

FICTION

Individual seeks community in razor-sharp poetic prose

International Bakery (Formerly Cinema Royale)

DAVID NOLENS

A writer in Antwerp walks from his study to the Cinema Royale. There, he discovers that the former adult cinema is now an 'international bakery', where people from dozens of different countries bake bread. The bakery appears to be a place where freedom and civil rights prevail. The whole world comes together here. The white author enters into a dialogue with himself and with the bakers, who form a fictitious community of the displaced.

Uncomfortable conclusions alternate with vivid images

HET PAROOL

'International bakery' celebrates the music of language, in a new genre that connects narrativity and musicality: a poetic novella or perhaps a poetic polemic, given that 'International bakery' is also a distinctly political and contemporary pamphlet, an attack on our individualistic society. The writer examines his own attitude towards solidarity and individualism and plays with prejudices and clichés. The result is a resounding indictment of the city council, which puts profit over community and shows an aversion to newcomers. At the same time, the text is an ode to the ever-changing urban landscape. It is the poetic and multi-layered quest of an individual who seeks to connect with the fluctuating forms of community in a city.

A master of suggestion

TZUM

INTER
NATIONAL
BAKERY
(*Voorheen*
CINEMA
ROYALE)
DAVID
NOLENS



AUTHOR



David Nolens (b. 1973) sees writing literature as an opportunity to think 'in all sorts of directions'. His is a refreshing, unique literary voice that charts its own course and sets out on an informed quest. He demands an effort from his readers, but in return they receive a fascinating, entertaining and self-aware narrative. Nolens deploys an obsessive, sometimes repetitive style. His themes include the relationships between people, their search for an authentic life and the unmasking of a society founded on illusions. Photo © Michiel Hendryckx

ORIGINAL TITLE International bakery (Voorheen Cinema Royale) (2018, De Bezige Bij, 95 pp.)

TRANSLATION RIGHTS Marijke Nagtegaal - m.nagtegaal@debezigebij.nl, Uta Matten - u.matten@debezigebij.nl

TRANSLATION GRANTS Marieke Roels - marieke@flandersliterature.be, Elise Vanoosthuysen - elise@flandersliterature.be, Patrick Peeters - patrick@flandersliterature.be