

Unfashionable thoughts on fashion

Perfectly Tailored

DIRK LAUWAERT

'Reading Lauwaert is an event, not in the dreadful sense given to the term by the entertainment industry but in the way Lauwaert himself defines the concept (in his essay about philosopher Gilles Deleuze): "That which could be anticipated by no one and astonishes everyone." Lauwaert's essays are indeed disconcerting in their stylistic virtuosity, the heterogeneity of their topics and the defiant argumentative power at work in them.' So begins Koen Brams his foreword to *Unrest*, a collection of essays on the philosophy of art and culture and the intellectual projects of Roland Barthes and Gilles Deleuze.

In Lauwaert's hands the essay has found an innovator

KOEN BRAMS

'Perfectly Tailored' is a collection of Dirk Lauwaert's most important writings about fashion, clothing and film costumes. He writes just as brilliantly about the hilarious aspects of a pattern as about the impudence of Helmut Newton, or about the ethereal Audrey Hepburn in a Givenchy twopiece.

Dirk Lauwaert was a continual observer who thought and wrote about what he saw, never stripping an experience of the emotion that accompanied it, yet always contemplating his experiences from within a firm conceptual framework.



AUTHOR



Dirk Lauwaert (1934-2013) wrote on subjects including film, photography, visual art and fashion. For many years he taught the theory and history of photography at the Sint-Lukas School of Arts and sociology of culture at the RITS. Uncompromising, never pulling his punches and defiant of all conventions, he carved his own path as a writer. He was known as someone with a unique way of thinking and a distinct vision of art and culture. Art was to him bound up with the spirit of the times.

ORIGINAL TITLE De geknippede stof. Schrijven over mode (2014, Lannoo, 264 pp.)

TRANSLATION RIGHTS Liesbeth De Bruyne - liesbeth.debruyne@lannoo.be

TRANSLATION GRANTS Patrick Peeters - patrick@flandersliterature.be