

A fascinating journey into poetry

The Trip to Inframundo

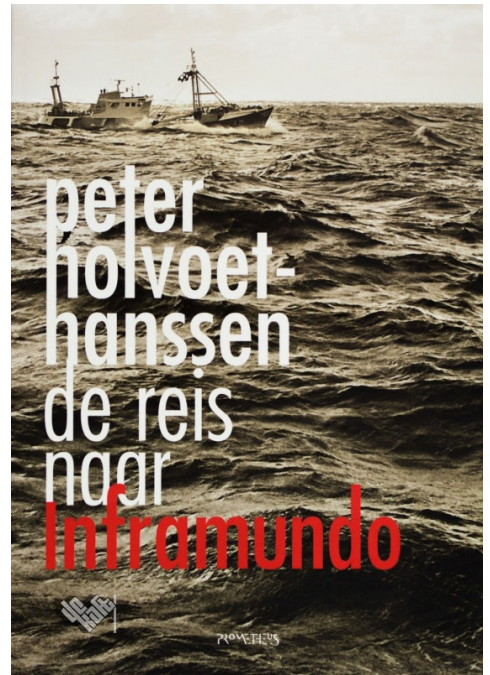
PETER HOLVOET-HANSEN

Peter Holvoet-Hanssen's trilogy 'Houdini's Straitjacket' (1998), 'Strombolicchio' (1999) and 'Santander' (2001) were a fresh wind blowing across the Flemish poetic landscape. Emulating Houdini, he stretched boundaries and wriggled out of manacles, all while alluding to the accepted constraints of the poetic form. Peter Holvoet-Hanssen calls himself an ambassador of the 'active ingredient', and he is never afraid of bringing together all life's extremes in his adventurous poetry. He combines highbrow with lowbrow, the inaccessible with the accessible, humour with emotion, daily routine with insanity. The theatrical and the musical are characteristic of his work, and he is much in demand as a performer at literary events as a result. The diptych 'Spinalonga' (2005) and 'Navagio' (2008) make a journey into poetry complete.

The wizard of love and downfall

KNACK

In 'The Trip to Inframundo' (2011) Peter Holvoet-Hanssen presents a challenging selection of poems taken from these five collections, and by altering the original chronology and combining poems in new ways he constructs a completely fresh collection in which he follows trails that emerge before fading away. This book will be the starting point of a new journey into poetry.



AUTHOR



Peter Holvoet-Hanssen (b. 1960) worked as a dolphin keeper before making his debut in 1998 with a collection of poems entitled 'Houdini's Straitjacket', which was awarded the important Flemish Debut Prize. He is the author of an anti-novel, 'The Flying Monk'. From 2010 to 2012, he was the City Poet of Antwerp, a function to which he gave a new shape. Recently, he published his second novel, 'Salt Scratcher Expeditions', and together with Koen Peeters, Koen Broucke and Pascal Verbeken, 'Miavoye. A pilgrimage to Paul van Ostajen', in which they retrace the last days of the famous poet. *Photo © Koen Broos*

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PRIZES Debut Prize, Dirk Martens Prize, Flemish State Prize for Poetry, Paul Snoek Prize, Arkprijs van het Vrije Woord

TRANSLATION RIGHTS Marisca van der Mark - foreignrights@pbo.nl

TRANSLATION GRANTS Patrick Peeters - patrick@flandersliterature.be