

18-19 MAY 2024
BRITISH LIBRARY, LONDON

EUROPEAN WRITERS' FESTIVAL 2

TRANSFORMATION



The remarkable success of our first Festival has inspired us in 2024 to go bigger, bolder and better! Central to its success are the authors, and I couldn't be happier at our selection of thirty of Europe's best established and emerging writers in English translation, with Ukrainian author and beacon of hope Andrey Kurkov as special guest.

Hosted at the British Library, over one packed weekend of panels and performances, we will discuss the literature and ideas defining Europe today. This year's theme is *Transformation*. We live in a Europe of fast and furious change, with conflict at the core, and we hope to demonstrate that community, debate, entertainment and storytelling can unite us in creating positive transformation.

No other UK festival can boast so many writers from so many countries of Europe in one place, and with the enthusiasm and support of so many Europhile organisations. Huge gratitude goes to the organiser EUNIC London, our partners the British Library and my own European Literature Network and our co-organisers the Delegation of the European Union to the United Kingdom and the European Parliament Liaison Office in the United Kingdom.

Integral to this year's festival are our new partners English PEN, Guardian Europe, University College London and the Times Literary Supplement: to them – and to all the chairs, translators and publishers – my warmest thanks. Finally, thanks to you, the booklovers joining us. This festival is a major achievement in the promotion of European culture and literature in the UK and I'm proud to be part of it.

Rosie Goldsmith

Artistic Director, European Writers' Festival
Director, European Literature Network

PROGRAMME

SATURDAY 18TH MAY

10:30 doors open

11:00 – 12:15 | EUROPE TRANSFORMED

An inter-generational panel of great storytellers from North, South, East and West kicks off the festival by discussing how Europe and storytelling have changed since the first post-Cold War generation up to today.

With Milena Michiko Flašar (Austria), Nora Ikstena (Latvia) and Elisa Victoria (Spain).

CHAIR: ROSIE GOLDSMITH

12:45 – 14:00 | CHANGING GEARS

Very few of our festival authors work and write in one genre, so does genre matter? Can you be good at everything? Meet the former bank manager who writes fiction, the philosopher writing on Law, the academic-broadcaster and the musician-poet. Among the many authors who switch jobs and genres, proving that changing gears only boosts creativity.

With Laurent de Sutter (Belgium WBI), Kristiina Ehin (Estonia), Emma Dabiri (Ireland) and Selçuk Altun (Türkiye).

CHAIR: TOBY LICHTIG

(In partnership with the Times Literary Supplement)

14:30 – 15.45 | TRANSFORMATION THROUGH TRANSLATION

How has the art of translation – and attitudes to translation – changed in Europe? Does the plethora of grants and prizes help? All our festival writers are translated, several lead double lives as translators. What does that mean for their own writing? And how do they judge the status of translation across Europe and the UK?

With Jordi Larios (Catalonia), Simone Atangana Bekono (Netherlands) and Ioana Pârvolescu (Romania).

CHAIR: WILL FORRESTER

(In partnership with English PEN)

16:15 – 17:30 | CHANGE AND CONFLICT

Our festival writers come from all over the world. What is the impact of war, conflict and displacement on how they live, think and write? How does conflict and geography influence their sense of belonging and identity? Can they ever forget trauma and loss or is the shadow of war and conflict always present, always part of their creative process?

With Joanna Elmy (Bulgaria), Igiaba Scego (Italy) and Iryna Shuvalova (Ukraine).

CHAIR: UTA STAIGER

18:00 – 18:45 | ANDREY KURKOV IN CONVERSATION WITH LUKE HARDING

Prize-winning Ukrainian novelist Andrey Kurkov is also a prominent commentator and journalist. Since Russia's full-scale invasion he has travelled the world campaigning to raise support for Ukraine. He has also continued to write, and his several fine books of reportage – including *Our Daily War* (pub. July 2024) –

sit alongside his witty novels, and the first in a series of historical crime novels, *The Silver Bone: the Kyiv Mysteries*, out now. He discusses writing and war with The Guardian's Senior international correspondent and author of *Invasion*, LUKE HARDING.

