

## POETRY

### Melancholy and resistance

# To a New Sealand

PETER THEUNYNCK

Peter Theunynck's body houses twin souls: a virtuoso aesthete and a contrary troublemaker; a mild melancholic and a snappy hero of the resistance; a whistling nature-lover and a protesting city-dweller. This division does not lead to poetic conflict but to a Theunynckian mixture of sensitivity and obstinacy.

The volume 'Pan American Airlines & Co' got Peter Theunynck off to a flying start. A focus on flight in all its permutations binds the cycles together into a consistently constructed whole. The collection was very well received and was nominated for the C. Buddingh' prize for best debut. In Theunynck's work, in fact, everything takes flight: words, verses, stanzas, cycles and collections, all apparently as light as feather, surround man, nature, art and society.

### Strong, penetrating and virtuoso poetry

ANNEMARIE MUSCCHOOT

One of the dead poets churning in Theunynck's bowels is the sensitive-symbolist poet Karel van de Woestijne, to whom Peter Theunynck devoted a biography. Rage, loss and longing also are the pillars of the ornate poems in 'To a New Sealand', a language expedition full of love poems and satirical verses, rhythmic songs and lyrics on nature.



## AUTHOR



**Peter Theunynck** (1960) is a freelance text writer, biographer of Karel Van de Woestijne and poet. Wholly convinced of the relativity of poetry, he set off to discover the outside world. For example, in 'Exceptional Present', together with photographer Norbert Maes, he investigates the interior lives of disabled people. And, as chairperson of the Green Belt Front and spokesperson of the Lappersfort Poets Society, Theunynck mobilises poetry against the continuing damage to the planet and gives voice to those neglected in 'the land of civilian kings'.

**ORIGINAL TITLE** Naar een nieuw zeeland (2010, Wereldbibliotheek, 58 pp.)

**PRIZES** Guido Gezelle Prize, Gerard Michiels Poetry Prize

**TRANSLATION RIGHTS** Wereldbibliotheek - info@wereldbibliotheek.nl

**TRANSLATION GRANTS** Patrick Peeters - patrick@flandersliterature.be