WHEN GARY HEARD I WAS SHOOTING IN VENICE HE LOOKED ME UP AND ASKED ME TO MEET HIM AT THE GIARDINI THE FOLLOWING DAY.

HE SEEMS A LITTLE STRANGE. IT MUST BE HIS COLOMBIAN ACCENT. DON'T KNOW WHAT TO THINK, REALLY.

YOU CAN'T JUDGE PEOPLE FROM THE TONE OF THEIR VOICE.
GO ON AND KISS ME, YOU QUEEN! IT'S BEEN SO LONG.

NO... STOP IT! NOT HERE!
YOU STILL HAVE TROUBLE KISSING IN PUBLIC, HUH?

YOU'RE SUCH A PAIN! YOU KNOW I DON'T LIKE TO...

LET'S GO FOR A WALK AROUND THE BACK OF THE PAVILIONS AND CATCH UP.

I'VE DISCOVERED A LOT OF THINGS ABOUT OUR MAKERS.

ANYWAY, TELL ME WHAT YOU'VE BEEN UP TO...

GARY, CAREFUL NOT TO STEP ON THE FLOWERS
YOU MEAN THE KLEENEX AND THE USED CONDOMS?

I MEAN THE "GAY FLOWERS".

THE "GAY FLOWERS" COMIC STRIP BY STEFANIA SALA WAS PUBLISHED IN THE MAGAZINE "FUORI"... AND SEE HOW THEY ENDED UP.

DAMMIT! WHAT'S THAT ABOUT?

THEY'RE LIKE LITTLE BUTTS, AIN'T THEY?
SEE HOW IT OPENS UP! IT'S AS IF IT WERE DILATING, ALMOST AS IF IT WERE TRYING TO SPEAK.

DID YOU HEAR THAT? THE LITTLE FLOWER SAID MOMMY! THEY'VE MISTaken US FOR THEIR MOTHERS...

MO... MO... MOMMY!

I THINK THAT WAS JUST A FART.
YOU LOOK ELATED.
WHO WERE YOU WITH?

YOU'RE STILL GOING?

¡THE SHRINK!

HE'S THE ONE COMING TO ME NOW.
"THE DISCOVERY OF THE PROGRESSIVE LIBERALISATION OF THE SUBJECT'S TRANSEXUALITY..."

This walk is full of surprises. Even ghosts come to the biennial.

You mean us two? I feel pretty alive actually.

Mario Mieli! We miss you so much.

Hi girls!
"WILL LEAD TO THE NEGATION OF POLARITY BETWEEN THE SEXES..."

"... AT A UTOPIAN ARM’S LENGTH (IN THE REVOLUTIONARY SENSE) OF UTOPIA - EUTOPIA OF THE NEW "MAN - WOMAN", OR PERHAPS MORE PROBABLY THE NEW "WOMAN - MAN".

I THINK IT’S ABOUT TIME I SHOWED YOU WHAT I’VE BEEN UP TO LATELY.

THEY'RE OPENING THE GERMAN PAVILION, SO MANY HOT GUYS!
FAGGOT, WE CAN GO TO SOME OF THE PARTIES LATER.

YOU MIGHT HAVE HEARD THAT I’VE BEEN TRAVELING AND RESEARCHING A LOT.

DID YOU FIND ANYTHING MORE ON RENZO BARBERI? ON OUR “MOTHERS”?

I WANTED TO FIND OUT WHICH COUNTRIES WE WERE IN WHEN WE WERE BEING PUBLISHED AND DISTRIBUTED. I’VE BEEN TO FRANCE, BELGIUM, SPAIN, AND COLOMBIA. I FOUND TRACES OF US IN ALL THOSE PLACES.

NOTHING IN THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING WORLD...

THERE’S A SHOW ON DAVID SHELTON’S “STANLEY” AT THE BRITISH PAVILION.

YEAH, BUT I’M HERE FOR OTHER REASONS. I’VE BEEN HELPING WITH THE INSTALLATION AT THE FRENCH PAVILION.
THE FRENCH PAVILION?

(TO BE CONTINUED UNDER A STREETLIGHT AROUND THE FRENCH PAVILION)
YES, I PUT TOGETHER AN EXHIBITION ABOUT ELVIFRANCE, THE PUBLISHING HOUSE THAT PUBLISHED RENZO BARBIERI'S COMIC BOOKS IN FRENCH.
I HOPE HE'LL SHOW UP THIS TIME, LAST TIME HE STOOD ME UP TO SEE A CROAT HE'D MET THE NIGHT BEFORE.