(In partnership with Guardian Europe)

SUNDAY 19TH MAY

11.30 doors open

12:00 – 13:15 | TRANSFORMING HISTORICAL NARRATIVES

Writing about history is central to European literature but how we write about it, and who writes it, has changed. When your personal history is embedded in historic change how does that shape your narrative? Who are the writers taking over from the Great Men of History, to tell its stories in daring new ways?

With Anne Berest (France), Christos Chomenidis (Greece), Tomas Vaiseta (Lithuania) and Margo Rejmer (Poland).

CHAIR: TIM BEASLEY-MURRAY

(In partnership with University College London)

13:30 – 14:45 | BEYOND BELIEF: BREAKING BOUNDARIES.

The originality, courage to experiment and boundary-breaking of so many festival writers are transforming European poetry and prose. They delight and stimulate readers – and will perhaps stimulate some change in writing in the UK? Our writers take on other worlds and literary traditions, from folk to fantasy, magical realism to sci-fi.

With Michal Ajvaz (Czech Republic), Alycia Pirmohamed (Scotland) and Sebastijan Pregelj (Slovenia).

CHAIR: REBECCA JONES

15:00 – 16.15 | EUROPE ON THE MOVE

How travel, journeys, migration and movement make their way onto the page. Europe is on the move again, by choice or by force or necessity: what kind of journeys are writers taking and how do they write about them? And after the pandemic, after Brexit, travel-writing itself is undergoing a revival in new and exciting ways.

With Kristian Bang Foss (Denmark), Andrea Tompa (Hungary), Afonso Cruz (Portugal) and Zuska Kepplová (Slovakia).

CHAIR: THARIK HUSSAIN

16:30 – 17:45 | THE NEW EUROPEANS OF THE FUTURE

European writers are increasingly multi-cultural, multi-disciplinary and multi-lingual but how can we embrace this transformation and the wonderful opportunities these changes promise for the future? Several festival authors write in the 'new' languages of their new homes: how does that impact their craft, their identity and how they feel about home, nationhood and Europe?

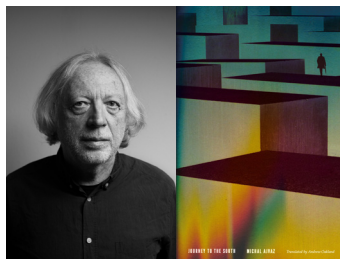
With Dean Atta (Cyprus), Sasha Salzmann (Germany), Larisa Faber (Luxembourg) and Tone Schunnesson (Sweden).

CHAIR: BEE ROWLATT

FEATURED WRITERS & BOOKS

(In alphabetical order)

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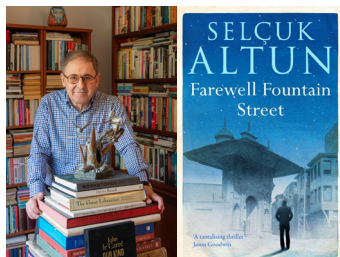
MICHAL AJVAZ (Czech Republic)

Author of 8 novels, the venerable Czech novelist, poet, essayist and translator with a penchant for magical realism and sci-fi, is widely published in many languages. He won the prestigious Jaroslav Seifert Prize (2005) for his novel Empty Streets (Prázdné ulice) and the Magnesita Litera Book of the Year (2012) for The Luxembourg Gardens (Lucemburská zahrada). In 2020 Michal Ajvaz received the State Prize for Literature for his outstanding body of work.

JOURNEY TO THE SOUTH, tr. Andrew Oakland, Dalkey

Archive Press, 2023. In a small village on the coast of Crete, the narrator meets a young man who tells him about his journey from Prague to the Libyan Sea to uncover the mysterious deaths of two brothers.

