Prof.dr. Ben Schouten
December 2, 2022

VALEDICTORY LECTURE
The Role of Play

TU/e

**EINDHOVEN
UNIVERSITY OF
TECHNOLOGY**

DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DESIGN

INVITATION

Prof.dr. Ben Schouten was appointed full professor of Playful Interactions at the Department of Industrial Design at Eindhoven University of Technology on January 1, 2010. He will deliver his farewell speech on December 2, 2022.

The Executive Board of Eindhoven University of Technology cordially invites you to attend the valedictory lecture of Prof.dr. Ben Schouten on **Friday, December 2, 2022, at 4.00 PM**. The public lecture will be delivered in the Blauwe Zaal of the Auditorium. You do not need to register. In the event that restrictions regarding attendance are implemented due to covid-19, the proceedings can be followed online.

The title of the lecture is
'The Role of Play'

After the lecture, drinks will be served in the Senaatszaal.

All full professors are invited to join the cortège. If you want to join the cortège, please register in advance with the P&P office which organizes all academic ceremonies, telephone +31 (0)40 247 33 02, e-mail: penp@tue.nl.

Prof.dr.ir. F.P.T. Baaijens
Rector Magnificus

After December 2, 2022, the text of the valedictory lecture will be available online at www.tue.nl/lectures.

Ben Schouten graduated from the Rietveld Art Academy in 1983. Discovering his fascination for mathematics, he received his master's degree in 1995, specializing in chaos theory. One year later, Ben Schouten founded Desk.nl, providing innovative internet-related solutions. Together with the Dutch Design Institute, Desk was internationally awarded with a Webby Award in gaming. In 2010, he was appointed as a full professor of Playful Interactions at Eindhoven University of Technology and, in 2013, as Lector of Play & Civic Media at Amsterdam University of Applied Sciences. While serving as its scientific director, a new master's in digital design was established in Amsterdam. Addressing research as well as education, this master's focuses on design for social innovations at the intersection of play, games, participatory design and citizen empowerment. Ben Schouten has designed a multitude of games in the fields of healthcare, education and urban futuring. This year *The Civic Empowerment Toolbox* will be published on community-driven initiatives for change. A second book, *Playful Empowerment*, is scheduled for publication in 2023.

About the lecture
Play is timeless and can be many things at once: joyful, dangerous, expressive and creative. Through play, we gain a better understanding of ourselves and the world around us. Yet our playgrounds have clearly changed and the media in which we portray games is different. Each generation produces its own gameplay as well as characters. What can we offer as a playful designer, besides setting goals to which play can contribute? Some of us would say we create meaning and reflection through play. In this case, the magic circle, the space of the playful imagination, partly coincides with the need for change. Playful empowerment is about imaginative futures, away from what we know. In his valedictory lecture, Ben Schouten will reflect on the new role of the designer within and for the community. He will show many examples and share thoughts with the audience on the alternative future.

Visiting address Auditorium, Building 1, Groene Loper, Eindhoven
Navigation address De Zaale, Eindhoven, www.tue.nl/map