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**COMICA: Misfit Lit -
October 26th, 2005 -
ICA, London.**



Nearly 20 years since the breakthrough of Art Spiegelman's *Maus*, who are the next wave of emerging international graphic novelists?

In its third year, COMICA has now established itself in the art world of London and its director, Paul Gravett, selected once again a hip location, the well-known Institute of Contemporary Art (ica.org.uk) to feature a sold-out stellar panel of international comic creators. Offering a unique insight into her work, American cartoonist Jessica Abel discussed *Artbabe* and *La Perdida* (a semi-autobiographical thriller set in Mexico City where she spent a number of years. See: artbabe.com). Matt Madden presented *99 Ways To Tell A Story*, a wild comics homage to Raymond Queneau's *Exercices in Style* (mattmadden.com). Italian artist Igort discussed his lyrical fumetto *5 Is The Perfect Number*, in which he reinvents the neo-realist mafioso tragedy (igort.com). Paul Wright, British cartoonist for *The Times*, discussed his eccentrically English debut *Smelling A Rat* (randomhouse.co.uk). Killoffer, the French Tarantino of autobiographical comics, discussed the emergence and role of the small French editorial collective "L'Association" and discussed his stark *676 Apparitions of Killoffer*, a self-loathing masterpiece with a strikingly elegant style (typocrat.com). Illustrated in the background with a screen displaying examples of plates from their authors' websites, the talk concluded with Junko Mizuno, Japan's mistress of creepy cuteness and fractured fairytales (mizuno-junko.com). Coinciding with the launch of Paul Gravett's latest publication *Graphic Novels*, a unique insight into the medium's masterpieces (paulgravett.com), the talk was followed by the book signings in an adjacent and spacious room attended by friendly waiters serving complimentary drinks. Here, the audience enjoyed intermingling with agents, publishers and the authors as the small scale of the event prompted a more personal contact. All in all, another very successful event providing a wonderful voyage into the world of graphic literature.