



## IN DEFENSE OF GLITTER

HOW MANGA CHANGED A GENERATION OF COMIC BOOK AUTHORS

MAY 12TH, 2023, 11-13, HAUS DER UNIVERSITÄT DÜSSELDORF

Japanese manga have been extremely popular in the West since the early 1990s. Their success has influenced a new generation of comic book authors in Europe. Many of these female authors grew up with Japanese comics and films. They learned how to draw and create stories from manga, diverging from the more typical and established themes and styles applied to comic books at the time. The Japanese influence can cause misunderstandings and friction with older generations of comic book authors and publishers. The often feminine-coded stylistic elements of manga and their centering on the experience of girls as main characters in their narrative, illuminating their psyche in intricate ways, set the storytelling of manga apart from popular comics on the European market. This new generation often finds it hard to find their way through conventional publishing. Instead, it might hide the origins of their inspiration, which for the comic establishment is too much "glitter."

For the symposium *IN DEFENSE OF GLITTER*, three comic book authors from Germany and the Netherlands and one former editor of Carlsen, the leading German publisher of Comics, will discuss the role of manga in their careers. We will ask about opportunities, obstacles, generational trends, and troubles.



## Theresa Behle

Former Carlsen editor and co-author of *Geek Girls forever!: Das bunte Eintragebuch-Journal für Fangirls, Nerds und Geeks!* (Carlsen with Olivia Vieweg)



## Dido Drachman

Dutch comic book author, latest publication *Zwanendrifters* (translated into Japanese in 2023), working on the project "In Defense of Glitter" (Dutch Stimuleringsfonds)



## Sterre Richard

Comic book author, latest publication *De vloek van rood* (Scratchbooks), working on the project "In Defense of Glitter" (Dutch Stimuleringsfonds)



## Olivia Vieweg

Comic book author, various comic awards, many publications (*Schwere See, mein Herz, Suhrkamp; Zu Erlangen musst du ein Buch machen, Schwarzer Turm*, and many others)

Haus der Universität  
Schadowplatz 14, 40212 Düsseldorf  
Großer Saal (ground floor)

May 12th (Friday) 2023, 11–13

Free admission

Organized by

Katharina Hülsmann  
Prof. Dr. Christian Tagsold



Department of Modern Japanese Studies  
Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf  
Contact: [tagsold@phil.hhu.de](mailto:tagsold@phil.hhu.de)

