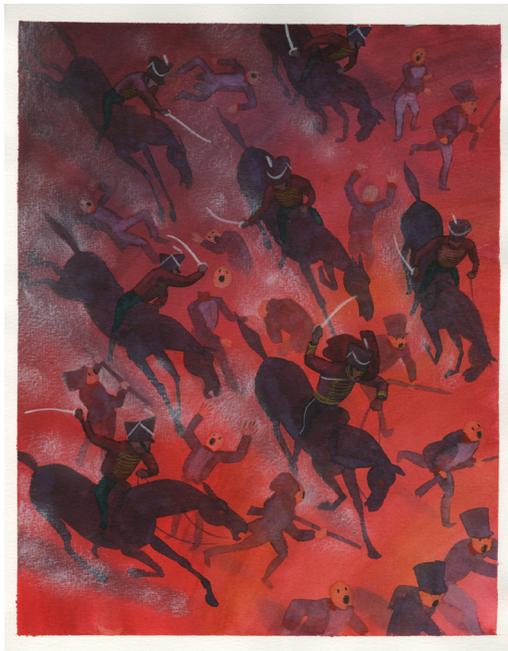
In 2012, Judith published *David, les femmes et la mort* (English title: *When David Lost His Voice*), an intimate graphic novel unanimously acclaimed by the critics and nominated for three Eisner Awards. With *Salto*, the story of a sweet seller who becomes a bodyguard, Judith plunges the reader into a different world entirely and offers us a total of more than 300 plates, all of them produced in coloured pencil. In 2019, she brought out *Les Deux Vies de Pénélope*, for which she won the Prix Bulles d'Humanité, an annual prize for the best comic book engaging with social issues. Judith also illustrates books for children.



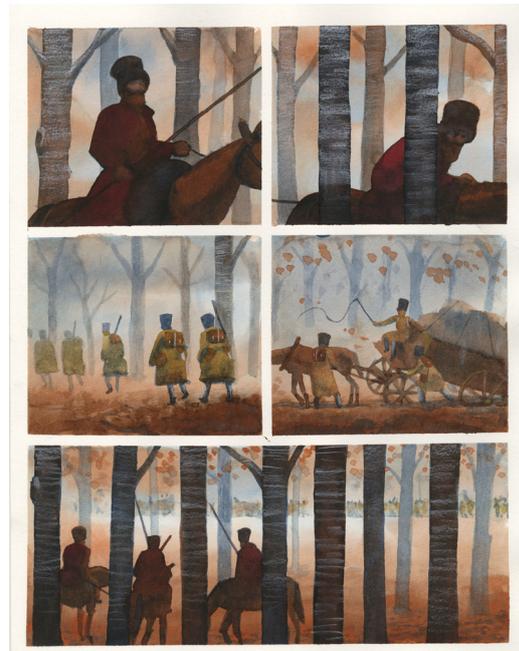
Judith VANISTENDAEL
La baleine bibliothèque - Pages 5 et 6
Mixed technique on paper, 34,5 x 50,8 cm

Simon SPRUYT

Simon (born in 1978) describes himself as a "Belgian comics engineer" and has received a number of awards for his work. The style, tone and atmosphere of his graphic novels are utterly different from one book to the next but always appropriate to his subject matter. His international career began with *SGF*, an intelligent satire of the whole comic book industry. *Junker* centres on the dubious reminiscences of two Prussian brothers growing up in the years leading to the First World War, while *Papa Zoglu* is set in the Middle Ages and depicts a young boy's quest for meaning within the framework of a carefully structured narrative. Following *Bouvaert* - subtitled "an elegy for a donkey" and which revolves around the life of a great painter - Simon once again adapts his graphic style to meet the demands of his story in *Le Tambour de la Moskova*. The tale of a young drummer boy in the Napoleonic army and how he survives Napoleon's Russian campaign is also a powerful reflection on innocence and greatness in times of conflict. Simon Spruyt is a consummate artist and each of his albums takes his readers somewhere entirely new.