©Selçuk Altun



SELÇUK ALTUN (Turkey)

Writer, publisher, bibliophile and former bank director. He started Yapı Kredi Publications in 1994, amassing a personal library of 9,000 volumes, publishing, amongst others, Louise Glück and John Ashbery. His first novel Loneliness Comes from the Road You Go Down (Yalnızlık Gittiğin Yoldan Gelir) was published in 2001 and followed by 4 more novels (3 are in English), a book of essays and a monthly books column in the Cumhuriyet newspaper.

FAREWELL FOUNTAIN STREET. Literary thriller set in

Istanbul, tr. Nilgun Dungun and Mel Kenne, Telegram Books, 2022. Ziya Bey has 6 months left to live. From his mansion on Farewell Fountain Street, the Ottoman aristocrat plans to tie up some questionable business affairs and say goodbye to the people he loves.

©Thomas Sammut



DEAN ATTA (Cyprus)

Award-winning British author and poet of Greek Cypriot and Jamaican heritage whose works have received praise from Bernardine Evaristo, Malorie Blackman and Benjamin Zephaniah. His novel in verse, The Black Flamingo, about a Black gay teen finding his voice through poetry and drag performance, won the Stonewall Book Award and was shortlisted for numerous prestigious awards.

THERE IS (STILL) LOVE HERE, written in English, Nine

Arches Press, 2022. Poetry collection exploring acceptance, queer joy and the power of unapologetically being yourself and embracing who you are.

©Lin Woldendorp

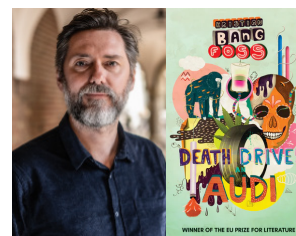


SIMONE ATANGANA BEKONO (Netherlands)

Poet and novelist living in Amsterdam. Her first poetry collection in 2016, How the First Sparks Became Visible, won several prizes and was widely translated, into English in 2020. She travels widely with her poetry and performances. Her poetry alternates between confrontation and tenderness, showing how the personal can be simultaneously poetic and political. She's written two novels, Confrontaties (Confrontations, 2021) and Zo Hoog Stond de Zon (The Sun Was This High In The Sky, 2022).

CONFRONTATIONS. Winner of several major Dutch prizes, tr. Suzanne Heukensfeldt Jansen, Serpent's Tail, 2024. Powerful depiction of racism and resilience, the story of Salomé, bullied for years, at the age of 16 she finally snaps.

©Helles Olesen



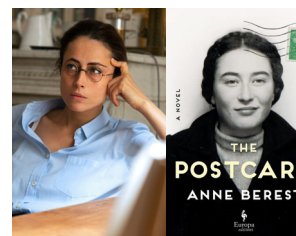
KRISTIAN BANG FOSS (Denmark)

Graduating in mathematics and physics, also from the Danish Writer's Academy, Kristian's first novel The Window of the Fish (Fiskens vindue) was published in 2004 soon after graduating, impressing critics with its inventive language, dark humour and depiction of everyday strangeness. Followed in 2008 by The Storm in 99 (Stormen in 99), set in an ordinary workplace which becomes the location of some bizarre power games and absurd events. His next novel Death Drives an Audi

(Døden kører Audi) won him the European Union Prize for literature and is his first novel translated into English.

DEATH DRIVES AN AUDI, tr. Caroline Waight, Parthian Books, 2021. Borrowing heavily from the traditional road movie idea, this absurdly humorous novel is a satire on the Danish welfare state, as its characters take a road trip through Europe to Morocco in search of a healer.

©Marie Marot



ANNE BEREST (France)

Writer, screenwriter, playwright and actress. In 2017, with her sister Claire Berest, Anne wrote a biography of their great-grandmother Gabrièle Buffet-Picabia, drawing long overdue attention to Gabrièle's often overlooked life and influence in the art world, specifically within the Dada movement. This was followed by Anne's first novel, based on a true story and years of research, La Carte Postale, nominated for the 2021 Prix Goncourt.

