

PIONEERING VICTORIAN CARTOONIST MARIE DUVAL REDISCOVERED AFTER 130 YEARS OF OBSCURITY

MARIE DUVAL was a groundbreaking Victorian cartoonist whose work has been largely forgotten—until now. This lavish, beautifully designed book celebrates the wealth and extraordinary diversity of her drawings, most of which depicted a thriving and emerging urban, working-class culture.

What did it mean to be a woman working in the man's world of cartooning? MARIE DUVAL showcases the art and times of Marie Duval (1847–1890) – a unique, pioneering, innovative and highly entertaining visual journalist, cartoonist, illustrator – and stage actress. Duval was uniquely placed to take advantage of the first appearance of a mass leisure culture by contributing to the weekly magazines that combined current affairs and theatrics with a focus on urban life.

The work of Marie Duval confounds one of our most commonplace ideas of the Victorian era—that women were not supposed to create or even to participate in public life and certainly not meant to be either comic or professional. Her comic strips were not only pioneering in terms of what we now call 'comics,' but present a comedy that frequently undercuts and improves upon the work of her male contemporaries.

The book provides an entertaining visual account of the work of Duval as she struggled and succeeded in creating a new urban visual culture. It looks at tourism, day-tripping, fashion, the theatre, art and the 'season.' A key player in the developing world of visual journalism, this illustrated book offers an enticing glimpse of the exciting, strange and world-changing media environment of London in the last part of the nineteenth century.

'MARIE DUVAL is one of the forgotten wonders of 19th century art. Her drawings have something in common with Honoré Daumier, but also look forward almost uncannily to modern comics in their fantastical surreal wit'—**Jonathan Jones**, *The Guardian*.

Note to editors: MARIE DUVAL is one of two books to be published by Myriad in 2018 celebrating women comic artists. Marie Duval also features in THE INKING WOMAN: 250 years of Women Cartoon and Comic Artists in Britain by Nicola Streeten and Cath Tate, which will be published on March 29th.



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JULIAN WAITE

