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Miha Mazzini
Tadej Golob
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Mirana Likar
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Andraž Rožman
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Marko Sosič
Lucija Stepančič
Boris Kolar
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Vinko Möderndorfer
Eva Markun

GOGA

Catalogue 2021



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in 2023.



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REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE



EUROPEAN UNION
EUROPEAN REGIONAL
DEVELOPMENT FUND



CENTER ZA
KREATIVNOST
CENTRE FOR
CREATIVITY

The operation “Goga Literary Agency” is supported by the Ministry of Culture, the Centre for Creativity, and the European Regional Development Fund. It aims to develop a modern work environment with infrastructure dedicated to more efficient copyright licensing management, thereby increasing competitiveness, and enabling a stronger presence on international markets.

The primary activity of Goga Publishing from Novo mesto, Slovenia (funded in 1998), is publishing high-quality books by Slovene authors and promoting them in Slovenia and abroad. Upholding the highest editorial standards, Goga has maintained the reputation of a trustworthy publisher with authors and readers alike. Goga's program consists mostly of contemporary novels (both Slovene and in translation), but also includes poetry, short prose, and essays. Eager to expand and develop a strong international presence, Goga has recently been either the leader of or a partner in several international projects. In addition, Goga owns a bookshop, runs a literary residence, organizes literary events, cultural festivals, and presents the Novo Mesto Award for best collection of short stories, the only of its kind in Slovenia.

GOGA

www.goga.si

SEBASTIJAN PREGELJ

Sebastijan Pregelj was born in Ljubljana in 1970. He holds a degree in History and has been publishing stories in literary publications since 1992. His first book, *Burkači, skrunilci in krivoprišežniki (Jokers, Desecrators and Perjurers)*, was published in 1996. He has since published a number of collections of short stories and well-received novels, several of which were shortlisted for or won the most important awards. His work has been included in several anthologies, including translations into Slovak, Polish, German, and English. A number of his novels (among them *A Chronicle of Forgetting*) and some of his children's stories have been published in German. Pregelj is a prolific writer and has also published an awarded children's series.

titles:

DEAR ELVIS, DEAR ALI

A CHRONICLE OF FORGETTING

BREATHE IN. BREATHE OUT.



photo: T. Petelinšek

DEAR ELVIS, DEAR ALI

novel

Jan is just the usual child, going to school in the 1980s. We learn about his first bicycle, later his first love, thugs at the school gates, attentive parents and a load of other little things that build our lives, from the early *Star Wars* episodes to colour TV. The one thing that probably distinguishes him (and his creator) from his peers is an extraordinary imagination. He is called up for his military service just before the break-up of Yugoslavia, at a time when once unimportant things become important – for example the religion of his school friend Elvis's Macedonian family, or the whisperings about what went on in the forests during the political purges after WWII. When the country falls apart, the door to Elvis's room, a place of bright childhood games, is also closed. *Dear Elvis*, *Dear Ali* is an exceptionally well written novel about growing up, and probably the first Slovene novel to, through a personal narrative, convincingly depict the period when Slovenia was in the process of gaining independence.



title:

V ELVISOVI SOBI

publication date: 2019

hard cover

351 pages

ISBN: 9789612772550

Rights sold: Croatia, USA,
Sweden

Cankar Award
Kresnik Award shortlist

Sample in English available.

BREATHE IN. BREATHE OUT.

novel

A boy on the beach. What has hapened to have made this image so terrifying?

Adam, a man hunting mute birds, visits the big city. He returns to his house on the shore with an empty birdcage and a parentless boy, who soon grows to love Adam and his roommates, Ema Olivia and Kan. Everything seems mundane, except that the adult residents of the house sometimes vanish in the night and then spend the morning doing work they never talk about. The boundaries between reality and fiction are fragile and thin – the book seems to be a dark dystopia, yet each page reveals more and more resemblance to our real world. *Breathe In. Breathe Out.* is a brilliantly written simile while also being a socially engaged book with a unique response to the refugee crisis.



title:

VDIH. IZDIH.

publication date: 2017
hard cover
191 pages
ISBN: 9789612771782

Rights sold: North
Macedonia

Sample translations in English
and German available.

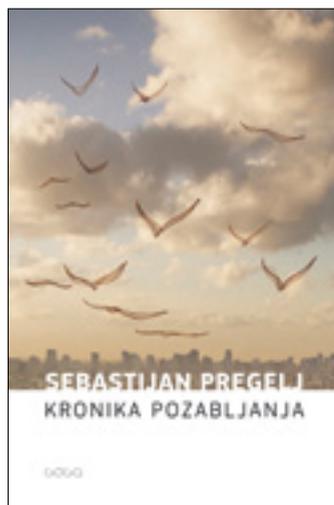
A CHRONICLE OF FORGETTING

novel

“A balanced novel about life and passing with a contemporary, socially engaged tone.”

Samo Rugelj

An old man in the retirement community gets up early every morning to see the sun rise. Life begins anew, the world comes alive, and memories come alive with it. Each morning they are slightly different – the world of the novel is ruled by dementia. The sometimes tense, sometimes romantic stories may be real or caused by hallucinations, but they’re always set against the backdrop of silence, of the great mystery that awaits beyond death. Through his writing, Sebastijan Pregelj has led us into incredible, fantastic worlds before, often removed in history, once even in outer space, but the most incredible world can be found among the brain folds of every human being.



title:

KRONIKA POZABLJANJA

publication date: 2014

hard cover

184 pages

ISBN: 9789612770853

Rights sold: German

Dublin Award longlist
Kresnik Award longlist

Full translation in English
available.

MIHA MAZZINI

Miha Mazzini (1961) is one of the most famous contemporary writers. He is an author, screenwriter and film director. He has completed his MA in Creative Writing for Film and Television at the University of Sheffield (UK) and his PhD in Anthropology of Everyday Life at the Institutum Studiorum Humanitatis (Slovenia). Mazzini has written more than 30 books, among them novels, short story collections, computer manuals and four scripts that were turned into films, two of which he directed himself. His work has been translated into 10 languages, awarded or regularly shortlisted for awards, and was selected for many anthologies including Pushcart prize 2012 and *Best European Fiction* 2018.



titles:

GREED

FUNNY

CHILDHOOD

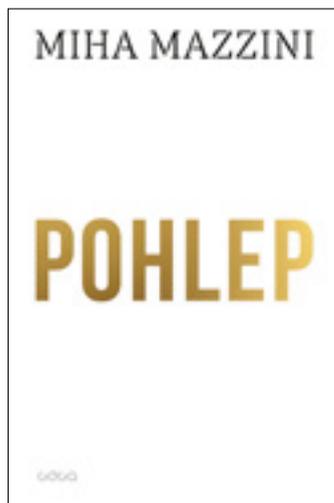
MAP OF OTHER LIVES

ERASED

GREED

short stories

One of Slovenia's foremost columnists, Miha Mazzini is an astute observer of the human condition. However, as is often the case, what makes us human is also what we would prefer to stay hidden, for example – as Miha Mazzini's short stories make blatantly evident – that greed has become a virtue. These fascinating stories provide a piercing insight into the economy of human relationships in a technicised world, in which nothing is for free and everyone will be the victim of someone else's greed.



title:

POHLEP

publication date: 2019

hard cover

162 pages

ISBN: 9789612772031

Novo Mesto Award shortlist

Sample in English available.

