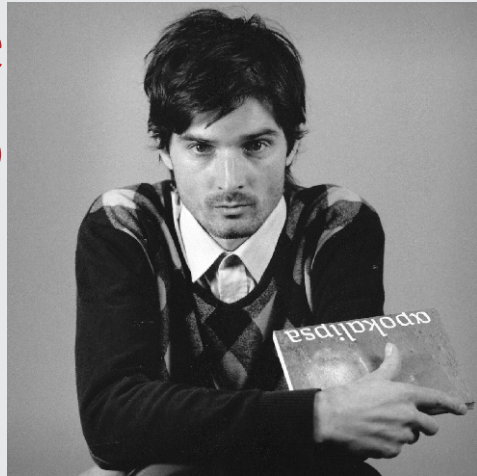


Jure  
Jakob



## *Poetry Selection*

*Translated from the Slovene  
by Erica Debeljak*

*Sample translation  
English*



Jure  
Jakob

*Poetry  
Selection*

*Translated from the Slovene  
by Erica Debeljak*

ORIGINAL TITLES

ZAPUŠČENI KRAJI – LJUBLJANA: LUD LITERATURA, 2010,

TRI POSTAJE – LJUBLJANA: LUD LITERATURA 2003,

BUDNOST – LJUBLJANA: LUD LITERATURA, 2006,

OTROŠKI POGLED – LJUBLJANA: LUD LITERATURA, 2010,

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## A Room with a Narrow Window onto Vidovanska Street

I took three apples with me, wrapped in a paper bag.  
I woke up tired  
and am now eating the first apple,  
as the sunbeams slowly fall  
through the narrow window on the wall opposite my desk.  
The light, thrown by the shaft, quivers slightly  
in the radiator's heat,  
and the apple is juicy.

Hours passed.  
The sun no longer reaches through the window  
and I slowly set out toward home.  
The apples cores rest in the trash basket,  
three tiny, generous hearts,  
my grateful hunger has returned.

## Dolac, Zagreb, Creaking

At two in the afternoon nobody is really counting on anything.  
Those young women, who got up so late, are not looking at prices,  
complacent farmers, perhaps already slightly drunk,  
mostly talk among themselves.  
The wave of demand peels bits of trash  
from the wall of supply.  
Some of it will be cleaned away, some will remain for the pigeons  
and the inevitable sparrows.  
The right bell tower of the not very grand cathedral  
still rests on the scaffolding.  
Nobody is on it but that's no wonder.  
Tomorrow will be Sunday  
and we will no longer be in that pleasant place,  
and the train on the regular Belgrade-Zurich line  
will slow and stop and open and close its doors,  
as if we are travellers and the place, weather and season  
are merely the agitated creaking under the eternal wheels.

## March

The grass pokes up through the dead leaves.  
Blackbirds, titmice, a finch peck at the frozen  
ground.  
My neighbour reaches into the trellis,  
yesterday he cut the lilac bush  
with a small carpenter's axe,  
leaned against it with all his weight and knocked it down.  
The apartment building to the east and one to the south of the house,  
in which we've been since last autumn,  
no longer block the sun.  
We have more good afternoons,  
sometimes it seems that the traffic along the street flows  
like a mysteriously dirty river.  
I come home at various hours,  
always in time to catch lunch.  
I am hungry for life, I express gratitude.  
I rake the leaves, I comb the grass, I smell the air,  
my wife waves from the window.  
We are placed in the old apartment  
like March in time, my cold hands in your warm ones,  
spring in the sharp wind.  
A great rain will come.  
One more year under the raincoat,  
fresh violets in a bouquet.

## Sestina

In the white painted room on the clay stove  
through the wide open window shines the sun  
it seems the day lasts so long that there is no evening  
in the solid unrelenting persistence of summer.  
In the corner, head in the shadows, she sits in the armchair, the mother,  
then stands up and lays her sleeping child in the ornate cradle.

