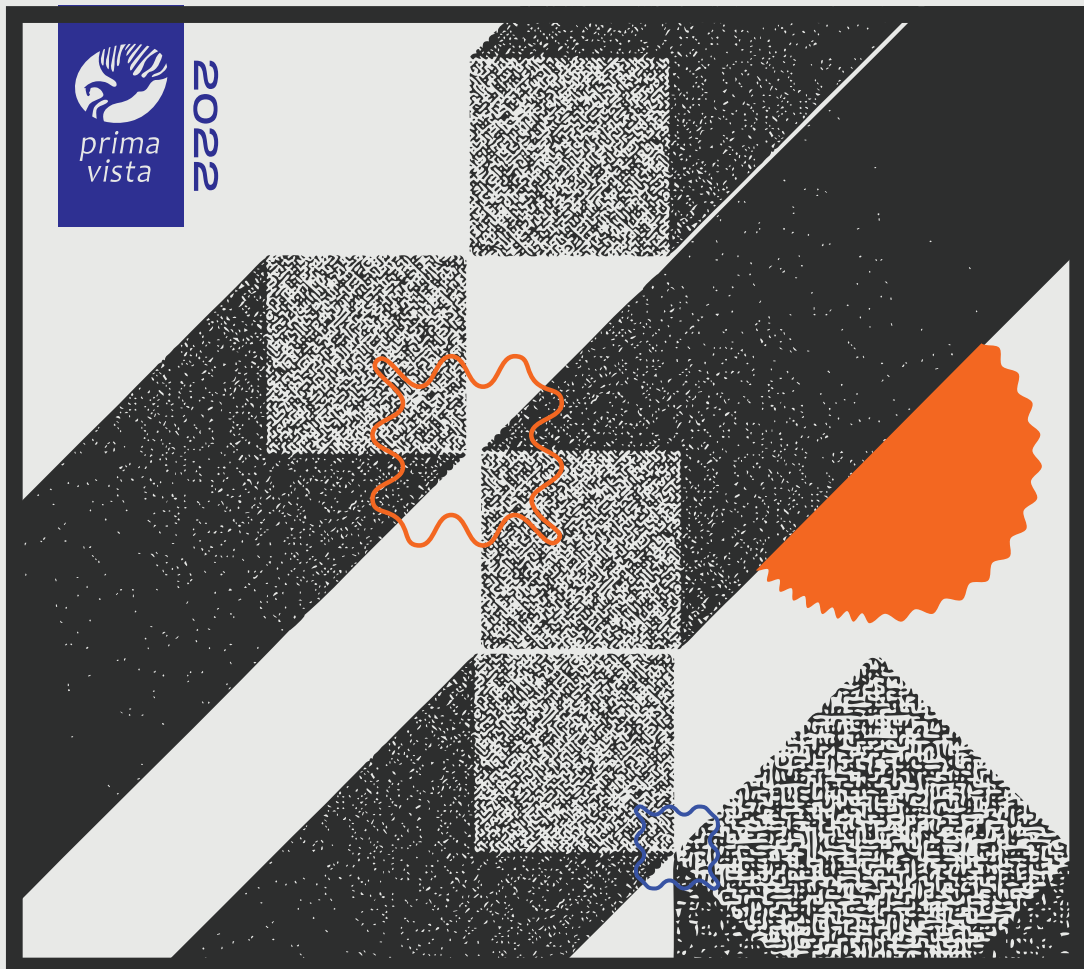




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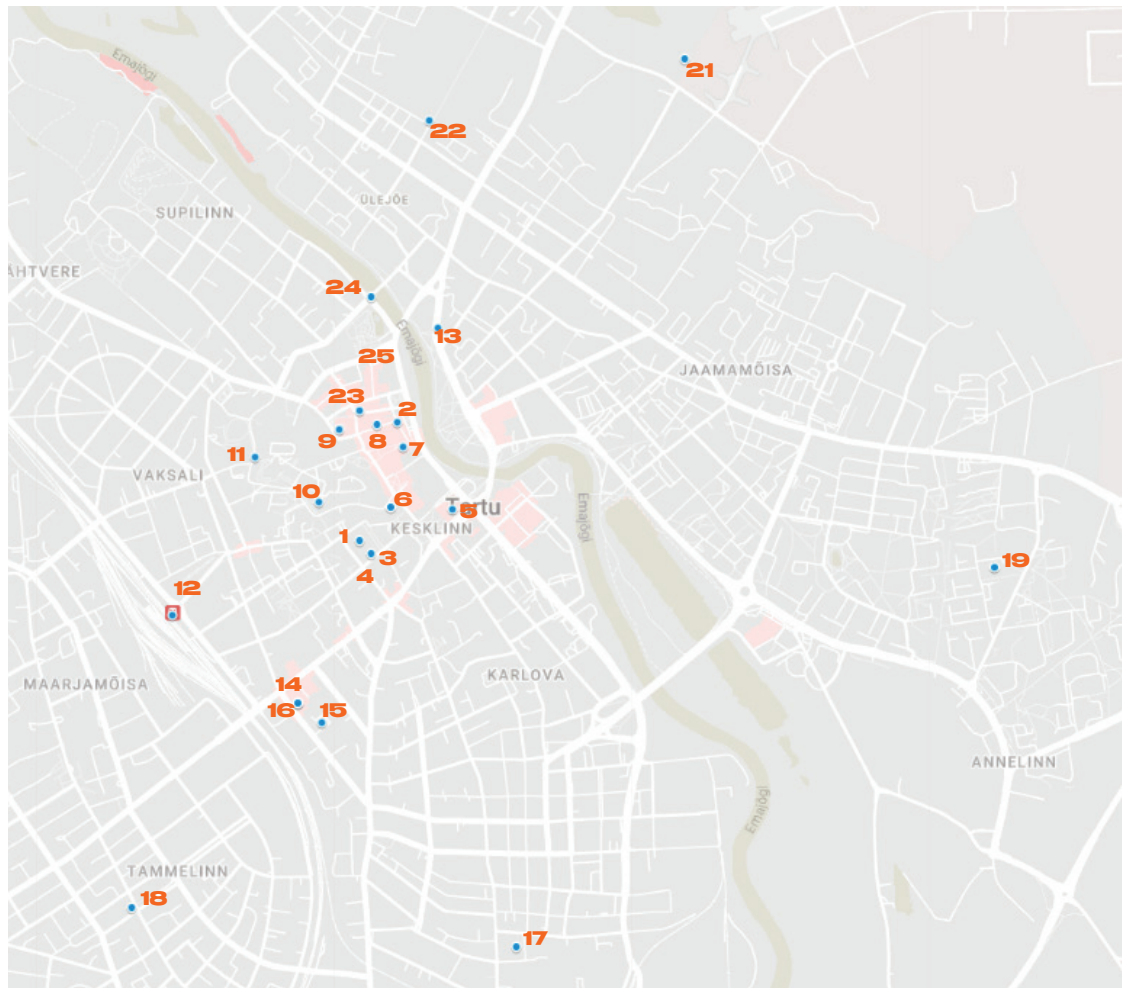
2022



GAME LIMITS

May 9th–14th

TARTU INTERNATIONAL
LITERARY FESTIVAL PRIMA VISTA 2022



1. University of Tartu Library
(W. Struve 1)
2. Tartu Public Library
(Kompanii 3/5)
3. Tartu Literature House
(Vanemuise 19)
4. Culture club Salong and courtyard
(Vanemuise 19 keldriruum, sissepääs hoovist)
5. Tartu Kaubamaja Apollo bookstore (Riia 1)
6. Vilde ja Vine restaurant
(Vallikraavi 4)
7. Town Hall Square
8. Vein ja Vine wine bar
(Rüütli 8)
9. Cinema theatre Elektriteater
(Jakobi 1)
10. Old anatomy building of the
University of Tartu on Dome Hill (Uppsala 10)
11. Tartu Academic Tennis Club
(K. E.von Baeri 6)
12. Tartu railway station
13. Tartu City Museum
(Narva maantee 53)
14. Book room Fahrenheit 451*
(Aparaaditehas, Kastani 42)
15. TYPA
(Letterpress and paper art centre, Kastani 48f)
16. tARTu art shop
(kunstipood Kastani 42)
17. Karlova-Ropka Library of Tartu Public Library
(Tehase 16)
18. Tammelinn Library of Tartu Public Library
(Suur kaar 56)
19. Annelinn Library of Tartu Public Library
(Kaunase pst 23)
20. Ilmatsalu Library of Tartu Public Library
(Kooli tee 5)
21. Theatre Hall of the Estonian National Museum
(Muuseumi tee 2)
22. Raadi Cemetery main gate
(Kalmistu 22)
23. Tõnisson square
(Ülikooli ja Gildi nurgal)
24. Kroonuvaia bridge
25. Club Genialistid (Magasini 5)

GAME LIMITS