GOODBYE COCK.

OUR FATHER SHOULD HAVE BEEN CONSIDERATE ENOUGH TO TELL US WE WERE BROTHERS...

A LOVELY ASS.

A LOVELY COCK. TODAY THE GIARDINI IS FULL OF HOTTIES.

NO REPLY.

I ONLY SLEPT WITH GARY ONCE. THAT'S HOW WE FOUND OUT WE WERE BROTHERS.
AND THE MOST CENSORED PUBLISHER IN THE HISTORY OF FRANCE.

HE TOLD ME HOW THE COUNTLESS OBSTACLES THE CENSORS CREATED FOR ELVIFRANCE AND THE PUBLISHER, GEORGES BIELEC, DIDN'T STOP THEM FROM PUBLISHING COMIC BOOKS.

I THOUGHT THERE WAS FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION IN FRANCE.

I GOT IN TOUCH WITH THE PERSON WHO KEEPS THE ENTIRE PUBLISHING HOUSE'S ARCHIVE...
LIKE MANY OTHER COUNTRIES, HERE IS A LAW IN FRANCE TO PROTECT MINORS FROM BEING EXPOSED TO CERTAIN TYPES OF CONTENT.

CENSORS WOULD ASSESS WHETHER SOME THING COULD BE PUT ON SALE OR NOT, DEPENDING ON THE ALREADY PRINTED MATERIAL.

ORDER REIGNS. THE SAID SERIES, PROTECTED TO REST ON CIRCULAR PALETTES, PRETEND TO BE THE N.M.P.P. A VAST WASTE CAN ALSO HAVE BEEN TRIED. SUCH IS THE CASE OF THE NEWSPAPER.

SEX SHOULD BE THE MOST NORMAL THING IN THE WORLD.

DES BUREAUX MEUBLÉS ET DÉCORÉS QUE CHARME ET RAFFINEMENT. ON POURRAIT THÉORIQUEMENT PLAÎT...

BUT IF THE PRINTED MATERIAL WAS CENSORED... YOU WOULD LOSE THE WHOLE PRINT RUN, RIGHT?
AS FAR AS I CAN SEE FROM THESE PHOTOS, THEY REALLY KNEW HOW TO THROW A PARTY...

EXACTLY, AND THEY CAME UP WITH A TRICK TO AVOID BANKRUPTCY.

I DON'T GET IT.

"MES RÉDACTRICES ET MOI-MÊME, RETIRÉES EN EURE-ET-LOIR, À SE- SITUE DANS UNE ZONE VERDOYANTE NOTRE RÉDACTION, ÉDITÉMENT DE TEMPS ET SURTOUT DE PASSION A LA DÉORATION DES MAQUETTES, DES TEXTES ET DE LA BUVET DES COLLECTIONS."
They used to make print runs of tens of copies, just so that the commission could see what had been published.

That way they reduced costs as much as possible.

They say they saved up on the entire edition if one of the books was censored. The cost was lower.

Exactly.

Des illustrations, et autres curiosités que nous collectionnons se placent tout naturellement dans la catégorie de la littérature détente.
NORER QUE LA RÉUSSITE DE TOUTE ENTREPRISE BIENTÔT, PAR LA QUALITÉ DU PRODUIT AU PUBLIC, MAIS REPOSE AUSSI ET SURTOUT SUR LE SANCTION N’EST POSSIBLE.

THIS THING YOU DID IS REALLY GREAT.

PEU APRÈS, NOUS AVONS ABORDÉ GEORGES BERNARD LÉON, BIEN LEVER LE VOILE SUR SES PROJETS À VENIR.

"SUICA" WAS CALLED "ELECTROSHOCK" IN FRANCE.

EN CONCLUSION, L'ASSOCIATION ET TRÈS, NOUS AVONS DESSÉNIRS ENTREPRISE CHACUN DE NOS PROJETS ÉCHÉANCE COMME LA RÉUSSITE COMMENCÉ À QU'IL UNCLIN À SE RÉSIDUELLEMENT.

WERE YOU PUBLISHED IN FRENCH?

