



**international
graphic short story
competition**

Competition rules

Brussels, 29 June 2011

1. The international *Graphic Short Story Competition* is organised by the Brussels-based literary organisation Het beschrijf with the aim of eliciting new work in the graphic novel genre from both international and Flemish and French-speaking artists and scenarists on the theme of contemporary Brussels. The competition will facilitate the creation of 10 original short stories. The authors selected will receive a fee for this. If so desired, the winners can also be offered accommodation in Brussels while the work is being created. Het beschrijf is cooperating with Oogachtend publishers, which will publish the winning stories in a project album. This album will be published in Dutch; the stories in other languages will be translated for publication.
 2. The assignment: to capture contemporary Brussels in a 12-page graphic short story in the American format (portrait). The story may be drawn in colour or black & white. The stories contain references to a specific location in the centre of Brussels, *i.e.* the [Oude Graanmarkt or Vieux Marché aux Grains](http://www.beschrijf.be/brusselsinshorts). This location must appear in the story in one way or another. Background information and pictures of this square are available online at www.beschrijf.be/brusselsinshorts.
 3. Requirements: those taking part in the competition must have published at least one fully-fledged professional work (of about 42 pages) or its equivalent in separate publications (in magazines...).
 4. Timing: The authors are given until 31st October 2011 to submit their entries. The professional jury will announce the winners in January 2012, and they will then have until September 2012 to hand in their original story.
 5. A professional jury will judge the candidates' entries and select ten winners who will be given the opportunity to develop their stories. The members of the jury are: Willem De Graeve, Charles Dierick, Johan Stuyck, Linda Torfs, Annelies Verbeke and Ever Meulen (chairman).
 6. Those taking part should submit an entry in Dutch, French or English that includes:
 - A draft of the story (max. 1 A4)
 - Good-quality copies of several sketches
 - Good-quality copies of two or three fully developed drawings
 - Brief biography & a bibliography
 - A fully-fledged publication (± 42 pages) or the equivalent in separate publications. Preference is given to an original, but good-quality copies are also acceptable.
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These items are to be sent by post to:

Het beschrijf vzw
Brussels in Shorts
Dansaertstraat 46
B-1000 Brussels

The deadline for submissions is 31st October 2011. The postmark provides proof of date posted. Candidates submit an entry in Dutch, French or English. The winners will create the story in their own language; translations into Dutch will be made for the publication by Oogachtend publishers.

7. Each winner receives 1000 euro after the announcement. In September 2012 the jury will meet once again to examine the stories sent in. If the story comes up to the standard required and is considered suitable for publication, the winner will receive another 1200 euro.

8. The total sum of 2200 per story includes the royalties from the first edition in Dutch and possible first editions in French and English. The prize is for a story and not for an individual person; if more than one person works on the story – e.g. a scenarist and an artist – they will divide the sum between them in proportions they will decide upon themselves.

9. The winners will also be offered accommodation in Brussels. Belgian authors can stay for a week and those from abroad for a maximum of a month. A furnished flat will be put at their disposal and they can stay free of charge. Travel expenses will be refunded and general expenses of 200 euro per week are provided. Winners from Brussels are given a one-off expenses payment of 200 euro. Winners from outside Brussels who do not wish to make use of the accommodation can also claim a one-off expenses payment of 200 euro. This is offered so as to facilitate the creation, and not as a prize.

10. TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

The winners will submit their stories in accordance with the following technical specifications:

- page format: 216 mm b x 280 mm h (+ 5 mm bled edges), American
- spread: 432 mm b x 280 mm h (+ 5 mm bled edges)
- volume: 12 pages per story
- each story should start on a right-hand page. So the last page is a left-hand page.
- printing: four-colour
- delivery: digital files, 300 dpi, high res. PDF, ready to print

The publisher will see to the compilation of the ten stories in Indesign.

11. All those taking part must accept the regulations and the decision of the jury.

*The international competition **Brussels in Shorts** is an initiative of the literary organisation Het beschrijf, on commission to Secretary of State Bruno De Lille, member of the board of the Flemish Community Commission (VGC), responsible for Culture, Youth, Sport and Civil Service.*