

# STANLEY WANY

Montréal, QC

## BIOGRAPHY

Multi-disciplinary artist Stanley Wany (1970) lives and works in Montreal, where he recently completed his Masters in Fine and Media Arts at UQAM. His practice, which explores identity and cultural myths, includes drawing, sculpture, painting, installation and experimental graphic novels. His works have been presented and acquired in Canada, Australia, the United-States, Finland, France and Portugal. *Helem*, his latest graphic novel published fall 2021 with Conundrum Press, is the culmination of more than seven years of research and experimentation. His works on paper include large-scale drawings created with India Ink and consist of abstract and figurative representations, at times confronted with sculptural elements as part of installations. Since participating in an artist residency in Finland in 2018, he looks to expand his practice in visual arts to deepen his reflections on popular culture, myths and the unconscious in relation to the experience of afro-descendant persons in Western society.

Stanley Wany's graphic style is inspired by the works of renowned Italian comic book author Sergio Toppi, and artists Gustav Klimt and Gustave Doré. He combines figurative drawings with surrealist collages featuring imagery drawn from symbolist and mythological sources. In 2016, his first graphic novel, *Agalma*, received nominations for the Doug Wright Award (Toronto Comics and Arts Festival) for best alternative comic, and for a Prix Expозine (Expозine, independent editors' festival in Montreal). The same year, he was invited to join the Quebecois delegation at the Festival de bande dessinée de Colomiers, in France.

Wany lives in Montreal with his partner and two boys. For the past ten years, he has also worked as an independent comic book publisher with Trip Comix, which he co-founded.

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## ARTIST STATEMENT

My practice includes large-format works on paper, illustration, and installations. I am currently pursuing a master's degree in visual and media arts at the University of Quebec in Montreal, towards the development of a body of work that focuses on my multi-ethnic identity and the reappropriation of the representation of Blacks in the West. The cultural context that informs my practice includes the notion of "creolization" from the works of Édouard Glissant, as well as the writings by Stuart Hall and Frantz Fanon. Research is central to my practice, whether it concerns African-Canadian, African-American or Caribbean history and culture, or African myths and traditions. It serves as a bridge between my roots and my practice.

The Ice Cream Truck series, and related works, are inspired by the summer months spent during my youth at my uncle's house in Queens, New York. I was immersed in a dynamic place filled with different cultural communities and socio-economic classes. As soon as the music from the ice cream truck could be heard, people of all kinds gathered. In the Ice Cream Truck drawings, characters are arranged in such a way as to fill the page. These all-over compositions are inspired by the American art movement, pop surrealism, and "Lowbrow", popularized by artists like Todd Schorr. Through these, I refer to culture as continually transforming, across different ethnic, economic and artistic identities. In choosing to add colors to the illustration, or to leave them in black and white, I seek to discern culture from counterculture, the latter emerging from artists of disadvantaged backgrounds and gradually assimilated by popular culture. The common thread of this series is the ice cream van around which the various actors of culture and counterculture gather. The people depicted attract the public's gaze with their familiarity; the audience is then invited to explore the prejudices inherent to culture. These illustrations are drawn directly with fine point pens and coloured using markers, watercolor and gouache.

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# CV

## EDUCATION

- 2021-2023 Masters in Visual Arts and Media Arts, UQAM, Montréal, QC  
2006-09 Bachelor of Visual Arts and Design, with a minor in Bande Dessinée, UQAM, Montréal, QC  
2000 Certificate in 3D Animation, Université du Québec à Montréal  
1997-98 Course in 3D animation and multimedia, Collège LaSalle, Montréal

## RESIDENCES

- 2018 Comics Blast Artist Residency by Arteles, Finland

## SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2023-24 Ellephant, Montréal, QC  
2023-24 *Espaces Imprévisibles*, Galerie de l'UQAM, Montréal, QC  
2023 MAADI, Montréal, QC  
2023 *For Those Who Chose the Sea*, Plug In Institute of Contemporary Art, Winnipeg, MB  
2022 *Stanley Wany: Remix*, Wall Space Gallery, Ottawa, ON  
2022 *Stanley Wany Obscured Opacity*, BAND Gallery, Toronto, ON  
2022 *For Those Who Chose the Sea*, Ottawa Art Gallery, Ottawa, ON  
2020 *Inwards*, Perc Tucker Regional Gallery, Townsville, Australia

## GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2023 Art Toronto, Toronto, ON  
2023-24 Af-flux Biennale, Montréal, QC  
2023 Plural, Foire d'art contemporain, Montréal, QC  
2022 *Peinture fraîche/Nouvelle construction*, Art Mûr, Montréal, QC  
2022 *Masters in Visual and Media Arts Exhibition*, CDEx, UQAM, Montréal, QC  
2021 *Hors d'Oeuvre: exposition de maîtrise en arts visuels et médiatiques*, CDEx, UQAM, Montréal, QC  
2020 *Gathering*, Wall Space Gallery, Ottawa, ON  
2020 *Mix the Media*, Glass Axis Gallery x SOL-CON, Ohio State University, Ohio, US  
2019 *Body of Work*, Wall Space Gallery, Ottawa, ON

