

## CV Ilan Manouach

**BFA** Ecole Supérieure des Arts (Brussels 2001)

**MA** Dutch Art Institute (Arnhem 2017)

**PhD** Aalto University School of Arts, Design and Architecture (Helsinki 2022)

**Visiting Scholar** Harvard University Metalab (Boston 2022-2025)

Ilan Manouach (b.1980) is a researcher, a musician and a multidisciplinary artist with a specific interest in conceptual and post-digital comics. Currently a **Metalab fellow** and visiting scholar at **Harvard University**, Ilan has a PhD from **Aalto University in Helsinki** where he examined how this century's frontier technologies such as AI, financial technologies and globalized logistics reshape the comics industry. The topics of his research and artistic practice include conceptual comics, post-internet publishing, and synthetic media and AI. On the side, Ilan works as a librarian for the Conceptual Comics Collections at **Ubuweb** and **Monoskop**, is an appointed expert in experimental comics for the Belgian government and its national public funding program (CCAP) and works as a strategy consultant for the **Onassis Foundation** and its visibility through its new publishing activity. The *Comics Journal* described him as “one of the most critical contemporary cartoonists and thinkers working today” and Kenneth Goldsmith described him as “the most provocative, critical, and intelligent comic artist alive”.

Since 2001, he has a continuous publishing activity with more than 30 book publications exploring different perspectives of the comics industry. Ilan is mostly known for *Shapereader*, a system for tactile storytelling built on a repertoire of haptic ideograms initially designed for blind and partially sighted readers/makers of comics that is presented and discussed internationally in a variety of formats, contexts and collaborations. His recent books include *Fastwalkers*, a 512-page synthetic comic book entirely generated by AI and *Chimeras: Inventory of Synthetic Cognition* (ed.), a collective glossary on AI, with 150 contributors exploring a variety of epistemic perspectives on artificial intelligence, interspecies, crip, monstrous, feminist, distributed, and decolonial, among others. Ilan is the founder of **Echo Chamber**, a Brussels-based non-profit organization that focuses on comics research at the intersections of synthetic technologies and the political repercussions of a new media-rich internet literacy. It has the mission to produce, fundraise, document and archive research and productions in contemporary comics. Ilan is an Onassis Digital Fellow (2020), a Kone alumnus (2015, 2017, 2019) and a recipient of the Academia Belgica research award (2023).

In 2018, along with Kenneth Goldsmith, Ilan curated **Shadow Libraries: Ubuweb in Athens**, a three day event that examined the uses of the archive in regards to artistic production and explored the conceptual consistency and the ethics of digital preservation and distribution in web libraries, through the lens of its users and makers. Ilan also heads **Futures of Comics**, an international, recurrent research programme that explores how comics are undergoing historic mutations in the midst of increasingly financialized, globalized technological affordances and proposes to map the social, economic, racial and gendered forces that shape the industry's commercial, communication and production routines. Finally, he is the founder of **Topovoros Books**, a publishing house releasing greek translations of works from Hito Steyerl, Craig Dworkin, Donna Haraway, Helene Cixous, Mackenzie Wark, Metahaven, Byung Chul-Han, et al.

## Upcoming Books

*Ilan Manouach in Review: Critical Approaches to his Conceptual Comics*, Pedro Moura (ed.) (London: Routledge, 2023)

*Estranging Comics: Towards a Novel Comics Praxeology* (Rome: Coniglio Press, 2023)

*The Neural Yorker: Cartoons in the Computational Age* (New York: Punctum Books, 2024)

*Walter Benjamin's Children Literature Collection and AI* (Frankfurt: Christian A. Bachmann Verlag, 2023)

*Scanlating Marginalia* (Brussels: 5C, 2023)

*Interspecies Primer* (ed.) (Nero Editions 2024)

*Little Lulu* (Brussels: 5C, 2024)

*Outside* (w/ Kenric Allado McDowell, Paris: JBE Books, 2024)

## Selected bibliography

*ONEPIECE* (Paris: JBE Books, 2022)

*Fastwalkers* (Brussels, Lisbon, Rome, Athens: multiple publishers, 2022)

*Chimeras: Inventory of Synthetic Cognition* (ed.) (Athens: Onassis Publications, 2022)

*Le VTT comme je l'aime* (Paris: Editions du Monte-en-l'air, 2022)

*Peanuts Minus Schulz* (Paris: JBE, 2021)

*The Cubicle Island* (Brussels: 5C, Copenhagen: Forlaens, 2020)

*La Ballade de la Mer Salée* (Brussels: La Crypte Tonique, 2020)

