

Gea Comic Art Fest 2025: Lugano becomes the bridge between nature and comics

The Gea Comic Art Fest returns to Lugano, an event that combines the language of comics with the discovery of the local area, organised by the cultural association La Nona Arte. Following the success of the first edition, GEA25 takes on a more local flavour and aims to promote Lugano as a place of dialogue between art, nature and citizenship. Seven artists from Ticino will exhibit their works, each with two panels dedicated to views of the city. Not only Parco Ciani, but also less predictable and more intimate corners, such as Parco del Tassino and the Funicolare degli Angioli, will be reinterpreted with original perspectives. The works will offer the public different and unique perspectives, restoring – through heterogeneous languages and techniques – the creative value that comes from direct observation of the territory and the relationship with the urban and natural landscape.

Right in the heart of the city

There will be over fifty works on display, created by seven artists who will present a self-contained panel, two views of Lugano and five personal works. To emphasise the link between the Ninth Art and the city, the festival will open in the heart of Lugano, under the arches of the municipal patio: an open, welcoming space suitable for all ages. The inauguration, attended by the artists, is scheduled for **Thursday 9 October at 6.30 p.m.**, and the works will remain on display until Wednesday 15 October. From the following day, 16 October, the exhibition will move to the Marco Lucchetti Art Gallery in Via Cattedrale 3, where it will continue until 15 November, with free admission.

Meet the authors

The Gea Comic Art Fest will offer the public a unique opportunity to meet the authors featured in the exhibition, thanks to discussions and book signings hosted at the Marco Lucchetti Art Gallery in Lugano. Three events that transform comics into the living voice of stories that touch, excite and make you think.

- **On Friday 17 October at 6.30 pm**, Lisa Gyongy will present *Inchiostro*, a work entirely written, illustrated and printed by the author: an extraordinary example of creative experimentation, where words and images merge into a single artistic experience.
- **On Saturday 18 October, at 10.30 p.m.**, Elena Maspoli will guide the audience on a journey of discovery through *Rosa e Amir*, an intense and contemporary narrative that delicately addresses themes of relationships

and modern life.

- **On Wednesday 22 October, at 6.30 pm**, the gallery will welcome Teresa Caruso and Seline Scorti Pataraia, authors of *Ogni tanto volevo sparire* (Every now and then I wanted to disappear), an illustrated story published last spring that tackles the issue of eating disorders in children with sensitivity and depth.

The artists

Seven artists from Ticino will take part and exhibit their works during this year's edition of GEA. The names for the 2025 edition are:

- **Teresa Caruso**, a trained graphic designer and craft enthusiast, experiments with different printing techniques. She was a finalist for the 2020 Bally Prize.
- **Raffaele Conte**, after studying at the Scuola del Fumetto in Milan and the Aldo Galli Academy of Fine Arts in Como, devoted himself to illustration and teaching visual arts, also collaborating with international magazines and projects.
- **Giulia Fontana**, after studying Illustration and Book Art in Cambridge, took a trip to Japan that profoundly influenced her aesthetic research and artistic vision.
- **Sara Guerra**, illustrator and teacher, was born and raised in Ticino. She leads workshops for adults and children, works with mixed media and draws constant inspiration from nature.
- **Lisa Gyongy**, with a background in Literature and Philosophy in Bologna and film directing in Paris, worked for years in cinema before devoting herself to comics and animation.
- **Elena Maspoli**, originally from Arbedo and now living in Geneva, is an editorial illustrator. This year, she published her first comic book, "Rosa e Amir".
- **Joël Prétôt**, who graduated as a decorator-exhibitor from CSIA (Centro Scolastico per le Industrie Artistiche) and specialised in realistic comics in Milan, combines his artistic activity with work in the social sector, where he uses comics as a tool for raising awareness.

About us

La Nona Arte was founded in Lugano with a clear vision: comics are the future of contemporary art. In a world where visual languages influence and renew each other, the association transforms the Ninth Art into a bridge between tradition and innovation, between generations and cultures. Rooted in the Ticino region but projected into an international dialogue, *La Nona Arte* promotes Swiss stories, faces and landscapes, bringing them into a new and surprising dimension. Through festivals, exhibitions, workshops and events such as InnovaComix and Gea Comic Art Fest, the

association makes comics a living, participatory experience capable of generating cultural value. With energy, passion and creativity, *La Nona Arte* is not just an association: it is a community that believes in comics as a living, open and constantly evolving heritage.

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