Local Comics Look at Taiwan

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Local comics look at Taiwan

Two anthologies published by Dala offer different perspectives on Taiwan, showing that homegrown comics are breaking with manga conventions.

By AZHINA ZHENG

In Taiwan’s comic book industry, local talent tends to be overshadowed by not only Japanese manga domination, and comic books are commonly associated with teenage entertainment. Book like Taiwan’s “New Wave” cinema, which introduced elements of realism to the screen, found an international event such as the Angouleme International Comics Festival and the Frankfurt Book Fair. Comic creators are beginning to shift their focus from home to Taiwan under the spotlight. Dala’s star author is Sean Chuang (小莊), who in one book recounts his experience as a film director in Hong Kong’s x (80s, 90s), a collection of anecdotes on work, friendship and watching other countries through the gaze of a Taiwanese tourist.

Chuang’s most recent success in 80s to Island to Island (2015), winner of two Golden Comic prizes in 2014, is a two-volume graphic novel full of nostalgia and memories of urban everyday life in the 1980s, yet still found today. Another lover of local urban landscapes is artist Li Chi-tak (利志達), whose recently released 80s Taipei x 90s Hong Kong (2015) resembles vintage travel books and captures the city from the point of view of a tourist.

Taiwanese tourist.

For Columbus!

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