The child swims from her arms into the cradle  
that is as warm as the warm stove,  
she tiptoes back to the armchair, his mother,  
and pushes it toward the window as if she wants the sun  
to sit down in it and stay there the whole summer;  
sit here, she says, it's a long time before evening.

The child sleeps and dreams that come evening  
he will awaken far away, that he will be conveyed in his cradle  
through the steady rippling of the waves of summer  
and be laid down in the middle of winter on the warm stove.  
He dreams and in his dreams he hears, come, my little sun,  
wake up, she is speaking above his head, his mother,

and when he opens his eyes, he sees his mother  
in the midst of a warm fragrant summer evening  
and comfortably sitting in the armchair, the familiar sun,  
smiling brightly onto the wood carvings of the cradle.  
A fly buzzes and flies from the stove  
into the darkened air of the summer



outside, dusk steps barefoot into the summer.  
It is warm, I'll leave everything open, says mother;  
a crackling in the air outside as if a fire had been lit in the stove.  
Perhaps it will be precisely this evening,  
she thinks, that the child will lay in his cradle  
and sleep through the night until the sun

rises. It breathes evenly though the night does the sun,  
and at dawn standing playfully at the window, summer,  
chased first thing in the morning from the universe of the cradle.  
As she waters the flowers on the window sill, his mother  
turns toward the armchair where the visiting evening  
left a bouquet of wrinkles in the fabric, and sits down by the silent stove.

I would put all the suns in the stove,  
one each evening, it would take the whole summer,  
and still it wouldn't be enough, the mother thinks,  
and looks toward her child's cradle.

## Poetika

Each day we must get up  
and look at the plum tree  
at the eastern end of the garden.

Of all the trees, animals,  
weather, shades of light,  
mysterious and disarming  
cracks in the landscape,  
that in spirit and word  
steadfastly claim their space,  
it is best to look at the plum tree  
at the eastern end of the garden.

Not even the gentle sun,  
which in the early morning gently alights on the branches,  
not even the girl,  
who astonishes me with her eyes,  
fleeting as a blossom.  
Enough is much less.  
It is not enough to want,  
but to look at the plum tree  
at the eastern end of the garden.

I like to do  
what I must.

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# *Litteræ Slovenicæ* 1991–2020

1991, Issue 79 (XXIX/1)

**Contemporary Slovene Short Stories** (English)

**Authors:** Drago Bajt, Andrej Blatnik, Branko Gradišnik, Drago Jančar, Uroš Kalčič, Jani Virk, Tomo Virk, Aleksander Zorn

1992, Issue 80 (XXX/1)

**Intellektuelle über Slowenien heute** (interviews and essays, German)

**Authors:** Drago Bajt, Ines Cergol Bavčar, Andrej Brvar, Milan Dekleva, Boris A. Novak, Boris Pahor, Jože Pogačnik, Denis Poniž, Marjan Rožanc, Dimitrij Rupel, Tomaž Šalamun, Marjan Tomšič, Aleksander Zorn

1993, Issue 81 (XXXI/1)

**Cuentos eslovenos contemporáneos** (short prose, Spanish)

**Authors:** Drago Bajt, Andrej Blatnik, Igor Bratož, Lev Detela, Drago Jančar, Milan Kleč, Mart Lenardič, Lela B. Njatin, Boštjan Seliškar, Jani Virk, Tomo Virk

1993, Issue 82 (XXXI/2)

**Contemporary Slovenian Literature in Translation** (Bibliographies)

1994, Issue 83 (XXXII/1)

**La poésie slovène contemporaine** (poetry, French)

**Authors:** Aleš Debeljak, Alojz Ihan, Brane Mozetič, Boris A. Novak, Jure Potokar, Tomaž Šalamun, Uroš Zupan.

1994, Issue 84 (XXXII/2)

**Prežihov Voranc: The Self-Sown & Passion above the Principle.** Two Short Stories (English)

1995, Issue 85 (XXXIII/1)

**Vilenica Desetnica 1986-1995** (selection of prose and poetry, English/German/Italian/French/Spanish)

1995, Issue 86 (XXXIII/2)

