



RUBINSTEIN

## Jonas and the Sea

Dutch title: *Zeezucht*

© Text and illustrations Marlies van der Wel

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Pages: 78 (abbreviated version available)

Size: 24 x 30 cm (oblong)

Rights sold: Chinese (simplified), Taiwanese, Italian, German, French

Age: 4+

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Based on the animation *Jonas and the sea (Zeezucht)* created by Marlies van der Wel and produced by Halal Amsterdam

### Summary

For as long as he can remember, Jonas has had only one wish: to live underwater, like a fish. Everybody tells him people belong on land, not in the water. But Jonas won't let that stop him: he spend his life building ever more complex machines that allow him to live underwater from the things he finds on the beach. People make fun of him. Finally, when he is 80 years old, a terrible storm hits the shore. All the land floods and people have nowhere to live. But Jonas has been preparing for this moment for his whole life: he lowers his machine in the water and he is finally home.

*Jonas and the Sea* is a beautiful, evocative picture book about belonging. It touches upon themes like climate change, consumerism, and coming of age, but most of all: staying true to yourself. The book has been published in China, Taiwan, Germany, France and Italy. The author, Marlies van der Wel's is also a filmmaker: *Jonas and the Sea* is based on her short animation film from 2016. (You can watch it here: <https://vimeo.com/272549416>.) It won Best Animated Short at the Toronto International Film Festival, the Special Jury Prize at the Children's Film Festival Seattle and was part of the Official selection at the Sundance film festival.