

Camilla Stories

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Camilla d'Errico // Leontine Greenberg // Veuch // Set Your Style // Undoboy // MR Lapin // Stick-A-Thing // Tosco Toys // Tokyocube

Cover by Camilla d'Errico



eat stuff

Big thanks to all the people who were kind enough to participate in this issue. And to all the people talking about GizMag on the web!

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Vintage for kids / young designers / design atelier

Paplou opened its doors at a brand new shop in Hasselt. Hope to see you all there!

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CAMILLA D'ERRICO

Who are you? I am a painter, comics/manga creator, graphic designer, and illustrator based out of Vancouver. I work in publishing, fine art, videogames, fashion, and a myriad of other commercial fields, and very soon feature films. My art integrates Asian Manga and North American comic styles of illustration with a unique European design flair. I like to include a lot of color, and an extensive emotional palette into each and every one of my pieces.

CAMILLADERRICO.COM



What do you still want to accomplish? One day I would like to own my own small gallery or boutique where I can show and sell all of my stuff, and also show other artists whom I love and admire. What is the last book you bought? Soul Stealer, by DMF Comics.

What would your super power be if you had one? I would want to fly, but not just fly, I would want to have wings!



Where do you get your inspiration? I get my inspiration from lots of places, especially from manga, anime and other artists. I am always observing people and the way they interact. I am also a hopeless romantic so movies and books and stories have a big influence on me, and so does music.







Who are you? I'm 34 years old, I'm married and I have a 2 year old daughter. We live in a onebedroom apartment with two cats in Queens, NY. I have recurring dreams about finding new rooms or balconies or whole other apartments connected to ours, sometimes with other people or things living in them. I also dream about elaborately baroque swimming pools and the fall of human civilization.

My first memory of making art is from when I was five and my friend Kathleen and I would make drawings together and tell each other stories. I still tell stories in my head when I'm working. That's the best part.







Where do you get your inspiration? Inspiration is everywhere. The natural history museum, the Anthropologie catalogue, Dr. Seuss books, strangers' Flickr streams. Lately I've been captivated by photos of older people. Richard Avedon's portrait of Cole Porter is a good example. There's a directness and lack of selfconsciousness that takes my breath away.

What do you still want to accomplish? I'm trying to finish my Masters degree in special education. After that, I want to get a PhD in psychology.

What is the last book you bought? I bought three at once: The Dangerous Alphabet by Neil Gaiman and Gris Grimly, My House by Delphine Durand, and The Cutting Room by Louise Welsh. Two intriguing children's books, and one charmingly dark and dirty mystery novel.

What would your super power be if you had one? I would like to travel back in time and just observe people. I'm particularly interested in Elizabethan England and Stone Age France. And Marie Antoinette's wigs. It would be nice if I could see the future too, but that's not strictly necessary.







VEUCH

Who are you? I'm from Belgium, and live in Brussels. I began making graffiti when I was 14 or 15 years old, but started painting when I was 10 years old. I became a dad, so I passed more time in front of a computer than before a wall. I graduated from art school (Saint-Luc), and that's where I learned to depend on myself.

My work is mainly focused on a character. I work on expressions, a scene and black humor. I like working on different materials (wall, textile, paper, ...). I also have a shop featuring different artists at www.manzi.be. I especially try not to take myself too seriously, and to have fun working on my projects.





Where do you get your inspiration? My ideas can come from anything: a color, a meeting, a place, humor, ... Before starting a project, I think long about it, so I have a clear vision in my head. Even if I didn't work on graffiti for a long time (I don't paint that much anymore), it is still an influence on my creations, even unconsciously. I love drawing "ugly" and "raw" characters, I find them very interesting, because they look more human.

What do you still want to accomplish? I would like to work on bigger projects in the future. One day, I want to create a collective work with different artists, from different disciplines: painting, music, body epxression, video. A work that would hold the moods and feelings that I try to put into my characters.





