

Press Release Winter 2017



JUANJO GUARNIDO BLACKSAD

Somewhere Between the Shadows

Centro de Historias, Zaragoza

From December 14, 2017 to February 11, 2018

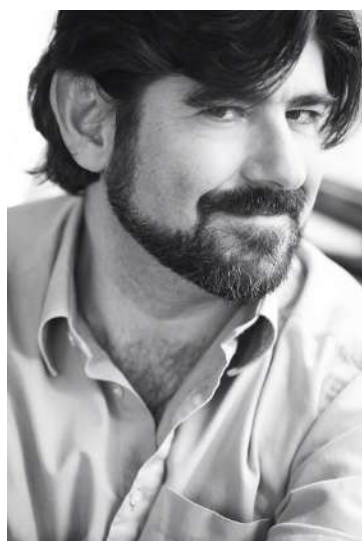
XVI SALÓN
DEL CÓMIC DE
ZARAGOZA

Curated by Mario Martín Pareja



Blacksad, 2000 © Juanjo Guarnido, courtesy of Éditions Dargaud

The Centro de Historias of Zaragoza present a panorama across the extraordinary career of this famous Spanish artist **Juanjo Guarnido** curated by Mario Martín Pareja.



Juanjo Guarnido © Rita Scaglia

And, suddenly, Guarnido came with a perfect and stylish drawing and he submerged us no longer in a caricatural and moralizing fable, but on another planet as violent, absurd and wonderfully as ours, but in which the deep nature of the characters is revealed by a kind of a crazy clairvoyance under the maximum perfection animal form

Jean Giraud "Moebius"



Blacksad, 2000 © Juanjo Guarnido, courtesy of Éditions Dargaud



Blacksad, 2013 © Juanjo Guarnido, courtesy of Éditions Dargaud

JUANJO GUARNIDO

BLACKSAD. ALGÚN LUGAR ENTRE LAS SOMBRAS

Centro de Historias de Zaragoza presents exhibition “Juanjo Guarnido. Blacksad. Somewhere between the shadows”, a panorama across the extraordinary career of this famous Spanish artist. Curated by Mario Martín Pareja and produced by Contemporanea, the show has been scheduled in XVI Zaragoza Comic Festival official program.

Juanjo Guarnido (Granada, 1967) is known particularly for the ‘Blacksad’ serie (Dargaud). This stunning animal, who was the rising star in the comic scene in 2000, is the main character of this film noir serie which takes place in the USA, in the beginning of the Cold War. ‘Blacksad’ revealed this young talented Spanish artist who came from the animation studios -Disney, among others, to the international comic scene.

Five volumes have been edited up until now. All of the characters are anthropomorphic animals whose species reflects their personality, character type and role in the story. John Blacksad is a II World War veteran, an ordinary American private investigator, except in his animal nature. A humanised cat with more than seven lives who has sold more than a million and a half copies all over the world and has been translated to more than twenty languages. His adventures have been recognized as a very high-quality comic without frontiers, plenty of cultural references and with a powerful execution. A master piece of the genre.



Blacksad, 2001



Blacksad, 2003



Blacksad, 2010 © Juanjo Guarnido, courtesy of Éditions Dargaud



Blacksad, 2005 © Juanjo Guarnido, courtesy of Éd. Dargaud



Blacksad, 2000 © Juanjo Guarnido, courtesy of Éditions Dargaud



Blacksad, 2003 © Juanjo Guarnido, courtesy of Éditions Dargaud

THE EXHIBITION

But of course, the exhibition is not only about 'Blacksad'. Before getting into this big section of the show, the Guarnido's beginnings as a cartoonist and his following steps in the animation studios, also in Walt Disney Studios are also displaying. Drawings, sketches, objects, documents and memorabilia have been collected for this occasion. Emotive texts by Juan Diaz Canales -'Blacksad' scriptwriter, and François Le Bescond -'Blacksad' editor from Dargaud, have been written for the show.

'Blacksad' is a prominent section of the exhibition because it is the Guarnido's main personal work. The show includes sources of inspiration for Guarnido and Diaz Canales, original pages of the albums, scripts, dismissed drawings, the whole collection of figurines and sculptures made in resin of the main characters of the serie, merchandising, etc. In essence, all the inner and outer universe of 'Blacksad' produced along these seventeen years.

In addition, there are videos about biographical and creative aspects of Juanjo Guarnido which guide us to know him even more.