FUNNY

novel

The father, once a successful journalist, is hopelessly unemployed, the mother is in danger of losing her otherwise menial job, and their ingenious thirty-year-old son, incapable and unwilling to take any step towards becoming independent. This, in many ways typical Slovene family, is being bombarded by the media with empty, trivial phrases that simply make them even more desperate; conversations with former friends are also desperately empty.

There is little hope of a solution, when the mother suddenly decides to go on a trip to Africa on her own. The father insists on going with her but it turns out his wife is not only looking for new paths but also for love and the cards are reshuffled ... Perhaps it is really possible to find a new meaning in life in an impoverished African village? Maybe it is quite simple: care for fellow men, living in a community? Although the novel looks at sensitive and difficult topics, this is one of Mazzini's brighter and funnier books, defying the notion that writing about sad things, you very easily end up with a sad book.



title:

FUNNY

publication date: 2019

hard cover

334 pages

ISBN: 9789612772260

Sample in English available.

CHILDHOOD

novel (in stories)

*Seventeen stories, one life.
Or at least the first five years of it.*

Childhood is subtitled “an autobiographic novel in fictitious stories.” Throughout the novel we encounter the same boy, living with his mother and grandmother. The stories deal with early childhood, but the memory of it is a dream-like off-kilter reality. The reader is thrown into a labyrinth of anxious, sometimes grotesquely funny scenes. The central character is a religiously fanatic grandmother who keeps dying and coming back to life – fatal illnesses prove not to be so fatal, though it is true that she keeps coming back even after she’s been buried (under a tomb stone bearing the wrong name). Then there are the (too) brave playground friends, a bitter absent mother, and uncles, among whom Vinko takes up the paternal role: “Remember, kid: memories are like taxes – you’re never rid of them.”



title:

OTROŠTVO

publication date: 2015

hard cover

235 pages

ISBN: 9789612770969

Rights sold: Hungary

Kresnik Award

Best European Fiction

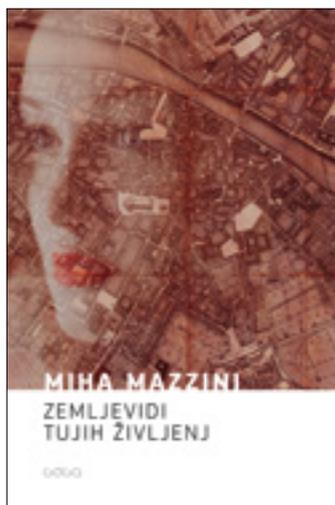
Full translation in English available.

MAP OF OTHER LIVES

novel/crime fiction

*A literary thriller about a man,
who buys not only a stolen iPad
but a deadly secret with it.*

At the end of his holiday in Turkey, Robert (45), ends up buying an iPad from a stolen goods dealer. Upon his arrival back home, the media are full of the news of an airplane crash that happened near Istanbul. Robert realizes that he bought a device that probably belonged to a victim of the crash. He finds a series of photographs of a young Arab couple posing with a gun, some knives and even a plastic baby doll. On one of the photos, a part of a calendar is visible and when Robert enlarges it, he is able to decipher the name of a mechanic and car dealer in a small town only an hour and a half away from where he lives. He hesitates but eventually decides to go there. He finds out that the girl and boy are locals who were certainly not in the airplane accident. The girl had disappeared two months earlier and the boy is still supposed to be living there, though he is never where Robert looks for him. Robert knows that he should simply leave to go home and stop delving into other people's lives, especially since he himself has a secret, a fateful one.



title:

**ZEMLJEVIDI TUJIH
ŽIVLJENJ**

publication date: 2016

hard cover

334 pages

ISBN: 9789612771355

Full translation in English
available.

ERASED

novel/true crime

*The state has taken her identity
and now they've come for
her child.*

Erased is the story of a single mother named Zala who, in the maternity ward, discovers that she is not in the computer systems and therefore neither she nor her newborn baby officially exist. It is a novel about the disaster that befell Slovenes born in the wrong part of the decaying country who, in the early 1990s, had their IDs destroyed in administrative offices across Slovenia. What happens when you fall through the cracks in the system? You can be deported, your neighbours can seize your apartment, you are left without a job, a doctor, even your own child ... Zala's frantic search for a solution turns into a tense thriller that reveals the anomalies of Slovene society.



title:

IZBRISANA

publication date: 2014

hard cover

270 pages

ISBN: 9789612770563

Rights sold: Italy, North
Macedonia, Poland, Serbia,
Hungary

Kresnik Award Longlist

***Film adaptation written
and directed by the author***

Full translation in English
available.

TADEJ GOLOB

Tadej Golob (1967) is a unique Slovene author with a thematically broad range of works. In 2010, Golob won the Kresnik Award for best novel with his debut *Pigs' Trotters* (*Svinjske nogice*). In 2016, he became a true sensation with the first title of his literary crime series.

He is one of the authors of *From Everest* (2000), where he describes Dave Karničar's skiing from the highest mountain of the world that he himself also conquered.

He began his career in sports journalism, but later became particularly famous for his interviews with famous Slovenes, that paved the way to several biographies he has written (among them that of the professional basketball player Goran Dragić). In 2013 his novel *Ali boma ye!* was published, which describes the story of an amateur boxer facing the last fight of his career and an offer he can't refuse.



photo: Bor Dobrin

titles:

VIRUS

VALLEY OF FLOWERS

LENIN PARK

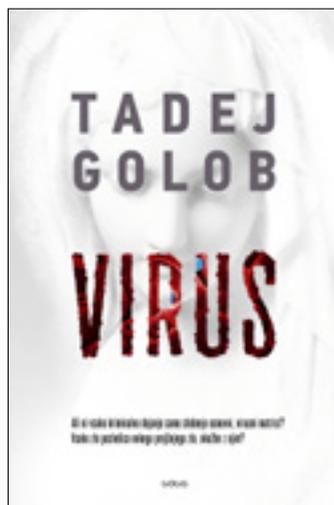
THE LAKE

VIRUS

literary crime fiction (bestseller)

In a remote village, a body is found, floating in a pool of wine, then another at the other end of the country. Taras Birsa, leading the investigation, realizes a pattern. However, while the police have been pondering the question of whether they should try to prevent the next murder or simply stand by, hoping to get more clues, everybody's lives are turned upside down by the pandemic. But soon enough, a third body is found. Seeing beyond uncovered secrets and corruption in parishes, prisons, and psychiatric hospitals, Taras and his team finally discover the killer, preventing a fourth murder.