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- 2018 *Overlap(land): Comics Made in Finland*, Emergency Room Gallery, Houston, TX
- 2018 *Comics Blast Artist Residency at Arteles*, Finland
- 2017 *Contar o Mundo – A reportage em banda desenhada*, Amadora BD, Portugal
- 2017 *Amadora BD: International Comics Festival*, Portugal, invited artist
- 2016 *Festival de bande dessinée de Colomiers*. France, invited artist and panelist
- 2015 *Le Projet Orphée*, with François Chalifour and Diane Génier, L'ESPACE ÉMI, Université du Québec en Outaouais, Gatineau, QC

## FESTIVALS

- 2020 *Festival international de la bande dessinée d'Angoulême*, France
- 2012-17 *Festival de bande dessinée de Montréal*. Montréal, QC
- 2011-17 *Toronto Comics and Arts Festival*. Toronto, ON, invited artist and panelist
- 2007-17 *Expozine*. Le salon des fanzines, bandes dessinées et petits éditeurs de Montréal, Montreal, QC,
- 2013-15 *Rendez-vous de la bande dessinée de Gatineau*. Gatineau, QC
- 2013 *Small Press Expo*. North Bethesda, MD, USA, invited artist and panelist
- 2009-13 *Salon du livre de l'Outaouais*. Gatineau, QC, invited artist and panelist
- 2012 *Helsinki Comics Festival*. Helsinki, Finland, invited artist and panelist
- 2011-12 *Festival de bande-dessinée de Québec*. Salon du livre de Québec, Québec City, QC, invited artist and panelist
- 2008 *Helsinki Comics Festival*. Helsinki, Finland, invited artist and panelist
- 2007-08 *Conférence à l'École Multidisciplinaire de l'Image*. panelist
- 2007 *Festival de la bande dessinée de Cowansville*. invited artist and panelist
- 2007 *34ème Festival international d'Angoulême*. France, invited artist

## PUBLICATIONS

- 2021 *Helem*, Halifax: Conundrum Press, 200 pages
- 2020 *Inwards*, Townsville: Perc Tucker Regional Gallery. Exhibition catalogue, 50 pages
- 2017 *Séquences*, Montreal-Ottawa: Éditions Trip, 100 pages
- 2016 *Dreamcave*, Montreal-Ottawa: Éditions Trip, 62 pages
- 2015 *Agalma*, Montreal-Ottawa: Éditions Trip, Nominated at the Doug Wright Award for the best alternative comics, Toronto Comics and Arts Festival, 102 pages
- 2014 *Tout ceci n'est qu'un rêve*, Montreal-Ottawa: Éditions Trip
- 2014 *Le magazine Trip 8*, Montreal-Ottawa: Éditions Trip, 224 pages

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- 2014 *Korkifaipo*, Trois Rivières: Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières et Éditions Trip, 20 pages
- 2013 *Les monstres*, Montreal-Ottawa: Éditions Trip, participating author, 12 pages
- 2012 *"Le recital des anges"*, Nelligan. Gatineau: Premières Lignes, participating author, 10 pages
- 2011 *"Méditation Métaphysique"*, *Les Fummetos du Cyclope 4*, Montreal-Ottawa: Éditions Trip, 35 pages
- 2010 *"Un tout petit moment d'anxiété"*, C9 2. Gatineau: Collectif 9, participating author, 10 pages
- 2009 *"OEillades"*, *La Machine du Bonhomme 7 Heures*, Gatineau: Premières Lignes, participating author, 20 pages
- 2009 *La forêt des serpents*, Gatineau: Premières Lignes, participating author, 20 pages
- 2009 *Le magazine Trip 6*, Montreal-Ottawa: Éditions Trip, participating author, 130 pages
- 2008 *"Le seigneur de Montebello"*, *Projet Outaouais*. Gatineau: Premières Lignes, Participating author, 15 pages
- 2007 *"The World's Unluckiest People"*, *Extraction!*, Montreal: Cumulus Press, Participating author, 25 pages
- 2006 *"La naissance de Morphée"*, *Le Scribe*, Gatineau: Premières Lignes, Participating author, 11 pages.
- 2006-19 *Le magazine Trip 1 – 8*. Gatineau, Creator, co-editor and participating author
- 1996 *Soul Slayer*, Montreal: Void Comics, 24 pages

## GRANTS

- 2021, 2018 & 2011 Canada Council for the Arts: Research and Creation Grant
- 2020 & 2018 Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec : Travel grants
- 2018 Canada Council for the Arts: Travel Grant

## COLLECTIONS

Private Collections, Canada and Australia; Perc Tucker Regional Gallery (Townsville, Australie); William Marsh Rice University (Houston, Texas). Represented in Ottawa by Wall Space Gallery + Framing.

## MEDIA

- Broken Frontier : Helem – Two Lives at Critical Junctures Are at the Forefront of Stanley Wany's Visual Stream-of-Consciousness Graphic Novel, 15 March 2022, Andy Oliver

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- CTV Ottawa with Rosey Edeh, 28 February 2022
- The Community Press: Helem will blow your mind and blur boundaries, 11 February 2022, Dan Brown
- True North Comics, 14 January 2022, John Swinimer
- CBC Books: The best Canadian comics of 2021, 16 December 2021
- The Comics Journal : Reviews Helem, 21 October 2021, Brian Nicholson
- Ottawa Life Magazine: Best of Ottawa 2021: Visual Artists

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