Brujeando, 2015 © Juanjo Guarnido, courtesy of Éd. Dargaud



Blacksad, 2000 © Juanjo Guarnido, Cortesy of Éditions Dargaud



Freaky Project, 2015 © Juanjo Guarnido



Biografía

Juanjo Guarnido (Granada, 1967) got his degree in Fine Arts in birth city Grenade. He cooperated on several local fanzines, while also made illustrations for the Spanish Marvel publications. He worked in an animation studio in Madrid for three years, where he met his future scriptwriter Juan Diaz Canales. Guarnido moved to Paris in 1993 and was employed by Walt Disney Studios in Montreuil-sur-Bois as a layout man and animator on films like 'Hunchback of the Notre Dame' (1996), 'Hercules' (1997) and 'Tarzan' (1999). In his spare time, he started making comics together with Canales. This eventually resulted in the launch of their critically acclaimed anthropomorphic black cat detective 'Blacksad', of which the first book was published by Dargaud in 2000. Guarnido's film noir-inspired comic is inhabited by a great many remarkable and unusual animal characters, including anthropomorphic cameos of famous persons and a wide range of

reptile villains. It has been a success among critics and the public, and it has won the Best Artwork Award and the Best Series Award at the Angoulême International Comics Festival and two Eisner Prizes in San Diego ComicCon. The serie has been published in more than twenty different languages. Guarnido was also the cover artist and illustrator of the final installment for Pierre Boissier's collective science fiction series 'Voyageur', that was published by Glénat between 2007 and 2011. With Canales' wife Teresa Valero he additionally set up the heroic fantasy children's series 'Sorcellières', that is published by Dargaud since 2008, and he has directed the animation film 'Nocturna'.



Blacksad, 2003 © Juanjo Guarnido, cortesía of Éditions Dargaud



Blacksad, 2010 © Juanjo Guarnido, cortesía of Éditions Dargaud

About the Exhibition

Dates: December 14, 2017 - February 11, 2018

Press Conference: December 14, To Be Determined
Opening: December 14, 5 pm

Address: Centro de Historias de Zaragoza
Plaza de San Agustín, 2
50002 Zaragoza
Tel. 976 721 885

Price: Free entrance

Opening Hours: Tuesday to Saturday: 10 am - 2 pm and 5 pm - 9 pm
Sunday and Holidays: 10 am - 2.30 pm

Telephone: +34 686 265 924

Email: info@contemporanea.org

Organized by: Sociedad Municipal Zaragoza Cultural
Contemporánea and XVI Salón del Cómic
With coop. of: Éditions Dargaud y Norma Editorial
Curated by: Mario Martín Pareja

Local Production: Centro de Historias de Zaragoza
Installation: Brigadas Municipales de Arquitectura
Didactic Coordination: Servicio Municipal de Educación

Contemporánea

Contemporanea was founded in 1996 as an entity which promotes art through activities and culture programs in Spain and worldwide.

Mario Martin Pareja and Dumia Medina are the Directors.

He has produced more than 50 exhibitions such as "Apocalypse. Keith Haring & Williams Burroughs"; "Seguir vivo. Michel Houellebecq y Masbedo"; "Warhol & The Factory"; "USA Today"; "Gráfika. A Collections of Prints by the Artists of Beautiful Losers"; "Lydia Lunch. A Retrospective"; "Gráfika. 30 Artistas de la España Joven"; "Duffy. Retrospective"; "Ryan McGinley. Yearbook"; "Richard Kern. Naked and Famous"; "Frida Kahlo. Photographs of Leo Matiz at La Casa Azul"; "Shadi Ghadirian. Like Every Day"; "Nirvana. 20 Years"; "From Sex To Punk"; "John Lennon & Yoko Ono: Suite 1742", among others.

As editor it has also produced books (Lydia Lunch, Michel Houellebecq, William S. Burroughs) or limited edition prints and objects (Richard Kern, C215, Tim Biskup, Miss Van, Lydia Lunch, Jim Houser, René Peña, Victor Castillo, Valeriano López, Chema López, Jacobo Castellano, Boris Hoppek, Sergio Mora, etc.).

Contemporanea also collaborates with other Museums and Art Centers in musical, spoken word and performing activities. It has worked with entities such as Centre de Cultura Contemporanea de Barcelona (CCCB); La Casa Encendida (Madrid); Fundación para las Artes (Valladolid); DA2-Domus Artium (Salamanca); MUSAC (Leon); Espai D'Art (Castellon); Es Baluard (Majorca); José Saramago Foundation; Telefonica Foundation; Audi Foundation (Beirut); etc.

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www.contemporanea.org

www.http://www.zaragoza.es/ciudad/museos/es/chistoria

www.saloncomiczaragoza.com

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