

# Manga



# Introduction

- France is the second largest consumer of mangas in the world, after Japan.
- Since 2005, the number of manga publications has been more than the number of classic BD publications.
- Under the overarching title of ‘manga’ can be placed:
  - BDs from Japan, Korea (where they are called ‘manhwas’) and China (where they are called ‘manhuas’)
  - Those that are recognizable from their style of drawing (e.g. big eyes, small noses, exaggerated expressions...)
  - Layout type (few boxes per page, non-rectilinear boxes, irregular layout, action framed and staged over several boxes...)
  - Format of book (dimensions, number of pages, reading direction, in black and white, with frames...)

# History

- In 1990, Glénat brought out *Akira* by Katsuhiro Otomo, followed by the publication of the successful series *Dragon Ball* by Akira Toriyama.
- From 1995, all major publishers owned manga collections.
- From 1996, the French versions of bestselling Japanese manga series from the 1980s and 1990s started to become popular in France, especially since the characters were now known from 1980s television programs :
  - *Nicky Larson* by Tsukasa Hōjō, *Astroboy* by Osamu Tezuka, *Détective Conan* by Gosho Aoyama, *Ken le Survivant* by Tetsuo Hara, *Cardcaptor Sakura* by CLAMP
- In 2000, publishers began to publish more recent series (either in translation or in the original language) :
  - *Hunter × Hunter* by Yoshihiro Togashi, *Shaman King* by Hiroyuki Takei, *One Piece* by Eiichirō Od, *GTO* by Tōru Fujisawa, *Angel Sanctuary* by Kaori Yuki, *Love Hina* by Ken Akamatsu, *Gunnm Last Order* by Kishiro, *Fruits Basket* by Natsuki Takaya, *Naruto* by Masashi Kishimoto, *Bleach* by Tite Kubo...

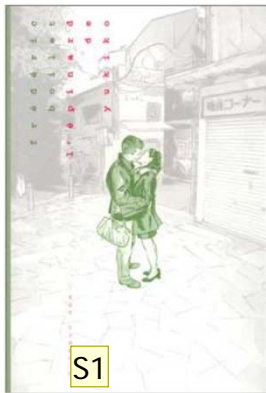
# The growth of the genre

- Manga is a genre which for a long time has not been recognized amongst BD fans. For example, it has been considerably underrepresented at the Angoulême festival:
  - 2003 : *Quartier lointain* by Taniguchi received the prize for the best story
  - 2007 : *Nononba* by Mizuki Shigeru received the prize for the best BD
  - 2015 : *Otomo* was the first Japanese author to receive 'Le Grand Prix'
- Despite this, sales figures and the number of events focused on manga show that there really is a public enthusiasm for the genre:
  - In 2012, 'Japanexpo' (an event dedicated to Japanese culture, started in 2000, that takes place in Villepinte every year) attracted more visitors than the 'Salon du Livre' in Paris.
  - Specialist manga schools have been founded.
  - There have been more and more manga publications by European authors who choose to follow the rules of the Japanese model, dubbed 'Manfra' (variations being 'Franga' and 'Euromanga').



# Manga 'à la française'

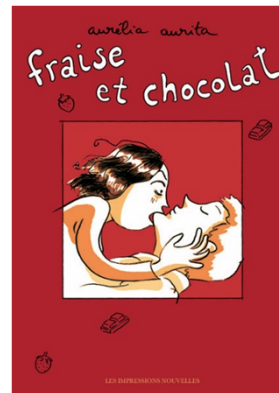
'La nouvelle manga' (new manga): a trend started by Frédéric Boilet in 2001, bringing together French and Japanese BD authors, claiming to be the equivalent of 'New Wave' cinema.



Frédéric Boilet,  
*L'Épinard de Yukiko*,  
Ego Comme X, 2001



Vanyda,  
*L'Immeuble d'en face*,  
La Boîte à bulles,  
2004



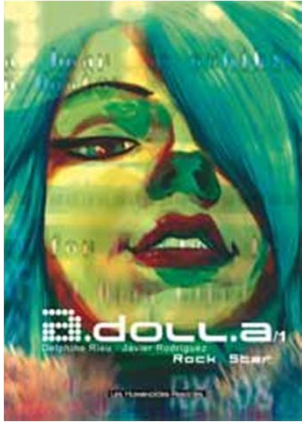
Aurélia Aurita,  
*Fraise et Chocolat*,  
Les Impressions  
Nouvelles, 2006



Emmanuel Guibert,  
*Japonais*,  
Futuropolis, 2008



# More conventional French manga



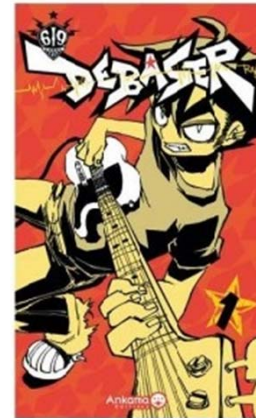
## **A.doll.a** Volume 1, **Rock star**

Delphine Rieu, drawings by Javier Rodriguez  
Publisher: Humanoïdes Associés  
Lolita is a young rock star who rises up against robot stars, the new idols of the young generation.



## **Les Légendaires** Volume 1, **La pierre de Jovénia**

Patrick Sobral  
Publisher: Delcourt  
Darkhell, a dark sorcerer, threatens the world of Alysia but is constantly thwarted by a group of 5 mythical heroes, the Legends.



## **Debaser** Volume 1

Raf  
Publisher: Ankama  
In Paris in 2020, following the election of a scrupulous president, music is used to control the population. Society sinks into superficiality and any deviation from government line is severely punished.



