THE OESTERHELD AWARD IS REBORN
PROMOTING DIALOGUE AND UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN PEOPLES

Lucca Comics & Games renews the historic award born 40 years ago and dedicated to the memory of Héctor Germán Oesterheld, author *of THE ETERNAUT*

Lucca, 24 September 2026: **Exactly forty years after its inception, the "Oesterheld Award for Dialogue and Understanding Among Peoples" returns to mark the 60th anniversary of Lucca Comics & Games.** This award is more significant than ever in a world torn apart by war, intolerance, and oppression. An award that already had a history when, in 1986, the then International Comics Fair posthumously dedicated the award to Héctor Germán Oesterheld, master of the masterpiece ***The Eternaut,*** who disappeared in the mists of Argentina's military dictatorship along with his four daughters and 30,000 other desaparecidos.

Following the exhibition ***"The Eternaut. Beyond Space and Time,"*** dedicated to the unforgettable Argentine cartoonist in 2025, held in the halls of Palazzo Guinigi with an exhibition of more than 100 original panels, **Lucca Comics & Games is now reviving the Oesterheld Award, reimagined in collaboration with Martín Miguel Oesterheld and Laura Bruno,** heirs of the great Argentine cartoonist, and **Emergency,** the event's charity partner.

We wanted to revive the Oesterheld award because some prizes are cherished, rather than awarded. Dedicated to the great master Héctor Germán Oesterheld, author of The Eternaut, swallowed up by the darkness of the Argentine dictatorship along with his four daughters and thirty thousand desaparecidos, we feel this recognition is a living instrument. And this is also why Lucca is Legacy: a legacy that doesn't simply preserve the past, but puts it back into circulation, making it capable of speaking to the present. We revived it together with those who have the right to preserve its meaning—Martín Miguel Oesterheld, Laura Bruno, and Emergency, our charity partner—and we conceived it to be broader than before: not just comics, but all the languages that Lucca Comics & Games represents, because building bridges today has not a single alphabet. For us, telling stories remains the most powerful way we have to stay human for each other," said **Emanuele Vietina, director of Lucca Comics & Games.**

This Award represented the meeting point between comics and human rights and was aimed at authors, publishers, and designers who through the ninth art created bridges to overcome cultural and political divisions. **Today, the Oesterheld Award is aimed at all forms of expression that Lucca Comics & Games represents,** also rewarding those who have distinguished themselves for the creation of "dialogue and understanding between peoples" in the various media it celebrates.

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The award will be decided by a special jury, including Italian maestro **Igort; Martìn Miguel Oesterheld,** heir to the great Héctor; **Simonetta Gola,** communications director for Emergency; Argentine maestro **José Muñoz;** the popular fantasy writer **Licia Troisi ;** and a representative of the Lucca Comics & Games working group. The plaque will be presented during the **Awards Ceremony to be held at the Teatro del Giglio Giacomo Puccini on October 29,** during the festival.

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