

All together and still alone

Wolves

WARD ZWART & ENZO SMITS

A fictional village amidst the woods, maybe somewhere in America, with a lot of past glory: that is Hazenberg, the setting for 'Wolves'. The book kicks off with a gallery of portraits and scenes that immerse the reader in the right atmosphere, as if they were the opening credits of a TV series. Houses seem neglected and untidy; young people look as if they do not feel completely at home in their own skin. And that turns out to be true.

By occasionally colouring outside the lines, Ward Zwart and Enzo Smits evoke the atmosphere of endless boredom in which teenagers sometimes find themselves.

The poetry of triviality

CUTTING EDGE

One hot summer, a group of teenagers go into the forest in search of a strange creature, but they find something else, something unexpected. A loner is persuaded by a friend to go to a party, but he really should have stayed away. A young skater has a head injury that makes him lose his grip on reality. In an unconscious state, he has visions of himself with film legend James Dean.

Ward Zwart creates fabulous things with a pencil. His dreamy and accurate drawings of joyless details and gloomy faces create a slightly nostalgic universe. The design of the book, printed on very thin paper and with a lot of extras, fits perfectly with the subject and with the artist's fascination with pulp and counterculture.

As a physical object one of the most surprising comic books of the last few years

KNACK



AUTHORS



Ward Zwart (1985-2020) was a successful illustrator for newspapers and magazines at home and abroad for quite some time, but always on the small press circuit. He was a master of creating a melancholic atmosphere, which is both dark and funny at the same time. Zwart infused his work with plenty of humour and saw the beauty in small things. *Photo © Ward Zwart* Enzo Smits (b. 1988) is a director and script writer. He is deeply rooted in skate culture and draws inspiration from hanging around and doing nothing: 'when you start from nothing, there's a lot of potential.' At first sight, his dialogues seem to be about nothing, yet he manages to create a story out of a series of non-moments.

ORIGINAL TITLE Wovlen (2016, Bries, 204 pp. + insert 20 pp.)

FORMAT 215 x 240

RIGHTS SOLD French (Même Pas Mal)

TRANSLATION RIGHTS Ria Schulpen - ria@bries.be

TRANSLATION GRANTS Lien Devos - lien.d@flandersliterature.be