

CKV

The Glass Angel from Zwolle (NL) talking to Peter van Steenwijk.



First let me introduce myself.

I am the Glass Angel, a statue constructed out of glass by [Herman Lamers](#). I was unveiled at June 20th 2010 in Zwolle.

350 stacked layers of glass make me 350 cm tall.

Fortunately I am not alone. Above me there is another angel on top of St. Michael's Church and another in the meditation room of the church.



Together we represent the archangel [Michael](#), who is considered the [patron saint](#) of Zwolle. Another image has been compiled from the 350 "empty" slabs which were leftovers from my construction.

That one is positioned by the entrance of the ISALA clinics. You could say it's my alter ego.

From my position at the "Grote Markt" I'm looking out over the long "Melkmarkt". This was an intentional choice.

My colleague at the "Grote Kerk" has been portrayed traditionally with a dragon and a sword, but I'm a contemporary version inspired by the look of a friend of the artist.

Angels have always been depicted in different ways and the familiar wings were only invented by painters and sculptors at the end of the fourth century. The freedom of portrayal has even led to frivolous depictions of young women.

Nowadays you can even buy a pair of angel wings. Mostly done by young girls as they feel the statement: "You are an angel!" surely applies to them

Even the "[Toppers](#)" have gotten involved with angels! Ron Brandsteder performs the song "Engelen bestaan niet" ("Angels don't exist") at their show. Personally I prefer the lyrics of the [Robbie Williams Angels](#) song.

People generally regard us as messengers.
People have varied reactions to my appearance in a normal suit.
On the one side it humanizes me, but I also lose some of my historical and spiritual significance.
Occasionally I discuss this with people.

Recently I had a conversation with Peter van Steenwijk an art teacher.
He took photographs from every direction and even wanted take a picture with me.
When I asked him whether he believed in angels he couldn't give me a straight answer.



We discussed angels in religion and art. He was familiar with the most famous angels from the bible as they had been visualized by painters and sculptors.
The [annunciation](#) (proclamation) by my colleague the angel Gabriel is beautifully depicted by various artists.



Fra Angelico Florence



Cathedral Reims.

We could agree on the most important meaning of angels: messengers and patron saints.
His mother once gave Peter a wooden carved [Schutzengel](#) from Switzerland which he still owns.

A guardian angel is a concept that everyone is familiar with.

A photograph made by his brother Charles van Steenwijk hangs in his office. The beautiful mysticism that emanates from this angel is very strong in combination with the tomato. The message of the angel and the importance of the tomato remains a hidden secret.



No, denying that angels existed he considered a step too far. He felt that sometimes in busy traffic an angel is riding on their shoulder. The word "deny" was too vague for me, you either believe in me or you do not believe in my existence. As an angel I demanded clarity. Ultimately it is about believing and not about proof.

Peter then chose to believe in my existence as an angel partly based on the film he has seen with the title: "Der Himmel über Berlin" / "Wings of Desire" by [Wim Wenders](#). As an angel, I already knew that he had a strong preference for the city of Berlin with its history so this choice did not surprise me. I know that Peter regularly visits Berlin and that the presence of many statues of angels in that city has not escaped him.



Trailer - Wings of Desire



["Der Himmel über Berlin"](#)

The beautifully imagined visible and invisible world in the personification of the angel was in his opinion masterful.

In that respect Peter could also appreciate the choice of the artist to represent me in my daily clothes. It causes my significance to be broadly interpretable.
I felt appreciated by him as an angel through this conversation..

References used:

https://nl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Herman_Lamers

<http://www.hermanlamers.nl>

https://www.rotterdamsekunstenars.nl/nl/database/details/q/kunstenaar_id/450552/resultpage/1/narrowlevel/0/iskunstenaar/1/ismvormgever/0/zoekkv/1

<http://www.kunstwegen.nl/nl/article/glazen-engel>

<https://www.destentor.nl/zwolle/glazen-engel-klaar-voor-transport-naar-zwolle~aa468f93/>

<https://www.destentor.nl/zwolle/afdruk-van-engel-hoort-ook-in-stad~a9cdecc8/>

<https://www.weblogzwolle.nl/content/view/17807/55/>

<http://adengels.nl/news/EngelBroeren.htm>

[https://nl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grote_Markt_\(Zwolle\)](https://nl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grote_Markt_(Zwolle))

[https://nl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Micha%C3%ABl_\(aartsengel\)](https://nl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Micha%C3%ABl_(aartsengel))

<http://www.encyclo.nl/2013/zoek.php?woord=engelen>

https://www.feestbeest.be/feestartikelen/diverse-feestartikelen/vleugels/engelenvleugels.html?qclid=CLfI5YL89dYCFfQK0wodYgME_Q

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d4RC5Sgtv8k>

<https://www.top40.nl/ron-brandsteder/ron-brandsteder-engelen-bestaan-niet-14514>

https://www.google.nl/search?q=annunciatie&newwindow=1&rlz=1C1GGGE_nINL377&source=Inms&tbm=isch&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwi_lpqD-fXWAhVGqxoKHXzmC-gQ_AUICigB&biw=1280&bih=933

https://nl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Museo_di_San_Marco

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RI2ycpc7YQc>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hAzzR2Uklok>

Prof.Dr.J.J.M. Timmers Christelijke Symboliek en iconografie.ISBN 90 228 4017 4
de Haan achtste druk 1993

<https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/medieval-world/latin-western-europe/gothic1/v/reims-cathedral> 5.10 min.

<https://www.google.nl/search?q=annunciatie+kathedraal+reims&tbm=isch#imgrc=vxyQbygycF92HM>:

<https://duitslandinstituut.nl/naslagwerk/543/der-himmel-uber-berlin-1987>