What is the last book you bought? I bought the book of Bomk. I'm really impressed by his work. I like the mood, the textures, the great details, the humor... It's fantastic.

Otherwise, I like to walk in graphic bookstores. You always discover someone new, whose work blows you away. I'm really curious about all different things.



What would your super power be if you had one? I would like to command my iMac to work on its own, while I'm off having a beer with some friends...



The Fashion Blogazine

Who are you? I'm a stylist and graphic designer for fashion, only for fashion. I'm from Rome but I've lived in Milan for 5 years. I like fashion, I'm not a fashion addict, but I really like all fashion stuff: magazines, catwalks, shops, clothes, shoes, bags, I also love graphic design and I think I'm lucky I can mix these two passions in my job.

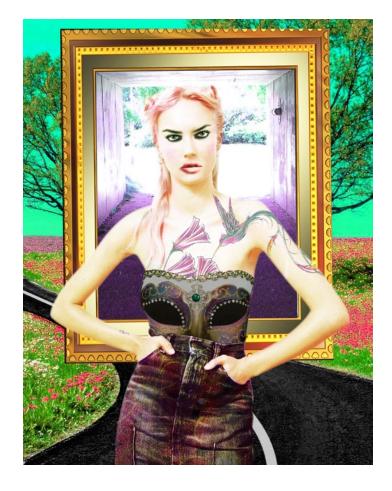
WWW.SETYOURSTYLE.COM

Where do you get your inspiration? My biggest inspiration is music, and yoga sometimes... Yes, when I need to find new ideas or start a new project, I always listen to music or watch some music video. But if I need to relax or empty my mind, before filling it with new ideas, yoga is sometimes better.

What do you still want to accomplish? I wanted my own blog. And I got it. Now, I would like to become a stylist.

What is the last book you bought? Fashion Graphics (Tamsin Blanchard) next month. But I buy a lot of magazines during the month... Dazed&Confused, WAD, Indie, Nylon, ID, Vogue, Elle, Marieclaire... I don't buy them togheter so I don't know how much money I'm burning... I realize it at the end of the month. :)

What would your super power be if you had one? I think I would like to fly but I'm not sure... I'm afraid to meet some birds and I really don't like birds. I would like to be a mind-reader, to control thoughts or be a future teller.





UNDOBOY

Who are you? I am originally from Malaysia, now working as art director at Wieden + Kennedy in Portland, OR.

The Superflat movement founded by the artist Takashi Murakami has had a very strong impact on my beliefs. I also admire Andy Warhol and love the way he intertwined art and pop culture.

By embracing the philosophy of "design brings happiness", I launched my own line of toys called Super-Bastard in 2006 and wall decals-Dreamland, Icons, Icons Wall Tiles and Rainbow Poops in 2007, which are well received by the public.







