

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, Lannoo, 40 pp.)

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AGE 5+

PRIZES White Raven

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