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Litteræ Slovenicæ

Best of the best from Slovenia


LITTERÆ
SLOVENICÆ
Slovenian Literary Magazine

*Selected by
Slovene Writers' Association,
Ljubljana, Slovenia*

Foreign rights catalogue

Litteræ Slovenicæ

Best of the best from Slovenia



LITTERÆ
SLOVENICÆ

Slovenian Literary Magazine



Jedrt Maležič

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Before starting her writing career, Jedrt Maležič (1979) translated fiction and non-fiction from English and French, which seems to have left a mark in her writing, as she stratifies her prose, addressing various stylistic registers. Characteristic of her style is a mixture of precise foreign words and specialized knowledge, and her frequent references to literary classics are interspersed with a kind of lucid infantilism and immediacy, which allows for deeper insight into the state of things – sometimes with a gleaming surface hiding the misery of reality. Her writing is characterized by frequent, fast, intuitive descents and loop-de-loops, which boldly combine what is generally kept separate: mythology, esotericism, magical exchange, comically overstretched and caricatured characters, most of all poking fun at her own speakers and often gently mocking them.

NOMINATIONS

- Nominated for the Award for Best Debut, Slovene Book Fair
- Nominated for the Novo mesto short Prize

Mentales pesados

HEAVY MENTALS

SHORT STORIES

SPANISH



**NOMINATED
FOR THE AWARD
FOR BEST DEBUT,
SLOVENE
BOOK FAIR**

ORIGINAL TITLE: Težkomentalci

© **ORIGINAL:** LUD Literatura
Publishing, 2016

© **TRANSLATION:** Marjeta Drobnič
and the Slovene Writers' Association,
2021

PAGES: 180

FORMAT: 148 x 210 mm

SOLD RIGHTS: Spain

MAIN THEMES

psychiatry, mental illness, society

ABOUT THE BOOK

This collection of twenty-one short stories, which can also be read as a novel since the tales are connected, is entirely set in a psychiatric institution, where the predominantly first-person narrator is often, in several waves, brought in and hospitalized. At the forefront of the narrative are, thus, individuals who are problematic – also for themselves, not just for society. And sometimes it is difficult for them to recall past transgressions, which

require therapy that can be quite radical, violent, leaving visible and psychological traces of submission. Just as radical are the side effects of the powerful antipsychotics to which the subject, the object of this therapy, is subjected in a few of the stories; these are cycles of little deaths, and often-violent injections and involuntary taking of pills are described as a way of dying, as a toppling into the abyss, as a temporary shutdown. But the collection also bears the opposite of this weighty and sharp metaphor: it is playful and relaxed in its linguistic movement; often in these stories one sees the ambiguous and the polysemous mixing sublimely and pathetically with the most poignant of refrains and references from mass culture.

ABOUT THE TRANSLATOR

Marjeta Drobnič is a freelancer who translates from Spanish into Slovene and vice versa. She has translated works by Bernard Atxaga, Jorge Luis Borges, Juan Eslava Galán, Eduardo Laga, Carmen Martín Gaité, Federico García Lorco, Kirmen Uribe, Andrés Neuman, etc. and Andrej Blatnik, Drago Jančar, Brane Mozetič, Evald Flisar, and others. In 2011 she was awarded the ESASI Prize for *Vročica in sulica*, the Slovenian translation of Javier Marías' novel *Fever and Spear* (volume 1 of the three-part novel *Your Face Tomorrow*); the prize is presented biennially by the Embassy of Spain in Ljubljana. She leads a translation workshop organized by the Public Fund for Cultural Activities of the Republic of Slovenia.

FROM THE PRESS

Stylistically, this is an exceptional debut, potent, unbridled and sensitive at once.

Maša Ogrizek, *writer, literary critic*

This »novel in stories« is most expressive in the linguistic sense. The narrator is passionate about language and adept with metaphors, rhymes, neologisms, and spices things up by switching to a lower register, so her narrative is loud and engaging. The anger that sometimes seethes in her bursts out on her verbal path.

Tina Vrščaj, *writer, literary critic*

In her debut *Heavy Mentals*, Jedrt Lapuh Maležič tackles psychiatry with an abundance of distance and humour, taking aim at what was considered of the pillars of repressive institutions at least until the end of the 1980s. The abuses and inefficiencies were written about by boys who cunningly made their way there while serving in the military, and out of necessity by literary advocates. The *Heavy Mentals*, however, do not write as if from personal experience, but wittily, and they string together various portraits that Amber, the main figure, encounters during hospitalization, and she also laughs at her own exaggerating and skewed perception.

Matej Bogataj, *literary critic*

A SELECTION OF THE AUTHOR'S WORKS



Napoli morilke

Half a Murderess

NOVEL, HISTORICAL NOVEL

Goga, 2021

233 pages

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Križci, krožci

Crosses, Circles

NOVEL, SOCIAL NOVEL

Goga, 2022

184 pages

FOREIGN RIGHTS

rights@goga.si, Goga Publishing



Vija vaja ven

Round and round we go

NOVEL, PSYCHOLOGICAL NOVEL

Litera, 2018

160 pages

FOREIGN RIGHTS

ursic.litera@gmail.com,
Litera Publishing

**NOMINATED
FOR THE
NOVO MESTO
SHORT PRIZE**



Bojne barve

War Colors

SHORT STORIES

Škuc, 2016

152 pages

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yoyoba24@gmail.com, Jedrt Maležič

SOLD RIGHTS

Macedonia



Gašper Kralj

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pisarna@zalozbacf.si, /*cf. Publishing

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Gašper Kralj was born in Ljubljana and has been living in Catalonia since 2010. He has a PhD in Social Anthropology, and his activism has led him from Slovenia all the way to Latin America. He explores literary fiction, questions of intimacy and the collective use of memory, and the reception of history. As a translator, he strives to present to Slovenian audiences some of the most ground-breaking authors writing in Spanish.

AWARDS AND NOMINATIONS

- Cankar Award for the best original literary work of the past year
- Nominated for the European Union Prize for Literature
- Nominated for the Kresnik Award for the best novel of the year
- Award for Best Debut, Slovene Book Fair

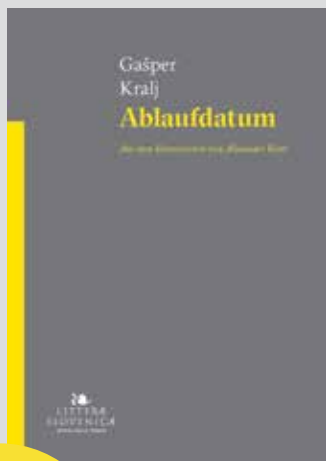
Ablaufdatum

EXPIRY DATE

NOVEL

GERMAN

**NOMINATED
FOR THE
KRESNIK AWARD**



**NOMINATED
FOR BEST DEBUT,
SLOVENE
BOOK FAIR**

ORIGINAL TITLE: Rok trajanja

© **ORIGINAL:** /*cf Publishing, 2016

© **TRANSLATION:** Alexander Rath
and the Slovene Writers'
Association, 2023

PAGES: cca. 140

FORMAT: 148 x 210 mm

MAIN THEMES

patients, palliative care, death

ABOUT THE BOOK

The protagonist has no name. What he does have, however, is a somewhat unusual job – and a rather uncommon approach to it as well. He is a palliative caregiver, who efficiently – perhaps even too efficiently – looks after the dying. He writes a diary to alleviate the anxiety that he experiences at work and, especially, after work. And to avoid forgetting. When he has work – that is, when people around him are dying – he seems to

have things more or less under control. When he has no work, his world seems to be slowly falling apart. He is running away, running around to the point of exhaustion, or hiding somewhere. Questions of death, suicide, homicide, euthanasia and guilt are thus skilfully sutured into the caregiver's paranoid inner world.

