

Our world as seen through the eyes of bees

The Dance of the Bees

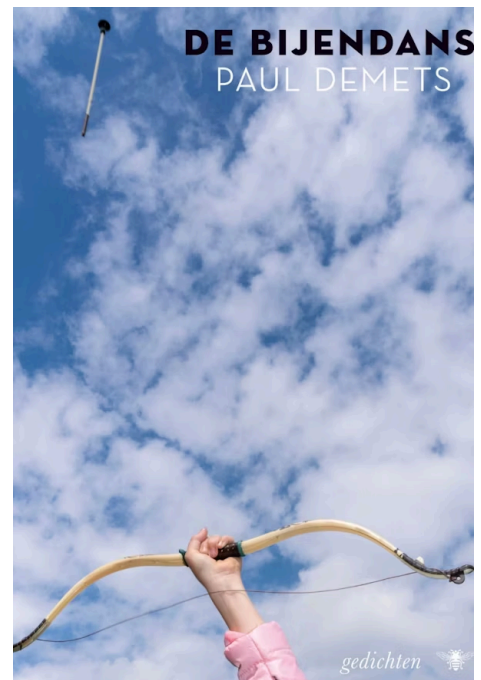
PAUL DEMETS

The Flemish poet and critic Paul Demets is known for his rich imagery and sharp reflections on contemporary society. Following 'The Clover Knot' (2018), for which he was awarded the Jan Campert prize in 2019, and 'The Hare Distress Call' (2020), Demets explores familiar subjects in 'The Dance of the Bees' without being repetitive.

This collection revisits the complex relationship between nature and humanity, as well as themes of identity, the climate crisis, alienation, consumerism, and polarisation. Here, the world of the bees serves as a lens through which the poet's concerns take shape: like bees, we swarm, seek leadership and deplete our valuable resources.

Alongside metaphors, Demets incorporates direct references to right-wing politics and capitalist figures like Jeff Bezos to highlight the intersection of power, economy, and ecology, grounding the collection in our contemporary reality.

'The Dance of the Bees' is a highly relevant collection and offers a reading experience that unfolds gradually, revealing new connections and meanings with each return to the text.



AUTHOR



Paul Demets (b. 1966) teaches at the Royal Academy for Fine Arts and the University of Ghent. He has also worked as a poetry critic for De Morgen, Cobra.be (VRT), Poëziekrant, Awater and De Lage Landen. Currently, he writes reviews for De Standaard. He is also working on a biography of the poet Paul Snoek and a collection of poems for younger readers. His most recent poetry collection, 'The Shame Species', was awarded the Great Poetry Prize in 2025. Photo © Stephan Vanfleteren

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