

## Prof. Kurt Vanhoutte

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**Kurt Erik Frans VANHOUTTE, 1971° Ukkel (Brussels)**

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### EDUCATION and CAREER

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- MA in Literary Theory at the University of Brussels (1993)
- MAres in Cultural Communication and Performance Theory at the University of Antwerp and the Humboldt University in Berlin (1995)
- PhD from the University of Antwerp in 2001 – Fund for Scientific Research Flanders: ‘Theatre through the looking Glass of New Media: Walter Benjamin and Allegory’
- Post-doctoral Researcher University of Antwerp (2001-2003) - Fund for Scientific Research Flanders
- Visiting Lecturer University of Ghent (2005-2007)
- Visiting Lecturer Conservatory of Antwerp (2006-2007)
- Professor in Arts, Culture and Media at the University of Groningen in the Netherlands (2003-2006)
- Professor at the University of Antwerp in Belgium: 2006 – present

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### CURRENT TEACHING

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Kurt Vanhoutte is Professor of Performance Studies and Visual Arts Criticism at the University of Antwerp, where he helped to establish and currently coordinates a Master program in Film and Theatre Studies. Courses include *Visual Criticism 1* (Master); *Visual Criticism 2* (Master); *Theatre and Intermedia* (Master); *The Culture of Modernity* (Bachelor) and *Theatre Studies: the Basics* (Bachelor).

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### CURRENT RESEARCH

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Vanhoutte is spokesperson of the *Research Centre for Visual Poetics* (University of Antwerp), a research group in theatre, film and related artistic media at the University of Antwerp, divided in 4 areas of research: performative, intermedial, artist's and textual poetics ([www.visualpoetics.be](http://www.visualpoetics.be)).

Vanhoutte's basic line of research investigates processes of intermediality emerging under the cultural and technological conditions of modernity and late modernity. His interest more specifically concerns the effects of science and technologies on narrative and stylistic characteristics of performance art as well as the ensuing impact on contemporary notions of theatricality, performance and text.

Together with Charlotte Bigg (Centre Nationale de Reserche Scientifique, Paris) he coordinates the research project *Performing astronomy: historical and experimental explorations into the visual and spatial experience of astronomical spectacle* within the programme iCAVS (Interdisciplinary Cluster for the Advancement of Visual Studies) in France. This project aims at tracing and documenting the evolution of performances in planetariums through the 19th and well into the 20th century, analysing their role in the formation of visual literacy and the persuasive effect they had with the audience's cognitive and social imagination and value system.

Between Februari and August 2015 Vanhoutte will combine his academic duties at the University of Antwerp with a research fellowship (Maire de Paris) at Centre Alexandre Koyré (Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales) in Paris to conduct archival research and prepare a book on scientific theatre.

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### **Membership positions in scientific organizations (selection)**

- Media Supervisory Board Deputy Representative '20203D media' (2008-2010), a large-scale European Research Consortium (7th Framework) investigating the possibilities of new immersive technologies, co-funded by the European Commission under the Seventh Framework Programme and consisting of 16 partners, among them research centres of academic institutes and some of Europe's most prominent manufacturers of digital technologies.
- Member of the Working Group 'Intermediality in Theatre and Performance' of the International Federation for Theatre Research.
- Member of the Expertpanel *Cult2: Art, Art History and Literature* of the Research Foundation - Flanders (FWO).

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### **Organisation of international conferences and workshops (selection)**

- Spring Symposium: 'Charisma, Presence and Performance', with Hans Ulrich Gumbrecht, University of Antwerp, Belgium, April 2014
- 'The Move to Presence', two panels (6 researchers) for the Centre for Visual Poetics, International Federation for Theatre Research: Annual World Conference, Barcelona 2013
- Research Workshop 'Immersion and the Documentary' at Rensselaer University (EMPAC), New York, januari 2013
- 'Spectral Illusions', with W.J.Y. Mitchell, University of Antwerp / Museum for Contemporary Arts Antwerp, Belgium, 10-11 december 2010
- 'The Locus of Tragedy', University of Antwerp, Belgium, 23-25 november 2006
- 'European New Media Conference' at the Tsinghua University, Beijing – May China, 2006

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### **Invited lectures delivered to peers (selection)**