We often search for explanations of life in situations where there is so much inexplicable, even unbelievable, around us! In such cases we tend to create metaphors: So, a good acquaintance of mine feels that he has become a hindrance in his own life, with events heaping over his head, and that he is the last one to hear about things he should have known long ago! He becomes more and more grotesque, starts mixing up the hall and the bathroom doors at home, doesn't know where he is coming from or going to and says at last: Life is theater!

Or let's take a woman who goes swimming three times a week; once she comes out of the shower, jumps into the pool and then understands she has forgotten to put on her bathing suit. She dives and tries to stay as long and as deep under water as she can, having only one sentence throbbing through her bathing-cap, hair and skull: Life is a dream!- Half a century ago the father of a family I know went to queue up at a bookshop in the evening to be able to buy a comic book titled Donald Duck, Mickey Mouse and Others in the morning. The shop being open at last, there was some scuffle but the man was nobody's fool, kept his place in the queue, maybe even was able to move forward a few places; the queue kept winding, lucky buyers left the shop with their books, others waited nervously wondering if there were enough copies. And then a group of military veterans appeared knowing nothing about Donald Duck or Mickey Mouse! Using their orders, they forced their way past everyone and bought the last book just under the nose of our poor man. He went home and had nothing else to say to his children than: Literature is a game!

