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# Summer book camp: a Comics Workshop

**ÉESI**



École  
européenne  
supérieure  
de l'image

Angoulême  
Poitiers



# Summer book camp

July 4th-10th, 2019

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## An intensive workshop

Have you got the beginning of a graphic novel but need some help getting it off the ground? Is your cartooning stuck in a rut, straining to move up to another level? Put everything else aside and come spend a week at the ÉESI Angoulême to fully focus on your comics.

Beginner, intermediate or professional cartoonists: this is your opportunity to spend an entire week with a master cartoonist, to focus on your own graphic novel project.

This is an intensive and dynamic camp to arouse your "comic thinking" with an emphasis on storytelling. Think of this as "Comics Boot Camp".

...but it is also a "Comics Summer Camp", because we will have a tremendous time!

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## Speaker

Workshop instructor Paul Karasik will be the main speaker of the workshop : he is a cartoonist (*The New Yorker*, *City of Glass*), a comics scholar (*I Shall Destroy All The Civilized Planets*, *How To Read Nancy*), a two-time Eisner Award winner, and a renowned teacher who really knows how to take good project and make them better.

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## Angoulême, City of Comics

Our homebase, Angoulême : a charming city galactically known for its effervescent activity around Comics. We will settle more specifically at the École européenne supérieure de l'image (ÉESI).

Under the supervision of the Ministry of Culture, the ÉESI delivers a Master's degree and a PhD in Comics creation, unique in Europe. The school also hosts an International Course in Comic where young creators from around the world meet.

Each participant will have his own workshop space and will be able to use some of the school's equipment to work on his project. The program of the week will alternate group sessions and individual work with priceless meetings with authors and professionals. You will also enjoy a special access to exceptional places in the city and festive -but no less educational -meetings accompanied by good food and good wine.

The camp thus is intense and effervescent: within a small group of passionate people like you, you will have the opportunity to discover exceptional places, meet other authors and work steadily on the project that you care about.

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## Terms of registration and fees

Reserved for up to 15 participants  
Minimum age of 18 at the time of registration  
The workshop is in English and French, with simultaneous translation into English, French, Spanish and Portuguese, if necessary.

**Fee: 1500 euros / person.**

Participants must cover transportation and accommodation as well as food. Do not hesitate to contact us; we can advise you on where to find accommodation at a preferential rate.

### To Pre-register:

Complete the online registration from March 15, 2019 and send us by e-mail a file with:

- A brief description of the "dream" graphic novel project you want to develop during the workshop week.
- Though drawing is not a focus of the workshop, in order to know you better and prepare the pedagogical content, send us 3 samples of personal graphic work.
- Explain in 150 words why you want to sign up.

### Warning

The documents must come in French or English  
Formats: PDF, JPEG, BMP, ZIP  
The total file size must not exceed 50MB  
Please do not send your file via a file transfer service (We Transfer)  
Subject of the e-mail: "Application Summer Book Camp + your name and surname"  
Applications that do not respect those requests will not be considered.

### Contact for information and application:

Hélène Meunier  
h.meunier@eesi.eu  
tel. +33 (0)5 45 92 20 62 or 33 (0)6 95 45 20 50  
Monday to Friday from 9:00 to 18:00

*The dossiers will be studied by a committee composed of Paul Karasik, Thierry Smolderen, professionals and educators from the European School of Image and its partners. Once your file is validated, you will receive a contract to fill out and sign.*

# Paul Karasik

## Main speaker

*"Paul Karasik has a kind of intelligence combined with earnestness that comes from someplace deep not a recipe book. He is very, very, very intelligent."*

Art Spiegelman

Paul Karasik is an internationally recognized cartoonist and teacher. He gives lectures and workshops about how to make comics and about how to understand comics. His latest work, *How To Read Nancy* (co-written with Mark Newgarden), a deconstruction of a single NANCY comic strip to reveal the hidden language of comics, has won an Eisner Award for "Best Comics-Related Book".

He was the Associate Editor of Art Spiegelman and Francoise Mouly's *RAW magazine*. With David Mazzuchelli, Paul created *City of Glass*, the graphic novel adaptation of Paul Auster's book. It was named by *The Comics Journal* as one of the "Best Comics of the 20th Century" and has been translated over 20 languages worldwide. With his sister, Judy, Paul created, *The Ride Together: A Brother and Sister's Memoir of Autism in the Family*, winner of the Autism Society of America's "Best Literary Work of the Year."

He was a co-editor of *Masters of American Comics*, the coffee-table companion catalogue to the first major American exhibition of comics co-sponsored by the Hammer and MOCCA Museums. His anthology celebrating forgotten comics visionary, Fletcher Hanks, received an Eisner Award, the highest honor in the field. Paul has taught at the Rhode Island School of Design, the School of Visual Arts in New York City, The Center for Cartoon Studies, the Scuola di Comics Internazionale in Italy, The Animation Workshop in Viborg, Denmark. Among other places, Paul has lectured at Princeton University, Bennington College, Penn State University, Wheaton College, and the University of Texas.