Though doubtlessly an enthralling mystery, *Virus* is also a compelling study of characters, written in masterful prose, full of local details. Golob is exceptional in bringing every character to life, detailing their troubled pasts, their families, their hopes and desperations. In this sense, *Virus* is a striking depiction of Slovene society, including topics, such as politics and corruption, as well as personal struggles with alcoholism and securing a home for one's family. Added bonus: Taras shares advice on cycling routes in Slovenia.



title:

VIRUS

publication date: 2020

hard cover

500 pages

ISBN: 9789612772758

Sample in English available.

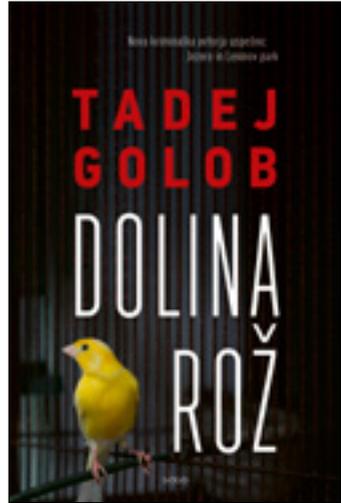
VALLEY OF FLOWERS

literary crime fiction (bestseller)

Two bullet-ridden bodies in a bedroom, a third in the living room. Were the young wife and her lover shot by the cheated older husband who then also took his own life, or ...?

Taras Birsa, the most popular criminal investigator in Slovenia, is left without a job. As a private detective he takes the odd assignment but feels a distinct lack of interesting cases coming his way. Until a fateful client walks into his office.

The successful third crime novel in the popular series by Tadej Golob, with its familiar characters that develop from one book to the next, climbed to the top of the bestseller list in the first week after publication and has since also been reprinted several times.



title:

DOLINA ROŽ

publication date: 2019

hard cover

429 pages

ISBN: 9789612772376

Sample translation in English
available.

LENIN PARK

literary crime fiction (bestseller)

“Why would someone shoot an elderly homeless woman?”

“Some people don’t like tramps.”

“Such as?”

“Have you not seen the anti-refugee posters, Inspector? And what’s the difference between a refugee and a homeless person?”

The body of a woman is discovered in a small park in the centre of Ljubljana. She has been shot in the head. A day later a man dies in the same way in another part of town. Are the murders linked? Ljubljana is sweltering in a heat wave, a new government is being set up in Slovenia after recent elections, and even without this, police inspector Taras Birsa is having enough troubles of his own.



title:

LENINOV PARK

publication date: 2018

hard cover

477 pages

ISBN: 9789612772093

Rights Sold: Italy, UK

Kresnik Award shortlist

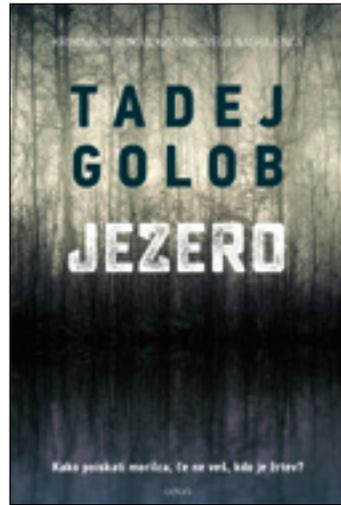
Full translation in English available.

THE LAKE

literary crime fiction (bestseller)

How do you find a killer, if you don't know who the victim is?

The Lake is a crime novel which has shifted the boundaries of popular fiction within the Slovene literary scene, managed to intrigue a wide reading audience and unify literary critics in the verdict that this is a well thought out and extremely skillfully written story. Further proof of this are three reprints of the book within a short time after it was first published in November 2016. The novel is set in recognizable Slovenian settings, the tourist surroundings of Lake Bohinj and the daily routine of the capital, Ljubljana. The protagonist is a model family man and detective with quite a reputation in his field. He is also a former mountaineer, a sworn recreational sportsman who is sometimes secretive, sometime impulsive, but always thoughtful and amusing.



title:

JEZERO

publication date: 2016

hard cover

524 pages

ISBN: 9789612771416

Rights sold: Italy, Ukraine, UK, North Macedonia, Czech Republic

Kresnik Award shortlist

TV series

Full translation in English and sample in German available.

MIRT KOMEL

Mirt Komel (1980) is a writer and philosopher, currently working as a lecturer at the Faculty of Social Sciences at the University of Ljubljana. He was awarded a PhD in Philosophy from the University of Ljubljana, having written his dissertation on *The Philosophical Aspects of the Relationship between Discourse and Violence*. He has published numerous scientific texts in political theory, social anthropology, and theoretical psychoanalysis in international and Slovene academic journals, as well as several scientific monographs. Among them is the monograph *An Attempt of a Touch*, which is closely linked to his novel *The Pianist's Touch*. He is one of the co-founders and active members of the international Hegelian association *Aufhebung*. His literary works range from plays, dramatic poems and novels, to travelogues.



titles:

DETECTIVE DANTE

THE SONTIUS NOTES

THE PIANIST'S TOUCH

DETECTIVE DANTE

literary crime fiction

Hari Izmail, a young Muslim, and his impenetrable, enigmatic partner Erik Tlomm investigate multiple murders. They're quite the odd couple: Izmail is young, curious, alternately sluggish and ardent, while Tlomm, whom Izmail calls Dante, is smart, yet secretive, coy, and at times seemingly indifferent. However, Dante has a passion: forensic linguistics. Not only is this a constant source of fascinating insights, but it also forms the basis of the narrative's philosophical undercurrent. While the first murder is relatively quickly dismissed, a new murder begins to complicate the lives of everyone involved. When the body of a young girl is discovered, a web of deceptions and false leads begins to surface, in which everyone becomes suspicious about everyone else. Matters are complicated even further, when Tlomm mysteriously disappears and Izmail starts seeing ghosts. Soon, everyone is involved and the subject of someone's investigation, including Izmail, who might be responsible for a third murder.



title:

DETEKTIV DANTE

publication date: 2021

hard cover

334 pages

ISBN: 9789612772918

Sample in English available.

THE SONTIUS NOTES

literary crime fiction

The Sontius Notes is a detective novel adhering to the classical rules of the genre rather as one who tells the truth through falsehood, basically by breaking them, constantly skipping into the realms of other, related genres, psychological and philosophical fiction as well as coming-of-age stories or the Bildungsroman. The reader is presented with the diary notes of the writer Erik Tlomm who finds himself in Sontius, a town set in an unspecified area of the Soča Valley in the northern Slovene Littoral. The local community, with which the protagonist co-exists more or less peacefully, is soon shaken by a terrible murder when the town belle is found stripped naked, tied to the lightning-struck lime tree in the middle of the main square. Due to the unusual nature of the case a female special detective Dante D is called in. Erik Tlomm enters into a Holmes-Watson relationship with her in order to expose the murderer hiding somewhere in town.



title:

MEDSOČJE

publication date: 2018

hard cover

350 pages

ISBN: 9789612772024

Kresnik Award shortlist

Sample translation in English available.