THE POSTCARD, tr. Tina Cover, Europa Editions, 2023. A fictional enquiry into Anne's Jewish family history during World War Two, told through the eyes of Noémie Rabinovitch, a 19-old aspiring writer.

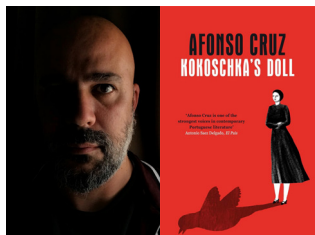
©Christos Chomenidis



CHRISTOS CHOMENIDIS (Greece)

Born in Athens and a law graduate, Christos' first novel The Wise Kid (1993) was so successful with readers and the critics that he turned to writing full time. In 30 years he has published 13 novels and 3 volumes of short stories. Several are translated. Christos writes a column for the Greek newspaper Ta Nea, collaborates on the economic-political website "Capital.gr" and is a national podcast host.

NIKI, tr. Patricia Felisa Barbeito, Other Press, 2023. Greece's turbulent modern history told through the life of one woman and her family. Awarded the Greek State Literature Prize in 2015 and the European Book Prize in 2021.



AFONSO CRUZ (Portugal)

Afonso is an all-round talent: author, illustrator, filmmaker and member of the band The Soaked Lamb, for whom he writes, sings and plays various instruments. He started off studying art and is known for his multidisciplinary approach. Amongst his 40 or so books he has published the novels *The Books that Devoured my Father* (tr. Margaret Jull Costa, Dedalus, 2020), and *Kokoschka's Doll*, which won the European Union Prize for Literature.

KOKOSCHKA'S DOLL, tr. by Rahul Bery, MacLehose 2021. *The story of two Dresden families, fractured and displaced by the 1945 Dresden bombing, their fates intertwined and bound to that of a life-sized doll belonging to artist Oskar Kokoschka.*



EMMA DABIRI (Ireland)

Irish-Nigerian author, academic and broadcaster, born in Dublin to an Irish mother and a Nigerian Yoruba father. Emma spent over a decade as a teaching fellow in the African department at SOAS. She is author of bestsellers *Don't Touch My Hair* (2019), *What White People Can Do Next* (2021) and *Disobedient Bodies* (2023). She presents TV and radio, including 'Journeys into Afro-futurism' and 'Britain's Lost Masterpieces' for the BBC, and the Cannes Silver Lion award-winning *Hair Power* for Channel 4. She is a columnist for *The Guardian* and *Elle* magazine.

WHAT WHITE PEOPLE CAN DO NEXT, Penguin, 2021. *Emma argues that we need to talk about racial injustice in a different way: one that builds on the revolutionary ideas of the past and forges new connections.*



LAURENT DE SUTTER (Belgium/WBI)

Born in Brussels, Laurent is a public intellectual and philosopher, Professor of Legal Theory at Vrije Universiteit Brussel. He is the author of more than 20 award-winning books, translated into a dozen languages, notably *Narcocapitalism*, *How to get rid of yourself*, and *After Law*. He has been visiting researcher and professor at universities all over the world.

AFTER LAW, tr. Barnaby Norman, Polity, 2021. *Law is the most sacred fetish of our time. From radicals to conservatives, there is no militant, activist or thinker who would consider doing without it. But the history of our fascination with law is long and complex.*



KRISTIINA EHIN (Estonia)

Leading Estonian poet and short story writer; singer-songwriter-musician in the folk group Naised Kõõgis. She has 8 books of poetry in English translation, and has published 3 collections of short stories, and a book of Estonian folk tales. *The Drums of Silence* (Oleander, 2007) was awarded the Poetry Society Popescu Prize for European Poetry in Translation, and *1001 Winters* (Bitter Oleander Press, 2012) was shortlisted for the Popescu Prize.

