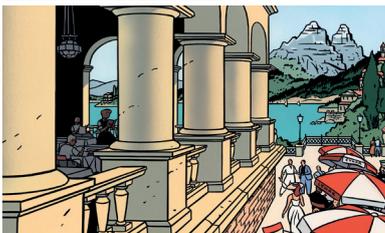




GALERIE
CHAMPAKA
Arts de Bande Dessinée



Exhibition

Yves Chaland - *Grand Panels*

3 September 2010 - 3 October 2010

(Private View Thursday 2 September 6.00 - 8.30pm)

Grand Panels is the most important exhibition dedicated to Freddy Lombard, the masterwork of Yves Chaland. 24 original pages in black-and-white and 10 colour enlargements combine into a graphic hymn to the post-modern heir to the Brussels and Marcinelle Schools.

An artist

An exceptional auteur, Yves Chaland (1957-1990) remains the absolute Master of the New Clear Line, no doubt because he knew how to blend the rigour of the style initiated by Hergé (and Jacobs) with the dynamism of Franquin (and Jijé). Through his masterly œuvre (*Bob Fish*, *Freddy Lombard* and *Le Jeune Albert*), the French artist developed an imaginary universe of Belgian comics of the Fifties revisited by his incredible fantasy. And with no nostalgia. He brought taste to it, where so many other imitators engulfed it through their lack of imagination. More than ever, twenty years after his passing, Yves Chaland remains an indisputable reference to his colleagues.

A series

Between 1981 and 1989, Yves Chaland creates five albums of *Freddy Lombard*. Each one becomes the ideal vehicle for a wide range of different narrative approaches. The creator adapts the number and format of his pages with each book. A big historical adventure taking place in a small-format album (the « Atomium'58 » collection), *The Will of Godefroid of Bouillon* allows Chaland to take a certain distance close to that of the New Literature. *The Elephant Graveyard* consists of two mid-length story which explore Africa's great spaces, whether natural or cerebral. *The Comet of Carthage* hovers between dreamlike journey, surging forces of nature and fascination for Antiquity. *Holiday in Budapest* aims to be a powerful eulogy to freedom. *F.52* takes place in an avant-garde airplane, ideal for a story implementing the laws of the theatre (unity of time, place and action). Speed and vast stratospheric expanses are there to bring greater emphasis to an intimate drama.

An exhibition

The twenty-four original pages, sourced from private collections, all provide an opportunity to (re-)discover a work that stands out in the history of comics. If every panel can be isolated to become a graphic marvel, nevertheless a panel acquires its complete meaning in the context of the narrative progression of the whole page. Chaland's sense of composition turns every page into a work of art in itself. The « resilience » of Chaland's lines to being enlarged is the same as those of Franquin, Hergé and Jacobs, as proved by the 10 colour blow-ups of « magic » panels taken from the works of *Freddy Lombard*. In black-and-white or in colour, in small or large format, the Art of Chaland is eternal.

The Desk of Adolphus Claar

Adolphus Claar is one of the gems of the « Atom Style ». The immaculate desk of this entrepreneur of the future has entered the legend of the most beautiful furniture in comics, alongside the elegant salons drawn by Franquin and Will. For Laurent Buob, the design enthusiast who has taken charge of the destiny of Leblon-Delienne, this desk is the essence of the universe of Adolphus Claar. What is more, this would be the culmination of Yves Chaland's researches into an emotional design aesthetic. So Leblon-Delienne have produced a full-scale version of the desk, translating Chaland's drawing into the status of an extraordinary piece of contemporary art. The desk in an edition of 500 copies will be previewed at the Galerie Champaka (Brussels), in the context of the exhibition *Yves Chaland - Grand Panels*, and at the Salon Maison & Objet (Paris).



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Les Rencontres Chaland – BD à Nérac (2 & 3 October)

Following the Grand Panels exhibition, Les Rencontres Chaland - BD à Nérac will take up the topical message of « Chaland forever ». Created by the initiative of Isabelle Beaumenay-Joannet, these encounters take place in the charming village in south-west France where Chaland spent his childhood. While the Clear Line is being honoured there, the list of invited artists shows a real openness towards the future. This is a way to demonstrate how the influence of Chaland resonates to this day through other graphic or narrative styles than his own. The guest of honour this year is Joost Swarte (the Dutch artist will be exhibited in early 2011 at Galerie Champaka).

For further details :
www.rencontres.yveschaland.com