

STATEMENTS

"It's beautiful news, once museums and cultural venues reopen, my exhibition at **PAFF!** will finally start, in a venue entirely dedicated to comic books and their forms of expression, which, finally, are starting to find a suitable home in Italy. Comic books are what I have tried to explore in my fifty-year career summed up in the itinerary of this particular exhibition, which has chosen an unusual way of presenting my work. I hope the audience will appreciate the design created by the curators and set designers to present my panels and illustrations, and hope to return to Pordenone in person, as soon as possible and before the end of the exhibition".

Milo Manara

"We are deeply satisfied that we have been able to keep the promise made to Manara three years ago when **PAFF!** first opened to dedicate a prestigious solo exhibition to him", says artistic director Giulio De Vita. "Milo brought good luck to the opening of Palazzo del Fumetto in Pordenone, an ambitious and difficult challenge. And today, with this exhibition, Milo has come back to get us off to a good start towards better times, after the oppression of the pandemic, and he does so with the lightness and elegance of his artistry, to soar beyond the tall hedges of secret gardens".

Giulio De Vita **Artistic director, PAFF!**

"Milo Manara's artistic career has been and still is one of a curious and eclectic *auteur*, albeit concentrated on a few key points. This exhibition bears witness to this, thanks to the originality of the point of view. Its nexus is the dimension of the fantastic, which enables us to travel through the entire fifty-year corpus of his artistic production, from the imagery of science fiction and fantasy to his dialogue with history and cinema. I believe this is an exciting opportunity, centred around unusual combinations and spaces designed to evoke the rich imagination of one of international comic art's leading figures".

Matteo Stefanelli **Comicon, Co-curator of the exhibition**

"After months of forced closures due to the COVID-19 pandemic," remarks Tiziana Gibelli, Director of Culture for Friuli Venezia Giulia Regional Council, "**PAFF!** is reopening with an international exhibition

dedicated to the master of comic art, Milo Manara. The "Secret Gardens" exhibition retraces the great artist's career on a journey through the imagination and even through cinema with the section entitled *Fellini Fantasies*. It is an important exhibition that also has the capacity to attract visitors from abroad, and looks to the future with renewed optimism, in the hope that we can finally return to the normality that we have missed in recent times, including in the culture sector.

Tiziana Gibelli

Director of Culture for Friuli Venezia Giulia Council

"Culture absolutely needs to get back to being enjoyed in person. And Pordenone is bouncing back with an exhibition of one of the world's most celebrated comic book artists. This reaffirms the city's status as one of Italy's most important cultural centres even in these difficult times. Despite the pandemic, **PAFF!** is a gamble that is paying off for its promoters and the municipality, who were strongly in favour of it. Rules permitting, we hope to receive visitors from outside the city, as this exhibition has the potential to attract people from all over Italy and abroad".

Alessandro Ciriani

Mayor of Pordenone