ABOUT THE TRANSLATOR

Alexander Rath (1985, Graz) is an independent translator from Slovenian to German and holds a doctorate in Translation Studies. As a young researcher, he was employed at the Faculty of Arts, University of Ljubljana, in the Humanities and Social Sciences – Translation Studies program. He has published several academic articles and translated six short stories in the anthology *Ereignis in der Stadt. 30 Jahre – 30 Texte: Neue Literatur aus Slowenien*.

FROM THE PRESS

Kralj's novel stands on the highest of artistic ground. It is wonderfully clear, not in the least muddled, and its elaborate narrative still grants the reader the freedom to find unfathomable answers to the questions of who this hero really is and what death really means to him. Fresh, not morbid!

Tina Vrščaj, *writer, literary critic, literary editor*

Gašper Kralj increasingly blurs the boundary between reality and dreams, between the hero's reality and his spells of delirium, in short, between the real and the unreal (or fictitious) one perhaps sees in the last days of dying. The work thereby gains in meaning and at the same time compels the reader to pay attention and participate in the writer's narrative game – a game in which he appears to be just as helpless as the main character; however, this uncertainty does not hinder but rather encourages reading.

Maja Šučur, *literary critic, editor*

Overall, *Expiry Date* is a strong and convincing debut like few others, with a fresh take on a perennially relevant subject.

Ana Geršak, *literary critic, translator, editor*

A SELECTION OF THE AUTHOR'S WORKS



Škrbine

Stubs

NOVEL,

SOCIAL NOVEL

/*cf Publishing, 2020

249 pages

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/*cf. Publishing

**CANKAR
AWARD**

**NOMINATED
FOR THE
KRESNIK
AWARD**

**NOMINATED
FOR THE
EUROPEAN PRIZE
FOR LITERATURE**



Izginuli in vrnjeni:

pričevanja o uporih

v Gvatemali in Latinski Ameriki

Disappeared and Returned:

Testimonies of Resistance

in Guatemala and Latin America

ACADEMIC PUBLICATION

/*cf Publishing, 2008

309 pages

FOREIGN RIGHTS

pisarna@zalozbacf.si,

/*cf Publishing



Lidija Dimkovska

FOREIGN RIGHTS

senja.pozar@mladinska-knjiga.si,
Mladinska Knjiga Publishing House
lidija.dimkovska@guest.arnes.si,
Lidija Dimkovska

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Lidija Dimkovska (1971, Northern Macedonia) is a poet and author who translates Slovenian and Romanian literature into Macedonian. She has lived in Ljubljana since 2001 and has published seven poetry books, three novels, a travel story and a collection of short stories. Her works have been translated into many languages. Lidija Dimkovska is also the recipient of numerous Macedonian and international awards, including the Hubert-Burda-Preis für junge Lyrik (awarded to young Eastern European poets), the Peter Krdu Prize for Poetry, the recognition for the European Year of Cultural Heritage for her short story *Koga zaminav od Karl Libknecht* (*When I left Karl Liebknecht*) and, in Slovenia, the Cup of Immortality Award in recognition of her outstanding Slovenian poetry of the past decade. To date, two of her collections have been published in Alexander Sitzmann's German translations *Anständiges Mädchen* and *Schwarz auf weiß*.

AWARDS AND NOMINATIONS

FOR POETRY

- Award for Poetry Debut (Macedonia)
- Poetry Prize »Hubert Burda« (Germany)
- European Prize for Poetry »Petru Krdu« (EU)
- Shortlisted for the literary prize »Brücke Berlin« (Germany)
- Shortlisted for the Best Translated Book Award (USA)
- Velenjica – Cup of Immortality Literary Award for her outstanding poetic oeuvre over ten years
- Award »Naim Frasheri« for life achievement in poetry (Macedonia)
- Prize »Brother Miladinov« for the best poetry book of the year (Macedonia)

FOR PROSE

- Award of Writers' Union of Macedonia for the best prose book of the year (Macedonia)
- European Union Prize for Literature (EU)
- Nominated for the Best Translated Book Award (USA)
- Shortlisted for the International Literary Award Balkanika
- Shortlisted for the Specimen Prize (Switzerland)

Reserveleben

A SPARE LIFE

NOVEL

GERMAN

**EUROPEAN
PRIZE FOR
LITERATURE**

**NOMINATED
FOR THE BEST
TRANSLATED BOOK
AWARD
(USA)**



**AWARD
OF WRITERS' UNION
OF MACEDONIA
OR THE BEST PROSE
BOOK OF THE YEAR**

**ORIGINAL TITLE: Резервен живот/
Rezervno življenje**

© **ORIGINAL:** Skopje: Ili-Ili, 2012

© **TRANSLATION:** Alexander Sitzmann
and the Slovene Writers' Association,
2021

PAGES: 508

FORMAT: 148 x 210 mm

SOLD RIGHTS: 14 countries,
for example: USA, Czech, Italy,
Ukrain, Ethiopia, Greece

MAIN THEMES

social novel, family, love, history

ABOUT THE BOOK

A Spare Life (Reserveleben) is a harrowing story about the fate of conjoined twin girls with adjoined heads and telling names – Zlata and Srebra (Gold and Silver). It is also about their struggle for individuality, privacy and separate lives. Their personal drama takes place between 1984 and 2012 and spans between Skopje and London, while also including events that are not only part of personal but also about collective memory and history. The

story told by Zlata begins one June afternoon in 1984 on the outskirts of Skopje, where it also ends, in August 2012. The main characters play a game of prophecy with a friend: who will they marry? where and when? how many children will they have? will their husband will be poor? rich? even a billionaire? At the beginning of the novel, Srebra and Zlata play the game; at the end, Zlata's daughters Marta and Marija play it. Things come full circle – 28 years of life, growing up, suffering, love and hatred. The separation of the twins coincides with the separation of the former Yugoslav republics. *A Spare Life* is a novel about love, history, politics, the times we live in, and about people we can identify with.

ABOUT THE TRANSLATOR

Alexander Sitzmann (1974, Stuttgart), studied Scandinavian and Slavic studies in Vienna, where he researches and teaches at the university. Since 1999 he has been working as a freelance literary translator from Bulgarian, Macedonian and from Scandinavian languages. In 2004, he received an honorary award from the Bulgarian Ministry of Culture for his translations; in 2016, he received the Austrian National Prize for Literary Translation; in 2020, the Berlin Theatre Award Brücke. In 2020/21, he received a Landis & Gyr Foundation residency in Zug, Switzerland.

