

Superb retelling by two masters of their craft

Oh Pinocchio

CARLL CNEUT & IMME DROS

Carlo Collodi's wooden puppet continues to inspire authors and illustrators all over the world. With 'Oh Pinocchio', Carll Cneut and Imme Dros add a remarkable retelling to that tradition. In the book Dros works magic with her pen and Cneut with his paintbrush.

Dros steps back a little from the original text, but the story retains its essence. She has dared to add sharp dialogue and to cut a number of characters and passages, making this version more dynamic than the original.

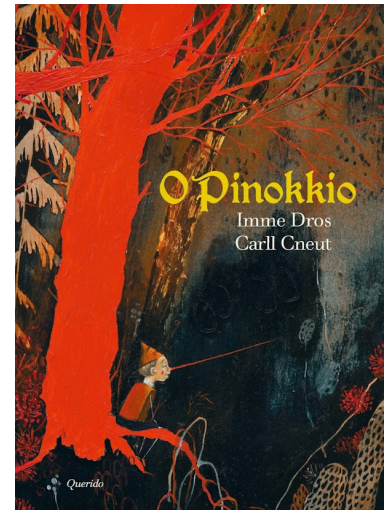
An unusual but magnificent retelling

DE MORGEN

What is scrapped in the text is depicted by Cneut. He too adapts the story at will in his own unique style. With beautiful compositions in a restricted but rich palette of red, blue, black and white, he creates an enchanting world with a nocturnal atmosphere in which trees, plants and formidable animal characters play a prominent part. The full-page illustrations, developed by means of a layered acrylic technique, form a striking contrast to the scattered little black-and-white drawings, which are sketchier and more expressive. One time we see the detail of people's faces, whereas on other pages they are depicted in a few strokes of the pen. There's the same contrast in Pinocchio himself: a little figure with an expressive face but with arms and legs that are no more than sticks. Not until right at the end is he given real hands. In 'Oh Pinocchio', Cneut and Dros bring the 140-year-old wooden puppet back to life in a way that is truly impressive.

Dros and Cneut add a wonderful chapter to the Pinocchio tradition.

DE STANDAARD



AUTHORS



Carll Cneut (b. 1969) has been one of Flanders' leading illustrators for years. His illustrations are works of art, each and every one, appealing to the reader's imagination and creativity. He builds up the colours in layers, with a thin brush, which makes them look warm and weathered. Tradition and innovation are intertwined in his universal world, which appeals to young and old. It is barely possible to keep up with the awards and accolades that Cneut has scooped. His books have been sold in more than 35 countries. *Photo © Niccolò Caranti* **Imme Dros** (b. 1936) is a much read and multiple-award-winning Dutch children's author, translator, scriptwriter and librettist. With her retellings she makes fairy tales and well-known stories from classical antiquity accessible to everyone. In 2003 she was awarded the Theo Thijssen Prize for her oeuvre as a whole. She is famous for her simple, clear style, her compositional skill, and the way she handles the dialogues and monologues in her stories. *Photo © Harrie Geelen*

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