THE PIANIST'S TOUCH

novel

Playing piano, as all music, is not a mechanical action, it's life at work. Our bodies, yes, just this body here, your body, is the greatest example of them all.

Gabrijel Goldman is, by name and by life, suspiciously similar to the famous Canadian pianist Glenn Gould. We find him in a New York hospital following a mysterious event that causes him to develop a phobia of touch. Is it the fault of unrequited love, the denial of a loving touch, or the mechanical beat of player pianos, which threatens to take the soul out of music? The present in the hospital is entwined with the prologue about an eccentric Wunderkind turned obsessive genius. The book unfolds like a pomegranate: a grain of bildungsroman and philosophical novel, along with emotional and poetic love story, powerful descriptions of non-verbal art – music ... and all of them woven together with rich, playful language, reminiscent of linguistic masters such as Vladimir Nabokov.



title:

PIANISTOV DOTIK

publication date: 2015

hard cover

186 pages

ISBN: 9789612770938

Rights sold: Austria, Italy,
North Macedonia

Kresnik Award shortlist

Sample translations in
English, Italian, French and
German available.

MIRANA LIKAR

Mirana Likar has published the short story collections *Sobotne zgodbe* (*Saturday Stories*, 2009), *Sedem besed* (*Seven Words*, 2012) and *Glasovi* (*Voices*, 2015), the novel *Babuškin kovček* (*Babushka*, 2017) and the novella *Bibavica* (*Tide*, 2019). In 2020, she published successful the novel *The Storyteller*, shortlisted for the Kresnik Award and the Cankar Award. Her debut was shortlisted for the Fabula Award, with several of her stories, included in anthologies, having received prizes at competitions. One story also appeared in *Best European Fiction*.

titles:

THE STORYTELLER

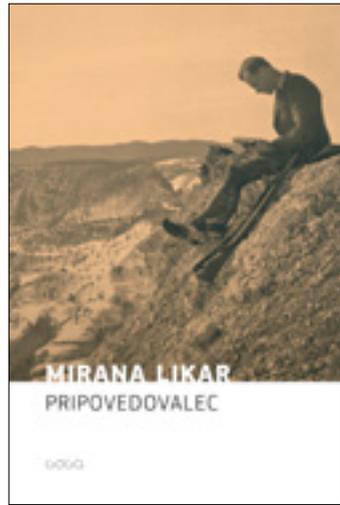


photo: Matic Bajželj

THE STORYTELLER

novel

During the course of his turbulent life, Nikolai had switched names, sides, uniforms, jobs, and posts, he was at the front and in labor camps, a prisoner, a lover, and an interrogator. In the whirlwind of history, he'd more or less unwillingly accepted several identities and sworn allegiance to different forces, his only humble wish being to safely return home. The novel vividly depicts Nikolai's childhood at the end of the Kingdom of Yugoslavia, how he was saved by the Partisans and was later recruited by Germans during WWII and was finally captured by the Russians. In a labor camp, he falls in love with a superintendent and is finally recruited as a secret agent, then imprisoned and saved yet again. When he finally returns home, the tense political situation forces him not to reveal the whole truth about his past. The novel is as much a story about the 20th century as it is a touching story about an individual's will to survive. And survival, as it turns out, sometimes depends on being able to tell a good story and finding someone willing to listen.



title:

PRIPOSEDOVALEC

publication date: 2021

hard cover

287 pages

ISBN: 9789612772949

Kresnik Award shortlist

Sample in English available.

JEDRT L. MALEŽIČ

Jedrt L. Maležič (1979) is a writer and a literary translator from English and French. Her first collection of short stories *Težko-mentalci* (*Heavymentals*), published in 2016 and shortlisted for the best debut award, has opened and demystified the topic of staying in a psychiatric hospital as a totalitarian institution in the 21st century. The following book, *Bojne barve* (*War Paint*), shortlisted for the Novo Mesto Award, discusses the topic of several different LGBT entities and their troubles in coming out in a closed or hostile society. In 2018, she published her first novel *Vija vaja ven* (*Eeny, meenie, mynie, moe*), which tackles the subject of dangerous new age mentality and spiritual cults. *Napol morilke* (*Almost Murderers*) is her second novel.



photo: Boštjan Pucelj

ALMOST MURDERERS

novel

Marina and her stubborn mother, Marija, are Slovenes living in Trieste in the 1920s. Marina falls in love and gets pregnant. However, her activist partner flees the country, leaving behind a daughter he'd never seen. With the rise of fascism, the three women seek safety with relatives in Istria, then with benefactors in Maribor. By the end of 1930s, Zorka, the youngest of the three women, has grown up and become a political activist herself, while her grandmother has become even more possessed by religion. Marina, who had always been rather passive and therefore never able to stand up to her own mother, finds some comfort in finally being able to support her own daughter when, in 1941, she decides to join the Liberation Front. Not knowing that the war was just about to begin and change their lives once more, Marina feels she'd finally broken the circle and set herself free. *Almost Murderers* is a moving account of a woman's winding path towards freedom. Her journey is a poignant reminder of the obstacles women – and minorities in general – had to overcome in the 20th century up to WWII.



title:

NAPOL MORILKE

publication date: 2021

hard cover

223 pages

ISBN: 9789612772819

Sample in English available.

ANDRAŽ ROŽMAN

Andraž Rožman was born in 1983 in Novo mesto and spent most of his life in Mengeš, Slovenia. He has been linked to journalism for almost 15 years and he has always been very attracted to reportages and interviews, and most of all to stories of people whose voice has not yet been heard. Since 2005, he has been working at Dnevnik newspaper. He holds a degree in Journalism from the Faculty of Social Sciences at the University of Ljubljana. In the last few years he has also been working on literary journalism, paying special attention to the literary aspect. The arrival of refugees to Slovenia had a great impact on him and his work. *Three Memories* is his literary debut.



photo: Aljaž Vrabec, Delo

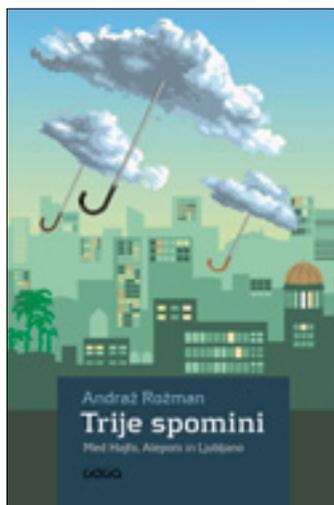
titles:

THREE MEMORIES

THREE MEMORIES

documentary novel

At a time when barbed wire fences were being erected along Slovenia's southern borders, the Syrian publisher and poet Mohamad Al Munem sets out on the dangerous Mediterranean route and reaches Slovenia where he also unexpectedly stays. The poet from Aleppo was born a refugee, his story, documented in *Three Memories*, is not just a story of lively intellectual life in Aleppo but reaches into the period before his birth when his father and mother were forced to leave Palestine. It is the story of his refugee family, its fates and fortunes, but also a book about his friendship with the journalist Andraž Rožman who got to know Mohamad through numerous conversations, learned from him, and eventually became the book's author. It is a book of memories of three towns, Haifa, Aleppo and Ljubljana, a biography of a teacher and a novel about a listener who is becoming a writer.



title:

TRIJE SPOMINI

publication date: 2019

hard cover

295 pages

ISBN: 9789612772154

Rights sold: Czech Republic

Kresnik Award shortlist

Sample in English available.

AGATA TOMAŽIČ

Agata Tomažič (1977) graduated in French at the Faculty of Arts and in Journalism at the Faculty of Social Sciences in Ljubljana. She first impressed readers with her extraordinary journalistic contribution to a major national newspaper and her translations of fiction and non-fiction from English and French. She ventured into the literary scene with her much admired collection of short stories *Things You Can't Tell Your Hairdresser*, published in 2015, and a year later with a literary travelogue *Why Travel to Such Places?* In 2017 her debut novel *Right Under the Sky* was published by Goga, followed by another collection of short stories. She currently works at the Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts and keeps in touch with her audience as an avid tweeter.



photo: Jože Suhadolnik, Delo

titles:

KNIFE IN THE MOUTH

RIGHT UNDER THE SKY

**THINGS YOU CAN'T TELL
YOUR HAIRDRESSER**

KNIFE IN THE MOUTH

short stories

Agata Tomažič's stories peek into the secret lives of carefully chosen protagonists, who hide their anger, contempt, loneliness, and pain underneath the mask of ordinariness and conformity. Describing their misbehavior and skirmishes with society, Agata Tomažič skillfully exposes the painful details lurking underneath the surface of liberalism. Uncovering the banality of xenophobia and all other forms of hate, Agata Tomažič's stories are at once relevant and frightening, yet brimming with masterful irony and witty humor.

This book is a collection of tragic stories, but they're written in a way that invites the reader to laugh rather than cry. After all, no one is what they seem to be; everyone has a dark or absurd secret that Agata Tomažič took absolute pleasure in revealing.



title:

NOŽ V USTIH

publication date: 202

hard cover

192 pages

ISBN: 9789612772543

Novo Mesto Award shortlist

Sample in English available.

RIGHT UNDER THE SKY

novel

*What is more important,
words or bitcoins?*

Metód and Ožbej could not be more different: one, a man close to sixty, a sedentary chief editor of a formerly influential newspaper, the other a thirty-year-old new millionaire from Silicon Valley who helped shatter the Gutenberg galaxy. Despite Metód being habitually stuck in the past and Ožbej with one eye constantly on the screen of his mobile phone and his thoughts in the future, their paths, which seem to be leading them through parallel universes, still meet. Will the proponent of the analogue admit defeat and give way to the bearer of the digital? Which is of greater importance, words or bitcoins?



title:

TIK POD NEBOM

publication date: 2017

hard cover

203 pages

ISBN: 9789612771867

Sample translation in English
available.

THINGS YOU CAN'T TELL YOUR HAIRDRESSER

short stories

We should never be doing or suffering things we can't talk to our hairdresser about. If that starts being the case, it's time for a red alert.

Things You Can't Tell Your Hairdresser is the short prose debut of Agata Tomažič, taking its title from the above story fragment *Those Ripping Out Japanese Knotweed Can't Be All Bad*, the first-person account of a woman who meets her future partner at a knotweed extermination project and whose tale, comical at times, addresses the sombre subject of domestic violence. At large, the heroes and heroines of Agata's stories appear to be entirely unremarkable people, leading perfectly ordinary lives until ... the pompous yuppie doesn't start morphing into a frog; the forty-year-old mama's boy obsessing over the largest prime number doesn't fall for a young co-worker; the grieving widow doesn't find a long-forgotten phone belonging to her husband. All thirteen stories vow the reader with peculiar language, dark humour and surprising turns.



title:

**ČESAR NE MOREŠ
POVEDATI FRIZERKI**

publication date: 2015

hard cover

205 pages

ISBN: 9789612771331

Rights sold: France

Sample translation in English
and German available.

BORIS A. NOVAK

Boris A. Novak (born in 1953) is a Slovene poet, playwright, translator, and essayist. He teaches Comparative Literature at the University of Ljubljana. In the name of International PEN he organized humanitarian help for refugees from former Yugoslavia and writers from Sarajevo during the war. (He has expressed this horror in the tragedy in verses *Cassandra* based on the Troian myth). In 2002 Novak was elected Vice-president of International PEN. So far he has published 90 books and his poetry is translated into many languages. Novak translates poetry and prose from French (S. Mallarmé, P. Valéry, P. Verlaine, E. Jabès), ancient Provençal (Troubadours), Dutch (Paul van Ostaijen, Monika van Paemel), as well as American, English and Irish poetry (S. Heaney) and literature written in South Slavic languages (Josip Osti). In 2001 he has published the extensive anthology *Modern French Poetry* (more than 800 pages), and in 2003 the first anthology of Provençal troubadours in Slovene. He is the recipient of the Golden Sign of the Scientific and Research Centre of the Slovene Academy of Arts and Sciences for his theoretical work (1998), *Le Chevalier dans l'Ordre des Palmes académiques* (2008), *Chevalier dans l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres* (2011), and the Prešeren Award (2018), among others.



photo: Tihomir Pinter

THE DOORS OF NO RETURN

epic

The Doors of No Return, the first Slovene epic, took the poet Boris A. Novak over twenty years to produce. Book I, *The Maps of Homesickness* (*Zemljevidi domotožja*), shows a bird-eye view of the world, painting the maps of European towns, Australia, and America, but mainly Slovenia – its lakes, fields, mountains, towns, and villages.

Book II of the monumental epic *The Doors of no Return* delves into the time between the wars in Slovenia. Stories of soldiers, of people left in the hinterland, of people in concentration camps who counted their dead after the war ... *The Time of Fathers* (*Čas očetov*) is the Slovene *War and Peace*.