FROM THE PRESS

[A] kaleidoscopic, bighearted novel

Publishers Weekly

A Spare Life uses the boldest of metaphors – the life of conjoined twins – to embody the disintegration of the former Yugoslavia. This strange and wonderful novel brings to mind Elena Ferrante and Magda Szabó in the acuity of its social observation and the depth of its mordant humor.

Katie Kitamura, *American author of The Longshot and A Separation*

Lidija Dimkovska enriches our contemporary museum of literary wonders with her powerful, grotesque, weird details and episodes told within the merry old novelistic tradition.

Dubravka Ugrešić, *Croatian author of Baba Laid an Egg*

The direst laugh-out-loud sense of humor around ... transcendent, dizzying, and not to be missed.

Boston Review

A SELECTION OF THE AUTHOR'S WORKS



Mejno stanje

Borderline State

POETRY

Mladinska knjiga Publishing House, 2023
76 pages

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Mladinska Knjiga Publishing House

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Croatia, UK



Non-Oui

Non-Oui

NOVEL

Modrijan, 2019
278 pages

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Lidija Dimkovska

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Poland, Croatia, Bulgaria,
Serbia, UK

**SHORTLISTED
FOR THE
INTERNATIONAL
LITERARY AWARD
BALKANIKA**



Koga zaminav

од Карл Либкнехт

When I Left Karl Liebknicht

SHORT STORIES

Ili-Ili Publishing, Skopje, 2019
179 pages

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Croatia

**RECOGNITION
FOR THE EUROPEAN
YEAR OF CULTURAL
HERITAGE**

**SHORTLISTED
FOR THE
SPECIMEN PRIZE
(SWITZERLAND)**



Črno na belem

Black on White

POETRY

Cankarjeva Publishing, 2017
78 pages

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senja.pozar@mladinska-knjiga.si,
Mladinska Knjiga Publishing House

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Germany, UK, Croatia, France



Nataša Konc Lorenzutti

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FOR ADULT PROSE

senja.pozar@mladinska-knjiga.si,
Mladinska Knjiga Publishing House

FOR CHILDREN'S BOOKS

rights@miszalozba.com, Miš Publishing

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Nataša Konc Lorenzutti (1970) studied acting at the Academy of Theatre, Radio, Film and Television (AGRFT) in Ljubljana. She graduated in 1998, and thereupon spent seven years acting in professional theatres. She is primarily known as a youth writer, but she also writes for adults. She publishes in the Slovenian magazines *Ciciban* and *Mavrica*. She has also written several scripts for live-action shows on the Children's and Youth Program of RTV Slovenija. In addition to her freelance work, she worked as a teacher of theatre in the Art Department of Nova Gorica Gymnasium, where she also staged her own original plays with students. Since September 2020, she has returned to being fully self-employed in the field of culture.

AWARDS AND NOMINATIONS

FOR ADULT PROSE

- Nominated for the Blue Bird Award for best unpublished literary work
- Svetlobnica Award for unpublished works in fiction, poetry, drama, or literary essays

FOR CHILDREN'S BOOKS

- International IBBY Federation Honorary List
- Golden Pear Award for best children's book
- Nominated for the Desetnica Award for the best children's or youth literary work published in the last 3 years, Slovene Writers' Association
- Nominated for the Večernica Award for best new literary work for young readers in the previous year

Coffee by the Fragrant Jasmine

NOVEL

ENGLISH



**NOMINATED
FOR THE BLUE
BIRD AWARD**

ORIGINAL TITLE: *Kava pri dišečem jasmínu*

© **ORIGINAL:** Mladinska Knjiga

Publishing, 2013

© **TRANSLATION:** Kristina Helena

Reardon and the Slovene Writers'

Association, 2023

PAGES: cca. 260

FORMAT: 148 x 210 mm

MAIN THEMES

social novel, gambling addiction,
relationship addiction

ABOUT THE BOOK

If Nataša Konc Lorenzutti's novel *Coffee by the Fragrant Jasmine*, which was nominated for the Blue Bird Award in 2012, were to be labelled a love story, it could be understood, at least partially, ironically. The romantic feelings depicted in the story of the protagonist Jasmine, who never manages to fully breathe and live deeply without entanglements, are the kind that humans use to destroy their own lives. Trapped in the illusion of

a grand story and immortal love, entangled in destructive patterns and the game of dependency, she is condemned to spin in a vicious cycle.

ABOUT THE TRANSLATOR

Kristina Helena Reardon is a writer, translator, college instructor, and freelance journalist. She earned her Ph.D. in comparative literary and cultural studies from the University of Connecticut in 2019. She held a Fulbright scholarship for translation in Slovenia in 2010–2011 and during that time co-translated several short stories written by women; these have since been published in *World Literature Today*, *Words Without Borders*, *Slovene Studies*, and other American journals and magazines. Since 2015 she has worked as associate director of the Center for Writing at the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, Massachusetts.

FROM THE PRESS

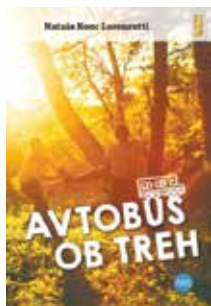
Even if the work primarily thematizes the specifics of a love relationship, one cannot deny its high potential to have (not only women) readers identify with it, or the universality of the idea – to show a person, his behaviour and how each depends on all visible and invisible, past and future forces.

Diana Pungerišič, *literary translator, Slovakist, literary critic*

The author's talents let us follow a story that seems almost impossible in its exceptionality but that remains utterly realistic and generously laden with details.

Tina Vrščaj, *writer, literary critic, literary editor*

A SELECTION OF THE AUTHOR'S WORKS



**NOMINATED
FOR THE
VEČERNICA
AWARD**

Avtobus ob treh

The Bus at Three

YOUTH NOVEL

Miš Publishing, 2016
224 pages

FOREIGN RIGHTS

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Miš Publishing



**GOLDEN
PEAR
AWARD**

Gremo mi v tri krasne

Let's Go in Three Splendid Ways

YOUTH NOVEL

Miš Publishing, 2021
278 pages

FOREIGN RIGHTS

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Miš Publishing



**SVETLOBNICA
AWARD**

Bližina daljave

The Closeness of the Distance

**ADULT NOVEL, SOCIAL NOVEL,
HISTORICAL NOVEL, NOVELLA**

Družina Publishing, 2017
144 pages

FOREIGN RIGHTS

david.ahacic@druzina.si,
Družina Publishing



Beseda, ki je nimam

The Word I Don't Have

ADULT NOVEL, HISTORICAL NOVEL

Miš Publishing, 2021
262 pages

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Miš Publishing



© Photo: Jože Suhadolc

Esad Babačić

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Esad Babačić (1965) has published 25 books of poetry, prose, and essays in Slovenian. Translations of his books have also been published in English, German, Croatian, Bulgarian, Macedonian, and his works have appeared in literary magazines and various anthologies. He was awarded the Rožanč Award, a national literary prize, for his book of essays *Machine, Do You Know Your Duty?*. He edited the Anthology of Slovenian Punk Poetry *Change My Head*, which was translated into German, and he is also the editor of the anthology of Slovenian sports poetry *Every Boxer Fights His Own Fight*. He collaborated with the internationally renowned art collective NSK on the art book *Biospektiva* (2010). His works have been published in prestigious European journals such as *Die Batterie*, *Edinburgh Review*, and *Literaturundkritik*.

