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Belgicum

Stephan Vanfleteren

Text by David van Reybrouck

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- International bestseller, one of Belgium's most important photographers, Stephan Vanfleteren

"***Belgicum*** is brilliant. It's an epitaph for a country that disappeared before Vanfleteren's eyes, like a sand castle in the breaking waves." – Eric Min in *De Morgen*

Belgicum is a photo project about Belgium. It is not an objective representation of a country but rather a subjective photographical document in black and white. It's a journey of exploration into a small country in the heart of Europe, at the turn of the centuries.

More than fifteen years Vanfleteren has wandered through and hunted in the 'Belgicum' territories, guided by emotion and by the love for his homeland. He made a journey through a scarred land, in search of the irretrievable identity of a country with the melancholic soul of an old nation.

Over the past ten years, over 11,000 copies were sold of this international bestseller. ***Belgicum*** grew out to be a reference work in the Belgian history of photography. On the occasion of the tenth birthday of this cult book, it was reprinted.

With text by David Van Reybrouck.

Text in English, French and Dutch.

Stephan Vanfleteren studied photography at Sint-Lukas Brussels (1988-1992). He worked as a freelance photographer for the newspaper *De Morgen* from 1993 to 2009, but continued to be involved in his own projects. He specialises in black-and-white portraits and extensive reports at home and abroad. He is currently mainly working for foreign newspapers and magazines. In 1998 Vanfleteren won the European Fuji Awards; in 1996, 1998 and 2000, he won five World Press Photo Awards and several Belgian press awards. He also won the German Henri Nannen Prize in 2011. In 2012, he received the five-yearly Culture Award for the Province of West Flanders and the National Portrait Award in the Netherlands. This year, he has won the World Press Photo Award for his series 'People of Mercy' in the category 'Staged Portraits'. Stephan Vanfleteren is a co-founder of Kannibaal/Hannibal Publishing and is the company's Art Director. He has also been a guest lecturer at KASK (Royal Academy of Fine Arts) in Gent since 2010. **David Van Reybrouck** (b. 1971, Bruges) is a Belgian cultural historian, archaeologist and author. He writes historical fiction, literary non-fiction, novels, poetry, plays and academic texts. He has received several Dutch literary prizes, including AKO Literature Prize (2010) and Libris History Prize.







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