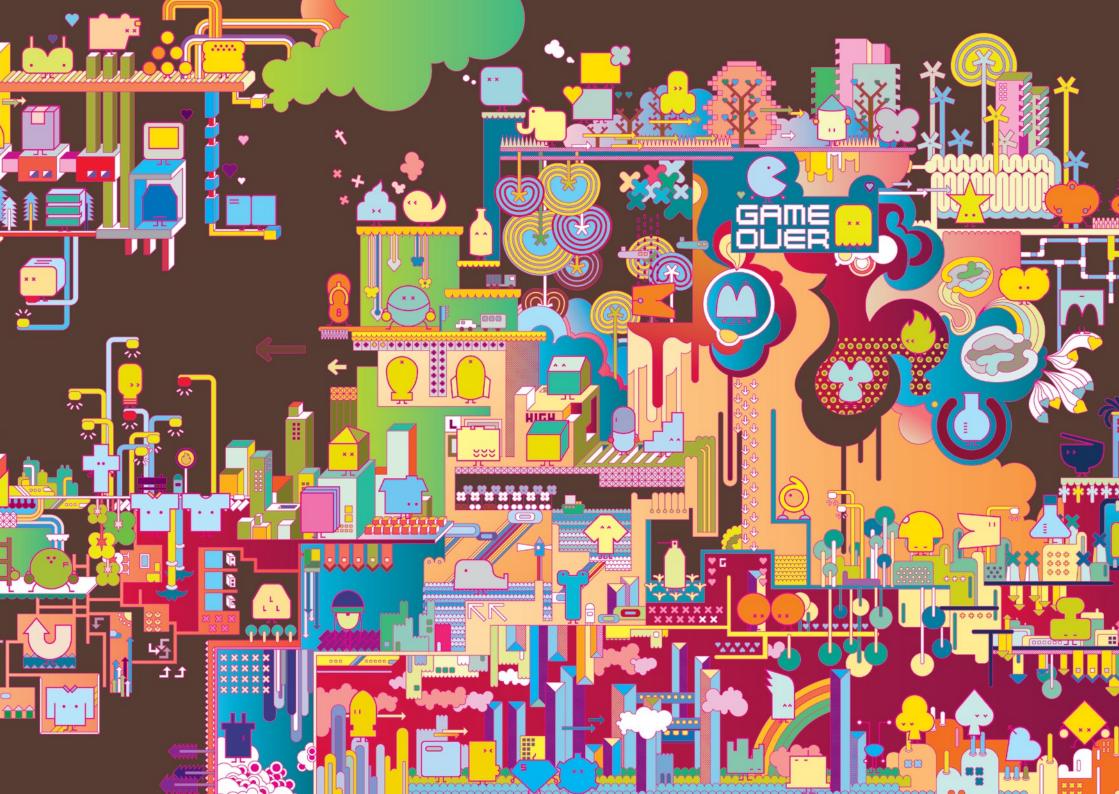
Where do you get your inspiration? I enjoy being outside because whatever I see, I will get inspired. A sign on the bush, a broken car, a bird, an old building, colors on a poster, could lead me to imagine into other space. I like having conversation with friends too; a conversation can really inspire me to change my perspective.

What do you still want to accomplish? Publishing my own design book and creating my own T-shirt label are in my must-do list. If everything works out perfectly, I would like to expand my design to other field such as industry design.

What is the last book you bought? Two Lines Align: Drawings and Graphic Design by Ed Fella and Geoff McFetridge. It is a great book.

What would your super power be if you had one? Undo time. May be.







