

A surreal journey through the jungle

Mowgli's Mirror

OLIVIER SCHRAUWEN

In this wordless tale, the young human boy Mowgli lives alone in the jungle. He soon feels lonely and goes in search of a soulmate. When he befriends an orangutan, Mowgli thinks he has found his life's companion. But even after a while, Mowgli is still wondering if there are any other creatures that might look like him. He sets out on a journey through the jungle, encountering all types of creatures and having numerous adventures. Mowgli's quest is full of slapstick humour with bloody violence and elephant droppings, but also contains reflections on philosophical questions like individuality and complementarity.

A fantasmagoria without balloons in which a man sets out on a surreal quest in search of his animality

LE SOIR

Like his earlier books, 'Arsène Schrauwen' and 'The Man who Had His Beard Cut Short', the shorter 'Mowgli's Mirror' is an example of Olivier Schrauwen's mastery. With a very special palette of royal blue and orange the comic book author invites us into Mowgli's jungle and at the same time into his own artistic universe full of surreal mystery and absurd humour. 'Mowgli's Mirror' is an astonishing graphic novel without words. It may be small in size, but it is great in quality.

Although 'Mowgli's Mirror' may seem Lilliputian, it has all the qualities of the best stories from Schrauwers' previous great books.

KNACK



AUTHOR



Olivier Schrauwen (b. 1977) calls himself a tinkerer. Since his award-winning debut *My Boy*, Schrauwen's work has achieved international success, and the author has become something of a phenomenon. He has a highly confident style that teeters between fluid naturalism and graphic abstraction. Schrauwen's comics are consistently surprising, while unraveling a mysterious thread that binds all of his works together. Art Spiegelman (of 'Maus' fame) referred to him as 'the most original cartoonist I've fallen onto since Chris Ware or Ben Katchor'.

ORIGINAL TITLE *Le miroir de Mowgli* (2011, Ouvrir Humoir, 41 pp.)

FORMAT 190 x 220

PRIZES Nominated for the Eisner Award, nominated for Fauve d'Or Angoulême

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TRANSLATION GRANTS Lien Devos - lien.d@flandersliterature.be