It is in such situations where we cannot explain what befalls us, cannot define our own misery and foolishness, where even common sense won't help (has it ever helped anyone?), when a hurried, desperate necessity arises to ask – is someone trying to tell us something with it? My argument is certainly blurry and obscure and what comes needn't bring any clarity either for we are still far from clarity, but nevertheless it seems to me that it is with writing, writing ourselves through and through, or even at a moment when all hope is lost for anything, but the hand keeps scribbling, that you'll manage, to your own surprise, to word something essential very precisely and you have a feeling that someone, maybe your inner self, has done it instead of you.

I have been playing tennis for the last ten years. I feared sports games when I was a child. Instead, I liked to eat fat and sweet things. I wasn't fat but all my life I have had the feeling as if I walked with a thick quilt around my body. At school, going to the cloakroom reminded me of entering the underworld: nasty sweaty dampness and it was good if even a lonely bulb in the ceiling gave light. And in the gym the ladders, parallel bars and the nastiest gadget – the vaulting-horse – were waiting!

Tennis like literature offers life amplification and an alternative. At present our time is out of joint, you rack your brains and do what you can, but in the end you feel helpless and tired and wish you were in some other world. Tennis like literature is of help at least for the moment you are on the court, run, chase the ball and hit, letting you forget. At the best moments you have the same feeling of free movement as when writing. You feel as if you had entered some other space. Maybe game limit is moving within the lines of the tennis court, concentrated, present in the world, but at certain moments also somewhere else.



Foto: Jaan Tootsen

WARM-UP EVENTS

SATURDAY, APRIL 23RD

THE DAY OF THE BOOK AND THE ROSE

On April 23rd Prima Vista in cooperation with the Apollo bookstore at Tartu kaubamaja shopping centre invites you to celebrate World Book Day. From 10 a.m. to 6 p.m, a book fair will take place on the first floor of Tartu kaubamaja. From noon to 2 p.m. the writers Paavo Matsin and Heiki Vilep recommend books at Apollo bookstore. At 2pm the winner of Prima Vista literary prize First Step will be announced at the Apollo bookstore.

In addition to the programme at Tartu kaubamaja a pop-up bookstore Kausaal will take place at the culture club Salong (Tartu Literature House, Vanemuise 19, ground floor).

FRIDAY, MAY 6TH

13:00

13:00 Founding of Jaan Kaplinski Society at the Estonian Literary Museum

Jaan Kaplinski (1941-2021) was an internationally renowned poet and thinker. To support the research of his works and to extend the availability of his creative heritage his family and friends have decided to found the NPO Kaplinski Society where everybody who is interested in his life's work can become a member. At the event at Estonian Literary Museum on May 6th his works will be discussed and his poetry will be read and performed as songs.

Information and registration: <https://www.jaankaplinski.eu>

MONDAY, MAY 9TH

11.00

Yuri Lotman Day

PROGRAM:

11.00

City tour Tartu And Lotman guided by Kaspar Jassa
Meeting point in front of Tartu University main building.
In Russian.

16.30

Public seminar Russian Poetry about War and During War at
Tartu City Museum. In Russian.

18.00

„Games in Lotman’s life and works” - a lecture by
Tatyana Kuzovkina at Tartu City Museum. In Russian.

19.30

Aleksei Shipulin’s documentary “Yuri Lotman. My War and
Peace” at Tartu City Museum

14.00

Meeting and workshop with the Lithuanian writer Jurga Vilė
and Lina Itagaki, illustrator and author of comic books in the
Tõstamaa room of the University of Tartu Library

Their collaborative graphic novel Siberian Haiku will be discussed.
The guests are interviewed by Tiina Kattel. Everybody is welcome
to participate in the workshop Letters in Match Boxes. The talk
is in Lithuanian, with translation into Estonian, the workshop is in
English.

15.00

„Akadeemia – soon 400!” event at Jaan Tõnisson square

A discount campaign for subscription of Akadeemia will be
announced. The editors of the magazine read the latest issue.
Almost 398 previous issues available at a good price.



17.30

**Meeting with the German writer Timur Vermes
at the hall of Tartu Public Library**

The guest is interviewed by historian Olaf Mertelsmann. The focus of the talk is Vermes's bestseller Look Who's Back. The talk is in German, with synchronised translation into Estonian.

19.00

**The extra-playful edition of the Salong Literary Quiz Night
at the culture club Salong**

The limits of your quiz-abilities will be tested by City Writer Matsin and Doctor Lill.

TUESDAY, MAY 10TH

12.00

**The Estonian finale of the competition Lesefüchse
international at the hall of Tartu Public Library**

A debate of young people who study German focuses on four contemporary German novels. The competition is organised by ZIA. The event is in German.

14.00

**Literary and historical walk on the banks of river Emajõgi,
meeting point at Kroonuaia Bridge A tour focusing on the
bridges of Tartu.**

Historical background will be given by Ants Siim from Tartu City Museum, excerpts from literary works will be read by Ülo Treikelder from Tartu Public Library. In Estonian.