ON THE EDGE OF THE SWORD, poetry, tr. Ilmar Lehtpere, Arc Publications, 2018. *"Her work has truly haunted me; it has entered the deepest layer of my being with its rare combination of directness and subtle nuances, ancient traditions and modernity."* (Sujata Bhatt)



JOANNA ELMY (Bulgaria)

Writer and journalist, with degrees in English and international relations. Joanna is among Bulgaria's most prominent young literary voices. Her debut novel *Born of Guilt* received the prestigious Bulgarian national prize for emerging literature and was shortlisted for several other prizes. Joanna was recipient of the Per Aspera ad Astra scholarship for literature and is a fellow of the Elizabeth Kostova Foundation.

BORN OF GUILT, tr. by the author with Angela Rodel, Faber, 2025. *Contemporary history of Eastern Europe – totalitarian dictatorship, democratic transition and immigration Westward – through the fragmented stories of 3 female protagonists haunted by violence, addiction and the impossibility of finding a place to call home.*



LARISA FABER (Luxembourg)

Born in Romania, raised in Luxembourg and trained at the Drama Centre London, Larisa is an award-winning writer, director and actor. Her dark, surreal and irreverent plays, monologues and stories explore a wide range of political and social issues, such as ageism and elderly abuse in care homes, reproductive issues for women, and immigration. Reflecting on the fragile cohesion of Europe, she's also been exploring the divisions over land and property ownership in

Luxembourg, and the costs to the rural poor.

304X. Short story written in English included in *Les Cahiers Luxembourgeois*, 2021.



MILENA MICHIKO FLAŠAR (Austria)

Japanese-Austrian writer based in Vienna, born in St. Pölten. Studying German and Romance languages and comparative literature in Vienna and Berlin, Milena came to fame thanks to multiple national and international prize nominations, including winning the prestigious Austrian Alpha Prize for literature and being longlisted for the German Book Prize for her novel *I Called Him Necktie*, a bestseller in Austria.

MR KATO PLAYS FAMILY, tr. Caroline Froh, Forge Books, 2023. *Pensioner Mr. Kato contemplates life during his walks. Secretly adopting the role of "part-time relative" to those in need, Mr. Kato is profoundly changed by his experiences.*



NORA IKSTENA (Latvia)

Latvia's best-known contemporary author has published over 20 books – novels, short stories, essays and biographies – that explore complex themes round women's lives, identity, history and social change. Highly decorated for her contributions to Latvian literature, Nora helped set up the Latvian Literature Centre and is a major force in literature and publishing in the Baltics. Her ground-breaking novel *Soviet Milk*, translated by Margita Gailitis, Peirene, 2018, now also a film, has earned

Nora an international following.

A DAY IN HER LIFE, short story, tr. Mara Rozitis, part of the *Baltic Belles* anthology, Dedalus, 2022.



ZUSKA KEPPOVÁ (Slovakia)

Journalist, commentator, performer, writer of plays, short stories and novellas. From Bratislava, where she studied dramaturgy and screenwriting, Zuska later got her PhD in cultural and gender studies from the Central European University in Budapest. In 2005 she won first prize in a short-story competition and made her name in 2011 with *The Moon in Foil* (Buchty švabachom), followed by two novellas, *57 km* from Tashkent (57 km od Taškentu, 2013), and *Reflux* (2015).

THE MOON IN FOIL, tr. Magdalena Mullek, Seagull, 2023. Novel formed of linked stories, based in Paris, London, Helsinki and Budapest, describing a Europe undergoing intense change and reshaping itself through migration. More of an emotional travel guide than a geographic one, the characters think of home with longing and nostalgia.

