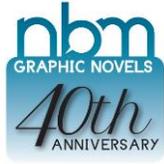


FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



OBSESSED WITH CATCHING THE LIGHT MONET: A COMICS BIOGRAPHY

Claude Monet is definitely one of the best-known painters in the world today. A leader in the Impressionist movement, he is remembered for his beautiful dreamy landscapes and catch-the-moment portrayals.

It's easy to take for granted, so many years hence, what he accomplished. His style seems natural to us, obvious. But his life was tormented and he lived in poverty for a great deal of it. This comics biography shows us well how much hardship he had to his family through in his totally uncompromising search for truth in painting, not only capturing specific reflections of light off things but also portraying real people, real life, real landscapes. In his day, Greco-Roman allegory was going overboard to the point of please-the-bourgeois ripeness, even pompous prurience clothed (barely) in the academic (viz 'Art Pompier' and Bouguereau). His reaction, and he led many of the same opinion around him who also became famous in the Impressionist movement, was to revolt against this artifice and focus entirely on real life even if the style itself deviated markedly for the first time ever in toiling painstakingly to reproduce everything realistically.

However, uncompromising he was to the point of stubbornness and selfishness which he himself recognized. His description of capturing his long-suffering but ever devoted wife dying where what fascinated him most was coldly observing how the light reflected off her is chilling, even to himself. Even if it meant hunger for his family, he would not deviate from his vision... Efa does a remarkable job of portraying all this in a style quite close to Monet's. The gallery section at the back shows the works being discussed along with his renditions of them worked into Monet's life story.

Fortunately, Monet was able to live long enough to see the world come around to his work and gain glory. Many other modern artists did not have this privilege.

This biography joins the ranks of many NBM has published from Billie Holiday to Dior and Sartre. All come from Europe. More painters are scheduled to be portrayed in comics from NBM: Niki de Saint Phalle next year.

For more information, including setting up interviews (Salvio Rubio's English is excellent), please be in touch with our publicist Stefan Blitz publicity@nbmpub.com.

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