

InnovaComiX 2026 Programme

InnovaComiX was founded as a festival dedicated to contemporary author-driven comics and, starting from this edition, further strengthens its structure by drawing inspiration from major international film festivals, placing dialogue between works, authors, and audiences at the heart of the event.

The core of the programme is the awarding of the **Cygnès d'Or**, prizes that recognize excellence in comics from the past two years and set the rhythm for the entire festival.

Authors are the true protagonists of the schedule, which is designed to foster encounters and dialogue with the public. The **talks** bring together visions and languages of contemporary comics, weaving together technique, storytelling, talent, and reflections on the future of a sector undergoing profound transformation. Moderated by industry experts, the meetings are conceived as in-depth moments accessible to diverse audiences.

Alongside the talks, the festival offers **signing sessions** and **meet & greets**, allowing visitors to meet authors directly. Next to the Talk Room, in the *Sala degli Specchi*, a bookshop is set up with a carefully curated selection of volumes, including not only the works of authors in competition, but also particularly valuable and extremely rare titles.

The programme is further enriched by a series of **workshops** dedicated to professionals, students, and enthusiasts, as well as live performances. An essential feature is the **Kids Area**, active throughout the festival from 10:30 to 12:00 and from 13:30 to 17:00, designed to introduce even the youngest visitors – and not only them – to the world of graphic storytelling.

InnovaComiX Days at a Glance

- **Thursday, February 26th**: Invitation-only opening with guided tour
- **Friday, February 27th**: A day split across two locations, culminating in the evening gala
- **Saturday, February 28th**: Full day, full comic, with the highly anticipated Cygnès d'Or Awards Ceremony
- **Sunday, March 1st**: Full day, full comic, dedicated to dialogue and the exploration of new horizons

Friday, the 27th February

14:30 Greetings to the audience

With Cristina Rogna Manassero, Festival Director

Marco Lucchetti, CEO of InnovaComiX

Ludwig G. Maglione, Artistic Director of the Festival

Maurizio Canetta, former member of the SRG management team

Talk room

3:00–5:00 p.m. Book signing and meet & greet with the authors:

*With: **Paolo Bacilieri, Edmond Baudoin, Cleo Bissong, Francesco Cattani, Fumettibrutti, David Genchi, Lorenzo La Neve, Gian Luca Maconi, Michele Marchetti, Jacopo Moruzzi, Martin Panchaud, Laura Pérez, Tony Sandoval, Marie Sann, Spugna, Tom Tirabosco, Vamille, Dinah Wernli***

Book signing rooms

3.15pm Presentation of Cigni D'Argento:

La médaille

Un'ultima cosa

*With authors Débora Beuret-Strambini, Marielle Pinsard
and Criminaliza*

Talk room

16:00 Presentation of Cigni D'Argento:

Pensateci così

Foureyes, Four Stories

*With authors Eliana Albertini, Giulia Cellino, Martina Sarritzu
and Stefano Zattera*

Talk room

4.30pm **Guided tour of the exhibitions**

With artistic director Ludwig G. Maglione and artist Vamille

First and second floor

5pm - 7pm Book signing and meet & greet with the authors:

*With: **Eliana Albertini, Bianca Bagnarelli, Débora Beuret-Strambini, Giulia Cellino, Criminaliza, Manuele Fior, Oscar Grillo, Karen Ichters, Grazia La Padula, Lorenzo Palloni, Marielle Pinsard, Luca Raffaelli, Martina Sarritzu, Ulrich Schröder, Sonno, Stefano Zattera***

Book signing rooms

17:00 Conference:

Nuovi Mo(n)di – Uomo, macchina e creatività

With Francesco Archidiacono, cartoonist and Vice-President of EGAI

Dora Formica, illustrator and cartoonist

Guido Saracco, university lecturer

Luca Gambardella, university lecturer

Uberto Vanni d'Archirafi, Consul General of Italy

At: Consolato Generale D'Italia, Via Ferruccio Pelli, 16

4.45 p.m. Presentation of Cigni D'Argento:

KinkAglierie

Favola

With authors Marie Sann and Francesco Cattani

Talk room

17:30 Presentation of Cigni D'Argento:

La città dei dragoni

Terra Animalia

With authors Tony Sandoval and Tom Tirabosco

Talk room

18:00 Live performance

Manuele Fior, with surprise artists chosen by him, pays homage to the city of
Lugano

Performance room

18:15 Presentation of Cigni D'Argento:

Louise

Un rubino sulle labra

With authors Dinah Wernli and Edmond Baudoin

Talk room

Saturday, the 28th February

10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Book signing and meet & greet with the authors:

*With: **Eliana Albertini, Bianca Bagnarelli, Débora Beuret-Strambini, Dario Bressanini, Giulia Cellino, Criminaliza, David Genchi, Oscar Grillo, Karen Ichters, Grazia La Padula, Michele Marchetti, Jacopo Moruzzi, Kalina Muhova, Lorenzo Palloni, Laura Pérez, Marielle Pinsard, Luca Raffaelli, Martina Sarritzu, Ulrich Schröder, Samuel Schuhmacher, Sonno, Stefano Zattera***

Book signing room

From 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Consigli da maestro

With Vittorio Giardino Internationally renowned comic book artist

Performance room – Ground floor

10:30 a.m. **Guided tour of the exhibitions**

With artistic director Ludwig G. Maglione and artists Manuele Fior and Vamille

First and second floors

10:30 a.m. Presentation of Cigni D'Argento:

Giallo

Ma siamo ancora qui a parlarne?