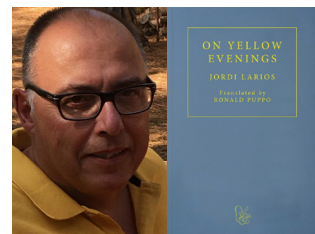


ANDREJ KURKOV (Special Guest, Ukraine)

Born near Leningrad, Andrej was a journalist, prison warder, cameraman and screenplay-writer before becoming a novelist. His novel *Death and the Penguin* became an international bestseller, translated into more than 30 languages. As well as writing fiction for adults and children, he is a prominent commentator and journalist on Ukraine for the international media. His work of reportage, *Ukraine Diaries: Dispatches from Kiev* (2014) was followed by the novels *The Bickford*

Fuse, *Grey Bees*, and *Jimi Hendrix Live in Lviv* (longlisted for the International Booker Prize 2023), and further non-fiction *Diary of an Invasion* (2022). As well as travelling the world to raise support for Ukraine, he lives in Kyiv with his British wife Elizabeth. They have 3 grown-up children.

THE SILVER BONE: THE KYIV MYSTERIES, tr. Boris Dralyuk, MacLehose, 2024. First in a trilogy of historical mysteries set during the Russian Revolution. *OUR DAILY WAR*, reportage, written in English, Open Borders Press, an imprint of Orenda Books, July 2024.



JORDI LARIOS (Spain/Catalonia)

Born in Palafrugell, Jordi is a poet, translator and Professor of Spanish Literature at the University of St Andrews, where he is a member of the Centre for Poetic Innovation. He was previously a lecturer at the universities of Cardiff and London, where he ran the Centre for Catalan Studies. He has translated Oscar Wilde, Henry James, Dorothy Parker, Anthony Powell and Robert Coover into Catalan. Since 1984 he has published 4 poetry collections.

ON YELLOW EVENINGS, tr. Ronald Puppo, Fum d'Estampa Press, 2023. Anthology of 100 poems, selected from Jordi's previous collections.

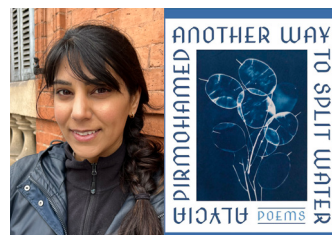


IOANA PÂRVULESCU (Romania)

Popular and distinguished literary voice in Romania; an academic, publisher, editor, translator, historical novelist and children's author. Championed by Istros Books, Ioana is well known in English for her warmth, humour, lyricism and intriguing narratives. Born in Braşov (a city she often writes about), she studied literature at the University of Bucharest, where she is today Professor and teacher of modern literature. She has also translated from French and German: Rainer Maria Rilke, and Milan Kundera amongst others.

JONAH AND HIS DAUGHTER, tr. Alistair Ian Blyth, Istros Books, 2024. Drawing on the Biblical

story of Jonah, this is novel about fathers and clever daughters, about love and our desire to find purpose in life.



ALYCIA PIRMOHAMED (Scotland)

A Canadian-born poet living in Scotland, Alycia has published a collection of poetry, *Another Way to Split Water*, and two poetry pamphlets, *Faces that Fled the Wind and Hinge*, winning multiple awards, including the CBC Literary Prize for poetry in 2019 and the Edwin Morgan Poetry Award in 2020. She is co-founder with Jay Gao of the Scottish BAME Writers Network (SBWN), "an advocacy and professional development group for writers who identify as BAME (Black, Asian, minority ethnic), mixed-race

or POC (people of colour) with a connection to Scotland".

ANOTHER WAY TO SPLIT WATER. Alycia's first full poetry collection, written in English publ. Birlinn Ltd, 2022. A homage to family and the natural world. How identity reforms and transforms throughout generations, through stories told and retold, imagined and reimagined.



