

Surrealism for the masses

# Cowboy Henk

HERR SEELE &amp; KAMAGURKA

Blond quiff, jutting chin, self-confident grin and completely ignorant of any taboos – that's him, the one and only Cowboy Henk! With their most popular hero, the illustrator Herr Seele and his writer Kamagurka have created a mixture of Mr Clean, Adonis and a hillbilly, entirely in the tradition of the Belgian Surrealists. Cowboy Henk is at times naive, sometimes cunning, often obscene and frequently quite unintentionally violent.

## A monument of humour!

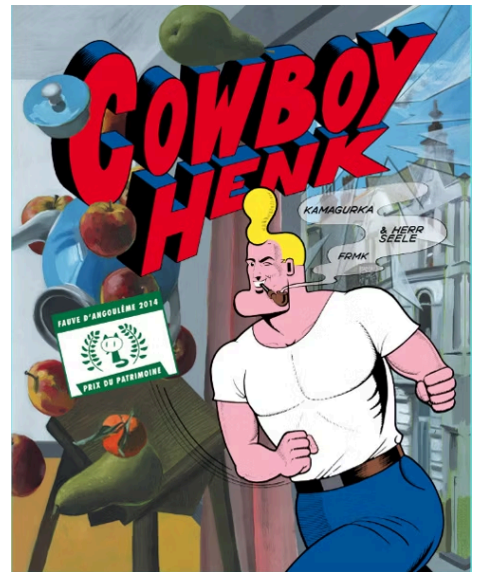
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'Cowboy Henk' was published for the first time on 24 September 1981 and has featured in publications including the newspaper *De Morgen* and the comic magazines *Echo des Savannes* and *Raw Magazine*. Since the beginning, the character has also appeared on a weekly basis in *Humo*, and Kamagurka and Herr Seele still have stories to tell about him. As lovers of nonsense, they have made Cowboy Henk a direct descendant of Belgian Surrealism, with as many references to Dadaism as to the classic American comics.

In 2013, the Belgian French-language publishing house FRMK launched the first of two compilations of 'Cowboy Henk', in which the original pictures were recoloured and a new font was used. This collection finally brought Kamagurka and Herr Seele the recognition they deserve, with the Prix du Patrimoine in Angoulême and an entire series of translations.

## Cowboy Henk, that's Tintin upside down

BEAUX ARTS MAGAZINE



## AUTHORS



As a child, **Herr Seele** (b. 1959) created comic strips, paintings, musical instruments and more. When he was sixteen, he went to study at the art academy in Ghent, but he later found employment as a piano tuner. In 1981, with **Kamagurka** as the writer, he began the absurd, surrealist comic strip *Cowboy Henk*, which is now a legendary cult series. Kamagurka is also famous for his cartoons, which have been published in newspapers all over the world, from *Charlie Hebdo* to *Playboy* and *The New Yorker*. *Photos © Filip Meutermans and Chad Gevaert*

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