Book III, *The Residencies of Souls* (*Bivališča duš*), concludes the stories from the first two books and the whole epos, but with a radically different tone and vision, which might be described as metaphysical and even religious. Boris A. Novak: “Here I, a poet of this late era, humbly repeat the basic question of the first poets and philosophers: What is a soul? Where do souls live? How is it possible that we feel the souls of the dead as if they were alive?”



title:

VRATA NEPOVRATA

published:

2014 (I), 2015 (II), 2017 (III)

hard cover/box

pages:

470 (I), 720 (II), 1112 (III)

ISBN:

9789612770860 (I),

9789612771249 (II),

9789611771522 (III)

Book of the Year Award

Prešeren Award

Veronika Award

Župančič Award

Sample translations in English and German available.

MARUŠA KRESE

The poet, writer, journalist, world traveller and humanitarian aid worker Maruša Krese (1947–2013) studied art history, comparative literature and psychotherapy in Slovenia, the USA, Great Britain and the Netherlands. When she lived in Germany and the war was raging in former Yugoslavia, she organized several initiatives to support independent media and peace movements in the region. In 1996, her humanitarian and cultural commitment and the establishment of ties between Germany and Bosnia and Herzegovina won her the German Federal Cross of Merit, while in 2007 the female authors of the European project “Women with a Vision” listed her among 100 most influential women in Europe.



Her literature is characterized by autobiographical fragments from her daily life, shock and indignation at violence and destruction sparked by the war, high ethical standards and sensitivity, yearning, disillusionment and resignation, cosmopolitanism, displacement, and exile. She is an exceptionally direct and fierce portrayer of women's destiny and reality marked by pain, sacrifice for others, compassion, indignation, fury at the ruthless world, ageing and loneliness.

ME, SCARED?

novel

This is a family story that begins in 1941 in a country sucked in the maelstrom of war and lasts more than half a century. This partly autobiographical narrative interweaves three anonymous first-person voices, starting with the voices of a partisan couple and continuing with that of their daughter. This intimate reflection of the war and postwar years opens the questions that still divide the Slovenian nation (e.g., fratricidal slaughter), with the daughter's narrative painting a portrait of the generation that experienced student protests, the Vietnam War and the hippie movement. The key role in the novel is given to women who have to fight for their position in society and rights whose exercise is entirely self-evident to men, many times at the expense of their own womanliness.



title:

DA ME JE STRAH?

publication date: 2012

hard cover

201 pages

ISBN: 9789612770297

Rights sold: Italy, North
Macedonia, Serbia, Russia

Critics' Sieve Award
Kresnik Award shortlist

Sample translation in English
and German available.

ALL MY CHRISTMASSES

short prose

Thirty Christmases, yet not one resembles the ideal, pictured in the media. With the parents having left for at a meeting of the Communist Party, even the traditional *potica* cake seems like an ideological choice, going to the church a best kept secret. Later: with the husband having left to go someplace with his lover, there's no time left in the chaotic life of a single mother to go shopping for a Christmas tree, and the decorations have gotten lost when the family was moving house again, anyway. Christmas in Germany, England, America, on the plane or in the car or somewhere in between, perhaps in besieged Sarajevo. These are miniature stories about the tragedy and comedy of family life on recurring Christmases, a document of the various times and a poetic autobiography of an extraordinary woman, a writer and a mother of three.



title:

VSI MOJI BOŽIČI

published: 2006/2018

hard cover

118 pages

ISBN: 9789612772079

Rights sold: Italy, Germany

Fabula Award

Sample translation in English and German available.

MARKO SOSIČ

Marko Sosič (1958–2021) was a director and writer, born in Trieste. As a theatre director worked in Ljubljana, Trieste, Nova Gorica and Rome; as a writer he wrote novels, short stories, and radio and theatre plays. His writing has a characteristic poeticity, warm empathy and painful expanse for marginal states of the human spirit. He secured his place in the literary Parnassus with his first novel *Ballerina, ballerina* (1997), followed by three further novels and two collections of short stories, which brought him nominations for important literary awards (three of his novels were on the shortlist for the Kresnik Award for best novel) and his work has also been translated into various languages.

titles:

BREAD, DUST



BREAD, DUST

novel

The wars in the Balkans are over but what remains are the stories that nobody has yet written, faces that we no longer remember, dust to which people whose names have been forgotten have returned. This is what the main character in the novel *Bread, Dust* wants to redress; filled of a sense of guilt that his family had not given enough help to relatives from the war-torn areas, he tries to return the faces to the stories, even if it involves an unusual journey through Serbia and Bosnia at a time of record flooding. During this trip distant voices, some even from beyond the grave, find their way into the thoughts of the narrator, friends and family who with their stories weave a tapestry of a melancholic post-war landscape. Like any good novel, *Bread, Dust*, speaks of love and death. Just as it seems that the cold dust of oblivion is about to settle over all the protagonists, it turns out that there might still be atonement through memory and warmth which, like a piece of bread, you can offer to those close to you.



title:

KRUH, PRAH

publication date: 2018

hard cover

240 pages

ISBN: 9789612772055

Kresnik Award shortlist

Sample translation in English
and German available.

LUCIJA STEPANČIČ

A restorer and an awarded literary critic, Lucija Stepančič is the author of several children's books and co-author of graphic novels. Her short-story collections *Prasec pa tak* (*What a jerk*, 2008) and *Tramvajkomanda* were shortlisted for the Fabula Award and the Novo Mesto Award. Her novel *V četrtek ob šestih* (*Thursday at Six*, 2011) was shortlisted for the Kresnik Award. In 2020, she published the novel *Naj me kdo zbudi* (*Wake me up, Someone*), shortlisted for the Cankar Award and the Critics' Sieve Award.

titles:

WAKE ME UP, SOMEONE



WAKE ME UP, SOMEONE

novel

The novel is a multi-layered, yet extremely witty narrative about a young art historian from Slovenia, who comes to Florence to study baroque – not renaissance – art. At a party, she meets a mysterious and charming aristocrat and spends the night at his luxurious palace. However, their one-night stand will become a much stronger commitment: by becoming Alessandro's lover, Ana had indeed died and entered a bizarre underworld of artists and other lost souls. Together, they journey through time and space, meeting old masters, masked exorcists, as well as Ana's deceased family members and schoolfriends. *Wake me up, Someone* is a genre-bending novel that rewards the reader with witty insights, a broad knowledge of art history, and many intertextual hints. After all, it seems to be set in Florence only in order to subvert the (bourgeois) ideal of perfection in favor of carnivalesque lushness, while art seems to be both s source of fascination and ridicule. Lucija Stepančič has a keen sense for irony and style, unmatched in Slovene contemporary literature.



title:

NAJ ME KDO ZBUDI

publication date: 2020

hard cover

285 pages

ISBN: 9789612772567

Cankar Award shortlist
Critic's Sieve Award shortlist

Sample in English available.

