

Daniele Comberiatì

Un autre monde est-il possible ?

Bandes dessinées
et science-fiction en Italie,
de l'enlèvement d'Aldo Moro
jusqu'à aujourd'hui
(1978-2018)

Quodlibet Elements

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IL LIBRO

Italian comics have undergone a remarkable process of renewal during the 1970s. Science-fiction—a genre particularly sensitive to social change—has allowed them to evolve and to showcase this evolution in innovative ways. This book examines three major works that serve as entry points to discuss other contemporary comics and are each highly representative of their era: *Ranxerox*, *Nathan Never* and *Orfani*. Through these works we will study the evolution of the Italian graphic novel, societal changes, and symbolic representations of national fears and obsessions. *Ranxerox* (1978-1996) first appeared the same year as the kidnapping of Aldo Moro by the Red Brigades. This hardly seems due to chance when one sees its gratuitous violence, its representation of Rome as a devastated and polluted wasteland, and of the descent into terrorism and hopelessness of the post-1968 political movements. *Nathan Never* (1991) features a world mirroring Italy in the 1990s—with its Second Republic, Berlusconi's rise to power and the first waves of immigration—through the representation of different races and different classes perennially in conflict with each other. Fear of the Other is the main obsession of *Orfani* (2013), in which mankind is involved in a morally ambiguous war against an alien race that recalls real, contemporary conflicts. These science fiction comics have been able to understand and represent the contradictions inherent in Italian society, all the while becoming important beacons for the genre itself. This book offers a trip through some significant works by following these three main axes: *Ranxerox* for the 1970s, *Nathan Never* for the 1990s/2000s, and *Orfani* for present-day Italy.

L'AUTORE

Daniele Comberiatì is Associate Professor of Italian Studies at the University Paul-Valéry Montpellier 3. Among his publications, we can mention: « *Affrica* ». *Il mito coloniale italiano attraverso i libri di viaggio di esploratori e missionari dall'Unità alla sconfitta di Adua* (1861-1896), Cesati, Florence 2013 ; (a cura di), *Il confine liquido. Rapporti letterari e interculturali fra Italia e Albania*, Besa, Nardò (Lecce) 2013 ; « *Nessuna città d'Italia è più crepuscolare di Roma* ». *Le relazioni fra il cenacolo romano di Sergio Corazzini e i simbolisti belgi*, Peter Lang, Bruxelles 2014 ; (a cura di), *Scrivere tra le lingue. Migrazione, bilinguismo, plurilinguismo e poetiche della frontiera nell'Italia contemporanea*, Aracne, Rome 2017. He is a member of LLACS (Université Paul-Valéry Montpellier 3), Clic (VUB), and Philixte (ULB).