**Edvard Kocbek** (selected poetry, English)

1995, Issue 87 (XXXIII/3)

**Poesía eslovena contemporánea** (poetry, Spanish)

**Authors:** Aleš Debeljak, Milan Dekleva, Alojz Ihan, Milan Jesih, Kajetan Kovič, Svetlana Makarovič, Brane Mozetič, Boris A. Novak, Jure Potokar, Tomaž Šalamun, Dane Zajc, Uroš Zupan

1996, Issue 88 (XXXIV/1)

**Rudi Šeligo: ABBA. Auswahl aus Novellen** (short prose, German)

1996, Issue 89 (XXXIV/2)

**Nouvelles slovènes** (short prose, French)

**Authors:** Andrej Blatnik, Berta Bojetu, Andrej Capuder, Drago Jančar, Vladimir Kavčič, Feri Lainšček, Lela B. Njatin, Boris Pahor, Jani Virk

1997, Issue 90 (XXXV/1)

**Contemporary Slovenian Drama** (English)

**Authors:** Evald Flisar, Drago Jančar, Dušan Jovanović, Ivo Svetina, Rudi Šeligo, Dane Zajc

1997, Issue 91 (XXXV/2)

**Kajetan Kovič: Poems** (English/German/Spanish/Italian)

1998, Issue 92 (XXXVI/1)

**Žarko Petan: Aphorisms** (English/French/German/Italian)

1998, Issue 93 (XXXVI/2)

**Srečko Kosovel: Integrals** (poetry, English)

1999, Issue 94 (XXXVII/1)

**Veno Taufer: Poems** (English/French/German/Italian/Spanish/Swedish)

1999, Issue 95 (XXXVII/2)

**Nove poetas eslovenos contemporâneos** (poetry, Portuguese)

**Authors:** Aleš Debeljak, Kajetan Kovič, Svetlana Makarovič, Brane Mozetič, Boris A. Novak, Tomaž Šalamun, Veno Taufer, Dane Zajc, Uroš Zupan

2000, Issue 96 (XXXVIII/1)

**Dane Zajc: Scorpions.** Selected poems / **Scorpions.** Poèmes choisis (poetry, English/French)

2000, Issue 97 (XXXVIII/2)

**The Slovenian Essay of the Nineties** (English)

**Authors:** Aleš Berger, Andrej Blatnik, Aleš Debeljak, Milan Dekleva, Niko Grafenauer, Alojz Ihan, Andrej Inkret, Drago Jančar, Dušan Jovanović, Miran Košuta, Marjan Rožanc, Tomo Virk, Uroš Zupan

2001, Issue 98 (XXXIX/1)

**Lojze Kovačič: Fragmente der Wirklichkeit / Fragment de la réalité** (prose, German/French)

2001, Issue 99 (XXXIX/2)

**Современная словенская проза, поэзия, драма** (prose, poetry and drama, Russian)

**Authors:** Andrej Blatnik, Aleš Debeljak, Evald Flisar, Drago Jančar, Dušan Jovanović, Uroš Kalčič, Lojze Kovačič, Kajetan Kovič, Marko Kravos, Tone Kuntner, Svetlana Makarovič, Boris A. Novak, Maja Novak, Tone Pavček, Tomaž Šalamun, Rudi Šeligo, Veno Taufer, Dane Zajc, Uroš Zupan

2002, Issue 100 (L/1)

**Ten Slovenian Poets of the Nineties** (poetry, English)

**Authors:** Primož Čučnik, Jurij Hudolin, Miklavž Komelj, Barbara Korun, Taja Kramberger, Peter Semolič, Brane Senegačnik, Lucija Stupica, Aleš Šteger, Uroš Zupan

2002, Issue 101 (L/2)

**Feri Lainšček: Instead of Whom Does the Flower Bloom** (novel, English)

2003, Issue 102 (LI/1)