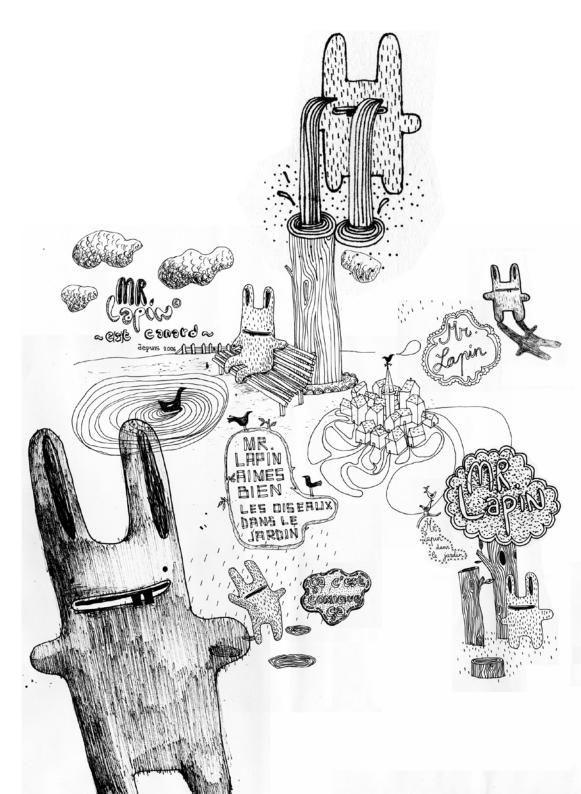
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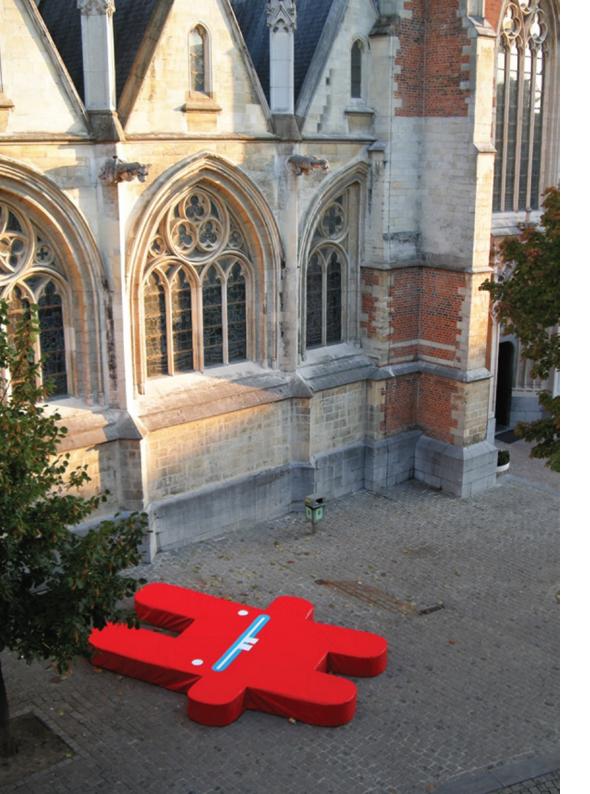
Who are you? My name is Debora Lauwers, together with my boyfriend I run a graphic design studio, Postcard Of A Painting, in the centre of Hasselt (Belgium that is). We are a young couple, crazy in the coconut, working day and night to accomplish our dreams. we love travelling, music and nonsense.



Where do you get your inspiration? Jean-Michel Basquiat, Garry Baseman, Amélie Poulain, Ren & Stimpy, taking long hot baths, getting lost in big cities, spying on people...

What do you still want to accomplish? Are you pondering, what I'm pondering... erh... I want to conquer the world!!!!!





What is the last book you bought? Babel, from Jim Houser.

What would your super power be if you had one? I'd love to be able to 'freeze' the world and everything in it for a couple of seconds.





STICK-A-THING

Who are you? I am Stick-A-Thing or S.A.T. I am a 29 year old chap from Berlin, Germany that is still a student at University of Arts in Berlin, studying Visual Communication. S.A.T stands for urban character based designs blended with street art and sometimes Japanese Kawaii. I am totally open for all influences and use all media to display my ideas.

I grew up with parents that were musicians in GDR (former east German part) and lived on both sides of the wall. With my family we emigrated to West-Berlin when I was a very little boy and had the opportunity to travel with young age which opened my mind and influenced me until today. The environment of my city of course helps to spread art because we have an amazing vibe for urban arts in town but still I could do my art in any other place of the world.

I am working a lot with characters and vectors, 3d and analogue materials such as Isopore. I like to modify my urban environment as well, paint happy faces on power boxes or any other objects in the city. I love to paste-up my characters in town and to do vector collabs with talented artists from all over the world. Customizing my surrounding, yes that's what I like to do and to spread happiness all over the world. Where do you get your inspiration? I am getting inspired by a lot on the internet nowadays, Flickr is one my main portals to show my work and see work of others. With a couple of mouse clicks I am in other countries and mentalities. I am getting extremely inspired my Latin American design and have many contacts. I get inspired by urban arts from all over the world, cultural movements from shanty towns worldwide, music from the favelas of Rio de Janeiro.

Old video game consoles inspire me and vintage drum computers. Music, like experimental eclectic hip hop beats inspire me.

The internet in general helps me to find ideas and I don't know how I could live without it. I met a couple of artist on Flickr in real life and it is amazing to see and talk with your collab partners from Flickr at a bar here in Berlin with a beer (shoutouts to CookieCrew from Brazil and to FormatBrain from Argentina).

