CHILDREN'S AND YOUTH LITERATURE

The alphabet as you've never seen it before

The Beauty of Letters

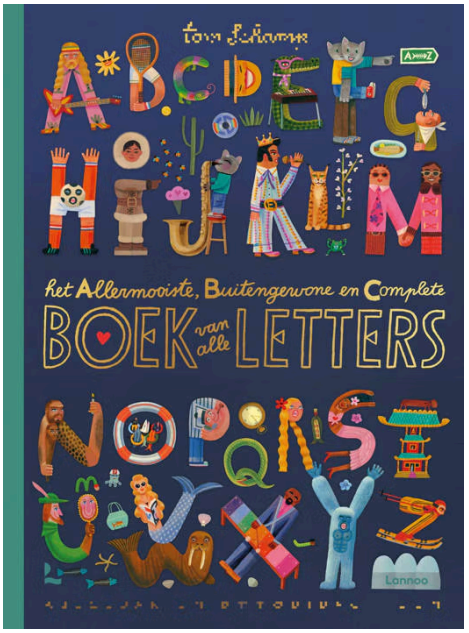
TOM SCHAMP

Tom Schamp takes readers with him to a Letterland that's far more than just an ABC. Along with Otto the cat and Letterman (adults will recognize American TV presenter David Letterman), he leads us through the alphabet in colourful pages that guarantee hours of viewing pleasure. Every letter is given a double-page spread, filled with small pictures, bits of text and word games. Schamp loves to take inspiration from current events and popular culture. In between the main spreads are several pages on which children are encouraged to search through the book for the alphabet of animals, treats, sports, musicians, art or buildings.

> Colourful pages you can look at endlessly, full of jokes and visual effects. ****
>
> DE STANDAARD

In contrast to most ABC books, Schamp doesn't start from the first letter of a word but looks at the shape of a letter and elaborates from there. The Eiffel Tower, for example, forms the basis for the letter A, but later comes back transformed into the letter P (for Paris) and even the letter Y. The words pictured don't necessarily start with the letter in question, which might appear further along. This ode to the building blocks of our language provides lots of fun for everyone, including those who have already conquered the art of reading. Both children and adults will keep on discovering something new in the rich and detailed illustrations. Schamp is unbeatable at capturing the visual beauty of letters.

> An ode to the beauty and limitless possibilities of images and language!
>
> BOEKWIJZER



AUTHOR

Tom Schamp (b. 1970) has developed a style all of his own, using acrylic paint on cardboard. His work is very colourful and his pages are often crammed full of people, animals and vehicles, offering the reader many hours of fun as they try to spot all of the details. He rarely uses pastel colours and prefers dark and rich shades. Schamp's illustrations are full of absurdities, allusions and wordplay, which makes them a feast for the eyes. Photo © Eric Lowie

ORIGINAL TITLE Het Allermooiste, Buitengewone en Complete boek van alle letters (2024, Lannoo, 72 pp.)

FORMAT 380 mm x 280 mm

AGE 5+

RIGHTS SOLD English (Prestel), French (Albin Michel), Spanish (DK), Italian (Franco Cosimo Panini)

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