Babačić is also a copywriter, publicist, film actor, former television and radio host, and the founder and curator of the Museum of Punk Culture.

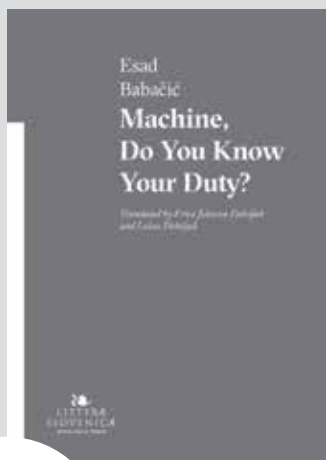
AWARDS AND NOMINATIONS

- International Hörbiger Award (Austria)
- Nominated for the Jenko Award for the best poetry collection published in the previous two years
- Nominated for the Veronika Award for the best poetry collection in the previous year
- Velenjica – Cup of Immortality Literary Award for his outstanding poetic oeuvre over ten years
- Rožanč Award for the best essay collection

Machine, Do You Know Your Duty?

ESSAY COLLECTION

ENGLISH



**WINNER
OF THE
ROŽANČ
AWARD**

ORIGINAL TITLE: *Veš, mašina, svoj dolg*

© **ORIGINAL:** Mladinska Knjiga Publishing House, 2020

© **TRANSLATION:** Erica Johnson Debeljak, Lukas Debeljak and the Slovene Writers' Association, 2023

PAGES: cca. 252

Format: 148 x 210 mm

MAIN THEMES

essays, sport, Ljubljana, social situation

ABOUT THE BOOK

Babačić doesn't seek solutions or sell them; instead, he questions everything that we have intentionally or inadvertently forgotten or overlooked. It is about searching for a spirit that is still somewhere within us but that we no longer know how to recognize and properly evaluate. What can we seek in this unpredictable and genre-diverse book edition, whose central themes are sports, life in side

streets, and memories, was best described by one of Babačič's readers in the Slovenian newspaper *Delo*? In response to his published text *Machine, Do You Know Your Duty?*, he wrote: »If anything, you can sense authenticity, honesty, and a strange joy in the author. And it is that indescribable feeling.« Perhaps it is precisely this strange joy that constitutes the fundamental emotion of the book. It grows from short sentences and lyrical passages that form the circuitry of his texts as they move between the heroes of our sports to the forgotten streets of Ljubljana and venture into nearby landscapes.

ABOUT THE TRANSLATORS

Erica Johnson Debeljak (1961, San Francisco) obtained degrees from Columbia and New York University. In 1993, she moved to Slovenia to marry the poet Aleš Debeljak, and began a career as a translator, writer, and columnist. In 1999, her first book was published a collection of essays entitled *Foreigner in the House of Natives*. In 2018, she co-edited the book *Just Passing Through: Postcards of Aleš Debeljak*, a unique tribute in postcards to her husband, who died in 2016. In 2021, her most recent book *Virgin Wife Widow Whore* was published. She writes in English and her work is translated into Slovenian. She lives and works in Ljubljana.

Lukas Debeljak (1999) studied in California and in Berlin. His poetry has been published in magazines in Slovenia (*Dialogi, Idiot, Literatura, Zamenjave*) and abroad (*Enklava, Slavicum Press, Rukopisi*), and translated into English, Czech, Serbian, Spanish, and other languages. In 2022 he published his debut poetry collection *To Know Like Water*. He translates contemporary Slovenian poetry and theory. He lives and works in Berlin and Ljubljana.

FROM THE PRESS

Esad Babačić's essay collection *Machine, Do You Know Your Duty?* is not only an interesting read for the many Ljubljana residents who grew up in the era of socialism and who can identify with the author; it is interesting also for all those who, despite the fast pace of life and buried dreams, have not suppressed their curious children's souls and the rebellious passions of awakening adolescence.

Miša Gams, ARS, *Radio Slovenija*

While compiling these memories, Babačić can be very simple, human, quotidian, proletarian (or rather working-class) and at other times incredibly philosophical and artistic. He pours poetry into prose, easily, effortlessly.

Matic writes, *review blog*

A SELECTION OF THE AUTHOR'S WORKS



Balkonci

The Balcony People

**AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL NOVEL,
BIOGRAPHICAL NOVEL,
SOCIOCRITICAL NOVEL,
SOCIAL NOVEL**

Litera Publishing, 2022
277 pages

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Litera Publishing



Včasih

Sometimes

POETRY

LUD Literatura, 2021
92 pages

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LUD Literatura Publishing

**NOMINATED
FOR THE
VERONIKA
AWARD**



Odrezani od neba

Cut Off from the Sky

POETRY

Goga Publishing, 2018
80 pages

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Navijaj v sebi

Wind Up Within Yourself

ESSAYS

Cankarjeva Publishing, 2022
191 pages

FOREIGN RIGHTS

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Mladinska Knjiga Publishing House



© Photo: Author's archive

Uroš Zupan

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uros.zupan2@guest.arnes.si, Uroš Zupan

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

For the past thirty years, Uroš Zupan (1963) has made a living as an independent cultural worker. He began his first attempts at writing poetry at the age of twenty-two when he came across an anthology of 20th-century American poetry, which opened up new worlds for him. In 1991, his debut poetry collection, titled *Sutre*, was published, which according to critics, shook the Slovenian poetry scene. To date, his poetic oeuvre has grown to encompass 15 individual collections. Parallel to his poetry, Zupan has also established himself as an essayist and translator. His translation work spans from Hebrew, American, Serbian, to Bosniak poetry. He has translated a number of poets, including Yehuda Amichai, John Ashbery and Billy Collins. His own work has appeared in numerous languages, books and journals. He lives with his family in Ljubljana and is a freelance writer.

