

# A cultural history of Venice

# The Sound of the City

ERIC MIN & GERRIT VALCKENAERS

Venice, once so politically and economically powerful, is a city of water and gondolas that is gradually sinking into the sea, a place that plays by its own rules and celebrates both the mind and the body. No stop-off city this, but a terminus where you stay for a while. In fact Venice doesn't even need to exist in order to enchant. Anyone casually mentioning its name knows the effect it will have on our imaginations: the sound of the word is sufficient to evoke desires and expectations.

At the same time the labyrinth in the lagoon is a living memory of more than five centuries, packed to the rafters with cultural history. Painters, writers and musicians have given the best of themselves in the city of the doges, despite the sometimes predictable decor within which their ventures played themselves out. Walking a fine line between heritage and cliché, this book is intended as a tribute to the artists who have captured the sounds and colours of Venice in their work.

**A beautifully published homage to all the adventurers and artists who have given this city its riches and glory.**

HET NIEUWSBLAD

The authors have not laid down a specific route, but their story begins in the city centre. All the threads they have followed through the maze across four centuries come together on Saint Mark's Square. From there the sound reverberates out across the city, from Monteverdi's psalms to the verses of Brodsky, from the futurist clamour of the streets to the soundscapes of modernity.

**A book of international importance.**

DE STANDAARD



## AUTHORS



**Eric Min** (b. 1959) graduated in literature and philosophy and published his work in a number of literary magazines. Since 1989 he has worked as a critic and essayist for an important Flemish newspaper, reporting on photography, art and literature. He has written essays for overview works by various artists and photographers, and curated an exhibition on Belgian surrealism. He published a biography of fauvist artist Rik Wouters and of Henri Evenepoel. **Gerrit Valckenaers** (b. 1960) studied musicology at KU Leuven. He is a musician, a radio producer for Klara, the national station for classical music, and a teacher of music history. He regularly composes for the theatre and for dance.

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**TRANSLATION RIGHTS** Julie Verhaert - julie.verhaert@pelckmansuitgevers.be

**TRANSLATION GRANTS** Patrick Peeters - patrick@flandersliterature.be