



Poets from Flanders Miriam Van hee

Miriam Van hee (1952) debuted in 1978 with her poems about homesickness, melancholy and loneliness. To her displeasure she was classified by the critics as Neoromantic, the predominant trend in Flemish poetry at that time. Nevertheless, her poetry is not a flight from reality, as Van hee does broach realistic subjects. Her style is also close to spoken language and appears, if anything, cautious. Falteringly, the poet attempts to come to terms with the world, while holding on to the familiar. The reader imagines himself safe in her world, an illusion that is often suddenly dashed. Her sixth collection of poems, *Achter de bergen* (Behind the Mountains, 1996) was awarded the Flemish Culture Prize for Poetry in 1998. That same year, her poems were collected in *Het verband tussen de dagen: gedichten 1978-1996* (The link between the days: poems 1978-1996), from which a large selection has been translated into French. This led the *Magazine Littéraire* to name her 'the poetic discovery of the past few years'. Her latest collection, *De bramenpluk* (Blackberry Picking, 2002), includes poems about travel, landscapes, animals, art and love. Van hee is also a Slavist and has translated works by authors such as Mandelstam and Akmatova.

Translations

Le lien entre les jours (French) / Paris: Le Castor Astral, 2000.

Och vi för förbi (Swedish) / Lund: Ellesströms/Lagland, 2001.

Selected poems (Russian) / Moscow: Ogi Publishers, 2004.

English translations in *The Literary Review*, *Modern Poetry in Translation*, a.o.

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