AWARDS AND NOMINATIONS

- Award for Best Debut, Slovene Book Fair
- Golden Bird Award for recent achievements in different artistic disciplines by emerging and promising authors with a focus on an innovative approach
- Prešeren Fund Award, highest national prize in the field of arts
- Jenko Award for the best poetry collection published in the previous two years
- Župančič Award of the City of Ljubljana
- Velenjica – Cup of Immortality Literary Award for his outstanding poetic oeuvre over ten years

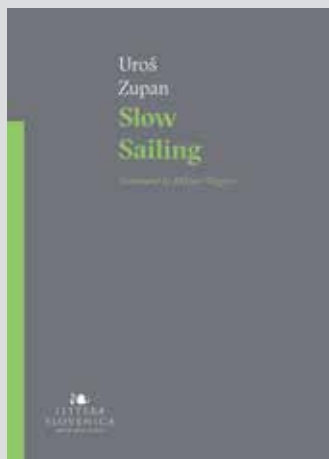
FOREIGN AWARDS

- Hermann-Lenz-Award (Germany)
- Premio della VI Edizione del Festival Internazionale di Poesia (Italy)
- Wysława Szymborska Award (Polen)

Slow Sailing

POETRY

ENGLISH



ORIGINAL TITLE: Počasna plovba

© **ORIGINAL:** LUD Literatura

Publishing, 2014

© **TRANSLATION:** Michael Biggins
and the Slovene Writers' Association,
2022

PAGES: 232

FORMAT: 148 x 210 mm

ABOUT THE BOOK

Slow Sailing presents the author's own selection of the best of his best. This collection, which covers a period of more than two dozen years, is both personal and stern, since the author deals with his own poetry. From his delving into the golden age of his individual past to a sensuous hymn to soft summer light and the miracle of life that does not exist without the arts, *Slow Sailing* invites us to discover and re-discover one

of post-independence Slovenia's most distinctive poetic voices, while also offering a unique insight into Slovenian poetry at the turn of the millennium.

ABOUT THE TRANSLATOR

Michael Biggins is North America's most widely published translator of contemporary Slovenian literature into English. His translations of novels by Vladimir Bartol, Drago Jančar, collections of poetry by Tomaž Šalamun, and a Holocaust memoir by Slovenian-Italian author Boris Pahor have met with critical praise in the *New Yorker*, *Publishers' Weekly*, the *Slavic and East European Journal*, the *Columbus Post-Dispatch*, and elsewhere. He serves as Slavic, Baltic and East European studies librarian at the University of Washington Libraries, Seattle, and teaches Russian and Slovenian in the UW Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures.

FROM THE PRESS

The poetic world of Zupan is constantly pervaded with various registers – the seriousness of the tone is counterpointed by the need of an overly free expression, while the explored dimension of the commonplace soon becomes a deeper dimension, passing a state of surreal inspection. The title sailing thus becomes a shoreless movement, the goal of which can only be an existential and imaginary delta of meanings.

Maciej Melecki, *Polish poet, screenwriter, director of the Mikołów Institute, publisher*

From beginning to end, his poetry enchants with words, their meaning, and their sound. It is a treat for poetry connoisseurs.

Erika Vouk, *linguist, poet, translator, writer*

In every case Zupan finds, through the magnificent language of his poems, a masterful language that has grown through all his books and is on display here, a way to place his individual feelings in a larger, transcending context.

Richard Jackson, *from the preface »The Metamorphic Vision of Uroš Zupan« in the poetry collection Slow Sailing*

A SELECTION OF THE AUTHOR'S WORKS



NOMINATED
FOR THE
VERONIKA
AWARD

Nafta

Oil

POETRY

Cankarjeva Publishing, 2002

76 pages

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Sprsti premikamo topli zrak

We Move Warm Air with Our Fingers

POETRY

Cankarjeva Publishing, 2018

96 pages

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Psica in poletje

The Little Dog and the Summer

POETRY

Cankarjeva Publishing, 2022

77 pages

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ROŽANČ
AWARD

Znamenja v kroženju

Signs in Circulation

ESSAYS

LUD Literatura Publishing, 2022

211 pages

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Tone Škrjanec

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Tone Škrjanec (1953) published his first collection of poems, *The Blues of Swing*, in 1997. Ten more collections followed, he has also published two books of selected poems. In 2017, he received the Velenjica and the Cup of Immortality, the latter in recognition of his remarkable oeuvre produced over the past decade. In 2018, his collection *Breathe* garnered the main Slovenian poetry prizes: the Veronika and Jenko awards. Seven books of his poems have been published abroad (in Bulgaria, Croatia, Poland, and the USA), his poems have been translated into a number of languages, and many of them have been selected for Slovene and foreign anthologies. His record *Catching the Rhythm* consists of his poems set to music, and he has collaborated in two further records.

AWARDS AND NOMINATIONS

- Nominated for the Veronika Award for the best poetry collection in the previous year
- Nominated for the Jenko Award for the best poetry collection published in the previous two years
- Velenjica – Cup of Immortality Literary Award for his outstanding poetic oeuvre over ten years
- Jenko Award for the best poetry collection published in the previous two years
- Veronika Award for the best poetry collection in the previous year
- Nominated for the Kritiško sito Award for the best literary work by literary critics

Haut

SKIN

POETRY

GERMAN



ORIGINAL TITLE: Koža

© **ORIGINAL:** LUD Literatura
Publishing, 2006

© **TRANSLATION:** Ann Catrin Bolton
and the Slovene Writers' Association,
2021

PAGES: 84

FORMAT: 148 x 210 mm

ABOUT THE BOOK

A very special voice in Slovene poetry, Tone Škrjanec has, from the start, also walked a solitary path. Indeed, we could say he is an author from the periphery, and it is precisely for this reason that Škrjanec has gained an eminent appellation, namely, as someone who stands for authentic individualism. The collection *Skin (Haut)* is fully and wholly integrated into his oeuvre, with its free verse, slow, reflective rhythms, collage technique,

sensitivity to the tiniest beings and details, and its overtly sensual language; it is replete with every shade of colour, ranging from the warmest to the extremely cold, but, like silver, it is no less beautiful for that – and beauty remains an essential category for Škrjanec's poetry. This is a language that is full not only of colours but also of smells, sounds and the material: the world enters Škrjanec's poetry in all its liveliness and vividness. *Skin* was originally published in 2006 and has been celebrated by critics and a wide circle of readers alike as the finest of poetry. It brought Škrjanec to an extremely large circle of readers that, rather than narrowing, continues to expand.

ABOUT THE TRANSLATOR

After graduating from high school, Ann Catrin Bolton (1973) studied Modern German Literature, American Literary History and Media Law at the Ludwig-Maximilian University in Munich. From 1998 to 2000 she trained as a bookseller; she also participated in a seminar for translators from selected South Slavic Languages at the Munich Literature House. Since 1998 she has worked as a freelance editor, since 2005, as a freelance literary and technical translator from Slovenian, English and French.

FROM THE PRESS

This is poetry about the minutely quotidian that winds slowly and above all without any mincing of words.

Tanja Petrič, *translator, critic, editor*

He is infinitely sensitive to and touched by all that is small, even smallness in people, everything that is expressed even before words are uttered. At same time, the speaker in these poems has no time for grand, false stories.

Alenka Jovanovski, *poet, critic*

He is not after any higher truths. A mysterious and masterful power resides in him. He continues to remember, to feel, to see. And he writes it down. He pens a picture.