Of course other people's work influence me as well, but when I adopt things, what we all do, I convert it into my style. Collab works are inspiring as well, you see new designs and ideas by others and it's fun to adopt to it and add my stuff.





What do you still want to accomplish? There are so many things I want to accomplish. Actually I think I have so many interests but not enough time to do everything. I would love to paint more walls, huge walls with happy characters and make a living of my art. I am doing music and beats as well and would be happy to own one day an MPC1000, hahaha, and rock some dry beats with that machine. In general I would be happy to travel all over the world and share my art with others and have a fun time.

What is the last book you bought? I bought a design book called "Los Logos". There are already three of them out in stores. I have them all, it's a great reference. Before that I bought some language books for Brazilian Portuguese, most of the language I picked up on the street.

What would your super power be if you had one? I would love to beam me to any place in the world and speak all languages fluently. Speaking a language is the key to get access to the people and have a great time. And I would also love to see Berlin in the 1920 if I could travel in time.





TOSCO TOYS

Who are you? Hello. My name is André Alcantara. I'm a Brazilian graphic designer. I created Tosco Toys with my wife Paula de Moraes, a psychologist, and craft-maker in her free time.

Currently I'm working in an advertising agency. As a toy designer, we just launched three different plush collections, with eleven art toys. The "Monstros" series, inspired by the classic B movies, the "Skull Collection," our first glow-in-the-dark plush toy, and as last "Circus Freak."





Where do you get your inspiration? When I was a kid, I was fascinated by the Ray Harryhausen stop-motion fantasy movies. I looked to the monsters and creatures and thought: "How do they do this?" So recently in June 2005, after discovering the Pictoplasma Book (a Die Gestalten's publication), I was given access to an infinite collection of characters. At the same time, my wife was thinking to start some handmade work with fabrics and patchworks. After, I showed her my sketches and asked: "Can you do this?" And that's how it all started. More recently the Tim Burton's movies, like Nightmare Before Christmas and Corpse Bride, gave me more inspiration to create.

What do you still want to accomplish? Maybe launch a Tosco Toys vinyl collection...

What is the last book you bought? The Great War for Civilisation: The Conquest of the Middle East - Robert Fisk. It is not only about the war. It is also about human greed.

What would your super power be if you had one? Be invisible.



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TOKYOCUBE

Who are you? I'm Tom Vining. I'm English lad who grew up in a little village in the south west of England, where I spent my childhood skating, making fires, and generally misbehaving with mates. I moved to London when I was about 18 where studied Multimedia Design at Westminster Uni before freelancing as a visual designer, working with ad agencies like **R/GA, Profero and Agency.com, where I got my** first chance to design for some cool brands like Nokia, Apple and Virgin. Hooking up with some cool Japanese folk in the city. I started up a new company called Tokyocube, where we started working with toy designers in Japan like Ayako Takagi, Blobpus, Gargamel, Fewmany, and more recently artists like Loworks, Unnon and Anti System. At the moment I'm working in Tokyo on new projects for Tokyocube, and freelance web productions for agencies like **TYO-ID** and Great Works.



Where do you get your inspiration? It totally depends on the project. As I do mainly webbased stuff, I tend to check out what the cool agencies are up to on the web through sites like FWA, Computerlove and Design You Trust. There are loads of designers and agencies I look up to for inspiration. What do you still want to accomplish? Haha, loads. I've only just started really. It's only been about 4 years since I started as a web designer, so I'm still a whipper snapper within the industry. Next year I hope to move more into animation and graphic design. I'd like to turn Tokyocube into a global concept one day, but that's a little way off at the moment! :)













What is the last book you bought? Good question. Actually, I think it was some random book I picked up in a book store in Indonesia when travelling there, written by a local and translated for English readers, but it wasn't the best as I can barely remember what it was about.

What would your super power be if you had one? Teleportation. After finishing my work, it'd be so cool to just teleport to some cool random place around the world, go for a surf on some cool break in the south pacific, or paddle down some remote river in the Amazon. :)



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