



## Interview Asaf Hanuka – december 2012



**Brest en bulle:** Where does your passion for drawing come from ? When did you become aware that you wanted to be an illustrator ?

**Asaf Hanuka:** *It's a combination of several factors. I always liked drawing and as a kid I fell in love with american comic books. Together with my brother, illustrator Tomer Hanuka, we copied frames from X-men comics and invented imaginary stories (we couldn't read english). When I become older I realized drawing is the perfect excuse to stay home and be alone in a room, which to this date is my favorite activity. So becoming an illustrator and cartoons was the perfect choice for both my natural creative tendency and my social complex.*

**BeB:** Who or what has inspired you in graphic arts, illustration and comics ?

**A.H:** *Probably wanting to be somewhere else, to get a way from my middle class boring suburb life in Israel in the 80s. Comics were so colorful and dynamic, I just wanted to disappear inside it. And since that wasn't possible, I compromised on creating it.*

**BeB:** How did you become a professional illustrator? What was your training in Lyon like ? How would you define the bonds between you and France ?

**A.H:** *I went to study commercial art in Lyon because I wanted to have what is referred in the art industry as "the french touch". It means the the drawing is correct, it works. and in Emile Cohl art school in Lyon there was a true science of drawing and painting and I had spent great 3 years over there. After graduation I moved to Paris and a year later it was time to go back home, to Israel. I'm a big fan of french bande dessinée, I admire the variety of style and subjects and get a lot of inspiration from reading it.*

**BeB:** What has your greatest satisfaction been up to now, professionally speaking ?

**A.H:** *Every time I get a note from someone that he was moved by the work, or it made him think about something, I feel I did something right.*

**BeB:** What is life like in a city or a country that is at war or at least on a quasi-continuous alert?

**A.H:** *You get used to it. There is a certain urgency to get things done, because you know somewhere deep that you are not going to be around forever. It's harder to make plans*

*unless it's something for a few weeks away. You are always planning a possible escape while faking a normal routine.*

**BeB:** Hanukkah is ending. Does religion hold an important place in your life ? Do you have the same approach of religion as all the Israeli ?

**A.H:** *I celebrate the holidays like most of the people in Israel because its part of the jewish culture and my kid loves the food and the candles. But other than that I don't really go to the synagog or prey. I guess everyone is Israel has a slightly different approach, like everywhere else.*

**BeB:** Finally, what are your plans ? What are you working on at the moment ?

**A.H:** *A 150 pages, full color, graphic novel done in collaboration with my brother Tomer and writer Boaz Lavie. Its called "the divine", to be published in France by Dargaud.*