Simon SPRUYT
Le Tambour de la Moskova - Planche 90
Mixed technique on paper, 35.4 x 27.4 cm



Simon SPRUYT
Le Tambour de la Moskova - Planche 63
Mixed technique on paper, 35.3 x 27.5 cm

La baleine bibliothèque

Judith VANISTENDAEL, ZIDROU

She is a hundred thousand years old and behind her smile she hides the largest library in the ocean, and she reads books to the fishes... *La Baleine Bibliothèque* is also the story of a funny sort of postman - one who works for the Maritime Postal Services and delivers post out at sea. The story of an unusual encounter, in short; an encounter that starts badly but turns into a beautiful friendship between the postman and the whale. Zidrou originally wrote *La Baleine Bibliothèque* for the illustrator David Merveille. As things turned out, it was Judith Vanistendael, however, who produced the illustrations after Zidrou rewrote the text for her. The duo even conducted some research on the Atlantic Coast, near Royan. Although whether they actually met a whale the story does not disclose...

TITLE: *La Baleine Bibliothèque*

SCRIPT: Zidrou

DRAWING AND COLOURS: Judith Vanistendael

GENRE: Graphic novel

TARGET AUDIENCE: Teen/Adult

FORMAT: 241 x 318 mm; 80 pages; colour; hardcover

PRICE: 14,75 € - 23,6 CHF

ISBN: 9782803677962

PUBLISHER: Le Lombard

PUBLICATION DATE: 28 May 2021



Judith VANISTENDAEL
La baleine bibliothèque - Pages 51 et 52
Mixed technique on paper, 38 x 51.5 cm

Le Tambour de la Moskova

Simon SPRUYT

Summer 1812. Vincent Bosse is a drummer in Napoleon's Grande Armée. Since the failure of the Saint Petersburg offensive, Napoleon's plans have been going badly awry. And to avoid his Russian campaign ending in complete disaster the Emperor is seeking a decisive confrontation. He finally achieves his objective near the village of Borodino on 7 September 1812 - a day when 250,000 French and Russian troops confronted one another in a battle that gave the French no more than a tactical victory and left 75,000 either dead or wounded. Vincent Bosse is present at the terrible assaults on the Raevsky redoubt but manages to escape unharmed. A week later, he enters Moscow, a city that has been abandoned. For the 20-year-old soldier, the culture shock proves as violent as the experience of the army's impending retreat.

TITLE: *Le Tambour de la Moskova*

SCRIPT, DRAWING AND COLOURS: Simon Spruyt

GENRE: Historical graphic novel

TARGET AUDIENCE: All ages (from 12 years)

FORMAT: 225 x 298 mm; 120 pages; colour; hardcover

PRICE: 19,99 € - 31,9 CHF

ISBN: 9782803677740

PUBLISHER: Le Lombard

PUBLICATION DATE: 12 March 2021



Simon SPRUYT
Le Tambour de la Moskova - Couverture
Mixed technique on paper, 23 x 14.9 cm

Judith VANISTENDAEL & Simon SPRUYT

La Nouvelle Vague du Lombard

EXHIBITION

From Friday 4 June to Saturday 26 June 2021

PREVIEW

Thursday 3 June 2021 from 11.00 am to 8.00 pm

In the presence of the artists

Judith Vanistendael, Zidrou and Simon Spruyt

BOOK SIGNING

Thursday 3 June 2021 from 6.00 pm

(no booking required)

33 place du Châtelain

1050 Bruxelles

Tuesday > Saturday 11.00 am - 6.00 pm

PRESS CONTACT

Thibaut FONTENOY

+32 (0)499 98 75 84

fontenoy.pro@gmail.com

HD visuals available upon request

© 2021 Judith Vanistendael - Huberty & Breyne

© 2021 Simon Spruyt - Huberty & Breyne

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.

BRUXELLES | CHÂTELAIN

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

Tuesday > Saturday
11.00am - 6.00pm

PARIS | MATIGNON

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

Monday > Saturday
11.00am - 7.00pm

contact@hubertybreyne.com
www.hubertybreyne.com