



ASIA-EUROPE FOUNDATION
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CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

The Asia-Europe Comics Project

*Organised by the Asia-Europe Foundation
To be held in the sidelines of the International Comics Festival, Brussels*

Project description:

"The ancestors of printed comics drew, painted and carved their time-paths from beginning to end, without interruption"

- Scott McCloud, author, "Understanding Comics" and "Reinventing Comics".

Comics, with their roots in cave paintings, are a powerful idea. As a facet of our popular culture, they are typically associated with humour and entertainment. But the comics art form has also been successfully adapted as an informational and educational tool, with exceptional results. Because of their reader-friendliness, comics have been effectively employed to convey and explain events, concepts and messages that may otherwise not attract the interest of a wide general audience. The people behind the comics are very often those with a high level of social consciousness and purpose, and who want to make a difference to people's lives through their work.

Comics' influence on the masses rivals other conventional mass communication channels, such as theatre, film and television. Its reach to the grassroots - across all age-groups and in many different societies - is aided by its portability. Being visual, it requires basic literacy on the part of the reader, as opposed to a high degree of education and IT skills. In printed form, it frees comics from the limitations of wired communications or broadcasting infrastructure. In other words, this medium can be employed to reach out to audiences on both sides of the digital divide.

The comics genre therefore has untapped potential to further cross-cultural understanding. Specifically, through the use of a common visual language, we can use the comics as a vehicle to raise greater awareness in Asia about Europe and vice versa, and to relate encounters among the regions' peoples. ASEF proposes to initiate a collaborative process between Asian and European creators, leading to successive comics publications on such encounters and shared concerns between the two regions.

Artists will have the opportunity to work on a collaborative year-long project. They will attend an exploratory meeting at the International Comics Festival, Brussels where the team will establish a theme for the publication. There will be opportunities to attend public workshops and to showcase your work to an international audience.

The detailed programme will be developed together with a team of resource persons and facilitators.

For further information, please refer to the concept paper.

Background:

The **Asia-Europe-Foundation** seeks to promote better mutual understanding between the peoples of Asia and Europe through greater intellectual, cultural and people-to-people exchanges between the two regions. This project is a new initiative by the Public Affairs Department. For further information on Asia-Europe Foundation, please visit our website: <http://www.asef.org>

Eligibility:

- Comic artists, writers and producers (herein collectively referred as “artists”) who possess an interest in social themes and cross-cultural exchanges and productions. Past related experiences and/or projects are an asset.
- Artists with an interest in the history and development of the artist’s role in their home country as well as a dedication to networking and exchanging thoughts and visions with other artists from other countries/ backgrounds.
- Possess a good ability to communicate in English, which is the working language.
- Nationals of ASEM member countries: Austria, Belgium, Brunei, Cambodia, China, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Japan, Korea, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Malta, Myanmar, Netherlands, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, United Kingdom and Vietnam.

Documents to apply:

- A maximum two page motivation letter stating why you are interested in participating in this project, highlighting your interest in cross-cultural collaborative project, and your suggestions for themes for collaboration.
- Your Curriculum Vitae detailing your professional experience related to the concept of the project. (not more than 2 pages)
- Samples of your work, to be submitted in electronic formats such as .jpeg, .pdf

Deadline for application 07 September 2005

(E-mail application preferred)

Please mail your applications to:

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Please note that the decisions of the final selection will be given to you in the week of 12 September 2005