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PRESS RELEASE

José Muñoz

<<historietas>> a constellation of meanings

December 1, 2017 – January 19, 2018

Opening December 1, 5:00 – 9:00 PM

Scott Eder Gallery is excited to present <<historietas>> **a constellation of meanings**, the first-ever U.S. show of Argentine illustrator José Muñoz, featuring artwork from the many issues of *Alack Sinner*, his seminal long-time collaboration with writer Carlos Sampayo. The gallery will also be offering art from *Billie Holiday*, the Muñoz-Sampayo graphic novel biography, as well as other select illustrations.

The gallery show follows the 2017 release of *Alack Sinner: The Age of Innocence* [IDW], the first of two volumes that present, for the first time in English, the complete *Alack Sinner* comics by the Muñoz-Sampayo team, as well as the recent release of *Billie Holiday* [NBM], also in hardcover in English for the first time.

Featuring nearly 60 pages of original pen and ink illustrations and sketches from *Alack Sinner* as well as original pages of art from *Billie Holiday*, the show opens on Dec. 1st, 2017.

Known for his heavily stylized, shadow-filled black and white imagery, José Muñoz has influenced generations of comic book artists. Many fans and critics consider Muñoz and Sampayo's work to be a direct inspiration for Frank Miller's *Sin City*. Muñoz himself has said, “I like the nerves, the gesture, the energy of the manual blurring that we can make appear between light and shadow, on the border between them, where they are always collaborating and discussing the limits. Both the shadow and the light excite me, differently.” ^[1]

The *Alack Sinner* stories, international bestsellers and Muñoz's most famous work, feature *Sinner*, a hard-boiled private detective in a noirish, cinematic New York City of the past decades. Muñoz and Sampayo also weave a passion for jazz throughout the stories. This love of quintessentially American music more fully expresses itself in *Billie Holiday*, a poignant portrait of the singer's tragic life.

This year's prestigious “Yellow Kid: Maestro of Comics Award” winner at the international Lucca Comics Festival (as well as a 1983 winner), Muñoz's work has also won a Harvey Award and the Max & Moritz “Outstanding Life's Work” Special Prize, as well as three prizes at the Angoulême International Comics Festival, including the top Grand Prix.

Born in Buenos Aires in 1942, and a student of Alberto Breccia, Pablo Pereyra and Hugo Pratt, Muñoz moved to London in the early 1970s and there began his collaboration with Carlos

Sampayo. He currently resides in Milan and Paris, but has a deep and passionate love for New York City.

The show opens on Friday, Dec. 1st, with an artist reception from 5-9 PM.

Special limited-edition prints [silkscreen and letterpress] created for the show, along with books, will also be available.

^[1] TCJ interview with Alex Dueben

For more information, images or interviews, please contact scott@scottedergallery.com.
<<**historietas**>> is on view from Dec. 1 - Jan. 19, Tuesday through Friday, 12 – 6 PM

Select José Muñoz Bibliography

most have been reprinted in many languages over decades

- 1977+ongoing Alack Sinner
- 1981+ongoing Joe's Bar
- 1981 Sophie Comics – Sophie Going South
- 1986 Sudor Sudaca [Futuropolis]
- 1988 Jeu de lumières [Albin Michel]
- 1990 L'Europe en flammes [Albin Michel]
- 1991 Billie Holiday [Casterman]
- 1996 Batman – Devil's Trumpet [DC Comics]
- 1997 Le croc du serpent [Casterman]
- 1999 Panna Maria [Casterman]
- 1999 Le Poète [amok]
- 2003 Retour de flammes [Casterman]
- 2004 Le Livre [Casterman]
- 2006 La Pampa et Buenos Aires [Futuropolis]
- 2008 Carlos Gardel – Vol 1 [Futuropolis]
- 2010 Carlos Gardel – Vol 2 [Futuropolis]
- 2017 Faubourg sentimental [Futuropolis]
- 2017 Alack Sinner: The Age of Innocence [English; IDW]
- 2017 Billie Holiday [English hardcover; NBM]

The Scott Eder Gallery [formerly of Dumbo, Brooklyn] has been showing the best in alternative and underground comic book art for over ten years. We are located in the Mana Contemporary arts complex near Journal Square in Jersey City.