

The comforts of looking

Raptures

BERNARD DEWULF

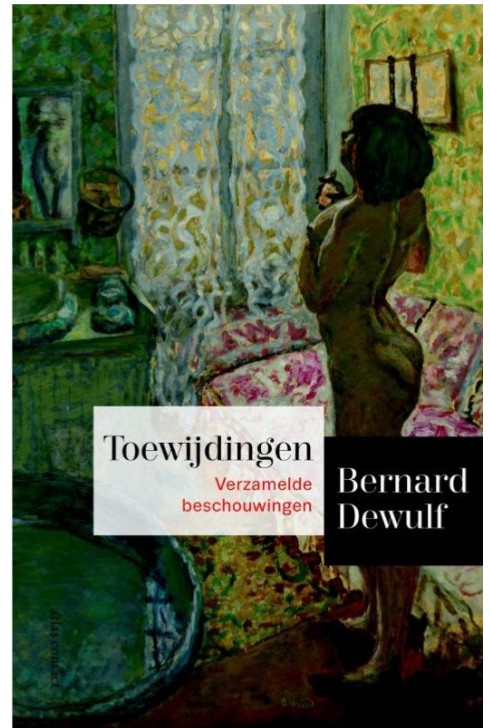
Bernard Dewulf has written countless essays, contemplative pieces and columns over recent years that together give an impression of what the discovery of beauty can do to a human life. His penetrating gaze is inquiring, erotic, analytical and sympathetic, and it always contains an element of surprise.

‘Raptures’ is a comprehensive collection of published pieces by this talented observer. He aims to describe in an accessible way the enchantment he feels when looking at paintings, drawings and photographs, whether by contemporaries or old masters, or indeed at the ever-changing fortunes of his family environment. He tries again and again to put into words the enticement we sometimes feel when we look at things. ‘Seeing is the story; looking is the writing.’

With Dewulf, profundity is right on the surface. For anyone taking the trouble to look closely, it is deep enough.

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Bernard Dewulf ‘sees’ only at the point when he finds the right words. He focuses on the surroundings of the image, where the curiosity and prudishness of the viewer, the dynamics of distance and intimacy all do their work. These personal contemplations often verge upon poetry. Dewulf has for many years been a poet with a sharp eye, intense and full of empathy.



AUTHOR



Bernard Dewulf (b. 1960) is a poet, playwright and essayist. He worked as an editor at the literary magazine *Nieuw Wereld-tijdschrift* and later as a columnist for daily newspaper *De Morgen*. Since 2010 he has been working as a dramatist at NTGent and since 2012 as a columnist for the weekend magazine of the newspaper *De Standaard*. He excels at columns about commonplace things that thrust themselves into his field of vision, his thoughts and his pen. He was city poet of Antwerp 2012–2013 and his work has won him a number of prestigious prizes.

ORIGINAL TITLE *Toewijdingen. Verzamelde beschouwingen* (2014, Atlas Contact, 560 pp.)

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TRANSLATION GRANTS Patrick Peeters - patrick@flandersliterature.be