BORIS KOLAR

Dr Boris Kolar is an ecologist and ecotoxicologist and an international expert on environmental risks. He has written columns for a daily newspaper and published the occasional text in Slovenian literary magazines, but he is most well-known for his humorous novel *Iqball Hotel* set in Africa, which tells the story of a tourist who slowly turns into the proprietor of a hotel in the middle of nowhere. The novel was shortlisted for the Kresnik Award for best novel in 2009. More than a decade later, in 2020, Goga published his book of short stories *Trinajst (Thirteen)*. In 2021, he published his second novel *Potopimo Islandijo! (Let's Sink Iceland!)*. His writings are in touch with nature, bright and, above all, extremely humorous.

titles:

LET'S SINK ICELAND!

THIRTEEN

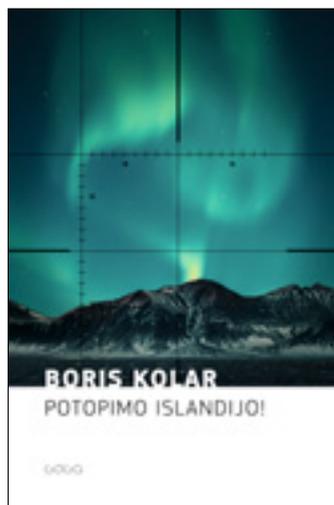


photo: Matjaž Wenzel

LET'S SINK ICELAND!

novel

Life seems simple in a tiny town somewhere in the Netherlands: just the usual plots, schemes, and petty acts of corruption, that are quickly forgotten. When news of the financial crisis on Iceland reaches the town, people are frustrated (for they themselves had invested) and appalled (for they of course pretend to be morally correct citizens). In a sudden strike of inspiration, the town's politicians from opposing parties decide to embark on a joint mission that will at once teach Iceland a lesson, restore the townsfolk's reputation, and attract wide publicity. After all, having lost its sense of direction, the old continent is desperate for great deeds by the common man. So the politicians' ingenious plan is simple: get a boat and fire a torpedo that will sink Iceland once and for all. In the end, this quirky novel, in which one misadventure follows another, rich with all sorts of colorful, crazy characters, is indeed a parable of contemporary society. One that can break any minute. And if the world needs to end, why not make it a farce? That way, at least it will be funny.



title:

POTOPIMO ISLANDIJO!

publication date: 2021

hard cover

224 pages

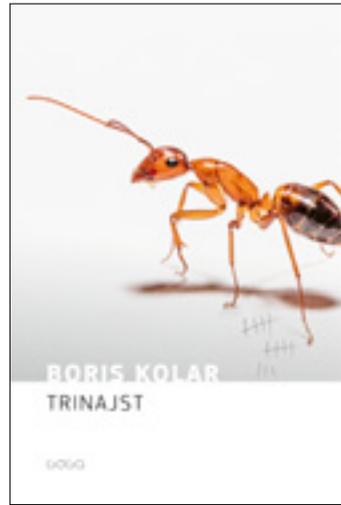
ISBN: 9789612772994

Sample in English available.

THIRTEEN

short stories

At first glance, these humorous stories seem fantastic, but above all, they bring to mind the incredible variety and heterogeneity of the world that is right before us, but that we manage to overlook every single day. And it is this variety that whispers in our ear: I am here, too, the world is bigger than you. If earthworms under the earth can feel, even the sky can come alive for a moment: “Perhaps the sun rose an inch too high that day and an error occurred in the sky. Why else would there be numerous white lines left behind by airplanes cutting across the sky?” The animals in these thirteen stories are often more human than people, and people are what they always were – animals. Both animals and people pay more attention to their instincts rather than reason and find the most incredible solutions to their problems.



title:

TRINAJST

publication date: 2020

hard cover

215 pages

ISBN: 9789612772529

Sample in English available.

SVETLANA SLAPŠAK

Svetlana Slapšak (1948) is an anthropologist and holds a PhD in Classical Studies from the University of Belgrade. She has been promoting freedom of expression and human rights since the 1960s. In 1983, along with her husband, she initiated a petition to abolish the death penalty in Yugoslavia, the first such petition to be published in the Yugoslav media. She was one of the women collectively nominated by the 1000 Peace Women initiative for the Nobel Peace Prize. She has published over 50 books, 400 studies (in linguistics, classical studies, Balkanology, gender studies) and over 1000 essays, along with several translations from ancient and modern Greek, Latin, French and English. She is the recipient of the American PEN Freedom of Expression Award (1993), the Helsinki Watch Award (2000), the Helen Award, Montreal (2001), and the Mirko Kovač Award (2015), among others.



photo: Vinko Zalar

titles:

SCHOOL FOR DELICATE LOVERS

KITCHEN WITH A VIEW

LUNAR SIBLINGS

SCHOOL FOR DELICATE LOVERS

novel

Can a couple of lovers find true happiness? Greece, 1974, the junta's rule had just ended, Athens is in disarray. Caught in the middle of the political uprising are the lives of Nataša, a young student with a dissident past, and Aleksei, a middle-aged Soviet actor and intellectual, researching ancient theatre. They meet just when Aleksei decides to take his life, changing his mind only because he is fascinated by Nataša's words. Through their long and insightful conversations, the two friends with different backgrounds – one from Yugoslavia the other from the Soviet Union – begin to develop a special relationship and become lovers. Svetlana Slapšak's masterful prose beautifully portrays all aspects of the couple's inner feelings: the seduction, the closeness, the distance, their fears, and their doubts. In addition, Slapšak also lets her protagonists enter into a critical discourse about topics ranging from politics to feminism, in order to convey her message of democracy, equal rights, freedom, and the fight against the patriarchy, committed to the idea of a fairer world.



title:

**SCHOOL
FOR DELICATE LOVERS**

publication date: 2019

hard cover

334 pages

ISBN: 9789612772772

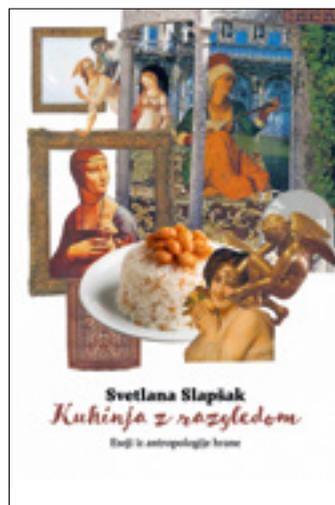
Sample in English available.

KITCHEN WITH A VIEW

essays

Vegetables, fruit, meat, desserts; dishes and rituals connected to food. From the artichoke to the torte, from male bonding at the grill to a New Year's Eve dinner. Svetlana Slapšak, professor of anthropology of antiquity and gender, playfully explores both the history of ideas connected to food and specific recipes, mainly from the European-Mediterranean area from antiquity to today, but she also wanders into Asia, the Amazon forests and the time of early American civilizations.

