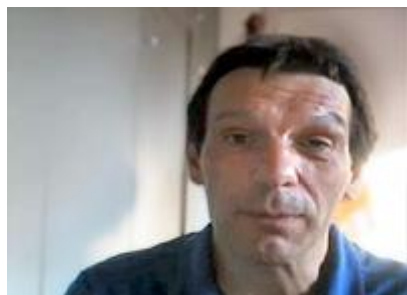




### Interview with Bart Verswijvel about the 2008 entry Poets Laureate of Antwerp



This project was created and motivated by the visit of Dutch students as part of the eTwinning project. In Antwerp, like in

many other cities, an official city poet is appointed for a period of approximately two years to write poems about modern city life in Antwerp. Our students were the hosts for their fellow Dutch students and we wanted to welcome their visit to Antwerp, so we thought that digital animations of poems relating to Antwerp would be an interesting and alternative introduction to the city.

The project was completed in about five class lessons and for the first stage of the project, we searched for the



audio recordings that we needed of the authors reading their own poems. This was not easy but we found some of the recordings in podcasts on the internet and afterwards we cut the fragments we needed. To perform these activities, we used the following tools, Audacity, Total Recorder and Polderbits Sound editor. The next stage was to combine the audio with images and the students were free to use whatever tools they wanted but they predominantly used Microsoft PowerPoint, Sony Vegas, Adobe Premiere Pro, Animation shop and Photoshop. Finally, when the digital animations of the poems were ready the movies were hosted at blip.tv and then incorporated afterwards in our Wordpress blog. About twenty students took part in this small project and they all made their own individual

animation of a poem. The good thing about this project was that the students all helped each other out and this motivated them greatly and was very beneficial in their learning process. We didn't seek any extra assistance outside of the school organisation and our project always remained at class level.



I would like to think that my project will give inspiration to other teachers. Some elements of my work will re-appear in other future projects but I never recreate the same type of project. It's important to utilise the students creativity where possible, and it would be rewarding, if in the future their creative outcomes were targeted at a real audience and not just intended for one teacher.

This project wasn't that difficult to produce, but it was challenging initially sourcing sufficient podcasts that were suitable to work with, but we did succeed in eventually sourcing enough podcasts for this project and as a result we even managed to produce several animations for each separate poem.

I experiment with digital projects almost every day and there is one project that I am particular satisfied with at the moment and I think I will consider this project for entry for the next Medea awards. The theme of this project is also the title. It is titled 'Creative Cons, the Internet Copyright' and I am in collaboration with a Spanish school on this project. In this project the pupils learn digital techniques and they used these techniques to communicate with the pupils from Spain. My advice to anyone considering entering a Digital media project to the MEDEA awards for 2009 would be to give responsibility and ownership to your students and above all, enjoy yourselves!