THE ELVIIFRANCE CASE IS UNIQUE, BECAUSE THE ENTIRE ARCHIVE HAS BEEN SAVED.
THIS IS A GOOD START: PERHAPS IN THE NEXT EDITION OF THE ASS COMIC BIENNIAL YOU CAN DO SOMETHING ON EDIFUMETTO AND ALL OF US.

PEOPLE MUST KNOW THAT THERE ARE DIFFERENT COMIC HISTORIES, AND THAT A DIFFERENT GAY COMIC EXISTS, AND EXISTED.

THAT WOULD BE A GREAT EVENT...

PEOPLE ARE VERY LAZY...
YOU KNOW WHAT?
I'M GETTING HUNGRY,
WHY DON'T WE GO HAVE A BITE
AND WATCH THE GUYS GO BY?

(TO BE CONTINUED UNDER A STREETLIGHT IN THE BACK OF THE DANISH PAVILION)
IL FUMETTO DEI GIARDINI

"Salami or Tuna?"

"Salami"

"Il Fumetto dei Giardini" is a comic in instalments temporarily distributed during the opening week of the Biennale di Venezia, collected, remixed, and customised by Francesco Ruiz for the exhibition "The Subjects" curated by Marti Manen in the Spanish Pavilion.
THIS IS RUNNING OUT.

WELL, FOR THE RICH ONES IT'S OVER.

IT'S A MATTER OF TIME: THE PATENT WILL EXPIRE IN A COUPLE OF YEARS.

YOU MEAN IT'S ALREADY FINISHED.

US POOR ONES HAVE TO WAIT AND CONTINUE TAKING THESE ONES.
THIS IS THE LAST TIME I GO ON A DATE IN A PUBLIC PLACE.

NO! MY COUSIN BETTY!

IT'S BEEN SO LONG! YOU LOOK GREAT! HOW DO YOU KEEP YOURSELF LOOKING SO YOUNG?

ROLANDA! DARLING! THE IMPORTANT THING IS THAT WE'RE ALIVE...

I CALL HIM COUSIN, BUT HE'S ALSO MY BROTHER. OUR FATHER, RENZO BARBIERI, INVENTED THE EROTIC FUMETTO.

HAVE YOU SEEN GARY? WE JUST SAW HIM A WHILE AGO. HE LOOKS GREAT!

ROLANDA!

I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR HIM ALL MORNING.

VENEZUELA.
I REMEMBER A Sukia EPISODE; IT WAS CALLED “THE HOMOSEXUALITY VIRUS”

WAS IT ABOUT HIV?

IT WAS PUBLISHED AT THE SAME TIME AS THE APPEARANCE OF THE FIRST AIDS CASES OF THE U.S.

I’M SURE ONE OF THE SCRIPTWRITERS SAW THE NEWS ON THE PAPERS AND CAME UP WITH THE STORY.

NO, IT WAS ABOUT A MAD SCIENTIST WHO CREATED A VIRUS THAT COULD TURN EVERYONE INTO A HOMOSEXUAL.

THE GAY CANCER’S FIRST APPEARED IN THE ITALIAN MEDIA MUCH LATER. WHAT I’M TRYING TO SAY IS THAT THE HOMOSEXUALITY VIRUS SOMEHOW DID EXIST.

YES, I THINK I REMEMBER IT, BRILLIANT!
DO YOU THINK PEOPLE WILL F**K AGAIN LIKE THEY DID IN THE 70S?

I WANT TO TELL YOU ABOUT THE DISTRIBUTION OF HOMOSEXUALITY.

THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEAN...

YOU MEAN OUR COMIC BOOKS?

YES.
DO YOU THINK OUR COMICS MADE A LOT OF PEOPLE BECOME GAY? THAT'S NONSENSE...

NO, BUT THEY HELPED A LOT OF MEN IMAGINE THEMSELVES AS GAY, AND THAT CHANGED SOMETHING...

MARIO MIELI'S GAY COMMUNISM

RENZO BARBIERI'S GAY CAPITALISM
ON THE WALKWAY IN FRONT OF THE UNITED STATES PAVILION, HOWARD CRUSE'S CHARACTERS QUEUE TO SEE ALISON BECHDEL'S EXHIBITION.

ROLANDO!
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

LET'S CHANGE THE SUBJECT PLEASE.
TELL ME ABOUT THE FILM YOU'RE SHOOTING IN VENICE.

ORNELLA MUTI.

DON'T TELL ME THEY'VE FINALLY DECIDED TO MAKE A TV ADAPTATION OF SUKIA COMICS.