15.00

**The announcement of the winners of the book review
competition Ulakass at Tartu Tamme Gümnaasium**

16.00

**Opening ceremony of Prima Vista 2022 at the conference hall
of the University of Tartu Library**

17.00

**Presentation of the poetry CD i „Etno-tonte“ and
performance of the duo LORU at the book and
art shop tARTu**

18.00

Literary Tuesday at Tartu Literature House – meeting with the Finnish writer Juha Hurme

The guest is interviewed by Heidi Iivari. The talk is in Finnish and Estonian. The event is supported by the Finnish Institute in Estonia.

18.00

„Ga Dong Tao” – Natalja Murina’s solo performance based on the stories by Yelena Skulskaya at the conference hall of the University of Tartu Library.

19.30

Faerhstein / Siltšenko / Kotjuh – Ticket to Ride at the conference hall of the University of Tartu Library

A poetic journey with music and light effects.

20.00

Concert Stories and Songs from Ruhnu at the courtyard of the culture club Salong (in the club, should it rain)

The concert offers an interpretation of the musical heritage, history and village chronicles of the Swedish people in Ruhnu island.

Line-up:

Karoliina Kreintaal – violin, viola, vocals

Lee Taul – violin, vocals

Kairi Leivo – storytelling

21.00

Literary night at the wine bar Vein ja Vine – Toomas Kiho will read his texts

WEDNESDAY, MAY 11TH

11.00

Literary adventures with the mobile app TartuFic, meeting point in front of Tartu Public Library

Literary orientation game for 7th and 8th grade students.

12.00

Tour at Raadi cemetery with guide Kaspar Jassa,



meeting point at the main gate

13.00–17.00

Writers tennis tournament at Tartu Academic Tennis Club

Initiated by the patron of this year's festival, Urmas Vadi, a tennis tournament will take place where the players are Estonian writers. The participants include Armin Kõomägi, Mart Kivastik, Tiit Aleksejev, Anti Saar, Martin Oja and Urmas Vadi. Umpire: Joosep Susi.

14.20

Human Library for youth at the Karlova-Ropka Library

The representatives of different professions meet young people acting as "human books", sharing their experience.

15.00

King Lear And His Children – a performance by theatre studio „Poesia sõpruskond” at the conference hall of the University of Tartu Library

A musical farce in Russian, Estonian, Ukrainian, German, French, and English. Director Yelena Skulskaya. Texts by William Shakespeare, Ossip Mandelstami, Marina Tsvetaeva, Joseph Brodsky, and Yelena Skulskaya.

17.00

Presentation of the book “Minu Karjala” (My Karelia) by Mika Keränen at the Apollo bookshop in Tartu kaubamaja

17.00

Writer On The Border Of Game And Fantasy – an evening with Alexander Genis at the conference hall of the University of Tartu Library

A lecture by Alexander Genis, followed by a discussion. In Russian, with synchronised translation into Estonian.

18.00

Meeting with the Lithuanian writer Birutė Jonuškaitė at the hall of Tartu Public Library

The discussion is led by Tiiu Sandrak and Tiina Kattel. In Lithuanian, with translation into Estonian.

18.30

Patron's Night at the culture club Salong

A summary of the tennis tournament by Joosep Susi, the participating authors read their sport-related texts, a discussion about the intersections of tennis and literature.

19.00

Performance „Mul oli nõbu“ (I Had a Cousin) by Vaba Lava at the theatre hall of the Estonian National Museum

The theatre performance is based on the play by Rasa Bugavičute-Pēce, one of the Latvian guests of this year's festival. Director: Valters Sīlis, translated by Contra.
Cast: Rea Lest and Henrik Kalmet. Tickets available at Piletilevi.

THURSDAY, MAY 12TH

11.00–19.00

Prima Vista Book Fair at Town Hall Square

11.00

Tartu Public Library's children's program at the book fair

11.00

Opening of the children's program – a concert by the children of Karlova kindergarten

11.15

Art workshop with a writer: Terje Homutov

12.45

Art workshop with a writer: Lembe Möttus

12.00–18.00

Conference The Experimentality of Tartu 1988–2010 at the old anatomy building of the University of Tartu on Dome Hill

Additional information: <https://nyydiskultuur.artun.ee>



15.00

A city tour The Stories and Colours of Supilinn dedicated to street art with guide Anna Leena Neering

Meeting point in front of the club Genialistid

***NB! Pre-registration required by May 11th:
<https://bit.ly/3tQbbAo>***

16.00

„Meeting with the Swedish writer Agneta Pleijel at the hall of Tartu Public Library

The guest will be interviewed by the literary scholar Esbjörn Nyström (Sweden). The talk is in Swedish, with synchronised translation into Estonian.

16.00

Presentation of the poetry book „Мой круг земной” Nadezhda Valk at the music department of the University of Tartu Library

16.30

Joint dance at Prima Vista Book Fair: music Wuthering Heights (Kate Bush) and Teadagi (Singer Vinger)

Inspired by the novel by Emily Brontë, the song Wuthering Heights and the choreography of the song have become popular worldwide and in several places people have gathered to recreate the chore-ography. At Prima Vista the joint dance took place in 2021 for the first time. As 2022 has been declared the Year of Libraries in Estonia a choreography project was initiated to celebrate this by dancing to the song Teadagi by Singer Vinger. Everybody is welcome to join.

