

“I would like to thank Vastagamma APS Association - says Tiziana Gibelli the Regional Councillor for Culture and Sports - for showing courage in a time of great uncertainty. The virtual exhibition organized by PAFF! on the worldwide acclaimed master of comic strips Milton Caniff is the perfect example of culture stopping at nothing, despite the restrictions that the COVID-19 pandemic has imposed, and continue to be shared with a large audience by means of the technology. This initiative and other ones of this kind carried out by the Regional Council are vital on the account of two points: on one hand, they ensure work continuity to the people in the industry; on the other hand, they allow all the enthusiasts to enjoy beauty, because culture is at the heart of everyone's life.”

*Tiziana Gibelli*  
*Regional Councillor for Culture and Sports*

“Two years after its opening, the Palazzo Arti Fumetto Friuli is already a cultural and artistic reference point for the city. Thanks to PAFF! - and if we forget the difficulties related to Covid - now Villa Galvani and Galleria Pizzinato are popular places and pulsating cultural and artistic initiatives for people of all ages. It is a bet won by the promoters, by the Municipal administration, who believed in and supported it and by the Region with its decisive contribution. The pandemic does not completely stop the cultural vitality of the city and this exhibition, to be enjoyed through a spectacular virtual tour, is proof of this.”

*Alessandro Ciriani*  
*Mayor of Pordenone*

“In a time of great global uncertainty, we believe that culture and creativity should play as a symbolic role model in projecting a future based on brave choices, swift and agile moves, by exploring new grounds while turning difficulties into opportunities without surrendering to fear. The impossibility of opening our exhibitions to the public prompted us to successfully test the virtual tours technology, a necessity for a world such as ours driven towards innovation. This path enables us to introduce PAFF! to an unlimited audience giving us new prospects, and above all, it allows us to provide the public with new opportunities for enrichment, although at the moment only via remote.”

“PAFF!’s exhibition on Milton Caniff inaugurates a series of exhibitions dedicated to the masters of comic book world’s history “*Masters of Black and White*” and, for the first time in Italy, it showcases amazing comic strips of great value, in addition to the creation of a permanent collection on the narration by pictures on display at Palazzo del Fumetto in Pordenone. Thanks to the vision of these strips by “the Rembrandt of the comic strips”, the exhibition explores the social, cultural and historical settings in which they have been created, through virtual ‘windows’ on other artistic disciplines that have influenced his work.”

*Giulio De Vita*  
*Art director of PAFF!*

"It is difficult if not impossible to escape the charm of Milton Caniff, especially when he approaches the imagery of giants like Alfred Hitchcock and Orson Welles, adding that dose of creativity, originality and personality that have made him one of the masters of his art. The interpretative key that I would like to propose to the visitor of the exhibition is that of the iconic nature of the characters. Caniff works on the theme of myth, restoring to each "character" a dimension that goes beyond the human and makes it a model of genre. It is not just the "point of view" that makes him unique, but his ability to understand in advance the figures, the style, the fashions, the gestures that become iconic. Up to fore-creating them - fixing them in his tables - to transform them into reference points. For all these reasons, the PAFF! exhibition is not only a precious historical recovery, but a very current mirror of the American (and therefore global) mythology of the twentieth century“.

*Giorgio Gosetti*  
*Director of Casa del Cinema*