

Attacks and talent shows

# Fantomia

DIETER VDO

'Fantomia' consists of two short stories: 'Attack on Bloemhoven' and 'Enchanted Rock'. What links these stories, and Dieter VDO's earlier works, is the protagonist Snow. In the first story, he and his friends come to the aid of an inhabitant of Bloemhoeven village to save him from the evil Professor Bibdus. In 'Enchanted Rock' Snow and his friends attend a rock festival/talent show which spirals badly out of control.

## Looking and occasional loathing for a wide audience

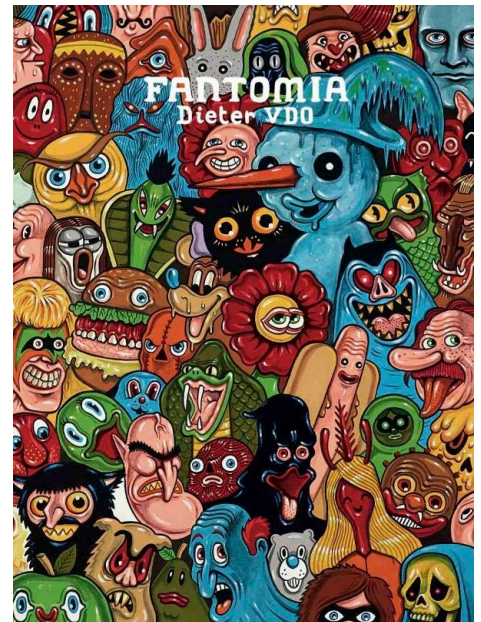
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No, 'Fantomia' doesn't seek to reflect the mundane. The reader is introduced to the so-called 'HoHos' (Hominis Hommages), as well as extravagant illustrations, games, the latest fashion trends among the snow and ice people and other cartoons. At the end there's even an extremely accurate personality test.

'Fantomia' provides hours of viewing pleasure, with lots of silliness, creativity and visual spectacle. Author Dieter VDO first caught the attention with his debut book 'Snow'. With its colourful, eccentric style, his work is brimming with references to cartoon characters and popular culture. Reviewers have compared him to the likes of German artist ATAK, Basil Wolverton and medieval painter Jeroen Bosch.

## Groovy and colourful

DE STANDAARD



## AUTHOR



**Dieter Van der Ougstraete** (b. 1977), alias Dieter VDO, has a colourful style that is quite distinctive and at times reminiscent of ATAK, Basil Wolverton or Jeroen Bosch. He annexes figures from both pop and cartoon culture and fuses them into a new, innovative whole. He also regularly works as a freelance illustrator for newspapers and magazines. © Lieve De Becker

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**TRANSLATION RIGHTS** Ria Schulpen - ria@bries.be

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