17.00

Prima Vista charity project summary at the Book Fair

This year the charity project of the festival focused on the children of Emajõe School. In cooperation with the teachers of the Children’s Art School of Tartu workshops are organised for children with visual impairment and books will be collected as donations from the publishers.

18.00

Meeting with the Norwegian writer Nina Lykke in the hall of Tartu Public Library

The guest is interviewed by the translator Sigrid Tooming. The talk is in Norwegian, with synchronised translation into Estonian.

18.00

Young Authors Night at the culture club Salong

Performers: Manfred Dubov, Anna Kaare, Susanna Mett, Maryliis Teinfeldt, and Mikk Tšaškin.

18.00

A literary night with local Russian authors at the Tõstamaa room of the University of Tartu Library

Moderated by Marina Raudar and Julia Barsukova. In Russian.

19.00

Performance „Mul oli nõbu” (I Had a Cousin) by Vaba Lava at the theatre hall of the Estonian National Museum

The theatre performance is based on the play by Rasa Bugavičute-Pēce, one of the Latvian guests of this year's festival. Director: Valters Sīlis, translated by Contra.

Cast: Rea Lest and Henrik Kalmet. Tickets available at Piletilevi.

20.00

**Concert Writers in Music at the culture club Salong:
Māris Šverns trio „Baložu pilni pagalmi” (Latvia),
Aapo Ilves and ensemble Avangorod**

FRIDAY, MAY 13TH

10.00

**Human Library for youth at the Tammelinn,
Annelinn and Ilmatsalu library**

The representatives of different professions meet young people acting as “human books”, sharing their experience.

12.00

**Performance A Book is Dancing: Dance in Children's
Literature in the hall of Tartu Public Library**

A performance for children introducing and synthesising literature and dance. Director: Heili Lindepuu, organiser: Ilieh theatre

14.00

**A Lecture The Poetics of Lotman's Autograph by
Igor Rosenfeld at the Tõstamaa room of the
University of Tartu Library**

14.00

A tour on the tracks of Lenin's Walz by Paavo Matsin led by the author, meeting point at Tartu Railway Station

15.30

A tour Yuri Lotman, Professor of the University of Tartu at the exhibition dedicated to Yuri Lotman at the University of Tartu Library led by the curator Natalya Gradoboeva

Meeting in the 2nd floor exhibition hall.

16.00

Ping-Pong With Homer – a reading of the Estonian translations of Homer's works by the classical philologists of the University of Tartu at the Liivi 4 building, room 104

17.00

Carl Neville and Tariq Goddard (UK) – introduction of the anthology The Repeater Book of Heroism at the culture club Salong

The book published by Repeater Books has been compiled by Alex Niven and Tariq Goddard and includes essays of the heroic figures of the authors. Tariq Goddard and one of the authors represented in the anthology, Carl Neville, talk about how this book became to be and which heroes the 21st century might need. The talk is moderated by Berk Vaher. In English.

18.00

Meeting with the Latvian writer Rasa Bugavičute-Pēce at the music department of the University of Tartu Library

The talk is led by Contra, music by Eerik Kokk. In Latvian, with translation into Estonian.

19.00

Literary night of the series Nights With Estonian Science Fiction at Tartu Literature House

19.00

The finale of Tartu poetry slam competition TarSlämm at the balcony hall of the café Vilde ja Vine

After a long pause we can see the finalists coming from the competitions of three previous years: 2020, 2021 and 2022. Now is the time to slam! The MCs are Toomas Leppik and Sirel Heinloo. Guest performer: Jill Kenny (Ireland).

The finalists: Rahel Ariel Kaur, Liisbet Teemaa, Jürgen Dengo, Kaisa Linn, Elo Saal, Kristel Zimmer, Tommi Turunen, Maris Pedaja, murca.

SATURDAY, MAY 14TH

13.00

Awarding ceremony of the information search game for youth at the Fahrenheit 451° Book Room

14.00

A walk dedicated to the street art of Karlova led by Talvi Põldmal

Meeting point in the courtyard of Aparaaditehas.

NB! Pre-registration required by May 13th:

<https://bit.ly/3tQbbAo>

15.00

Awarding of the winners of the competition of The Weirdest Poem at the lobby of the University of Tartu Library

A competition for students and teachers where weird poems can be read alone or together, with a friend and an enemy, well and badly, about love and hatred, truth and justice, etc. Everything can be contributed: written texts and videos; poems read and performed in /with music, photos, dances, performances, knitwork of objects of concrete. The main thing is that the poem should be really weird and foolish. The members of the jury will be writers Doris Kareva, Valdur Mikita, Anti Saar, Tõnis Tootsen, and Ilmar Trull; teacher of literature Ivika Hein, scholar of literature Joosep Susi; hanna Linda Korp, Maarja Helena Meriste, and Mirjam Parve from literary magazine Värske Rõhk.

Send your poetic ideas by the 7th of May at the latest to the address imelikluuletus@gmail.com ; (more capacious videos should be uploaded to Youtube). The author(s) name, school and form should be given. The weirdest poems will be published in literary magazines Täheke and Värske Rõhk and read/presented on the 14th of May at the event taking place in the lobby of the University of Tartu, Library, just before the vent A Public Encounter with the Lyrical Self.



