ENG

**Carmien Michels** (Belgium, 1990) is always on the go. Between trains and travels, she resides in Antwerp. She holds a Master’s degree in Drama (Media, Writing and Performance Art) and a Postgraduate qualification in Drama Teaching and Multilingualism from the Royal Conservatory of Antwerp – where she teaches herself nowadays.

Her first novel, *We zijn water* (*We are water*, 2013) was shortlisted for several Debut Prizes. Her second novel *Vraag het aan de bliksem*(*Lightning Never Lies*) followed in 2015.

Dancing between the urban and the classic, her passion for rhythm and poetry came to a boiling point on the spoken word scene. In 2016, she won both the Dutch and the European Championship Poetry Slam and came in third at the World Cup in Paris. Collaborating with various artists, she has been touring around ever since. Her poetry debut *We komen van ver* (*Where We Came From*) was published in 2017.

Michels’ work is praised by critics for its versatility: it is described as powerful, alienating, cinematic and deeply personal at the same time.

From 2017 to 2019 she was selected as one of the upcoming Belgian writers for the European programme CELA (Connecting Emerging Literary Artists). From 2020, she is travelling through Europe in the framework of the international poetry pool of Versopolis. Fragments of her novels, short stories and poetry have been published in ten languages.

In faraway lands she practises new languages, whilst experimenting with new forms of prose and poetry. In Antwerp she is the founder and curator of WATLAB, a collective workplace for literary artists, which she and VONK & Zonen launched in September 2021. The same year, she was longlisted for the Fintro Literatuurprijs Young Artists.

In November 2021, her first collection of short stories, *Fathers Who Mourn*, will be published by Querido.