With authors Theo D'Orato and Cleo Bissong

Talk room

11.45 Presentation of Cigni D'Argento:

Présence de la mort

Myths and legends of Lake Como

*With authors Karen Ichters and Claudio Villa, Alessandro Piccinelli
and Dario Campione*

Talk room

12.00 - 14.00 Book signing and meet & greet with authors:

*With: **Francesco Archidiacono, Paolo Bacilieri, Edmond Baudoin, Cleo Bissong, Francesco Cattani, Theo D'Orato, Manuele Fior, Dora Formica, Fumettibrutti, Lorenzo La Neve, Gian Luca Maconi, Martin Panchaud, Tony Sandoval, Marie Sann, Spugna, Tom Tirabosco, Alessandro Tota, Vamille, Dinah Wernli***

Signing room

12.30 Presentation of Cigni D'Argento:

Erika Ehrlich und de Spuk uf em Campingplatz

Mega Tree Majokko

With authors Samuel Schuhmacher and Jacopo Moruzzi

Talk room

1.15pm Presentation of Cigni D'Argento:

Bob

Nocturnos

With authors David Genchi, Michele Marchetti and Laura Pérez

Talk room

2.00pm Presentation of Cigni D'Argento:

Il colore delle cose

È successo un guaio

With authors Martin Panchaud and Lorenzo Palloni

Talk room

14:45 Presentation of Cigni D'Argento:

Life Coach/Couch

Il bordello dei fantasmi

Tutto sotto controllo

With authors Kalina Muhova and Eliana Albertini

Talk room

15:00 - 17:00 Book signing and meet & greet with authors:

*With: **Eliana Albertini, Francesco Archidiacono, Débora Beuret-Strambini, Cleo Bissong, Dario Campione, Giulia Cellino, Criminaliza, Theo D'Orato, Dora Formica, David Genchi, Oscar Grillo, Karen Ichters, Grazia La Padula, Gian Luca Maconi, Michele Marchetti, Jacopo Moruzzi, Kalina Muhova, Lorenzo Palloni, Giuseppe Palumbo, Martin Panchaud, Laura Pérez, Alessandro Piccinelli, Marielle Pinsard, Luca Raffaelli, Kati Rickenbach, Manuel Riz, Marie Sann, Martina Sarritzu, Samuel Schuhmacher, Vamille, Claudio Villa, Stefano Zattera,***

Book signing rooms

15.30 Presentation of Cigni D'Argento:

La Magnifica Illusione

Il Club and Le nuove avventure del dottor Newtron

With authors Alessandro Tota and Dario Bressanini

and Silvia Misiti, Director of the IBSA Foundation

Talk room

16:15 Presentation of Cigni D'Argento:

Animali Domestici

The Meyer cousins

With authors Bianca Bagnarelli and Vittorio Giardino

Talk room

17:00 Presentation of Fuori Concorso:

Cattivik - La Novell' Grafik'

With authors Spugna and Lorenzo La Neve

Talk room

17:00 Comics reading

Due voci

With authors Fumettibrutti and Francesco Cattani

Performance Room

17:30 - 19:00 Award ceremony

Cygnés D'Or 2026

Talk Room

Sunday, the 1st March

10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Book signing and meet & greet with the authors:

With: Paolo Bacilieri, Edmond Baudoin, Cleo Bissong, Dario Bressanini, Francesco Cattani, Theo D'Orato, Fumettibrutti, Vittorio Giardino, Oscar Grillo, Lorenzo La Neve, Grazia La Padula, Gian Luca Maconi, Lorenzo Palloni, Giuseppe Palumbo, Martin Panchaud, Luca Raffaelli, Manuel Riz, Tony Sandoval, Marie Sann, Samuel Schuhmacher, Spugna, Tom Tirabosco, Alessandro Tota, Dinah Wernli

Book signing rooms

10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Meet & Greet & Performance

Meet Kati

With Katie Rickenbach

Performance room

10:30 a.m. **Guided tour of the exhibitions**

With artistic director Ludwig G. Maglione and artist Manuele Fior

First and second floors

10:30 a.m. Out of Competition Presentation:

Fleurs intestinales

Certifié Humain

With authors Vamille and Dora Formica

Talk room

11.15 a.m. Out of Competition Presentation:

Gung Ho

Marvel Rivals Unleashed Infinity Comic

With authors Thomas Von Kummant and Francesco Archidiacono

Talk room

12.00 p.m. - 2.00 p.m. Book signing and meet & greet with authors:

*With: **Eliaana Albertini, Francesco Archidiacono, Bianca Bagnarelli, Débora Beuret-Strambini, Giulia Cellino, Criminaliza, David Genchi, Karen Ichters, Michele Marchetti, Jacopo Moruzzi, Kalina Muhova, Laura Pérez, Marielle Pinsard, Martina Sarritzu, Ulrich Schröder, Sonno, Thomas Von Kummant, Stefano Zattera***