Petra Koršič, *poet, critic*

A SELECTION OF THE AUTHOR'S WORKS



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FOR THE
VERONIKA
AWARD**

**NOMINATED
FOR THE
JENKO
AWARD**

Sladke pogačice

Sweet Pastries

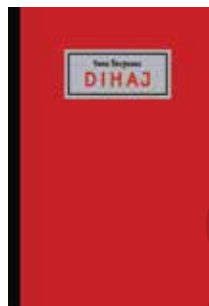
POETRY

LUD Literatura, 2015

74 pages

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**JENKO
AWARD**

**VERONIKA
AWARD**

Dihaj

Breathe

POETRY

Centre for Slovenian Literature, 2017

87 pages

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**NOMINATED
FOR THE
KRITIŠKO SITO
AWARD**

Nekaj o nas kot živalih

Something About Us as Animals

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Indigo

Indigo

POETRY

LUD Šerpa, 2023

82 pages

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Anja Štefan

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Mladinska Knjiga Publishing House

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Anja Štefan (1969) is a Slovene poet, writer and storyteller. She works as a freelance artist. She writes poems, fairy tales, and riddles and also presents her texts in plays and literary performances. She is the pioneer of professional storytelling in Slovenia (since 1995) and the founder of the storytelling festival *Fairy Tales Today* (1998), which she ran for two decades. She is involved in researching the Slovene storytelling tradition, especially in the stories collected by Milko Matičetov. Together with the best Slovene illustrators, she has published a number of original picture books. In 2022, Anja Štefan was also the first Slovene writer of children's and youth literature to receive the Prešeren Fund Award, Slovenia's highest national prize in the arts.

AWARDS AND NOMINATIONS

- Levstik Award for best literary works, non-fiction and illustrations of children's and young adult literature
- Večernica Award for best new literary work for young readers
- Golden Pear Award for best children's book
- Kristina Brenkova Award for the original Slovene picture book
- White Ravens, International Youth Library (Germany)
- Slovenian IBBY Section Award
- Prešeren Fund Award, highest national prize in the field of arts



The Little Mill

SEVEN BEDTIME STORIES

Illustrated by Marjanca Jemec Božič

ENGLISH



ORIGINAL TITLE: Melje, melje mlinček

© **ORIGINAL:** Mladinska Publishing House, 1999

© **TRANSLATION:** Rawley Grau and the Slovene Writers' Association, 2023

AGE GROUP: 3+

PAGES: 56

FORMAT: 190 x 245 mm

MAIN THEMES

bedtime stories, seven tales, traditional fables in folk tradition

**WINNER
OF THE LEVSTIK
AWARD**

ABOUT THE BOOK

The Little Mill, written by Anja Štefan and illustrated by Marjanca Jemec Božič, is a collection of seven bedtime stories for young children. It won the Levstik Award in 2001. The stories are short and written in a special folk tradition. Children are very fond of them, as all of them focus on animals, various furry and feathered heroes (a mouse, a hedgehog, a cock, a crow, a hen, a jack hare and a jill hare). These animals love the small

pleasures of life and yet are representatives of values like friendship, solidarity, generosity. The moral of each story is clear (we should not reach for the sky, for instance); however, the aesthetic quality of *The Little Mill's* language goes beyond the language of the fables.

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Marjanca Jemec Božič (1928) is an academic painter and illustrator. Since 1955, her humorous and colourful visual images have enriched magazines, textbooks, and over 200 books. Throughout her long creative journey, she has illustrated works by all major Slovenian writers and poets who write for children. Many of these books with her illustrations have been translated into multiple languages. In addition, Marjanca Jemec Božič has participated in numerous group exhibitions and has had over 20 solo exhibitions, which places her at the forefront of Slovenian illustrators. She has also garnered a series of notable awards and recognitions throughout her career, highlighting her exceptional talent and contributions – such as Prix Japon (1971), Kajuh Award (1981) and Levstik Lifetime Achievement Award (2003).

ABOUT THE TRANSLATOR

Rawley Grau, originally from Baltimore, USA, has lived in Ljubljana since 2001. His translations from Slovene include many contemporary novels (Dušan Šarotar, Mojca Kumerdej, Vlado Žabot, etc.). He has also translated two plays by Ivan Cankar and Slavko Grum – as well as poetry by Tomaž Šalamun, Miljana Cunta, Miklavž Komelj, Janez Ramoveš, Andrej Rozman Roza, and others. From Russian, he has

translated a collection of poems and letters by Yevgeny Baratsynsky, *A Science Not for the Earth*, for which he was awarded the 2016 prize for Best Scholarly Translation from the American Association of Teachers of Slavic and Eastern European Languages (AATSEEL).

FROM THE PRESS

With their positive attitude, Anja's fairy tales appeal to children and adults alike, moving them and filling them with the sense that the world is good. Despite their apparent simplicity, these tales offer material for in-depth conversation.

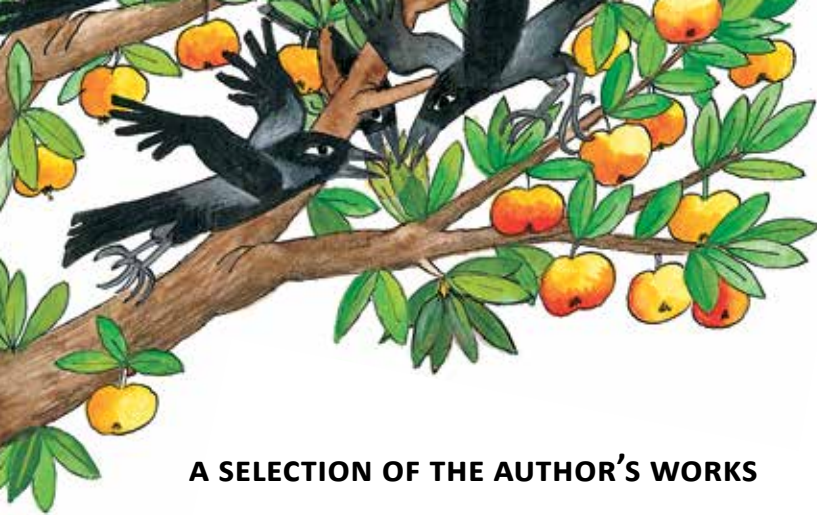
From the justification for the Levstik Award

Anja Štefan's fairy tales blend the timelessness characteristic of folk narratives and the modern reflections that unravel the problems of the individual, the family and contemporary society. The animals in these tales are personified and represent typical positive or negative human traits; with their help, the author sheds light on many a mythical truth, while emphasizing a positive attitude towards life.

Nana Čepar, *translator, editor*

Her texts, whether poems, riddles or fairy tales, are not only original and adorable. They also sound great. That's why they invite us to read them both aloud and silently.

