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Taniguchi's GUARDIANS Make the Louvre Come Alive in New Graphic Novel

Coming from NBM Graphic Novels in May is the next entry in The Louvre Collection, this one by respected and international bestselling Japanese creator Jirô Taniguchi.

In GUARDIANS OF THE LOUVRE, the protagonist falls ill during an excursion to Paris. While visiting the Louvre Museum, he falls into a feverous delusion. When he awakes, the museum is eerily empty save for an otherworldly guide, a celestial Guardian of the Louvre, an embodiment of the Winged Victory, in charge of preserving the souls within the artwork. Together the two take an expedition through the ages. They meet his favorite famous artists like Vincent Van Gogh or Camille Corot. He even witnesses the evacuation of the Louvre's art during the Nazi occupation during World War II. All of the Louvre's priceless works of art have a story and soul behind them. Taniguchi ends with his character meeting his long gone wife, drawing a parallel.

The illustrations flow as would a masterful anime film, reminiscent of the work of Hayao Miyazaki (*Spirited Away*). The graphic novel was recently on the Publishers Weekly Top Ten Graphic Novels for Spring '16 list: "Taniguchi's entry in this long-running series of graphic novels commissioned by the Louvre veers between fantasy and introspection to explore the meaning of art in our lives."

Jirô Taniguchi is a Japanese cartoonist- unique in his influence from French comics. His most noted graphic novels are the series *Summit of the Gods* and *The Walking Man*. He is the recipient of numerous prestigious awards in Japan as well as from the Angouleme festival.

The Louvre Collection is a remarkable series of graphic novels commissioned by the Louvre calling upon different prominent artists, French and international, to make up a story around the fabled museum. Prominent volumes include *Glacial Period* by Nicolas De Crécy, in its fourth printing, *Sky Over the Louvre* by movie scriptwriter Jean-Claude Carrière and best-selling artist Bernar Yslaire, and *Rohan at the Louvre* by mangaka Hirohiko Araki- also in a fourth printing. David Prudhomme's *Cruising through the Louvre* debuted earlier this year.

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