



Letters to Artists

Philippe Van Cauteren

ISBN	9789492677310
Publisher	Hannibal Books
Binding	Paperback / softback
Territory	USA & Canada
Size	5.31 in x 7.48 in
Pages	352 Pages
Illustrations	95 color
Price	\$39.00

- Introduction to contemporary art through letters

Philippe Van Cauteren, director of the Municipal Museum of Contemporary Art (S.M.A.K.) in Ghent, has for many years written letters to artists all over the world. He directs his thoughts in a very personal manner to artists who inspire him. Van Cauteren's letters are written in a straightforward and accessible way; at times, they even verge on poetic. They offer an insight into how a curator experiences and interprets art, and also provide a clear and succinct introduction to the work of each artist to whom he writes. This richly illustrated book contains more than 100 letters. In an introductory manifesto – a final letter to Jan Hoet, his predecessor and the founder of S.M.A.K. – Van Cauteren also describes the 'ideal museum of the future'. This book is a reflection of the contemporary cultural arena, the roles of a museum, and the way in which diverse parties can collaborate constructively. It features letters to, amongst others, Michaël Borremans, Berlinde De Bruyckere, Jan Fabre, Adrian Ghenie, Jan Hoet, Mark Manders, Thomas Ruff, Pascale Marthine Tayou, Ed Templeton, Rinus Van de Velde and Vincent van Gogh. Contents: Almost 100 letters to artists.

Since 2004 **Philippe Van Cauteren** has been the artistic director of the S.M.A.K. Ghent. Under his direction many international exhibitions have been organised, including Lois Weinberger (2006), Kendell Geers (2007), Paul McCarthy (2008), Dara Birnbaum (2009), Joachim Koester (2012), Maria Nordman (2013), Thomas Ruff (2014), Berlinde De Bruyckere (2015), and Nairy Baghramian (2016). Philippe Van Cauteren is an internationally renowned curator. During the 55th Venice Biennial he co-curated the much praised exhibition 'Kleupelhout-Cripplewood' of Berlinde De Bruyckere at the Belgian pavilion. In 2015 Van Cauteren was appointed by the RUYA Foundation to curate the Iraqi pavilion at the 56th Venice Biennial. In 2017 he was invited by the Siddharta Arts Foundation to curate an exhibition for the Kathmandu Triennial. Philippe Van Cauteren has been a freelance curator and art critic in Germany, Mexico, Chile and Brazil. He writes about contemporary art on a regular basis and gives lectures in Belgium and abroad.