Book signing rooms

12:00 Careers compared:

Manuele Fior

Katie Rickenbach

Talk room

12:45 Out of Competition Presentation:

Connie - La serie

Il pendio bianco

With authors Gianluca Maconi and Manuel Riz

Talk room

13:30 Out of Competition Presentation:

Tutte le mie cose belle sono rifatte

Diario di una cagna

With authors Fumettibrutti and Grazia La Padula

Talk room

14:00 Meet & Greet (by reservation)

Advice from a master

Vittorio Giardino meets young authors to give advice and tips on presenting projects, contracts and rights.

Performance room

14:15 Presentation Out of Competition:

The Lives of Others - The biographies of Giuseppe Palumbo, between politics and comics

With author Giuseppe Palumbo

Talk room

15:00 - 17:00 Book signing and meet & greet with authors:

With: Paolo Bacilieri, Bianca Bagnarelli, Edmond Baudoin, Débora Beuret-Strambini, Cleo Bissong, Dario Bressanini, Criminaliza, Theo D'Orato, Gian Luca Maconi, Giuseppe Palumbo, Martin Panchaud, Marielle Pinsard, Marie Sann, Ulrich Schröder, Alessandro Tota, Dinah Wernli

Book signing rooms

15:00 **Guided tour of the exhibitions**

With artistic director Ludwig G. Maglione

First and second floors

16:15 Meet & Greet & Performance

Meet Ulrich

With Ulrich Schröder

Performance room

17:00 Presentation Out of Competition:

Traditori di tutti

L'ospite

With authors Paolo Bacilieri, Oscar Grillo and Luca Raffaelli

Talk room

17:00 - 19:00 Book signing and meet & greet with authors:

Paolo Bacilieri, Criminaliza, Theo D'Orato, Manuele Fior, Gian Luca Maconi

Book signing rooms

6.15pm Lectio magistralis

La magnifica illusione. New York 1938

With Alessandro Tota

Talk room

NOTE: All festival events are followed by short book signing sessions.

WORKSHOP AREA

Friday from 4pm to 6pm

Happiness 2.0

Curated by IBSA Foundation

ABOUT: Happiness 2.0 is an experiential workshop that helps participants understand how social media and artificial intelligence influence emotions and well-being, especially in adolescence. The activity combines theory with scientific explanations and artistic and practical activities, engaging participants in a direct and creative way.

A journey that invites reflection on topics such as subjective happiness, personality development and the value of relationships, using the metaphor of the mask to explore identity and emotions and promote a more conscious use of technology.

Workshop Room - Second Floor

Saturday from 11:00 to 13:00

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A journey that invites reflection on topics such as subjective happiness, personality development and the value of relationships, using the metaphor of the mask to explore identity and emotions and promote a more conscious use of technology.

Workshop Room - Second Floor

Saturday from 3pm to 5pm

How to draw Mickey, Donald & friends

with Ulrich Schröder

ABOUT: A great opportunity for everyone, absolutely everyone, aged 6 and over: German Disney master Ulrich Schröder will hold a unique, fun and engaging workshop teaching participants how to draw Mickey Mouse, Donald Duck and other iconic characters, starting literally from scratch. The workshop is also suitable for more experienced enthusiasts, who will have the great opportunity to discover the secrets of one of Europe's greatest Disney masters.

In addition, Ulrich Schröder will give the drawings made during the workshop to the participants as gifts!

Workshop Room - Second Floor

Sunday: from 10.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.

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What's more, Ulrich Schröder will give participants the drawings they create during the workshop as a gift!

Workshop Room - Second Floor

Sunday: from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Semantics of Composition

with Roberto Bianchi, lecturer at SSSAA LUGANO

ABOUT: A lesson on a topic that is often overlooked and shrouded in mystery: image composition. Although aimed at professionals and students, it brings together a series of reflections that are suitable for everyone.

What are the first building blocks that make up the alphabet and what can be moved to create words and sentences in this “universal” visual grammar? A behind-the-scenes look at the construction of an illustration in today's art industry, with revelations about important aspects that a professional in the sector must consider when producing their work.

Workshop Room - Second Floor

Saturday: from 10:00 to 12:00

Advice from a master

With Vittorio Giardino Internationally renowned comic book artist

ABOUT:

Vittorio Giardino, master of international comics, meets young authors in a special event dedicated to dialogue and growth. A unique opportunity to receive advice on project presentation, contracts and copyright, and to engage directly with one of the most authoritative voices in contemporary comics.

Performance Room - Ground Floor

KIDS AREA

Every day* from 10.30am to 12pm and from 1.30pm to 5pm

LET'S MAKE COMICS!

ABOUT: Learn how to invent stories and draw your first comic strip with our tutors and share it with everyone!

*For children aged 2 to 12**.*

**Fridays only from 2.30pm to 6pm*

***From 2 to 5 years old, children must be accompanied by an adult.*

Kids Area - Second Floor