

Wordless portrait of the prehistoric human

PRHSTR

SÉBASTIEN CONARD

Whereas in most stories the central character is a carefully constructed individual, in the wordless 'PRHSTR' Sébastien Conard places a faceless group of people from prehistory at centre stage. This brave move creates a very different kind of reading experience, yet this is no detached narrative. Although people are not depicted as individuals, their emotions can be clearly felt: despair at the sudden loss of one of them, passion for hunting, enthusiasm in talking about the hunt in the evening, around the fire.

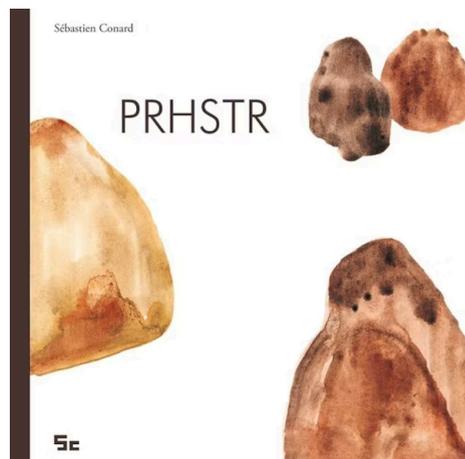
At once original, playful and artistic

DE POORT

With aquarelle in earthy shades and pencil, the design vocabulary in 'PRHSTR' comes close to that of the prehistoric drawings found in caves – a form of art also depicted by Conard. He has his group of people experience the great changes of their time: meetings with other population groups introduce them to fishing and livestock farming but can also lead to violent conflict. This apparently abstract book is colourful, poetic and from time to time downright moving.

In wordless, masterfully drawn scenes, Conard shines his light on the discovery of fire, religion, art, language and more. A beautiful picture book

9E KUNST



AUTHOR



Sébastien Conard (b. 1982) is an author, artist, researcher and lecturer. He has a PhD in the arts and regularly publishes in literary and comics magazines. His artwork is on the threshold between graphic storytelling and artist's books, and often tends towards the experimental or abstract. In his work he seeks out the boundaries between word and image, memory and imagination.

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