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Thomas Campi , Vincent Zabrus

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Charles Singulier est un employé ordinaire qui, pour une fois, se permet une petite originalité : il s'achète un chapeau melon au marché aux puces des Marolles à Bruxelles. Une fois le chapeau posé sur la tête, rien ne sera plus pareil pour Charles : il est victime d'hallucinations issues de l'oeuvre de Magritte. Et plus moyen d'enlever ce chapeau sauf s'il perce le mystère des tableaux de Magritte ! Une oeuvre qui s'interroge sur le sens des mots et des images et qui entraîne Charles dans un jeu de piste qui l'amènera à mieux comprendre Magritte, à le croiser, mais aussi à s'interroger sur lui-même, sur l'amour et sur la place de la fantaisie dans sa vie.

Magritte : Ceci n'est pas une biographie Details

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From Reader Review Magritte : Ceci n'est pas une biographie for online ebook

Dakota Morgan says

Thomas Campi's artwork is beautiful, Vincent Zabus's story is non-sensical and offers very little information about Magritte himself. The subtitle is apt: this is not a biography. I kinda wanted it to be one. If you stumble across this book in an art museum gift store, it's certainly worth a skim for the art. I'd recommend skipping the words though.

Mia says

Großartig, wie hier mit dem Surrealismus gespielt wird: Kunst in der Kunst - und, was ist eigentlich Kunst, wenn alles Kunst ist?

RuthAnn says

On a whim, I snagged this off the New Graphic Novels section at my library because that title is just too good. I realized that I knew pretty much nothing about Magritte, other than his "This is not a hat" painting, so reading it was a nice primer. The story is pretty weird. I kept thinking, "This is really surreal," and then mentally facepalming because DUH, it's about a surrealist painter. The art in the panels is beautiful and made this graphic novel stand out to me. Fair warning for some profanity and partial nudity.

David Schaafsma says

Belgian Rene Magritte was a surrealist painter. Images abound of his wearing a bowler, and bowlers are featured in several of his paintings. Here he is wearing it, and 368 of his most famous paintings.

<https://www.wikiart.org/en/rene-magritte>

D. B. Johnson focused on that hat in a children's picture book biography of Magritte:

<https://www.goodreads.com/review/show...>

To art scholars and those interested in epistemology, he is known for—among other things--this painting, which asserts an idea—"The Treachery of Images: This is Not a Pipe," because it actually is a painting of a pipe, drawn in a kind of hyper-realist style:

<https://www.wikiart.org/en/rene-magri...>

Michel Foucault wrote a short book about it that you can read here:

<https://monoskop.org/images/9/99/Fouc...>

This comics/illustrated biography is part of the Self Made Hero Art Masters series that also includes Van Gogh, Munch, Gauguin, Dali and Picasso (as of this date) and they are not for kids, particularly; they are serious artistic engagements with great artists that have the courage/audacity to get in aesthetic conversation with the masters without deifying them. Magritte, as with many others above, seemed to have had, uh, “complicated” relationships with [sometimes several] women, so some details might not be appropriate for the kiddies, your call.

In this volume that Magritte’s biographers claim is not a biography, the premise seems a little corny, initially, but then it really comes to work. The biographer within this non-biography (sorry, stay with me here) is Charles Singulier, who puts on a bowler and can’t take it off until he learns everything he can about Magritte, including meeting his muse, Georgette. Magritte later lived the life of a bourgeois, though a revolutionary thinker, though some people thought he sold out for commercial success later.

The art style is more realist than Magritte’s most surrealistic works, but the story is surreal enough, jumping into scenes from his past jumping into paintings, and so on. And we read several analytical observations and some of his statements throughout, including:

“Every object conceals another.”

“The painter’s eye is a false image.”

“Real life is always in a somewhere else that doesn’t exist.”

“Painting must not act as a passive mirror of reality, but rather, to transform it.”

This is a fun and thought-provoking book about Magritte, surrealism, and the provocations that art can sometimes enact.

Danilo De rossi says

Un tuffo nella vita di Magritte, attraverso le opere e i tratti salienti della sua biografia. Ne emerge il ritratto di un artista anticonformista, che nel corso della vita ha indirizzato lo spirito ribelle nei suoi stessi dipinti. Ci sono dei punti estremamente interessanti, dalla spiegazione del perché alcune sue figure abbiano il volto coperto (il tutto rimanda al suicidio della madre e al fatto che lei avesse il volto coperto), all'amore per la moglie. Così come l'invito a soffermarsi su tutte le sue opere, non solo quelle maggiori. Tuttavia va detto che l'espedito impiegato dall'autore per raccontare l'artista non è affatto originale, anzi. Forse questo fa perdere un po' di punti. Anzi, senza forse.