SEBASTIJAN PREGELJ (Slovenia)

Born in Ljubljana, studied history, lives and works in Ljubljana today. A prolific writer, he made a name for himself initially with short stories, then novels and books for children. Sebastijan has been nominated 5 times for Best Novel of the Year Award (the Kresnik), thanks to a compelling combination of history, legend and modern-day reality, sprinkled with the magical, spiritual and mystical. His novels in English are *A Chronicle of Forgetting* (Kronika pozabljanja, 2014), longlisted for the Dublin Literary Award, and *In Elvis's*

Room (V Elvisovi sobi, 2019).

IN ELVIS'S ROOM, tr. Rawley Grau, Sandorf Passage, 2023. A generation grows up during the disintegration of former Yugoslavia. Emotionally charged history, related unsparingly, in all its beauty and horror, as the characters share memories of a country that no longer exists and learn how to carry that immense burden.



MAŁGORZATA (MARGO) REJMER (Poland)

Novelist, journalist and writer of short stories. Margo's non-fiction *Bucharest: Dust and Blood*, won Newsweek's best book of 2013 and the Gryfia Literary Award. In 2018 she was awarded the Polityka Passport for *Mud Sweeter than Honey* - the most prestigious prize in Poland for emerging artists. Her fiction includes the novel *Toximia* and a collection of short stories, *The Weight of Skin*, of which the title story has been translated for inclusion in the forthcoming Penguin Book of

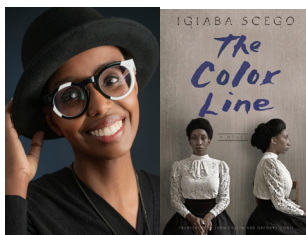
Polish Short Stories. Margo's books have been widely translated. She lives in Warsaw and Tirana.

MUD SWEETER THAN HONEY, co-translated by Antonia Lloyd-Jones and Zosia Krasodomska-Jones, MacLehose, 2021. Gripping reportage of Albania under communism, told through personal accounts of those whose lives were blighted and crushed by ruthless dictator Enver Hoxha.

**SASHA SALZMANN (Germany)**

Born in Volgograd in 1985, they grew up in Moscow and in 1995 emigrated to Germany with their family. Sasha studied literature, theatre and media at the University of Hildesheim and creative writing for the stage at the Berlin University of the Arts, and is now an award-winning playwright, essayist and curator. Sasha is the co-founder of the culture magazine freitext and was artistic director of STUDIO? (Best Experimental Stage of the Year, 2014). Their work has been translated, performed and awarded in over 20 countries.

GLORIOUS PEOPLE, tr. Imogen Taylor, Pushkin Press, 2024. A vivid depiction of how the collapse of the Soviet Union reverberated through the lives of ordinary people. Engrossing, unforgettable characters, a captivating love letter to mothers and daughters.

**IGIABA SCEGO (Italy)**

Somali Italian writer, cultural activist and academic, born in Rome to Somali parents who took refuge in Italy following a coup d'état in their native country, where her father was foreign minister. Igiaba holds a PhD in education on postcolonialism and has a special interest in migration. She has 3 books in English translation: Adua (2017), Beyond Babylon (2019), and The Colour Line (2020), winner of the Premio Napoli. She was longlisted for the 2023 Premio Strega.

Italy's Booker equivalent and her memoir, My Home is Where I Am, won the prestigious Mondello Prize.

THE COLOUR LINE, tr. John Cullen and Gregory Conti, Small Axes, an imprint of HopeRoad, 2023. Historical novel inspired by the real lives of two free Black women, both trailblazing artists who lived and met in Rome: Edmonia Lewis and Sarah Parker Remond.

**TONE SCHUNNESSON (Sweden)**

Born in Malmö, Tone studied Creative Writing and writes both fiction and non-fiction. Her first novel Trip Reports was published in 2016, hailed by critics as "delightfully rebellious", "hilarious" and "hard-boiled". Her first non-fiction book, Tone: Round-Trip Ticket (2022), is a collection of political gonzo essays. Since 2020 she has been a regular cultural columnist on the Swedish newspaper Aftonbladet.

DAYS & DAYS & DAYS, tr. Saskia Vogel, Héloïse Press, 2023.