Gaja Kos, *critic, publicist, translator*



A SELECTION OF THE AUTHOR'S WORKS



PREŠEREN
FUND
AWARD

GOLDEN
PEAR
AWARD

Tristo zajcev:
najlepše slovenske
ljudske pravljice
iz zapuščine Milka
Matičetovega

*Three Hundred Rabbits:
The Most Beautiful Slovenian
Folk Tales from the Legacy
of Milko Matičetov*

Illustrations by Ančka Gošnik Godec,
Zvonko Čoh, Jelka Godec Schmidt,
Ana Zavadlav

SLOVENIAN FOLK TALES:
BOOKS FOR CHILDREN

Age 4+
Mladinska Knjiga Publishing House, 2019
274 pages

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Mladinska Knjiga Publishing House, 2019



PREŠEREN
FUND
AWARD

GOLDEN
PEAR
AWARD

NOMINATED
FOR THE
DESETNICA
AWARD

Imam zelene čevljičke

I Have Green Little Shoes
Illustrated by Jelka Reichman

POETRY FOR CHILDREN /
CHILDREN'S POEMS

Age 3+
Mladinska Knjiga Publishing House, 2020
40 pages

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Mladinska Knjiga Publishing House





**PREŠEREN
FUND
AWARD**

**GOLDEN
PEAR
AWARD**

**NOMINATION
FOR THE LEVSTIK
AWARD**

Zajčkova hišica

The Bunny's House

Illustrations by Hana Stupica

FAIRY TALES

Age 3+

Mladinska Knjiga Publishing House, 2020

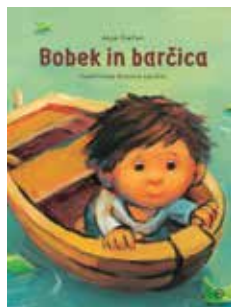
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Germany



Bobek in barčica

Bobek and a Boat

Illustrated by Polona Lovšin

FAIRY TALE

Age 5+

Mladinska Knjiga Publishing House, 2005

32 pages

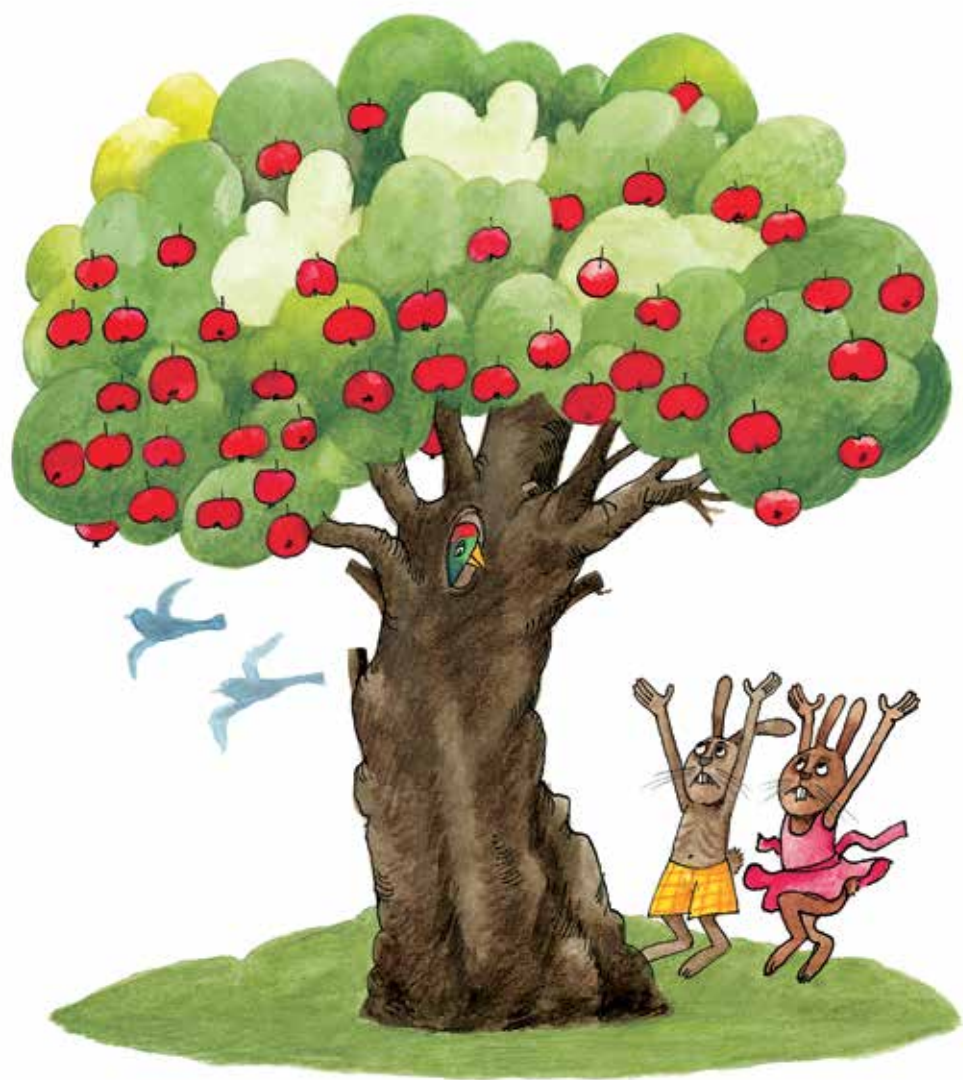
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South Korea







LITTERÆ SLOVENICÆ –

A SELECTION

OF PUBLICATIONS

ENGLISH

2023, Issue **156** (LXI)

ANJA ŠTEFAN: The Little Mill
(children's book, English)

2022, Issue **155** (LX)

UROŠ ZUPAN: Slow Sailing
(poetry, English)

2020, Issue **150** (LVIII)

NATAŠA KRAMBERGER:
Blackberry Heaven
(novel, English)

2019, Issue **148** (LVII)

SEBASTIJAN PREGELJ:
A Chronicle of Forgetting
(novel, English)

2018, Issue **145** (LVI)

IVAN CANKAR:
Images from Dreams
(short prose, English)

2016, Issue **142** (LIV)

JOSIP MURN:
Lonesome Poplar Tree:
Selected Poems
(poetry, English)

2014, Issue **138** (LII)

MARIJAN ROŽANC:
Of Freedom and God
(essays, English)

2011, Issue **129** (XLIX)

MATE DOLENC: Sea at Eclipse
(novel, English)

2010, Issue **128** (XLVIII)

TOMAŽ ŠALAMUN:
Ko vdre senca/
When the Shadow Breaks/
Lorsque l'ombre force
(poetry, Slovene/English/French)

2009, Issue **124–125** (XLVII/2–3)

BORIS PAHOR: A Difficult Spring
(novel, English)

2008, Issue **118–119** (XLVI/3–4)

FERI LAINŠČEK: Muriša
(novel, English)

2008, Issue **116–117** (XLVI/1–2)

SVETLANA MAKAROVIČ:
Samost/Aloneness/Alleinsein
(poetry, Slovene/English/German)

2007, Issue **115** (XLV/6)

SLAVKO GRUM:
An Event in the Town of Goga
(drama, English)

2007, Issue **114** (XLV/5)

VLADO ŽBOT: The Succubus
(novel, English)

2007, Issue **113** (XLV/4)

ANDREJ SKUBIC: Fužine Blues
(novel, English)

GERMAN

2021, Issue **154** (LIX)

STONE ŠKRJANEC: Haut
(poetry, German)

