

PRESS RELEASE

SISSA and AgorAI launch an artist residency exploring the relationship between science and comics

Starting on 26 October, comic artist Jutta will spend two weeks at SISSA, meeting members of the scientific community to develop an original graphic novel exploring human identity. The initiative is promoted by Officina Editoriale, a project launched as part of the science book festival “Scienza e Virgola”, and supported by AgorAI.



Trieste, 22 October 2026

Exploring human identity through a graphic novel conceived and developed in a place of scientific research. This is the idea behind the first Artist Residency, which will begin at SISSA - Scuola Internazionale Superiore di Studi Avanzati in Trieste on 26 October. The initiative is the first project of Officina Editoriale, a new permanent initiative dedicated to science book culture, launched by SISSA as an additional activity linked to Scienza e Virgola. The project is supported by AgorAI, the AI company founded in Trieste by Generali, illy and Fincantieri, together with the Friuli Venezia Giulia Region. It is part of the activities surrounding Scienza e Virgola, the science book festival organised in Trieste by SISSA's Interdisciplinary Laboratory for Science and Humanities (ILAS), under

the artistic direction of writer Paolo Giordano. Each year, the Officina Editoriale Artist Residency will host authors and artists working in different creative fields, inviting them to explore the festival's themes through their own artistic language.

Who is Jutta?

The first artist in residence will be Simone Rastelli, known as Jutta, a cartoonist, illustrator and graphic designer from San Marino. He is the author of *Bambino Paura* (Rizzoli Lizard) and *Gatto Pernucci* (Coconino Press).

Known for work that explores everyday life through irony and surrealism, Jutta portrays the present through short stories and characters, highlighting its contradictions with humour and sensitivity. Over the course of two weeks, he will engage in dialogue with SISSA researchers, students from the Franco Prattico Master's Programme in Science Communication, and the AgorAI team. His residency will also include visits and meetings connected with the local area's cultural heritage.

The first project of Officina Editoriale

The aim of the residency is to gather impressions, ideas and perspectives and transform them into an original, previously unpublished work. Through his own artistic perspective and with complete creative freedom, Jutta will tell the story of what inspires him in the scientific environment and through his encounters there. The themes he may explore include artificial intelligence, the perception of time, neurobiology, the geometry of spacetime and cosmology. The graphic novel will be presented to the public in May 2027, during the 2027 edition of "Scienza e Virgola".

The choice of the graphic novel is central to this year's Officina Editoriale project. This format makes it possible to explore complex subjects through immediate, engaging visual storytelling, reaching a wider audience and bringing science closer to readers without a specialist background. By combining images and narrative, contemporary comics can build a bridge between scientific research, imagination and culture, opening up new ways of interpreting and communicating science.

IMAGE

Credits: Pxhere

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