**The Key Witnesses: The Younger Slovene Prose at the Turn of the Millennia** (English)

**Authors:** Andrej Blatnik, Aleš Čar, Dušan Čater, Polona Glavan, Mohor Hudej, Tomaž Kosmač, Mart Lenardič, Andrej Morovič, Maja Novak, Jani Virk

2003, Issue 103 (LI/2)

**Boris A. Novak: The Master of Insomnia / Le maître de l'insomnie**

(poetry, English /French)

2004, Issue 104 (LII/1)

**Tales Growing up into Secrets. An Anthology of Contemporary Slovene Youth Literature** (English)

**Authors:** Milan Dekleva, Mate Dolenc, Niko Grafenauer, Miroslav Košuta, Polonca Kovač, Feri Lainšček, Svetlana Makarovič, Marjana Moškrič, Desa Muck, Bogdan Novak, Boris A. Novak, Maja Novak, Slavko Pregl, Andrej Rozman-Roza, Primož Suhodolčan, Peter Svetina, Janja Vidmar, Dane Zajc, Lenart Zajc, Dim Zupan, Vitomil Zupan, Bina Štampe-Žmavc

2004, Issue 105 (LII/2):

**Dane Zajc: Fuoco e cenere** (poetry, Italian)

2005, Issue 106 (XLIII/1)

**Fragments from Slovene Literature. An Anthology of Slovene Literature** (prose, poetry and drama, English)

2005, Issue 107 (XLIII/2)

**Glas v telesu: tri slovenske pesnice / La voix dans le corps: Trois poétesses slovènes / The Voice in the Body: Three Slovenian Women Poets** (poetry, Slovene/English /French)

**Authors:** Meta Kušar, Maja Vidmar, Erika Vouk

2006, Issue 108–109 (XLIV/1–2)

**On the Airwaves. An Anthology of Contemporary Slovene Radio Plays** (English)

**Authors:** Andrei Hieng, Saša Vuga, Pavel Lužan, Vladimir Kocjančič, Frane Puntar, Rudi Šeligo, Franček Rudolf, Igor Likar, Goran Gluvič, Andrej Blatnik, Lojze Kovačič, Milan Jesih, Metod Pevec, Feri Lainšček, Evald Flisar, Ervin Fritz, Matjaž Kmecl, Tanja Viher, Peter Semolič, Vinko Möderndorfer

2007, Issue 109 (XLIV/1)

**Milan Dekleva: Slepa pegica časa / Blind Spot of Time** (poetry, Slovene/English)

2007, Issue 111 (XLV/2)

**Tales Growing up Into Secrets. An Anthology of Contemporary Slovene Youth Literature** (reprint, English)

2007, Issue 112 (XLV/3)

**A Lazy Sunday Afternoon. A Collection of Short Stories by Slovene Writers Born after 1960** (English)

**Authors:** Norma Bale, Matjaž Brzlc, Nejc Gazvoda, Nina Kokelj, Miha Mazzini, Lela B. Njatin, Lili Potpara, Sebastijan Pregelj, Veronika Simoniti, Irena Svetek, Dušan Šarotar, Damijan Šinigoj, Suzana Tratnik, Orlando Uršič, Janja Vidmar, Lenart Zajc

2007, Issue 113 (XLV/4)

**Andrej Skubic: Fužine Blues** (novel, English)

2007, Issue 114 (XLV/5)

**Vlado Žabot: The Succubus** (novel, English)

2007, Issue 115 (XLV/6)

**Slavko Grum: An Event in the Town of Goga** (drama, English)

2008, Issue 116–117 (XLVI/1–2)

**Svetlana Makarovič: Samost / Aloneness / Alleinsein** (poetry, Slovene/English/German)

2008, Issue 118–119 (XLVI/3–4)

**Feri Lainšček: Muriša** (novel, English)

2008, Issue 120–121–122 (XLVI/5–6–7)