*Cascao* (Brussels: La Crypte Tonique, 2020)

*Compendium of Francobelgian Comics*, (various publishers, 2018)

*Blanco* (Brussels: 5C, 2018)

*Un Monde un Peu Meilleur* (Brussels: 5C, 2018)

*Harvested* (various publishers, 2016)

*Tintin Akei Kongo* (Lisbon: CCC, 2015)

*Riki Fermier* (Brussels: 5C, 2015)

*Noirs* (Brussels: 5C, 2014)

*Metakatz* (ed.) (Brussels: 5C, 2013)

*VSAdH/EdWB/IpAN (uDdPK)* (Lisbon: Montesinos, 2012)

*Katz* (Brussels: 5C, 2011)

*Both Sides Of A Wall* (Siders: Sismics, 2010)

*Ecologie Forcée* (Havre: Biennale du Havre, 2010)

*Limbo* (Brussels: 5C, 2008)

*Le Coup de Grace* (ed.) (Brussels: 5C, 2006)

*Arbres en Plastique, Feuilles en papier* (Brussels: 5C, 2005)

*La Mort du Cycliste* (Brussels: 5C, 2004)

*Les Lieux et Les Choses qui entouraient les gens desormais...* (Brussels: 5C, 2003)

## Selected Discography

Glacial, *Hardcore Lounge* (Hotel Costes 2021), Kocher/Manouach/Papageorgiou (Bruit 2016), Glacial *Hardcore Lounge* EP (Equivalence 2016), Glacial *Entropy* EP (SIXDOGS 2015), Kocher & Manouach, *Skeleton Drafts* (Bruit 2015), Romvos *Undeveloped* LP (Romvos 2014), Wry *Wry* CD (Clamshell Records 2013), Balinese Beast/Fusiller LP (TanzProcesz 2013), Balinese Beast/Wham Jah LP (Phase 2012), Glacial *Hotel Costes Présente...* CD (Pschent 2012), Balinese Beast *Balinese Beast* LP (self-released 2010), Balinese Beast *Soft Offerings 7"* (self-released 2011), Balinese Beast/TBC *7"* (Wachsender Prozess 2013).

## Published Research

«Art between concepts and synthetic cognition» w/ Jan Baetens (*Place*, 2023)  
«Things Lurking on the Fringes» (*Deutsche Welle's Innovation Blog*, 2022)  
«Outlining Conceptual Practices in Comics» (*European Comic Art*, 2021)  
«Comic books as Ontographs» (*Cuadernos del Centro de Estudios de Diseno y Comunicacion*, 2021)  
«The tactile comics of Shapereader» (*Leonardo Journal*, 2021)  
«A Deep Learning Pipeline for the Synthesis of Graphic Novels» (*ICC*, 2021)  
«The Futures of Comics» (*Scenario* a quarterly from the Institute of Future Studies, 2019)  
«Distributed Labor as Compositional Practice» (*Comics Grid*, 2019)

## Conferences & talks

*Comics for Cyborgs* (Stockholm: Serieteket, 2023), Artist talk (Chicago: University of Chicago, 2022), Artist talk (Boston: Harvard Metalab, 2022), Artist Talk (Rennes: ENSAB, 2022), Artist talk (Los Angeles: UCLA, 2022), *Estranging Comics* (Rio Grande do Sul: Université Federale de Santa Maria, 2022), *Interspecies Futures* (Berlin: LAS, 2022), «Estranging Comics» in *Comics Strike Back* (Gent: University of Gent, 2022), *Adapting Comics for Blind and Low Vision Readers* (USA: San Francisco State University, 2021), *AI Fictions* (Paris: University of Paris 3 - Sorbonne nouvelle, 2021), *Comics Censorship* (Luzern: Hochschule, 2021), *Coloquio Artes Dibujadas* (Buenos Aires: University of Palermo, 2021), *NeurIPS* (Workshop on Machine Learning for Creativity and Design, 2020), *Normal Now* (Stockholm, Stockholm University, 2020), *Creative Explorations: From Social Entities to Ubiquitous Systems* (British Council, 2020), *Adversarial Hacking* (Berlin: Transmediale, 2020), Artist talk (New York: New School of Parsons, 2020), *Avoir du Style Aujourd'hui* (Brussels: Maison de la Francité, 2020), *Democracy and Art* (Thessaloniki: University of Macedonia, 2019), *Toda la Memoria del Mundo* (San Sebastian: Tabakalera, 2019), *HackAthens* (Athens: Onassis, 2019), «Shapereader, User Diversity in Contemporary Comics» (Davenport: ICAF, 2019), Artist talk (Chicago: School of the Art Institute of Chicago, 2019), «An Industrial Form of Expression» (Aarhus: Aarhus University, 2019), *Revolta en el comic* (Barcelona: MACBA, 2018), Artist Talk (Sao Paulo: Museum of Image and Sound, 2018), «Conceptual Comics» (Seattle: Public Library, 2016), «Introduction to Shapereader» (Seattle: University of Washington, 2016), «Conceptual Comics» (Sao Paulo: Museum of Image and Sound, 2016), Artist Talk (Helsinki: Media MA Program Aalto University, 2016), *Poetics of Algorithm*, (Liège: University of Liège, 2016), Artist talk, (Tel Aviv: Print Screen Festival, 2016), «Comics and Disabilities» (New York: MoCCA, 2014), «Plagiarism in Comics» (New York: MoCCA, 2014), Artist talk (New York: New School of Parsons, 2014), Artist talk (Jerusalem: Bezalel University, 2014).

