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### Joost Swarte Among International Guests for 2014 MoCCA Arts Festival

**NEW YORK, NY (December 5, 2013)**- The Society of Illustrators is proud to announce legendary Dutch cartoonist, illustrator and designer Joost Swarte among major international guests for the 2014 MoCCA Arts Festival. Swarte is best known to American audiences for his distinctive cover and interior illustrations for *The New Yorker* and is revered by comics artists and aficionados for his absurdist, satirical comics. Other international guests will include Flemish comics artist and illustrator Brecht Vandenbroucke, whose work has attracted international attention on social media networks and in print, and French comics artist and illustrator Marion Fayolle, whose images and sequences playfully trouble issues of identity, gender, and relationships. Swarte's rare North American appearance will be celebrated with an exhibit of his work in the MoCCA gallery space at the Society of Illustrators at 128 E. 63rd Street.

International guests will be featured in programming organized by Bill Kartalopoulos, who is serving as the Programming Director for this year's MoCCA Arts Festival and also functions as this year's international liaison. Kartalopoulos is a comics critic, curator and educator and is the Series Editor for the Best American Comics series from Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. He is also the publisher/editor of Rebus Books.

The 2014 MoCCA Arts Festival will be held on the weekend of April 4 – 6, 2014 at the 69th Regiment Armory in Manhattan. Tickets for the Festival will be available to purchase at the door for a flat fee of \$5 per day. Applications to reserve tables in the Exhibitors Hall are currently online at [www.societyillustrators.org](http://www.societyillustrators.org).

#### ABOUT MoCCA's INTERNATIONAL GUESTS

**Joost Swarte** is an internationally renowned cartoonist, illustrator and designer who began his career in the Dutch underground comics movement of the 1970s. His work first came to notice in the US in the pages of Art Spiegelman and Françoise Mouly's *RAW Magazine*. Swarte coined the term "clear line" to describe the style of Hergé, the creator of *Tintin*, who is among his major visual influences. Swarte's illustrations have appeared in a number of prominent international publications, and frequently appear on the cover and in the interior pages of *The New Yorker*. Swarte is also a designer working in multiple media, designing the Toneelschuur Theater in Haarlem, Netherlands and the interior of the Hergé Museum in Louvan-la-Neuve, Belgium. Many of his comics have been published in English by Fantagraphics in the book collection *Is That All There Is?*, and he recently illustrated Catherine Lewis's *Thrice Told Tales*. In 2004 he was knighted by Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands. Swarte's appearance is supported by the Dutch Foundation for Literature and Fantagraphics Books.

**Marion Fayolle** graduated in 2011 with a degree in illustration from l'Ecole des Arts Décoratifs in Strasbourg, France and is one of the co-founders of the acclaimed French graphics and illustration magazine *Nyctalope*, five issues of which have been published to date. She has drawn illustrations for a number of international clients including *The New York Times* and the French journal *XXI*. She is already the author of four visual books, including *Le tableau* and *La tendresse des pierres* published by Éditions Magnani, the visual alphabet book *Nappe comme Neige* from Éditions Notari, and the collection of wordless short comics *Le Homme in Pièces*, published by Éditions Michel Lagarde. *La tendresse des pierres* was named as part of the official selection of books nominated for prizes at the upcoming 2014 Festival International de la Bande Dessinée in Angoulême, France, and *Le Homme in Pièces* was recently published in a North American edition as *In Pieces* by Nobrow. Marion's appearance is supported by the Cultural Services of the French Embassy and Nobrow.

**Brecht Vandenbroucke** studied Illustration at Sint-Lucas College of Art and Design in Ghent. Vandenbroucke works in a mixed media style that integrates drawing and painting to communicate micro-narratives inspired by conceptual art, art history, absurdism, slapstick comedy and popular culture. He has contributed illustrations to publications including *Les Inrockuptibles*, *Le Monde Republique*, and *The New York Times*. He has also created sculptures, installations and short videos, and frequently exhibits his work internationally. Vandenbroucke's body of work includes a number of short comics produced in acrylic paint, which feature his absurdist commentary on the art world and have been widely circulated on social media platforms including Flickr and Facebook. These comics were published by the Flemish publisher Bries as the book collection *White Cube*. A North American edition of *White Cube* will be published by Drawn and Quarterly in March 2014. Brecht's appearance is supported by the Flemish Literature Fund (VLF) and Drawn and Quarterly.

**About the Museum of American Illustration at the Society of Illustrators**

The Society of Illustrators, founded in 1901, is the oldest nonprofit organization solely dedicated to the art and appreciation of illustration in America. Prominent Society members have been Maxfield Parrish, N.C. Wyeth and Norman Rockwell, among others. The Museum of American Illustration was established by the Society in 1981 and is located in the Society's vintage 1875 carriage house building in mid-town Manhattan. It is open to the public Tuesday, 10 am-8 pm; Wednesday-Friday, 10 am-5 pm; and Saturday, 12-4 pm. To learn more about visiting the Society, go to [www.societyillustrators.org](http://www.societyillustrators.org).

**About the Museum of Comic and Cartoon Art**

The museum's purpose has been the collection, preservation, study, education, and display of comic and cartoon art. Every genre of the art is represented: animation, anime, cartoons, comic books, comic strips, gag cartoons, humorous illustration, illustration, political illustration, editorial cartoons, caricature, graphic novels, sports cartoons, and computer-generated art. It is the mission of the museum to promote the understanding and appreciation of comic and cartoon art as well as to detail and discuss the artistic, cultural, and historical impact of what is the world's most popular art form.

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