Kitchen With a View is a book meant for gourmets and those interested in our roots – food is the source of life for tribes in the tropic and the sophisticated court of Catherine of Medici alike. The book's excellency is evident by the Mirko Kovač award for best collection of essays received for the slightly shorter version of the collection published in Serbian.



title:

KUHINJA Z RAZGLEDOM

publication date: 2016

hard cover

367 pages

ISBN: 9789612771300

Mirko Kovač Award

Sample translation in English available.

LUNAR SIBLINGS

novel

The rush of war, the incomprehensible evil, and the flood of ridiculous propaganda of war can not enter the removed world of a Belgrade kitchen, full of witty and courageous women who stand their ground and do not, even by a millimeter, compromise on their principles.

How to be a pacifist during a time of war? In Belgrade in the 1990s for example? A group of women, relatives and friends, are trying to save whatever can be saved; they hide their men from military conscription, look after refugees, the ill, each other. They also lose friends and their jobs, so the protagonist Milica earns money – anonymously – as a typist for a greatly respected national writer. She finds the work so tiresome that she lets off steam by writing a novel of her own, influenced by the Brontë sisters. Alongside a chronicle of Milica's family and the entertaining ironic excerpts of nationalist prosaic ranting, we thus also get to read a feminist romantic novel.



title:

ISTOMESEČNIKI

publication date: 2018

hard cover

410 pages

ISBN: 9789612771072

NIN Award shortlist

Meša Selimović Award

shortlist

Vital Golden Sunflower

Award

Sample translation in English available.

VINKO MÖDERNDORFER

Vinko Möderndorfer (born 1958) is a writer, playwright, essayist, and a theatre, film and TV director. He studied at the Academy for Theatre, Radio, Film and Television in Ljubljana and has worked in numerous theatre companies around Slovenia. He started writing poetry in the late 1970s and since the early 1980s also published numerous works of prose, essays and drama as well as poetry and stories for children. His writings have been translated into several languages and he has received some of the most prominent Slovene literary awards, two of them for his short stories, the Župančič Award for his collection of short stories *The Circle of Small Death* (1994) and the Prešeren Fund Award for *Some Loves* (2000).



titles:

A SECOND PAST

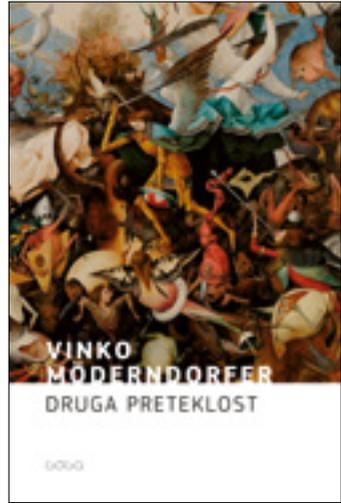
RUMMAGINGS

A SECOND PAST

novel

We can only be free of the past if we place ourselves in another's position. And good literature is the best teacher of empathy.

A Second Past is a monumental prose fresco about the fictional and archetypal Dolina, an Slovene village as it “existed” in the first half of the twentieth century. The book contains a cornucopia of characters. Among the Slovenians are cottage-dwellers, sawmill workers, craftsmen, waitresses, a regular lass, a wealthy innkeeper, and a mayor. Among the Germans: the owner of the sawmill and manor lord, and his elegant daughter who first has eyes for a penniless worker, but then opts for the mayor's son – which helps keep the social order stable. These heroes switch back and forth between German and Slovenian, and linguistic identity is not a great concern of theirs. However, as WWII approaches, a sudden Germanophilia overcomes some of the Slovenes and they are all too quick and ready to get rid of the nice Jewish doctor. But most of them just want to bury their heads in the sand and simply work, live... until the first Partisan resistance operations take place and retribution shooting follows. Suddenly war is raging all around Dolina, and plans for revenge are hatched.



title:

DRUGA PRETEKLOST

publication date: 2017

hard cover

825 pages

ISBN: 9789612771874

Rights sold: Austria

Kresnik Award shortlist

Sample translation in English available.

RUMMAGINGS

short stories

What hides in forgotten letter boxes, historic archives, the confused mind of a demented old man, who names a mouse with his deceased wife's name? How does history, the stories of our ancestors, affect the future? Are we still aware of how absurd the present is as we watch the news and sappy films? *Rummagings* doesn't accept instant solutions, it unveils the whole palette of the deepest human emotions. The short story collection is a tight-knit whole, a mosaic of the best Vinko Möderndorfer can offer: the reader feels the thrum of blood in the veins of the heroes, the warmth, forgiveness, and subtle social criticism.



title:

BRSKANJA

publication date: 2015

hard cover

244 pages

ISBN: 9789612770945

Sample translation in English available.

EVA MARKUN

Eva Markun (1990) is a writer, translator, beekeeper and environmental consultant. She studied French and Philosophy at the University of Ljubljana. Constantly returning to Southeast Asia, mostly Cambodia, she has translated a manual about beekeeping in Cambodia (from Slovenian to English) for a Slovenian beekeeping project in the Kingdom of Cambodia. Her short stories and poems have been published in several Slovenian literary magazines. Her short story *Swarming* was chosen as the best entry at the Festival of Young Literature – Urška 2016. Her debut, a short prose collection, *Menagerie*, was published in 2017. It consists of eight short stories that take place on the edge of wilderness, be it Slovenian or Cambodian, exploring the fragile edges of the relationship between culture and nature. *Menagerie* was awarded the Novo Mesto award for best collection of short stories and the Best Literary Debut award in 2018.



photo: Boris Pretnar

THE MENAGERIE

short stories

Eva Markun's gripping and eerie stories, set between the harsh Slovene countryside and dirt roads somewhere in Cambodia, depict the endless conflict between nature and culture: humans, always perceiving new imaginary threats, fight other animals for living space or try to dominate nature. Challenging the conditions of otherness, Eva Markun invites the reader into exciting liminal spaces, where different existences, subject to fear and projection, are suddenly – and more or less violently – confronted.



title:

MENAŽERIJA

publication date: 2019

soft cover

231 pages

ISBN: 978-961-7010-12-1

Rights sold: Austria

Urška Award

Novo Mesto Award

Best Debut Award

Sample in English available.

Co-financing Publications of Slovenian Authors in Foreign Languages

THE SLOVENIAN BOOK AGENCY (JAK)

The Slovenian Book Agency's – a government institution founded in 2009 – primary concern is facilitating proper conditions for the development of the field of books: fostering creativity, providing conditions for increased accessibility of Slovenian books, and increasing the awareness of the importance of books and reading in general. Part of this endeavor are several opportunities, offering funding for foreign publishers, interested in publishing works by Slovene authors.

There are two main calls:

- for translation costs,
- for printing costs.

Publishers may apply for both. At Goga Publishing, we will gladly help you prepare and submit your application.

For more information visit the agency's website:
<http://jakrs.si/eng/>



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