

Life and work of the greatest
twentieth-century Belgian artist

Magritte's Apple

KLAAS VERPLANCKE

In this surreal picture book Klaas Verplancke introduces René Magritte as a painter short of subjects. The illustrations show the painter literally lying awake surrounded by walls covered in empty frames. Magritte is not interested in the depiction of reality; it makes him literally fall asleep. What he fails to do during the day manifests itself in his dreams: he projects himself onto the canvas as he shapes his world-famous apple.

Absurdity at its best

KIRKUS

Then Verplancke demonstrates how our everyday reality is distorted; existing figures and objects are given a new content, and merge into new creations. Magritte's evolution into a world-renowned painter emerges almost unconsciously. Again we find ourselves in Magritte's bedroom: this time the painter is surrounded by countless creations of his own. Canvases and frames give access via painted doors and windows to a reality beyond our reality.

'Magritte's Apple' is a successful introduction to the richly nuanced oeuvre of the Belgian artist, which at the same time invites one to explore further. Verplancke shows himself a born surrealist.

The essence of surrealism has rarely been summarized this concisely as well as convincingly.

KULTUR-TIPP



AUTHOR



Klaas Verplancke's (b. 1964) oeuvre is very diverse, but always features a sense of humour that ranges from gentle to sardonic, a poetic imagination, a preference for the depiction of abstract concepts and universal emotions, and a quirky, surrealist view of the world.

ORIGINAL TITLE De appel van Magritte (2016, MoMA, 40 pp.)

FORMAT 310 x 240

AGE 5+

PRIZES White Raven

RIGHTS SOLD English (Thames & Hudson, UK), English (MoMA, US), French (Centre Pompidou), German (Diogenes), Korean (Random House Korea), Spanish (Grupo SM), Italian (Fatatracc), Japanese (Kodansha), Simplified Chinese (Random House Korea), Complex Chinese (Random House Korea), Turkish (Marsik), Greek (Melissa)

TRANSLATION RIGHTS Hannah Kim - hannah_kim@moma.org

TRANSLATION GRANTS Elise Vanoosthuysse - elise@flandersliterature.be