

Micha Hamel (Amsterdam, 1970) is a composer, poet, theatre maker and researcher. His concert music has been performed by practically all major Dutch orchestras and ensembles. In 2008 his tragic operetta *Snow White* (Nederlandse Reisopera) toured the country with great success. In June 2012 he was "Composer in focus" at the Holland Festival, for which he composed two full-length works: a *Requiem* for our ideal of civilization and an interdisciplinary performance inspired by George Hendrik Breitner's painting *The Red Kimono*. In 2014, his full-length melodrama *A Pure Formality* (theater company Orkater) received rave reviews. His contemporary belcanto opera *Caruso a Cuba* (Dutch National Opera, 2019) was praised by the national and international press.

He recently began a cycle of works on the climate crisis, the first part of which was the music theatre piece *The Black Window* (2021) for he wrote the script as well as composed the music. In november 2024, he will present a seven hour piece of electronic music called *Earth Workers Requiem/Jubilate*, a collaboration with artist Jonas Staal for the Noord Brabants Museum and Festival November Music in Den Bosch.

He published five collections of poetry with AtlasContact publishers Amsterdam that stood out for their imaginative use of language and typographical experimentation. He received the Jan Campert Prize for his poetry collection *Bewegend Doel* (2015). Since 2022 he has been publishing with Pluim publishers, where the collection of 101 poems about mental illness is *is daar iemand* – met great critical acclaim, and was also covered by radio and television.

He has also been creating poetic experiences for Virtual Reality in collaboration with animation artist Demian Albers (studio Apvis, Breda) since 2014. These installations appear at many festivals for technology, contemporary art, short film, and literature and attract a diverse audience. Their most recent work, *Together Apart*, was selected by the Dutch Film Festival and won awards in Austria, Berlin and Tokyo. Momentarily they are working on a new installation which transforms historical events into a meaningful artistic experience.

From 2010-2021, Micha Hamel was a professor in 'Performance Practice' at Codarts University of Applied Sciences, Rotterdam, where he conducted research into necessary and new possible developments in classical music concert practice. The research report of his first study was published as a book (*Speelruimte/Playspace*) for decision makers and policy makers in the workfield. This was followed by a research project about whether games are a suitable medium for qualitatively engaging audiences with classical music. This interdisciplinary project, funded by NWO (The Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research), was called GAMPSISS, and was a collaboration between Codarts, TU Delft, Erasmus University, and the Willem de Kooning Academy. As a result, two game prototypes were developed and tested, with positive results.

Since 2015, he has been a member of the Academy of Arts of the KNAW (Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences), where he chairs the Arts and Science track. As Artist in Residence at NIAS (Netherlands Institute for Advanced Study) in 2022, he worked on a book about listening, which he hopes to complete in the forthcoming years.

As a free lancer he is a returning teacher at Utrecht University and Utrecht University College. Momentarily he works at Utrecht University on a project that introduces creative writing to high school students in order to enhance their citizenship and to make them experience the joys of language. He also was one of the editors on a book on reading in education (*Omdat lezen loont/Since reading rewards*). Hamel is also known as conductor-coach in the television program *Maestro*, which cheerfully introduces Dutch celebrities to classical music.