- Seminar: *Voir/Savoir : manières de voir et représentations visuelles dans les sciences* (CNRS, Centre A. Koyré Paris). Paper: 'Spectacle of Modernity: Immersive Performance and Astronomy'
- Seminar: *Histoire des sciences histoire de l'innovation* (Université Paris-Sorbonne). Paper: 'Spectacle of Modernity: Immersive Performance and Astronomy'
- Media and Performance Seminar: 'Presence, Charisma, Science and Performance', University of Utrecht, the Netherlands, May 14th 2014.
- 'Toward the Stars: Re-routing presence and experience in the spectacle of modernity', International Federation for Theatre Research: Annual World Conference, Barcelona 2013
- 'Imaging Space: Planetarium Performances in Modernity', 6th Nomadikon Conference, "Ecologies of Seeing," Albany, New York USA, 2012
- 'Nature Performed', Performance Studies International, University of Leeds GB, 2012.
- 'Of Fairies and Skeletons: Perspectives on Féerie,' Universität Erfurt, Germany, 2012
- 'Geared to the Stars: Performing Astronomy as a Mode of Modernity', Netherlands Institute for Advanced Studies (NIAS) & Amsterdam University, 2011
- 'Phantasmagoria Past and Present,' International Federation for Theatre Research: Annual World Conference München, Germany, 2011
- 'Being inside the image', University of Padua, Italy, 2008

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### **Supervision of PhDs projects**

- *Marqué par une image* (Sofie Verdoodt, completed 2012, University of Ghent)
- *Being inside the Image: Immersion and Narrative between Theatre and Film* (Nele Wynants, completed 2013, University of Antwerp)
- *Re-inventing the Past: Re-enactment in Contemporary Dance and Performance Art* (Timmy De Laet, University of Antwerp)

- Building garments. Researching Fashion Design through Architecture (Alexandra Verschueren, University of Antwerp)
- Restoring Gestures: Exploring Aby Warburg's Method for Theater Studies (Esther Tuypens, University of Antwerp)
- The Borrowed Gaze (Karin Hanssen, University of Antwerp & Royal Academy of Fine Arts)
- Exploring the Multiple in a Cinema of Attractions (Rudi Knoops, University of Antwerp & University of Leuven)

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### **International Publications (selection)**

- Vanhoutte, K. & Bigg, C., 'On the Border between Science, Performance and the Digital: the Embodied Orrery', in: *International Journal of Performance Arts and Digital Media* (Routledge: New York, 2014), pp. 255-260. Special issue: Hybridities: The intersections between performance and science and the digital.
- Vanhoutte, K. & Brusselaers, D., 'Of Fairies and Skeletons: A dialectical encounter between the féerie and the phantasmagorie in Benjamin's Passagen-Werk', in: *Lendemains. Etudes comparées sur la France* (Narr Verlag: Tübingen, 2014), pp. 97-109. Special issue: La Féerie autour de 1900 - une figure de la modernité?
- Vanhoutte, K., 'The specific weight of things' in : De Buysser, Pieter, "Landscape with skiproads/Book Burning, two plays" uitg. Oberon Books, London, 2014, pp.11-15.
- Vanhoutte, K. & Wynants, N. 'Dealing with the ghost: Phantasmagorical apparitions of Bertolt Brecht', *Foundations of Science* 18:1 (2013), p. 191-194.
- Vanhoutte, K. 'Luddite interventions : on the poetics of catastrophe and the art of criticism' *Foundations of Science* 18:1 (2013), p. 149-153.
- Vanhoutte, K. *The Borrowed Gaze / Variations GTB*, Ghent: Mer Paperkunsthalle, 2012.
- Vanhoutte, K. 'Allegorising Gerard ter Borch. Research, Appropriation and the Baroque Impulse', *Image and Narrative*, 13:2 (2012).
- Vanhoutte, K. & Wynants N. 'Performing phenomenology : negotiating presence in intermedial theatre,' *Foundations of Science* 16:2-3 (2011), pp. 275-284.
- Vanhoutte, K. 'Two-fold origin : performing hybrids between theatre and media', *Contemporary Theatre Review*, 20:4 (2010), p. 475 – 485.
- Vanhoutte, K. 'The Work of CREW with Eric Joris. *Mapping Intermediality in Performance*' Bay-Cheng, Sarah et al. [edit.] Amsterdam: Amsterdam University Press, 2010, pp. 69-75.
- Vanhoutte K. 'Les nouveaux médias et le tragique', *Oedipe contemporain? Targédie, tragique, politique* / Berghe, van den, Paul (edit.) Entretemps 2007, p. 294 – 305.

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### **Full list of publications:**

<https://www.uantwerpen.be/en/staff/kurt-vanhoutte/publications/>

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