**The Dark Side of the Mountain. A Collection of Genre Short Stories** (English)

**Authors:** Maja Novak, Miha Mazzini, Jani Virk, Gorazd Trušnovc, Vinko Möderndorfer, Andrej Morovič, Milan Kleč, Zlatko Zajc, Marijan Pušavec, Mate Dolenc, Tomaž Kosmač, Aleš Čar, Edo Rodošek, Lenart Zajc, Mojca Kumerdej

2009, Issue 123 (XLVII/1)

**Decameton. Dieci poeti sloveni contemporanei** (poetry, Italian)

**Authors:** Cvetka Bevc, Ivan Dobnik, Maja Vidmar, Cvetka Lipuš, Miha Obit, Primož Čučnik, Lucija Stupica, Jurij Hudolin, Miklavž Komelj, Andrej Hočvar

2009, Issue 124–125 (XLVII/2–3)

**Boris Pahor: A Difficult Spring** (novel, English)

2009, Issue 126 (XLVII)

**Milan Jesih: Стихи / Pesmi** (poetry, Russian)

2009, Issue 127 (XLVII)

**Ivo Svetina: Scheherezade. Una opera occidental-oriental, 1988** (drama, Spanish)

2010, Issue 128 (XLVIII)

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

2011, Issue 129 (XLIX)

**Mate Dolenc: Sea at Eclipse** (novel, English)

2011, Issue 130 (XLIX)

**Lojze Kovačič: Basel. Drittes Fragment** (novel, German)

2011, Issue 131–132 (XLIX)

**Šestnajst slovenskih pesnic / Szesnaście poetek słoweńskich** (poetry anthology, Slovene/Polish)

**Authors:** Alja Adam, Miriam Drev, Kristina Hočvar, Stanka Hrastelj, Alenka Jensterle Doležal, Barbara Korun, Taja Kramberger, Vida Mokrin-Pauer, Ana Pepelnik, Katja Plut, Barbara Pogačnik, Jana Putrle Srdič, Lucija Stupica, Nataša Velikonja, Maja Vidmar, Lučka Zorko

2012, Issue 133 (L)

**Evald Flisar: Tres obras de teatro** (drama, Spanish)

2012, Issue 134 (L)

**Marjan Tomšič: Südwind. Geschichten slowenischer Ägypterinnen** (short prose, German)

2013, Issue 135 (LI)

**Maja Novak: Die Katzenpest** (novel, German)

2013, Issue 136 (LI)

**Zorko Simčič: El hombre a ambos lados de la pared** (novel, Spanish)

2014, Issue 137 (LII)

**Katarina Marinčič: Trois** (short prose, French)

2014, Issue 138 (LII)

**Marjan Rožanc: Of Freedom and God** (essays, English)

2015, Issue 139 (LIII)

**Davorin Lenko: Körper im Dunkeln** (novel, German)

2015, Issue 140 (LIII)

**Vinko Möderndorfer: Wie im Film** (youth novel, German)

2016, Issue 141 (LIV)

**Gabriela Babnik: La Saison sèche** (novel, French)

2016, Issue 142 (LIV)

**Josip Murn: Lonesome Poplar Tree: Selected Poems** (poetry, English)

2017, Issue 143 (LV)

**Kristina Hočevar: Auf den Zähnen Aluminium, auf den Lippen Kreide** (poetry, German)

2017, Issue 144 (LV)

**Veronika Simoniti: Teufelssprache** (short prose, German)

2018, Issue 145 (LVI)

**Ivan Cankar: Images from Dreams** (short prose, English)

2018, Issue 146 (LVI)

**Jana Putrle Srdić: Diese Nacht kommen Käfer aus der Erde gekrochen** (poetry, German)

2019, Issue 147 (LVII)

**Jure Jakob: Werkstückchen** (poetry, German)

2019, Issue 148 (LVII)

**Sebastijan Pregelj: A Chronicle of Forgetting** (novel, English)

2020, Issue 149 (LVIII)

**Veronika Dintinjana: Gelb brennt der Forsythienstrauch** (poetry, German)

2020, Issue 150 (LVIII)

**Nataša Kramberger: Blackberry Heaven** (novel, English)

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