

Stripdagen Haarlem

3-12 juni 2016

Stripdagen Haarlem – June 3rd to June 12th 2016

Stripdagen Haarlem is a biannual comic festival in the center of the old city of Haarlem, Netherlands that took place for the first time in 1992. The festival consists of many (free) exhibitions, fairs, discourses, concerts, movie screenings, award festivities and children activities. Every edition the festival is being visited by 25.000 to 30.000 people. In comparison to the many other festivals and events in Haarlem, it attracts many visitors from all over the country, as well as a considerable group of artists, publishers en visitors from abroad.

Stripdagen Haarlem is being organised by a small core team in collaboration with almost all cultural institutes in town. This model leads to a big festival that is supported by the whole town; during the last edition over 40 museums, galleries and other venues took part with exhibitions and activities.

The 2016 edition will be marked by a major game changer: the festival will no longer be only two days, but will be expanded to a royal ten! And even more than in previous editions, the festival will focus on authors and the cross-over between comics and other disciplines (art, music, literature, theater, film).

The main fair will be held in the first weekend, on June 4th and 5th, during which lots of authors will sign their books and new titles will be released. The fair has free entrance and takes place part in an market hall (in fact a theatre) and part on the main square. It is visited by fans and collectors as well as families on an outing. On the first Saturday night there will be the traditional rock 'n' roll fest in Het Patronaat, while on the second Saturday there will be a more 'hi-brow' closing party.

Two main themes will be explored in various exhibitions and discourses during the 2016 edition:

- *From Pontiac to Guthrie; underground comics in the Lowlands*, in which the history of Dutch and Belgium underground comics will be explored, from World War II to modern day underground. It will also serve as a tribute to 'godfather of the Dutch underground' Peter Pontiac, who passed away in january this year.
- *Painter's biographies by comic artists*, in which succesfull recent graphic novels about Vincent van Gogh, Rembrandt, Edvard Munch and Jheronimus Bosch will be explored, as well as works-in-progress about Andy Warhol and Piet Mondriaan.

Other exhibitions will touch on motion comics, feminism in comics, Valerian and the 75th birthday of famous Dutch comic characters Tom Poes and Olivier Bommel.

We hope to see you in 2016!

-This information will be updated with more specific information about the program at the beginning of May 2016 -