## Teaching & Workshops

*Augmented Research* (Stockholm; Konstfack, 2023), *Augmented Research* (Helsinki; Aalto University, 2023), *Conceptual Comics and Uncreative Writing* (Caen; ESAM, 2022), *Conceptual Comics and Uncreative Writing* (Rennes; University of Rennes 2, 2022), *Comics and Automation* (Seattle; University of Washington, 2021), *Comics and Automation* (Luzern; Hochschule Design & Kunst, 2021), *Conceptual Comics* (Ghent: KASK, 2020), *Shapereader Chorale* (Ghent: Vooruit, 2020), *Shapereader Chorale* (Barcelona: CaixaForum, 2019), *Shapereader Chorale* (Madrid: CaixaForum, 2019), *Shapereader Chorale* (San Sebastian: Tabakalera, 2019), *La Cuina* (w/ Maria Arnal) (Barcelona: MACBA, 2019), *Comics and Distribution Workshop* (Sao Paulo: MIS, 2018), *Appropriation Practices in contemporary comics* (Ghent: Vooruit, 2018), *Shapereader Tactile Storytelling* (Helsinki: Hippolyte Gallery, 2017), *Conceptual Comics Workshop* (Sao Paulo: Sesc Ipiranga, 2017), *Shapereader Tactile Storytelling* (Athens: Onassis, 2016), *Conceptual Comics* (Viborg: The Animation Workshop, 2015), *Appropriation Practices in contemporary comics* (Rennes: ESAB, 2015), *Musical improvisation and visual disabilities* (Athens: Onassis, 2016-2017).

## Grants

Thesis (Excellence of Research Award, Helsinki: Aalto University, 2023), Academia Belgica (Artistic Research Award, Brussels: Federation Wallonie Bruxelles, 2023), *Shapereader Tactile Deck* (Brussels: Kunsten en Cultureel Erfgoed, 2020), *AI Comics* (Research Grant, Brussels: Federation Wallonie Bruxelles, 2020), *AI Comics* (Research Grant, Helsinki: Koneen Säätiö, 2020), *Shapereader* (Production Grant, Athens: Onassis, 2020), *Shapereader* (Production Grant, Ghent: Vooruit, 2020), *Shapereader* (Production Grant, Nierpelt: C-Takt, 2020), *Shapereader* (Production Grant, Athens: Outset Foundation, 2019), Participation to Seattle's Short Run Festival (Travel Grant, Brussels: WBI, 2016), *Conceptual Comics Anthology* (Research Grant, Helsinki: Koneen Säätiö, 2016), Spain and Portugal Music tour (Production & Travel Grant, Geneva: Pro-Hevetia, 2016), Tactile Haggadah Workshop (Production Grant, New York: Asylum Arts, 2016), Music tour in the Balcan region (Production & Travel Grant, Geneva: Pro-Hevetia, 2015), *Shapereader* (Award Grant, Vienna: Ignaz Semmeleweiss Institute, 2015), *Shapereader* (Project & Research Grant, Helsinki: Koneen Säätiö, 2013), *Undercurrents* (Author Grant, Paris: Centre National du Livre de France, 2013), *Undercurrents* (Author Grant, Brussels: Federation Wallonie Bruxelles, 2013), Attendance to Vermont Studio Center (Travel Grant, Brussels: WBI, 2013), Attendance to St. Peterburg's Boomfest Fair (Travel Grant, Brussels: WBI, 2013), *Essaim* Publishing Platform (Development Grant, Brussels: Federation Wallonie Bruxelles, 2012), Attendance to Oaxaca's Bookfair (Travel Grant, Brussels: WBI, 2011), Attendance to Angouleme's FIBD (Travel Grant, Brussels: WBI, 2010), *VSAdH / EdWB / IpAN (uDdPK)* (Author Grant, Paris: Centre National du Livre, 2008), *Frag* (Author Grant, Brussels: Federation Wallonie Bruxelles, 2006), *Limbo* (Author Grant, Brussels: Federation Wallonie Bruxelles, 2004).