Tone's second novel, shortlisted for the EU Prize for Literature and for the Sveriges Radio Prize.

**IRYNA SHUVALOVA (Ukraine)**

Poet, academic and translator from Kyiv, currently based in Oslo. Iryna has given powerful voice to the experience of war in Ukraine since Russia's full-scale invasion, especially from the point of view of Ukrainians who find themselves in exile during this devastating period. She is the author of 5 award-winning volumes of poetry, including her latest collection Stoneorchardwoods (2020) and Pray to the Empty Wells (2019). In 2009, she co-edited the first anthology of

queer writing in Ukraine. Her work has been translated into 25 languages and published internationally.

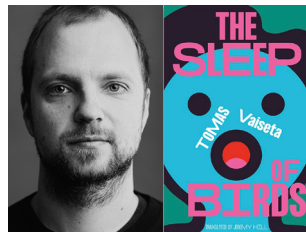
PRAY TO THE EMPTY WELLS, tr. Olena Jennings, Lost Horse Press, 2024. Her first collection in English. Deeply rooted in Ukraine's folk culture, her poetry re-mixes traditional spirituality with eroticism and an acute awareness of the natural environment.

**ANDREA TOMPA (Hungary)**

Hungarian writer born in Romania under Communism, she studied Russian literature in Budapest, worked as a theatre critic and editor, and today writes and lectures on performing arts. Andrea has published 4 novels. The Hangman's House (Seagull Books), in Bernard Adam's translation, was nominated for the 2022 Oxford-Weidenfeld Prize. She lives in Budapest.

HOME, tr. Jozefina Komporal, Istros Books, 2024. Having taken the decision to emigrate, Tompa's unnamed

protagonist is caught between two worlds, navigating a journey from one homeland to another, confronting tough emotional revelations.

**TOMAS VAISETA (Lithuania)**

Writer, historian and associate professor at the History Faculty Vilnius University. His first collection of short stories The Sleep of Birds (Paukščių miegas) became a 2014 book of the year in Lithuania, as did his 2016 novel Orpheus: A Journey There and Back (Orfėjas, kelionė pirmyn ir atgal). His theatre-based novel, Ch. was selected for the European Union Prize for Literature in 2022. Vaiseta has also written two historical monographs: The Society of Boredom (Nuobodulio visuomenė, 2014) and Summerhouse (Vasarnamis, 2018).

THE SLEEP OF BIRDS, tr. Jeremy Hill, Strangers Press, 2023. Contemporary Gothic. "So it was that a happy historical coincidence came to be: sex came into my life after the fall of the Soviet Empire."

**ELISA VICTORIA (Spain)**

Born in Seville, Elisa studied Philosophy and Education. She has published two books of short stories, Porn & Pains in 2013, and La sombra de los pinos in 2018, and contributed to several anthologies. Her debut novel, Oldladyvoice, was published in Spanish in 2019 to great critical acclaim. Her latest works are the novel The Gospel (El Evangelio), and The Hinge (El quicio), an illustrated book in collaboration with the artist Mireia Pérez, both published in 2021.

OLDLADYVOICE, tr. Charlotte Whittle, And Other Stories, 2021. Marina is an anxious but bubbly 9-year-old facing numerous challenges in 1990s Spain. "An unsettling picture of the millennium's end." (The Guardian)

Organiser:



Main partners:



Co-organisers:

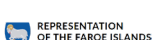


Delegation of the
European Union to the
United Kingdom



European Parliament
Liaison Office
in the United Kingdom

Other partners:



ADMISSION

Entire weekend pass, Saturday pass or Sunday pass can be bought at the British Library. Half-price tickets available for members, students, under 26s and other concession groups.

VENUE

Pigott Theatre
The Knowledge Centre
The British Library
96 Euston Road
London
NW1 2DB

BOOKSALES

South Kensington Bookshop will sell authors' books on site.

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