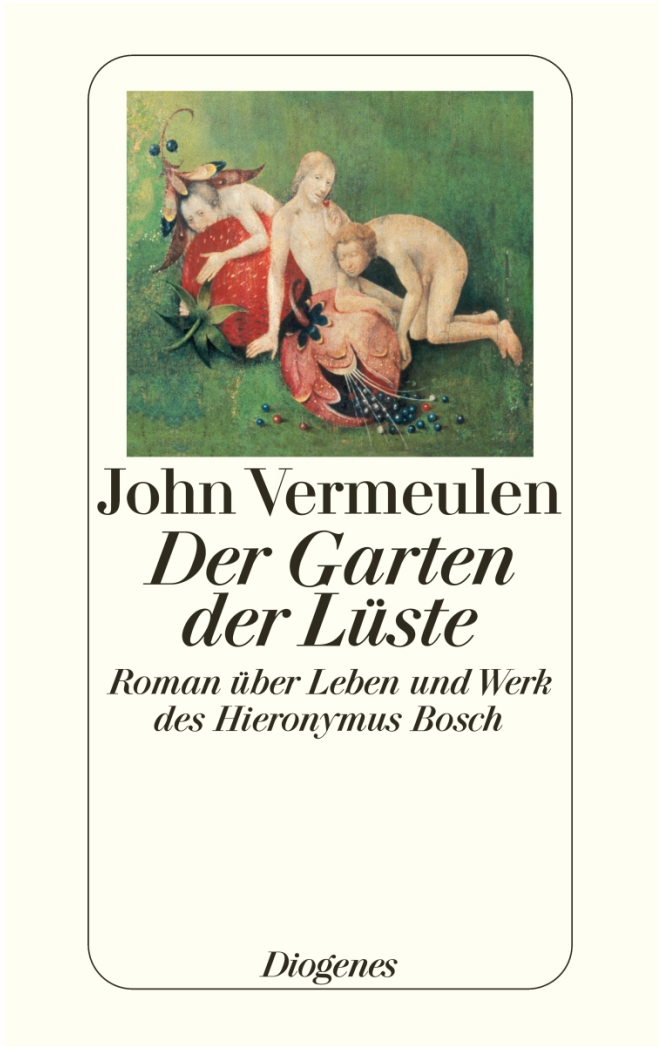
Diogenes

Book factsheet

John Vermeulen
Garden of Earthly Delight

Published by Diogenes as *Der Garten der Lüste*
Original title: *De tuin der lusten*



Contemporary Literature
592 pages
11.6 × 18.4 cm
September 2002

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Awards

2003 C.I.A.M. (Centrum voor Informatie over Audiovisuele Middelen) Preis für das Kurzfilmdrehbuch ›The Voodoo Machine‹
2003 Dutch award for science-fiction and fantasy für ›Ring van Eeuwigheid‹
2000 ›Internationaler Ambrozijn-Preis‹ für seine Kurzgeschichten
2000 ›John Flandersprijs‹ für sein Kinderbuch ›Het Internetmonstertje‹

The young Jeroen van Aken – who, as a master, would dub himself Hieronymus Bosch – grew up in an era characterised by its fear of witches and devils and in which the fate of those suspected by the Church was to be burnt at the stake. He was connected by a profound – and, in the eyes of society, indecent – love to his older Sister Herberta, who introduced him to the subtleties and techniques of painting.
Bosch befriended alchemists, philosophers and freethinkers, through whom he learned of the existence of 'Ecco Homo', the secret brotherhood of the free spirit, which would later provide the inspiration for his masterpiece, ›The Garden of Earthly Delight‹.
However, the underlying ridicule of the Church and the authorities evident in his work proved to be a thorn in the side for many, and for one person in particular: the inquisitor and fanatic Jakob Sprenger, the »devil in a monk's habit«. Aleyt van der Meervenne, Bosch's cultured and powerful wife, was forced to bring all of her influence to bear to protect his life.
Based on little-known facts and a wealth of supposition, John Vermeulen brings this extraordinary artist back to life. His intention is not to solve the riddles presented by the artist's oeuvre, but to let himself be guided by its influence on his imagination. The result is a compact, riveting and sensuous novel with refined dialogue and scene-changes worthy of a film – and, of course, the wonderful art descriptions that vividly recreate Bosch's work before the reader's eyes.

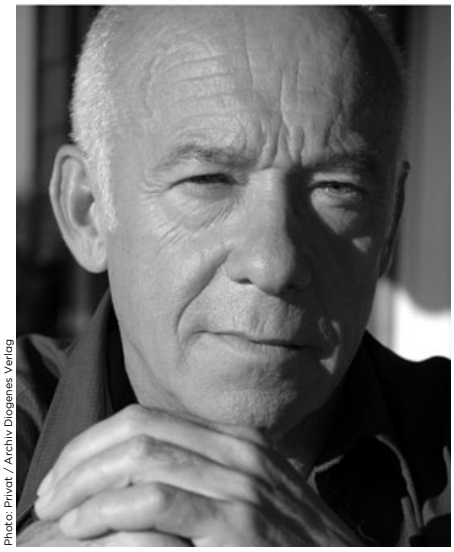
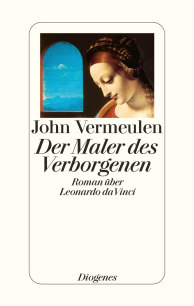
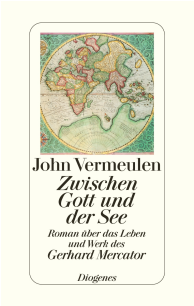


Photo: Privat / Archiv Diogenes Verlag

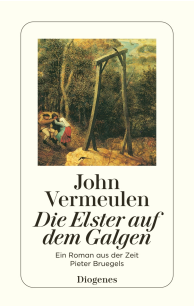
John Vermeulen was born in Antwerp in 1941. He died on August 23, 2009. Vermeulen was a journalist, sailor, and a writer who published his first novel at the age of fourteen. He has written some 25 works to date, including thrillers, science fiction, children's books, erotica and historical novels. He is the author of film and television scripts, plays and short stories. Vermeulen has received many awards for his writing.



The Painter of the Shadows
592 pages
2011



Between God and the Sea
688 pages
2005



Magpie on the Gallows
496 pages
1995