



PRESS RELEASE
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FLEMISH MINISTER FOR CULTURE, MEDIA, YOUTH AND BRUSSELS AFFAIRS
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Carll Cneut wins Flemish Culture Award for Literature 2014

Today, Flemish Minister for Culture Sven Gatz presented author and illustrator Carll Cneut with the Flemish Culture Award for Literature 2014 during the Eilandfestival in Antwerp. According to the jury the illustrator's mastery is showcased in his exceptional, personal poetic narrative 'De gouden kooi' (The Golden Cage).

The jury describes Carll Cneut as an inspired artist who has created a wonderful oeuvre. He has pushed the boundaries of Flemish illustration art and occupies an important position in Flemish youth literature. Cneut's work has a special appeal and impact, even far beyond Flanders. Each book tells a well-balanced story in pictures, which convincingly expresses characters, emotions and meanings across and throughout the written story. The oeuvre of Carll Cneut is the epitome of imaginary art in every meaning of the word. It eliminates the distinction between text and illustration in an ingenious way.

The jury refers to The Golden Cage as a balanced, dynamic and technically perfect composition. Cneut tells a story of emotions and motives, using movements, colours and density. His unfinished plates, childlike drawings and chaotic painting style make feelings of powerlessness and longing real and allow room for personal interpretation. For the jury, the exhibition 'In My Head' perfectly illustrates Cneut's carefully developed oeuvre, consisting of uncompleted pictures and empty spaces. They constantly invite readers to take part in the story and complete it. By making drawings at the exhibition, Cneut brought his art closer to the public and created a unique experience.

Flemish Minister for Culture Sven Gatz said: "Carll Cneut creates a world of its own with his illustrations. His compositions suggest the existence of another living universe beyond the type page. He always knows how to tickle the reader's imagination. His work is greatly enjoyed, even internationally. He is a most deserved winner."

The Eilandfestival

The Eilandfestival - an initiative of Behoud de Begeerte, FelixPakhuis and Zanzibar - takes place on Sunday 20 September 2015 in different locations around the Willemdok in Antwerp. The main focus will be on literature and music, but also on the good life.

More information is available at: www.eilandfestival.be

Culture Awards Flanders 2014

On the proposal of a jury of experts the Flemish Minister for Culture pays tribute to individuals or an organisation that in the course of the past year made a notable contribution to cultural life in Flanders. The Culture Awards Flanders create public awareness of the laureate at a major event in the sector, which generates attention and appreciation for both the sector and the winner. A cash prize of €12,500 is connected to the Culture Award. The Government of Flanders sets aside €20,000 for the Flemish Community Award for General Cultural Achievement. Each laureate also receives the bronze statuette 'La ultima isla' by Philip Aguirre.

For more information is available at www.cultuurprijzen.be