

GRAPHIC NOVELS

Poe in ninety-nine etchings

Maelstrom

CÉLINE HUDRÉAUX

With her debut 'Maelstrom', Céline Hudréaux brings us a fascinating wordless adaptation of Edgar Allan Poe's well-known short story 'A Descent Into the Maelström'. In it, a fisherman recounts how he was the sole survivor after his boat was swallowed up by the Maelstrom, an infamous vortex south of the Lofoten Islands. Hudréaux has gone for a free interpretation in ninety-nine etchings, in which the women of the fishing village and life underwater also receive plenty of attention. By doing so she swaps the sense of oppression in the original for a broader, more atmospheric depiction and makes the story part of something bigger than the Maelstrom.

Gorgeous horror

DE STANDAARD

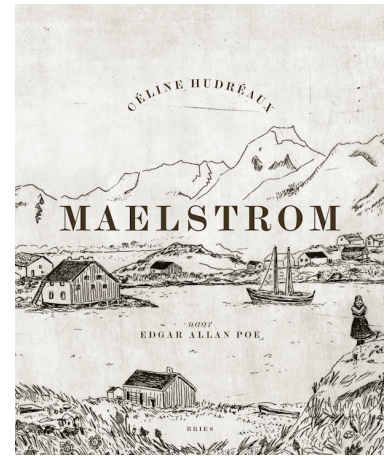
The etchings, which are sometimes highly detailed and sometimes no more than a few simple lines, allude to the early years of photography and the films of George Méliès, among other things. Because Poe's text is included at the back of the book, there's an interesting dialogue as readers first create their own narrative based on the etchings before reading the short story and returning to the images with the original in mind. 'Maelstrom' is an intriguing and beautiful graphic novel.

Breathtaking and stylistically stripped down

METRO

The way she manages to evoke a very distinctive world in her etchings is impressive and attests to her rich imagination.

ENOLA



AUTHOR



Céline Hudréaux (b. 1979) grew up in the South of France. She studied Fine Art at La Villa Arson in Nice and Painting at LUCA School of Arts in Ghent. Etchings are her primary medium. Recurring themes in her work include the relationship between man and nature and the fine line between life and death. *Photo © Marc De Clercq*

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