16.00

A Public Encounter with the Lyrical Self in front of the University of Tartu Library

On the last day of the Prima Vista Festival, everybody has a rare opportunity to meet genuine mental giants of world cultural thought history, whose importance in the formation of our language, culture, and national consciousness is hard to underestimate. The public encounter with the lyrical self is a performative common meditation dealing with the ways of existence of poetry in culture, in the reality around us and above all in the hearts of the people. Is it not true that poetry creates us as much as we create poetry? To this encounter with the lyrical self a poetry book close to your heart may be taken along.

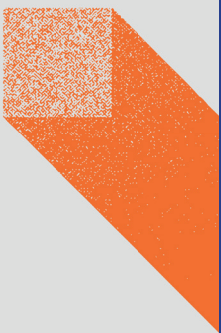
The public encounter with the lyrical self is a preliminary event of the Prima Vista Festival Futures Better and Worse which will take place within the framework of European Capital of Culture Tartu 2024.

19.00

Poetry party with the lyrical self in the rooms and the courtyard of the culture club Salong

The closing event of Prima Vista is a verbal and musical party where the limits of poetry and person are sought. The performers at the playful event will be Nyk de Vries (Netherlands), Adele Ivánova (Brazil), Nikolay Madzhirov (North Macedonia), Krišjānis Zeļģis & Artūrs Punte (Latvia), Katrin Väli, Liisa Mudist and Triin Soomets. The party continues with DJs.

The poetry party with the lyrical self is a preliminary event of the Prima Vista Festival Futures Better and Worse which will take place within the framework of European Capital of Culture Tartu 2024.



Jurga Vilé (Lithuania)

Traveler, dreamer, film translator, thought weaver Jurga Vilé (b in 1977) may divide her life into two – before and after the publication of her first book. She graduated from the University of Vinius, in the speciality of French language and literature, studied visual arts, filing and restoring films. Jurga has worked for years as a coordinator of theater and film festivals and written for culture journals. Her life changed in 2017 when her debut book *The Siberian Haiku* (2022 in Estonian) was published where she has put on paper for children a deporting story grown out of the fragmentary memories of her father and grandmother.

In 2018 her second book, *Švelnumo fabrikėlis* (A Small Factory of Tenderness, illustrated by Lina Žigmantė) was published; in 2012 followed *Chameleono sapnai* (Chameleon's Dreams, illustrated by Lina Sasnauskaitė) and *Pulpas ir jo žalia koja* (Pulpas and His Green Foot, illustrated by Akvilė Magičdust). The most recent literary news is a cinematographic play for the young and the grown-ups published in March *Nukritę iš Mėnulio. Sapnas apie Oskarą Milašių ir kitus paukščius* (Fallen from the Clouds. A Dream about Oscar Milosz and Other Birds).

Meeting and a workshop of Lina Itagaki and Jurga Vilé will take place on the 9th of May at 2 p.m. in the Tõstamaa seminar room of the University of Tartu Library. The talk will be mostly about *The Siberian Haiku* born in their collaboration. The reader can also participate in the workshop *Letters in Match Boxes*. The conversation is led by Tiina Kattel. The talk is in Lithuanian, with consecutive translation into Estonian. The workshop is in English and, in case of necessity, with consecutive translation into Estonian.



Photo: Lina Itagaki

Lina Itagaki (Lithuania)

Lina Itagaki (b in 1979) studied Japanese at the University of Tokyo and graduated with a bachelor's degree in international economy in 2003. Later, she took up drawing and graduated from the Vilnius Art Academy in 2010 as a graphic artist. At present Lina Itagaki is a freelance artist, illustrator and comic book author.

Her, like Jurga Vilė's debut book, is a graphic novel A Siberian Haiku (2017, in Estonian 2022). In 2019 the second book illustrated by Lina Itagaki was published, a children's book speaking of the Lithuanian history, and titled Vilniaus rūmai ir jų šeimininkai (The Palace of Vilnius and its Masters) which was elected the most beautiful children's book of the year and which got the diploma of the illustrators' exhibition from the Bologna mess of children's books.

Itagaki participates in several international projects, competitions, and exhibitions. In 2020 she drew a comic book about the Albanian scientist Sabiha Kasimati executed with the command of dictator Enver Hoxha in collaboration with the Albanian Institute of Investigating Communist Crimes.

In 2021 four books were published illustrated by Lina Itagaki. One of them, Grybo auksas (Gold of Grybas) is the sixth book project based on real historical events she has been connected with. The book speaks of the famous Lithuanian sculptor Vincas Grybas killed by the Germans at the beginning of World War II. At present, Lina Itagaki is illustrating another book based on history and is waiting for a time when she could draw pictures for funny books without war in them and where the character would live long and happily.