Letizia Loi says

Questo fumetto offre una sbirciatina sulla vita di René Magritte, uno dei più grandi pittori surrealisti, ma soprattutto uno scorcio sul suo modo di *pensare* l'arte. Su come "leggere" le sue opere. Il titolo stesso del fumetto è un allusione al famoso "Questa non è una pipa", e ci ricorda che questa non è la vita di Magritte,

non è nemmeno una biografia, è un fumetto, è arte, e l'arte non è la riproduzione della realtà, è la rappresentazione di quello che l'artista vede. È un'illusione, un gioco di prestigio. Così è anche questo fumetto. Il protagonista entra nel mondo di Magritte dopo aver indossato una bombetta e finisce travolto dalla magia e dal mistero della sua arte, del suo modo di vedere l'arte. È un fumetto surrealista tanto quanto Magritte e le tavole in acquerello sono semplicemente meravigliose!

Sam Quixote says

A man buys a bowler hat that magically transports him into the surrealist world of painter Rene Magritte, surrounded by the artist's images and themes. Why a bowler hat? Because of Magritte's most famous painting, *The Son of Man* (the businessman in a bowler hat whose face is obscured by a green apple).

In *Magritte: This is Not a Biography*, writer Vincent Zabus takes the imaginative approach to tell a non-fiction biography in the form of a fictional narrative. Because of this style and the book's shortness, it's not the most thorough overview but you get a general idea of Magritte's life and the ideas behind his work. By far the most impressive aspect of the book is Thomas Campi's painted art which adopts, replicates and incorporates Magritte's style beautifully into the narrative.

That said, I admired the book more than I enjoyed it. Neither the contrived story nor the subject's life was that interesting or entertaining but I appreciated the remarkable talent that went into the visuals enormously and I did learn a fair bit too. *Magritte: This is Not a Biography* is worth a look for any comics fan after a quick taste of this painter's life and art.

Mateen Mahboubi says

I can't help but compare this with the other books in the *Art Masters* series, some of which I've loved, others I've liked less. Unfortunately this falls in the latter category. I think that so far, they've all been visually stunning, borrowing from the artists' style and famous works, the books have all had a great style but I just wasn't able to connect with Campi on this journey. Maybe it was because of my lack of experience with and knowledge of Magritte's works but I would have hoped that this book would have been a bit more accessible.

Melanie says

Prachtige graphic novel over het leven van René Magritte.

Christa Van says

A man buys a bowler hat unaware that it was once owned by surrealist painter Rene Magritte. When he dons the hat, he is transported into a surreal world where he is required to solve the mystery of Magritte before he will be allowed to remove the hat. Through various interactions with guides and biographers, he learns about Magritte and his wife, their lives and influences. In the end, he is confronted by Magritte himself who claims there are no answers before sending our protagonist back to reality. A lovely little book that mimics

Magritte's style and tells a bit about the artist in an "unbiography" fashion.

Rod Brown says

A surrealistic biography of Magritte is fitting, I suppose, but it is also too clever by half. It's funny how I can find a surrealistic image to be quite arresting, but more often than not a surrealistic story to be annoying.

Michael says

PDF - Extremely well done and beautifully drawn biography/tribute album, that echos Magritte's themes and works in effective and surprising ways.

René Paquin says

Magnifique bande dessinée, qui raconte la vie et l'oeuvre de l'artiste belge. L'histoire, complètement loufoque, donne au lecteur l'occasion d'entrer au coeur des tableaux et de leur création. Le ton est juste, en accord parfait avec le propos. Tout est fou dans cet album: le prétexte de l'histoire, les personnages aussi vrais que la pipe de Magritte, les décors hallucinés, l'ambiance surréaliste, les cadres classiques mais au contenu déjanté. Bref, une réussite! Et un régal pour les amateurs d'art.

Koen Claeys says

Zeer surrealistische wijze om Margrittes leven te verstrippen. Kan niet passender. Mooi !

Zie ook deze bespreking van De Stripspeciaalzaak : <http://www.stripspeciaalzaak.be/2016-...>

P.S.: Ik had liever de Franstalige titel liever ook op de Nederlandstalige editie gezien maar kan begrijpen waarom men hier niet voor geopteerd heeft.

Amina says

3.5 STARS - A quick read that delves you into Magritte's life, one of the most famous 20th-century surrealist painter. It's perfect for art amateurs such as myself who wants to learn a little about surrealism. The biography is concise; we don't get full details of the events of his life but it's enough to understand what kind of man he was. The art style is pretty, the color vibrant and the way Campi re-appropriated the paintings in his own way was aesthetically pleasing. Besides, the whole graphic novel was overall visually beautiful. However, I found the story a bit lacking in pacing. It all goes too fast and escalated quickly. It becomes difficult to follow our main character getting stuck in Magritte's paintings. I turned a little dizzy at the end by all the hasty actions. But the ending was sweet and I enjoyed my reading.

