



Gijs Frieling // **The Painted Bird** Dreams and Nightmares of Europe

Europe, are we dancing on a volcano again? Are renewed nationalism, xenophobia, the distrust of politics and democracy, the arrival of refugees, and economic insecurity preparing us for a terrible meltdown? It is well possible. It should give us hope for this project, since the best art is produced on the verge of despair, when civilizations crumble and we're about to shift into a new world order.

This book chronicles the creation of The Painted Bird, a colossal, collaborative mural painting that is being created in Marres, House for Contemporary Culture, in Maastricht. Made by 19 artists, the painting will cover the entire interior of Marres, with beautiful and frightening impressions of Europe, including a high tech supermarket, the last remnant of a natural forest, a virtual detention room and a new life festival in the year 2050.
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