Meeting and a workshop of Lina Itagaki and Jurga Vilė will take place on the 9th of May at 2 p.m. in the Tõstamaa seminar room of the University of Tartu Library. The talk will be mostly about The Siberian Haiku born in their collaboration. The reader can also participate in the workshop Letters in Match Boxes. The conversation is led by Tiina Kattel. The talk is in Lithuanian, with consecutive translation into Estonian. The workshop is in English and, in case of necessity, with consecutive translation into Estonian.



Photo: Lina Itagaki

Timur Vermes (Germany)

Timur Vermes is one of the greatest surprises in German literature during the recent decade as his debut novel *Er ist wieder da* (2012) became a real bestseller staying on top for five months. Today the novel has been translated into more than 40 languages, including Estonian and the director David Wnendt made a popular film of it in 2015.

In a satirical novel "*Er ist Wieder Da*" (*Look Who's Back*) Hitler comes to life on a Berlin wasteland. It is 2011 and he is very much surprised at what is happening: many Turks everywhere, the state led by a woman and the forward-looking TV wasting its resources on foolish cooking and talk shows. Everyone who meets Hitler thinks him to be a brilliant comic and quite soon he is discovered by the TV: he gets his personal comedy show and starts gathering fans. At the same time he does nothing but talks about what he really thinks.

The author sharply travesties the easily manipulated present day mass media and party politics. If at first the reader can laugh at Hitler, then later the flaws of the present day life are laughed at with him. The question if this is appropriate, whether the author is testing the game limits is easy to arise.

Parodying Hitler started in the German nightclubs in the 20ies of the last century; in 1940 Charlie Chaplin's film "*The Great Dictator*" was released and the show business of today has offered lots of ridiculing sketches of Hitler as a clown, a failure, or a madman. Vermes' Hitler, however, is not only seized by his paranoia and obsessions, but is willing to learn, enraptured by technical progress, consistent, and an easy talker. We might ask whether it is not an approach humanizing Hitler too much? Or maybe the author

simply wants to wake up the reader, hinting that the people who cause great catastrophes may not be clowns or madmen at all?

Timur Vermes was born in 1967 in Nuremberg, his mother was a German and his father a Hungarian. He studied history and politics at the university and worked before his debut as a novelist as a journalist contributing to newspapers and acting as a shadow author. By today he has published another novel, a grotesque story about the refugee crisis "*Die Hungrigen und die Satten*" and an experimental mystery novel "*U*".

When asked what the game limits are, Timur Vermes answered.

"Every game ends when it intersects with reality. Therefore the possibility of every player to stop is of uttermost importance. The one who stops, no more plays (along). If for one player it is impossible to stop, the game is over for everybody."

The author's night with Timur Vermes is titled *Useful Playmates* and takes place on the 9th of May at 5.30 p.m in the hall of the Tartu Public Library where Olaf Mertelsmann has a talk with the author. The focus of the talk will be the best-selling satirical novel *Look Who's Back* about Hitler's coming to life in the Berlin of today (in Estonian in 2013, transl Piret Pääsuke. The talk will be in German with synchronised translation into Estonian.



Photo: Christopher Civitillo

Juha Hurme (Finland)

Juha Hurme (b 1959) is one of the most noteworthy prize-winning Finnish authors and a theater man whose sharp style and wonderful manners have made him one of the most watched Finnish culture persons. Hurme has written six novels, written and staged tens of plays, founded and led several theater institutions. In his work autobiography often is connected with his wide knowledge of culture and history. Especially close to him are the Finnish literary classics whose work he has often interpreted or hinted at. Last year Hurme "translated" into modern Finnish the first Finnish novel, Aleksis Kivi's (1834–1872) *Seven Brothers*.

In 2017 Hurme won the most prestigious Finnish literary award Finlandia with his novel *Niemi* ("Neem", Est transl by Tiiu Kokla, 2021 Varrak). The novel speaks of the Finnish cultural history starting with the Big Bang until 1809, when Finland became part of the Russian empire. At the same time, it is a book, immersed into the birth and the evolution of the whole planet, hard to connect with any genre. It is something resembling a long essay where the analytic powers of Hurme, a modern renaissance man, intellectuality and virtuosity with words are all connected.

Niemi is a book dedicated to Finland – and at the same time, a manifesto of tearing down the myth of Finland. It will disintegrate all pathos and sanctity, concerning the originality of the people and their truths. The background of the words is good humored and chastening laughter.

As the theme of *Prima Vista* is *Game Limits* this year, we asked Hurme what the game limits are for him and he replied:

"I am a writer and a director. The root word of theater drama at first meant playing a game meant both for the participant and the public.

This way a dynamic drawing of lines happens where every performance means discussion about where the limits will disappear this time, respecting all the participants.

We can extend this principle to all kinds of artistic and social activity. We, humans, are animals capable of myth, we are born to lift limits and extend our grip. When we lose that ability of playing and discussing, it is replaced with prejudice, propaganda, and hatred, even bloodshed and war.

Juha Hurme will meet the readers on the 10th of May at 6 p.m. in Tartu Literature House. The talk will be led by Heidi Iivari in Estonian and Finnish. The event is supported by the Finnish Institute.



