

Fantasy and nostalgia

My Favourite Dictionary of Toys

PIETER GAUDESABOOS

With 'My Favourite Dictionary of Toys', young children can learn their first words: 'dog', 'boat' and 'pear', but also 'speed merchant' and 'smitten'. But to be clear, this splendid picture book by Pieter Gaudesaboos has much more going for it than just simple pictures illustrating words. An aficionado of old toys, Gaudesaboos spent many hours in the Toy Museum doing research, and this is more than clear: each print shows a toy, often recognisable to the adult reader. Fisher Price, Playmobil, Lego, Ministeck – they're all given a loving place.

A nostalgic journey through time by means of beautiful pictures

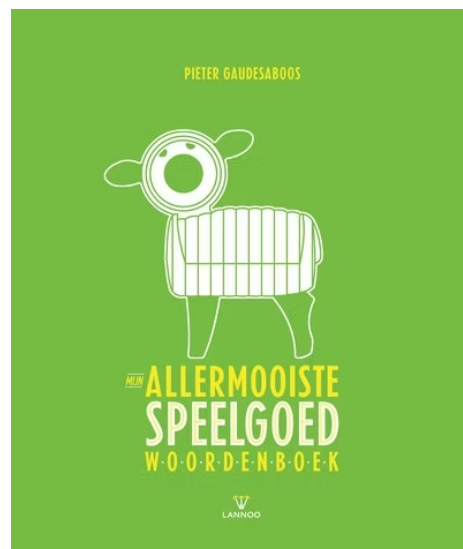
DE MORGEN

Sometimes the correlation between word and image is abundantly obvious, but occasionally the reader has to look beyond his own nose: the polar bear in question might be hidden among a host of farm animals, or a little imagination might be required to see the doll on the toy horse as a brother. With his typical style – a mix of collage, drawings and graphic work – Gaudesaboos creates a colourful book yet without excess, because he limits himself to depicting only a single word per page.

Based on this book, four smaller-format board books divided by theme were also made: 'Animals', 'Colours', 'Counting' and 'Transport'.

Full of play, imagination and fantasy

DE LEESWELP



AUTHOR



Pieter Gaudesaboos (b. 1979) is an illustrator, designer and author. His work is playful and original, with absurd and nostalgic touches. Gaudesaboos integrates text and images to create a whole, which is often packed with humour. He works with digital techniques, and yet his work still has a nostalgic atmosphere, because of his love of old picture books and toys from the 1950s and 60s. His books are a little like the stories that children make up when they're playing. Brilliant child's play – that's how his imaginative work could be described. Photo © Eveliene Deraedt

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