## Selected residencies

Academia Belgica (Rome, 2023), Centre Rene Magritte (Lessines, 2022), C-Takt (Neerpelt, 2022), Frans Masereel Centrum (Kasterlee, 2021), AAIR (Now: Morpho, Antwerp, 2021), Vooruit (Ghent, 2021), Onassis Digital Residency Lab (Athens, 2020), HIAP (Helsinki, 2017), Sesc Ipiranga (Sao Paulo, 2017), Spéléographies (Rennes, 2015), Animal A l'Esquena (Girona, 2014), ACC (Weimar, 2014), Vermont Studio Art Center (Vermont, 2014), Saari (Turku, 2013), Projects (Portland, 2013).

## Editorial supervision of translated essays and books published in Greek

*Νεκρές πόλεις* (Mike Davis), *Μέσα από τοίχους* (Eyal Weizman), *Όμορφη σαν φυλακή που καίγεται* (Julius Van Daal), *Οι αλλοπαρμέννοι κώλοι* (Guy Hocquenghem), *Οι Μαύροι Πάνθηρες παίρνουν τα όπλα* (Bobby Seale), *Το Καρνέ μιας εταιράς* (Grisélidis Réal), *Ταξική πάλη και ψηφιακός φεμινισμός* (Jennifer Cotter), *Μανιφέστο κατά την εξάλειψη των αντρών* (Valerie Solanas), *Ανήκουστη μουσική* (Craig Dworkin), *Τα πέντε φύλα* (Anne Fausto-Sterling), *Υπερβαίνοντας τα όρια* (Alan Sokal), *Το μανιφέστο των Σάιμποργκ* (Donna Haraway), *Πως να κάνετε μια νούμερο ένα επιτυχία* (KLF), *Ναουρού, το ρημαγμένο νησί* (Luc Folliet), *Το βδέλυγμα* (Δημήτρης Δημητριάδης), *Ένας υλιστικός φεμινισμός είναι δυνατός* (Christine Delphy), *Οι κολασμένες της οθόνης* (Hito Steyerl), *Σαντσάι* (Byung-Chul Han), *Το γέλιο της μέδουσας* (Helene Cixous), *Η γυναικοκτόνος μηχανή* (Sergio Gonzalez Rodriguez), *Κακορίζικη* (Αωνύμου), *Η κληρονομιά της επανάστασης* (Marko Krojac), *Τέσσερα κείμενα* (Robert Smithson), *Ναρκοκαπιταλισμός* (Laurent de Sutter), *Ο Θρίαμβος του Αναρχισμού* (Eben Moglen), *Το Μανιφέστο του Ξενοφεμινισμού* (Laboria Cuboniks), *Principia Discordia* (Malaclypse, the Younger), *Για την Κατανόηση του Αντισημιτισμού* (Jews for Racial & Economical Justice), *Ο σχεδιασμός της Έλλειψης* (Goodbun, Klein, Rumpfhuber & Till), *Οι δημόσιες συνωμοσίες του Μακιαβέλλι* (James Martel), *Μπαίνω στο 151* (Ηλίας Πετρόπουλος), *Η Επική Μάχη του Τντερντ των Πραγμάτων* (Bruce Sterling), *Η Αφροδίτη σε Δύο Πράξεις* (Saidiya Hartman), *Ψηφιακός Ταρκόφσκι* (Metahaven), *Παρανοική Ανάγνωση* (Eve Kossowski-Sedgwick), *Πράξεις Εκδίκησης* (Gideo Raphael Ben-Michael), *Εκπορεύσεις του Χάους* (Phil Hine), *Λεξικό Χρησικτησίας* (Stephen Wright), *Σεξ ή το Αβάσταχτο* (Lee Edelman & Lauren Berlan), *Ένας φεμινισμός της απο-αποικιοποίησης* (Francoise Verges), *Πανυφήλια πολιτική* (Lorenzo Marsili), *Το κεφάλαιο πέθανε* (Mackenzie Wark), *Πολιτικές του ήλιου* (Oxana Timofeeva), *Rorschach Audio* (Joe Banks), *Η ριζοσπαστικότητα της αγάπης* (Srecko Horvat).