## **Freaks'squeele** Volume 1, **Etrange université**

Florent Maudoux  
Publisher: Ankama  
Set in a world where universities train future masked vigilants to manage their superpowers, develop their heroism and control their image in the media.



**Dreamland**  
Volume 1, **Feu !**

Reno Lemaire  
Publisher: Pika

One night while dreaming of his dead mother, Terrence overcomes his phobia of fire. From this point on, every night he finds himself transported to Dreamland, where he forms a group of friends with which he has many adventures.



**Last Man**  
Volume 1

Bastien Vivès/Michael  
Sanlavill/Balak  
Publisher: Casterman

Young Adrian is happy. After having worked tirelessly at the school of combat, he will finally participate in the grand tournament of martial arts.  
(Received the prize for best series for volume 6 at Angoulême 2015)



**Save me Pythie**  
Volume 1

Elsa Brants  
Publisher: Kana

In Delphi, in ancient times, after refusing the advances of Apollo, Pythia is under a curse: she can only predict disasters and nobody will believe her. She does however meet Xanthe, the hidden son of Zeus...



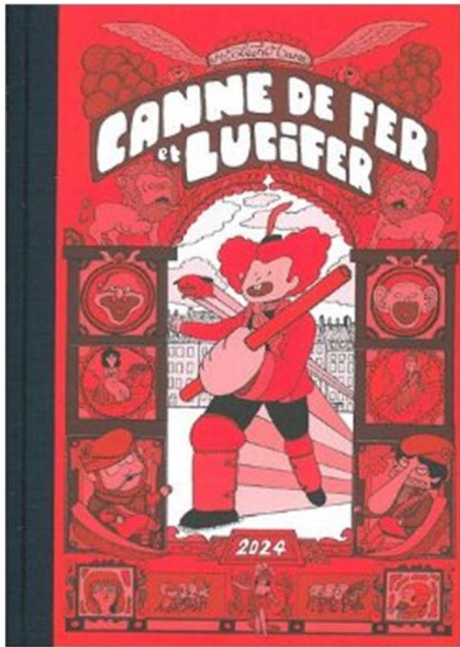
**Hana Attori**  
Volume 1,  
**Irréductibles ninjas**

Tony Valente  
Publisher: Soleil

Young student in the select 'Ninga School', Hana Attori has decided to leave his clan to find and fight the murderer of his father and sister.



# Manga's influence on classic BD authors

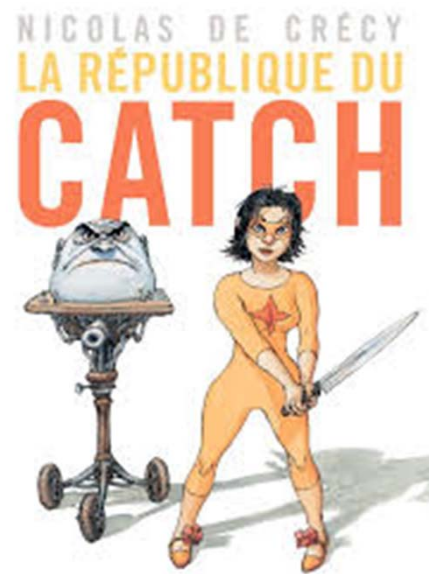


## **Canne de fer et Lucifer**

Léon Maret

Publisher: Editions 2024

A heroic comedy set in the 18th century about a young boy, Gaston Martin, who learns 'la canne de combat', a form of French martial arts. He becomes a skillful 'cannist' and a hero of the French Revolution.



## **La République du catch**

Nicolas de Crécy

Publisher: Casterman

From the urban streets of a sort of New York-upon-Loire, Nicolas de Crécy brings us this wacky detective novel in which a sad, short-sighted piano seller is given the run around by his mafia family.

# Manga publishers in France

- Glénat Manga <http://www.glenatmanga.com/>  
Established 1994. Series : Dragon Ball, Gunm, Akira, Parasite, Berserk, Gunsmith Cats, Evangelion, One Piece (has just entered the Guinness Book of World Records as the most printed BD)
- Kana (Dargaud) <http://www.kana.fr/>  
Established 1996. Series : Astroboy, Naruto, Albator, Detective Conan, Yu-Gi-Go.
- Tonkam <http://www.editions-delcourt.fr/manga/tonkam.html>  
Established 1994. First French publisher to specialize in manga. Taken over by Delcourt in 2014. The first publisher to publish their manga books in the Japanese reading direction (read from back to front). Series : *RG veda* de CLAMP, Ichi the Killer, Vagabond, Angel Sanctuary, Jojo's Bizarre Adventures
- Soleil Manga <http://www.soleilprod.com/manga>  
Established around 2000. Series : Battle Royale
- Sakka (Casterman) [www.sakka.info](http://www.sakka.info)  
Established 2004. Series : Gon, Shin Chan
- Pika [www.pika.fr/](http://www.pika.fr/)  
Established 2000 (part of the Hachette group since 2007). Series : 3×3 Eyes, Ah! My Goddess, Cardcaptor Sakura, Cowboy Bebop, GTO, Sailor Moon
- Kazé Manga [www.manga.kaze.fr/](http://www.manga.kaze.fr/)  
Established 1994, specializes in anime. Series : Les Chroniques de Lodoss, Vampire Hunter D.
- Doki Doki (Bamboo) [www.doki-doki.fr/](http://www.doki-doki.fr/)  
Established 2006
- Ki-oon [www.ki-oon.com/](http://www.ki-oon.com/)  
Established 2004. Series: A silent voice, Animal Kingdom
- Kurokawa [www.kurokawa.fr/](http://www.kurokawa.fr/)  
Established 2005. Series: Fullmetal Alchemist, Saint Seiya
- Taïfu <http://www.taifu-comics.com/>  
Established 2004, specializes in titles for adults.