2021, Issue **153** (LIX)

LIDIJA DIMKOVSKA:
Reserveleben (novel, German)

2020, Issue **151** (LVIII)

PETER SVETINA:
Aus der Rumpelkammer
(children's book, German)

2020, Issue **149** (LVIII)

VERONIKA DINTINJANA:
Gelb brennt der Forsythienstrauch
(poetry, German)

2019, Issue **147** (LVII)

JURE JAKOB: Werkstückchen
(poetry, German)

2018, Issue **146** (LVI)

JANA PUTRLE SRDIČ:
Diese Nacht kommen Käfer
aus der Erde gekrochen
(poetry, German)

2017, Issue **144** (LV)

VERONIKA SIMONITI:
Teufelssprache
(short prose, German)

2017, Issue **143** (LV)

KRISTINA HOČEVAR:
Auf den Zähnen Aluminium,
auf den Lippen Kreide
(poetry, German)

2015, Issue **140** (LIII)

VINKO MÖDERNDORFER:
Wie im Film
(youth novel, German)

2015, Issue **139** (LIII)

DAVORIN LENKO: Körper im
Dunkeln (novel, German)

2013, Issue **135** (LI)

MAJA NOVAK: Die Katzenpest
(novel, German)

2012, Issue **134** (L)

MARJAN TOMŠIČ: Südwind.
Geschichten slowenischer
Ägypterinnen
(short prose, German)

2011, Issue **130** (XLIX)

LOJZE KOVAČIČ: Basel.
Drittes Fragment
(novel, German)

SPANISH

2021, Issue **152** (LIX)

JEDRT LAPUH MALEŽIČ:
Mentales pesados
(short stories, Spanish)

2013, Issue **136** (LI)

ZORKO SIMČIČ:
El hombre a ambos lados de la pared
(novel, Spanish)

2012, Issue **133** (L)

EVALD FLISAR:

Tres obras de teatro
(drama, Spanish)

2009, Issue **127** (XLVII)

IVO SVETINA: Scheherezade.

Una opera occidental-oriental, 1988
(drama, Spanish)

FRENCH

2016, Issue **141** (LIV)

GABRIELA BABNIK:

La Saison sèche
(novel, French)

2014, Issue **137** (LII)

KATARINA MARINČIČ: Trois
(short prose, French)



LITTERÆ
SLOVENICÆ

Slovenian Literary Magazine

BOOK SERIES

LITTERÆ SLOVENICÆ

HISTORY

INTERNATIONAL EDITION OF SLOVENE LITERATURE

In May of 1963, Slovene Writers' Association published the first issue of *Le Livre Slovène*. The series was a response to the need of the Slovene Writers' Association, Slovene PEN Centre and the Slovenian Association of Literary Translators to independently present Slovene literature, Slovene literary life and Slovene culture in general to readers abroad.

50 YEARS, 130 ISSUES

In the course of 50 years, around 100 volumes and 130 issues have been published. At first, the series mostly published texts in French, German and occasionally in English. In the 1970s, the first texts in Italian and Russian were published, followed by those in Spanish in the 1980s. In 1991, the series was renamed *Litteræ Slovenicæ*. Since then, the predominant language of publication has been English and German, accompanied by the previously mentioned languages and Portuguese. The series has traditionally given preference to publication of original literature of Slovene authors in translation, in particular of prose, poetry and essays.

EDITORIAL CONCEPT

EMMINENT SLOVENIAN AUTHORS

The editorial concept of the *Litteræ Slovenicæ* series is to publish representative works by eminent Slovenian authors in both foreign-language editions and in bi- or multilingual editions. The editorial board strives to publish all literary genres in equal proportion (poetry, prose fiction, plays and essays) as well as to represent a range of male and female authors from different generations.

CLASSIC & CONTEMPORARY

Because *Litteræ Slovenicæ* aims, on the one hand, to fill the gaps in the translation of classic Slovenian literature from our recent and more distant literary history, it partly focuses on the translation of previously untranslated standard works by Slovenian authors of the past (Marjan Rožanc, Josip Murn, Rudi Šeligo, etc.). On the other hand, it aims to translate and promote contemporary literature by valued living Slovenian authors.

EDITORIAL SELECTION

The editors, through their selection of works and aided by a team of co-workers (mainly translators), are responsible for capably presenting Slovenian authors in selected foreign languages. The books are primarily translated into larger languages in which Slovenian literature (at least when it comes to certain leading authors who are under-promoted abroad) is very often underrepresented and finds too little resonance.

TENDERS AND PUBLIC CALLS

Slovenian Book Agency: funding opportunities for foreign publishers

GRANTS FOR THE TRANSLATION AND PUBLICATION OF WORKS BY SLOVENIAN AUTHORS

Yearly open call for translations from Slovenian and translations of works, written in other languages, when the author is a part of the Slovenian cultural environment, into foreign languages includes first translations of adult fiction, children's and young adult fiction, essayistic and critical works on culture and the humanities, plays, graphic novels and comics. Applicants must be legal persons (publishing houses, theatres) registered abroad. The subsidy covers up to 100% and maximum of 10 000 € of the translation costs.

GRANTS FOR PRINTING COSTS

Yearly open call for printing costs for translations from Slovenian and translations of works, written in other languages, when the author is a part of the Slovenian cultural environment, into foreign languages includes first prints of adult fiction, children's and young adult fiction, essayistic and critical works on culture and the humanities, plays, graphic novels and comics. Applicants must be publishing houses registered abroad. The subsidy covers up to 70% and a maximum of 3000 € of the printing costs.

SLOVENIA – GUEST OF HONOUR AT THE FRANKFURT BOOK FAIR 2023

Yearly open call for translations from Slovenian into German language includes first translations and reprints of adult fiction, children's and young adult fiction, essayistic and critical works on culture and the humanities, plays, graphic novels and comics. Applicants must be publishing houses registered in Austria, Germany or Switzerland. This subsidy covers up to 50% and up to 11 000 € of all types of costs connected with book publication (excluding license fees) and promotion for first translations or 50% and up to 3000 € for reprints, eligible costs are printing, typesetting, cover design and corrections.

TRAVEL GRANTS

Travel grants are also available for Slovene authors, translators, editors or agents, who have been invited to literary or industry events abroad. An invitation and the program for the event must be enclosed with the application.

CONTACT:

Katja Urbanija – katja.urbanija@jakrs.si

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SLOVENIAN BOOK AGENCY

Metelkova ulica 2b

1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia

gp.jakrs@jakrs.si

www.jakrs.si/en

PUBLISHER:

Slovene Writers' Association

Tomšičeva 12, 1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia

PHONE: +386 1 251 41 44

FAX: +386 1 421 64 30

EMAIL: dsp@drustvo-dsp.si

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Litteræ Slovenicæ and Partners



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INVESTING IN YOUR FUTURE

Project »Slovenia – Guest of Honour at Frankfurt Book Fair 2023, a model for sustainable international promotion of Slovenian literary creativity« is co-financed by the Republic of Slovenia and the European Union under the European Regional Development Fund.