

Strasbourg, 9 February 2019

Press Release

Death of the Artist Tomi Ungerer

Tomi Ungerer has died in Cork (Ireland) on the night of Friday 8 February 2019 at the age of 87. He was known as a multi-faceted artist-illustrator, producing not only children's books, advertising posters and erotic drawings, but also satirical cartoons. Above all, he was an gifted observer of the world around him.

Born in Strasbourg in 1931, he was to lead an international career, beginning in New York with the success of his first children's books – *The Mellops Go Flying*, *The Three Robbers* and *Moon Man* – and major advertising campaigns. He also castigated New York society with his satirical drawings in *The Party*, as well as American politics with the *Black Power/White Power* poster. It was also in New York that he published his first erotic book, *Fornicon*, for which he was banned from public libraries in the United States. He moved to Canada in 1971, and in 1975 to Ireland, where he pursued his creative work.

His abundant graphic output has been acclaimed throughout the world by numerous awards such as the Andersen Prize, the Jakob-Burckhardt Award, and the National Grand Prize for Graphic Arts. He was made Commander of the French Legion of Honour in 2018.

He remained active throughout his life, with recent publications such as *Neither Yes nor No. Answers to 100 Philosophical Questions from Children* (L'École des Loisirs), *In Extremis* and *The Party* (Les Cahiers Dessinés) and a children's book soon to be published by Diogenes Verlag and L'École des Loisirs.

Reaction from Paul Lang, Director of the Museums of the City of Strasbourg:

"Not only Alsace and France, but also Europe, have lost both a great artist and a committed humanist. His lucid and benevolent gaze upon the society of his time will help to give the history of illustration its letters of nobility."

Reaction from Thérèse Willer, Curator of Tomi Ungerer Museum – International Centre for Illustration:

"The Strasbourg Museums are in mourning. In Tomi Ungerer we have lost a great artist whose work has marked the art of our time, both in his talent and his humanism. He was the embodiment of freedom."