

Can poetry save the world?

# Swimming Pool of Imagination

TOM VAN DE VOORDE

You cannot force imagination, and there is no manual for the wings of poetry. Van de Voorde's flying skills deserve a huge audience

DE GROENE AMSTERDAMMER

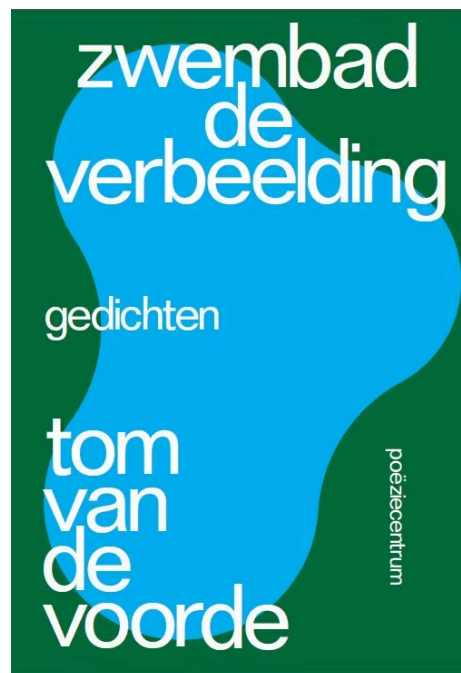
Imagination and vitality go hand in hand in 'Swimming Pool of Imagination'. Tom Van de Voorde's poems are oases filled with fantasies and sketches for a future we can create, a world in which we can laugh carefree in the sun.

'Swimming Pool of Imagination' is Tom Van de Voorde's third collection. The poems explicitly reflect the current political and societal issues. For example, the poet records the fate of boat refugees. But just like everyone else, the narrator is more of a bystander along the quay than a helping hand. He is nothing more than an engaged spectator of 'military fear'. We might heroically resolve to get involved in the world around us, but to what extent do we succeed?

The subtleness of this poetry continues to affect you, even once you have left the swimming pool of imagination

DE STANDAARD

All too often, that commitment falls at the first hurdle, in the comfort of familiar surroundings, and the laziness these breed. For Van de Voorde, this idea is the language that rhythmically and musically informs the beautiful aesthetics of this collection. His worldview will not be unfamiliar: even those that do not want to test how poems can change the world sometimes have trouble turning words into actions.



## AUTHOR



**Tom Van de Voorde** (b. 1974) is a poet, essayist and translator of American poetry into Dutch. In 2008, he published his first book of poetry, a collection of "contemporary landscape" pieces. The book was nominated for the C. Buddingh Prize for best poetry debut. In 2013 'Liefde en aarde', isolating microscopic stills of political and economic issues, was nominated for the Herman de Coninck Prize and awarded with the tri-annual poetry prize of East-Flanders.

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