IT'S A VAMPIRE SERIES FOR TELEVISION. GUESS WHO MY CO-STAR IS.

NO, FAR FROM IT. IT WOULD'VE BEEN GREAT THOUGH, RIGHT?
AND YOU, PLAYING MY ROLE. I'D LOVE TO SEE YOU.

IT WOULD BE SO HARD TO PLAY YOU!

SOUNDS LIKE A PARTY...

DO YOU REALLY THINK I WOULD BE THAT HARD TO PLAY?

OF COURSE! TOM'S GUYS FROM THE FINNISH PAVILION.
(TO BE CONTINUED UNDER A STREETLIGHT AROUND THE FINNISH PAVILION)
DAMN! WHERE DID ALL THE TOM OF FINLAND GUYS GO?

THEY'VE TOTALLY VANISHED; DO YOU THINK THEY MIGHT'VE CENSORED THEM?
I think I heard something back there.

And you'd better leave fast if you don't want to get your asses busted.

If you're looking for one of those faggots, they've run off scared after seeing my big cock.

But macho! Don't you recognise your brothers any more? We're Gary and Rolando del Fico. Our father was Renzo Barbieri. We're all in Edifumetto.
YOU FAGGOTS, HA HA HA, I HADN'T RECOGNISED YOU. I'M ALSO HERE FOR THE ASS COMIC BIENNIAL, WORKING FOR THE NETHERLANDS.

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF MY TWO BROTHERS? PRETTY APPETISING, HUH?

IF YOU WANT, WE CAN ALL GO F*CK TOGETHER LATER, BUT YOU HAVE TO LEAVE NOW.

WE'RE STARTING THE ASS BATTLE.

'MACHO' IS ONE OF THE MOST DELIRIOUS COMICS THAT EDIFUMETTO EVER PUBLISHED. IT STARS A GANG OF DOCKWORKERS, INSPIRED BY TOM OF FINLAND, MAD MAX, AND VIOLENT FILMS FROM THE 80'S.

TO THE TRUCKS! LET'S GIVE THOSE RETARDS WHAT THEY DESERVE.
HE WAS NEAR THE RUSSIAN PAVILION, RIGHT?

I DON'T GET ON WITH BETTY. I ENVY HER BECAUSE SHE MET HER "MOTHERS". OUR "MOTHERS" ARE THOSE WHO DREW US AND SHAPED US, AND GAVE US A VOICE.

CIAO!

I'LL CALL YOU ONE OF THESE DAYS BYE-BYE.

GARY AND I NEVER MET OUR "MOTHERS". OUR CARTOONISTS AND SCRIPTWRITERS WERE ALWAYS ASHAMED OF THEIR CREATIONS AND CHOSE TO HIDE BEHIND ANONYMITY. HARDLY ANY RECORDS OF THE "MOTHERS" OF THAT TIME EXIST. GARY DECIDED TO LOOK FOR HIS...

HE WAS CERTAIN THAT SOME OF THEM WERE EVEN GAY. THERE WAS THE EPISODE WHERE GARY DEFENDED THE RIGHTS OF RUSSIAN GAY MEN IN MOSCOW'S RED SQUARE...
THE STORIES SHOW CLASHES BETWEEN RIVAL GANGS, WHERE THE WINNERS POSSESS AND DESTROY THE DEFEATED BUTTS.

I NEED TO SEE THIS UP CLOSE. YOU CAN'T SAY THIS ISN'T A SPECTACLE.

SONS OF BITCHES. PILES OF SHIT. GET READY TO DIE THROUGH YOUR ASS.

OF COURSE IT'S A SPECTACLE, AS REAL AS THE ROMAN CIRCUS.

C'MON YOU BASTARDS. LET'S GO GET THOSE BUTTS!

ULTRAVIOLENCE ALWAYS SELLS.
“MACHO” WAS ONE OF THE LAST GAY COMICS PUBLISHED BY EDIFUMETTO. JUST WHEN OVERALL SALES WERE GOING DOWN THEY DECIDED TO GO FOR SOMETHING REALLY WILD: EXTREME SEX AND VIOLENCE.