Since 2010, he has developed a special relationship with the ÉESI Angoulême in France where he is a regular contributor to the Master of Comics. His cartoons appear in *The New Yorker*.

[www.paulkarasikcomics.com](http://www.paulkarasikcomics.com)

# Thierry Smolderen

Speaker in the Summer Book Camp and professor at the ÉESI

*"As a scriptwriter and historian of the ninth thing and its side aspects, Thierry Smolderen knows exactly how to practice a «science-human fiction» where a form of clear-sightedness spreads and shares, knowing how to stay away from this attractive first degree of the trite effect or the sensationalism."*

Jessie B, in du9.org, June 2015

Thierry Smolderen is a screenwriter and theorist, considered as one of the best current expert in the history of Comics.

At the beginning of the 80s, he joined the *Cahiers de la bande dessinée* team where he published many essays and articles. Later, he worked for 9th Art. His essays have also been published in the United States by *Comic Art*, and the *International Journal of Comic Art*.

He began his activity as a comics scriptwriter in the late 80s. He is currently the author of some forty books, most of them translated into a dozen languages.

A specialist of early comics, he is the author, alongside Jean-Philippe Bramanti, of *McCay*, inspired by the life of the creator of Little Nemo. *McCay* was translated into English by Edward Gauvin and published in late 2018 at Titan Comics.

Synthesis of several years of research, his book *Naissance de la bande dessinée* (2009), has the ambition to renew the reflection on the subject. Unlike his predecessors, Thierry Smolderen traces back the true origin of comics to the English painter and engraver William Hogarth and the novelist Laurence Stern. The theoretical foundations that his research are based on, have allowed us to discover fascinating documents, so far unknown. Translated into English in 2014 - *The Origins of Comics, from William Hogarth to Winsor McCay*, (University Press of Mississippi) - the book was nominated in 2015 for the Eisner Awards.

Among his scenaris, we can mention the series *Ghost Money* (Dargaud, 2008-2016), drawing Dominique Bertail. *Souvenirs de l'Empire de l'Atome*, written by Thierry Smolderen, and illustrated by Alexandre Clérisse, won the Best Sci-Fi comics Award Utopiales in 2013, and the Grand Prix de l'Imaginaire BD in 2014. *Atomic Empire* was published in English in November 2018 by IDW.

The Smolderen - Clérisse collaboration continues with *L'Été diabolik*, winner of the 2017 Ouest-France Readers' Prize at the Quai des Bulles in Saint-Malo, the Fauve Polar-SNCF at the Angoulême Festival and the Peng! of the Best European Comic Book in Munich.

Professor since 1994 at the l'École européenne supérieure de l'image at Angoulême (ÉESI) Thierry Smolderen teaches Script and History of Comics. He also coordinates the Master Bande dessinée and is a thesis supervisor for the PhD Création en bande dessinée, in partnership with the University of Poitiers.

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## Program

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### Thursday 04th

**9.00 - 12.00**

Welcome, visit of the ÉESI.  
Meet Paul Karasik and Thierry Smolderen: exchange and set goals for the week.  
Share everyone's projects.

**Lunch**

Visit the Maison des Auteurs (House of Authors), meeting and picnic with the authors in residence.

**16.00 - 18.00**

Fundamentals of Comics language  
Exercise to apply lecture lessons to begin to outline story idea.

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### Friday 05th

**9.00 - 12.30**

Story structure: identify the themes and elements of your story and start creating a workspace.

**Lunch****13.30 - 16.00**

Watch classic Film: analysis of the narrative structure.  
Cinema of the Cité Internationale de la Bande dessinée.

**17.00 - 19.00**

Figure drawing session

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### Saturday 06th

**Morning**

Discover an exceptional prehistoric site in the heart of Angoulême.  
Meet Miguel Biard, excavation Director of the prehistoric site of the Renaudin islet.  
Demonstration of stone cutting, prehistoric flint objects: sketch lesson.

**Afternoon**

Lecture on idea-to-sketch.  
Develop story idea into full-length thumbnail sketch.

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### Sunday 07th

**Morning**

Visit of the Exhibition, Mode et Bande Dessinée in Musée de la Bande Dessinée.

**Afternoon free**

Visit of a vineyard of Charente / work in studio

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### Monday 08th

**9.00 - 12.30**

Working session with Thierry Smolderen:  
Construction of the story through the sequence.

**14.00 - 17.00**

Working session with Thierry Smolderen:  
Problematics of dialogue.

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### Tuesday 09th

**9.00 - 12.30**

Sketching story in booklet form based on thumbnails & script.

**Lunch****14.00 - 17.00**

Working session in the archives of the Musée de la Bande Dessinée.

**Evening**

Concert drawing with authors and invited artists at the New Factory of the Cité Internationale de la Bande dessinée.

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### Wednesday 10th

**10.00 - 13.00**

Wrap up work on sketch booklet.  
Group sharing of projects and reflections.

**13.00**

Goodbye with a jazzy picnic on the edge of the Charente.

**NB**

*The educational program can be adapted according to the profile of the candidates and the priorities that will emerge from the study of the registration dossiers.*

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## Contact

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