BUT WHAT REALLY ALLOWED EDIFUMETTO TO HOLD UP WAS A CHANGE OF REGISTER. “PANINARO” WAS A MAGAZINE FOR THE CONSUMERIST AND NON-IDEOLOGICAL TEENS THAT SHAPED SUBSEQUENT GENERATIONS.
BARBIERI ALWAYS KNEW HOW TO IDENTIFY THE MOST PRIMARY IMPULSES TO SELL HIS COMICS. TEENAGE OBSESSION FOR AMERICAN LIFESTYLE AND THE PLEASURES OF CONSUMERISM SOLD HIM THOUSANDS OF COPIES.

HOW COULD SO MANY DIFFERENT COMIC FORMATS COEXIST IN THE PUBLISHING HOUSE?

I'M GOING TO USE YOUR INTESTINES TO HANG YOU BY THE BALLS.

ONE LESS SON OF A BITCH! HOORAY FOR MY COCK!
SKRANG!

GET READY TO BLEED TO DEATH OUT OF YOUR ASS!

DIE, YOU BASTARD!

THIS IS GETTING MORE SERIOUS THAN I THOUGHT.
¡ROLANDO!

"WHAT HORRIFIES HOMO NORMALIS - THE POLICING SYSTEM OF THE HETERO-CAPITALIST SYSTEM - MOST ABOUT HOMOSEXUALITY IS GETTING IT UP THE ASS!"

"WHICH SHOWS THAT ONE OF OUR MOST DELICIOUS PLEASURES, ANAL INTERCOURSE, HOSTS A CONSIDERABLE POTENTIAL FOR REVOLUTIONARY DISRUPTION"
"WHAT WE HOMOSEXUALS ARE MAINLY BLAMED FOR ALSO CONTAINS MOST OF OUR SUBVERSIVE POTENTIAL.
I KEEP MY TREASURE IN MY ASS, BUT MY ASS IS OPEN TO EVERYONE" (MARIO MIELI)

(TO BE CONTINUED UNDER A STREETLIGHT IN FRONT OF THE SPANISH PAVILION)
IT WAS INSPIRED BY THE ACTIONS OF MEMBERS OF FUORI!
(FRONTE UNITARIO OMOSESSUALE RIVOLUZIONARIO ITALIANO),
IN THE SEVENTIES.

RUSSIA
GIUSTI MA
PERI GAY
RUSSI!

WOW! I THINK I FINALLY
UNDERSTAND WHAT'S
GOING ON.

Ass
Comic
Biennial
2015

I CAN'T BELIEVE
IT, WHAT'S UP WITH
THAT BANNER?

I'M AT THE ASS
COMIC BIENNIAL,
WHERE EVERY COUNTRY
BRINGS THEIR FAGGY
COMICS.
IT'S FUNNY HOW THEY'D NEVER INVITED US BEFORE. I DON'T THINK ANYONE REMEMBERS THAT OUR COMICS HAD PRINT RUNS OF THOUSANDS.

LOOK AT THE CROWD IN THE JAPANESE PAVILION? I HAVE A HUNCH.

DO YOU WANT OUR AUTOGRAH?

IT'S TRUE THAT WE'RE OUT OF STYLE. THAT WE WERE A SEEMINGLY CHEAP, LOW QUALITY PRODUCT. BUT HAS ANYONE STOPPED TO ANALYSE US PROPERLY?

SMART GIRL! HA, HA, HA!

A CINEMA?

PORNO CINEMAS AND HOME VIDEO KILLED THE EROTIC "FUMETTO" IF VH S KILLED DRAWN PORNOGRAPHY, HIV DID THE SAME WITH A WHOLE GENERATION OF HOMOSEXUALS.
WHAT ABOUT PORN BEFORE THE INTERNET?

WE EXIST NEVERTHELESS, AND HAVE ALWAYS BEEN AWARE OF OUR IMPORTANCE BOTH HERE IN ITALY AND IN THE WORLD. EVEN IF NO ONE ELSE WANTS TO REMEMBER.

IT'S SUCH A SHAME NOT TO HAVE BEEN CONCEIVED THROUGH DESIRE. OUR FATHER MADE ME FIRST BECAUSE HE THOUGHT HE COULD SELL COMIC BOOKS BY MAKING A LAUGHING STOCK OUT OF A FAG. WITH GARY HE THOUGHT DIFFERENTLY, HE DISCOVERED A GAY MARKET NICHE.

¡GARY!
HOW'RE YOU DOING, FAG? DID YOU MISS ME?

(TO BE CONTINUED UNDER A STREETLIGHT AROUND THE JAPANESE PAVILION)