Photo: Stefan Bremer

Alexander Genis (USA)

Alexander Genis (b 1953) is a genuine cosmopolitan: being of Jewish origin, he was born in Russia, grew up in Riga and graduated from the philology department of the Latvian State University; in 1977 he emigrated to the United States where he lives until today. His cultural activities are also rather extensive: he is a writer, essayist, literary critic, culturologist and radio anchorman. In the United States he started his career in New York where he among others met the winner of the Nobel literary prize Joseph Brodsky and Sergey Dovlatov. At present Genis lives in New Jersey, although it would be better to say in his case that he lives in books. His self evaluation might best be summarised by a vision that a cosmopolitan is not a citizen of the world but a tenant of the Babel Tower and a reader of the Alexandrian Library.

In the United States, Genis leads the weekly broadcast of Radio Liberty, Hour of America dedicated to introducing American culture to the Russian listener. He has also worked at the newspaper New American, issued by his friend Sergey Dovlatov. He has his own column Reading Lessons at the newspaper Novaya Gazeta. Serbian author Milorad Pavić has said: "Genis has located himself in a position from where he can see Russia from America and America from Russia – through China."

For the Estonian reader Alexander Genis should be well known; his witty and dashing essays about world literature "Reading lessons: kamasutra of a booklover" (Lugemistunnid: raamatu-sõbra kamasutra) and "Dovlatov and his surroundings: a philological novel" (Dovlatov ja tema ümbrus: filoloogiline romaan), both translated by Toomas Kall, have not only been published but have

also become very close to the readers. Aleksander Genis has also been to Estonia several times and has in an interview to Toomas Kall confessed that for the first time he came here hitch-hiking in his teens. Genis has also participated in Prima Vista festival (2018), although due to an accident only through the internet. Now the public has an opportunity to greet that bright intellectual in person in our university town.

Alexander Genis will participate in the events of the Lotman's day of our Russian programme and meet his public at his author's night in the conference hall of the University of Tartu Library on the 11th of May at 5 p.m.



Photo: Jaan Tootsen

Birutė Jonuškaitė (Lithuania)

Birutė Jonuškaitė (b 1959) is a writer, essayist and publicist born in Poland, in the ethnic region of Lithuanians. Having graduated as journalist from the University of Vilnius, she remained living in Vilnius and has said she wouldn't exchange Vilnius for any other city in the world, although she has had opportunities to stay in many places and even live there for some time.

Jonuškaitė has published six novels, several selections of short stories, three collections of essays and two poetry books. She has repeatedly been awarded Lithuanian literary prizes for her work, and twice by the Lithuanian Cultural Ministry for her publicist work. With the decision of the President of Poland she was also awarded with a Golden Cross for special services in developing Polish/Lithuanian cultural relations (2016). In the same year Jonuškaitė also got the cultural and art award of the Lithuanian government.

The first book translated into Estonian, her novel *Maranta*, was elected among the five best books for adults at the Lithuanian Book of the Year Competition. Its author got the 2020 Baltic Literary Award for this novel and its sequel *Maestro*.

In the opinion of critics *Maranta* can be read as a family story which is based on the background of the Sejny region coloring, traditions and mentality presented through the different lives, world, faith and value judgments of three women – grandmother, mother, and grandchild. The novel can also be interpreted as an exciting colorful detective story, ending unexpectedly for it is not clear if there was a body or not

The author's night of the Lithuanian author Birutė Jonuškaitė takes place on the 11th of May at 6 p.m. in the hall of the Tartu Public Library. Both her novel *Maranta* and work in general and her work as the chair of the Lithuanian Writers' Union will be discussed. The talk will be led by Tiliu Sandrak and Tiina Kattel in Lithuanian and with consecutive translation into Estonian.



Photo: Butautas Barauskas

Rasa Bugavičute-Pēce (Latvia)

Rasa Bugavičute-Pēce (b 1988) is a Latvian playwright and author whose original dramas, dramatizations and librettos are staged both in bigger and smaller Latvian theaters and also outside Latvia. In Estonia for example, but also in Lithuania, Russia and Israel. Bugavičute-Pēce also writes scripts for film, TV-serials, and radio dramas. One of her books, *The Boy Who Saw in Darkness* has been translated into Estonian (by Contra) and is very much recommended by the Estonian Children's Literature Center. Theater group Vaba Lava has also staged her play *I Had a Niece*.

Rasa Bugavičute-Pēce has written a drama version of *The Boy Who Saw in Darkness*. The book was presented in the lobby of the Latvian National Theater right before the premiere of the play. The book is based on the author's personal experience. Although, as she says herself, it is not a documentary. Both in the book and the play the author's own and her husband's experience become mixed as well as her experience as a mother. The book and the play are not quite identical, though.

Since 2015 Rasa Bugavičute-Pēce has been the official dramaturg of the Liepāja Theater.

The author's night of Rasa Bugavičute-Pēce will take place on the 13th of May at 6 p.m. in the Music Department of the University of Tartu Library. At the author's night the work of Rasa Bugavičute-Pēce in general shall be discussed as well as her work as a dramaturg and her book *The Boy who Saw in Darkness* (in Estonian in 2021),

interesting both to the young and the grown-ups. The discussion will be conducted by Contra, music from Eerik Kokk. The talk is in Latvian, with translation into Estonian.

The public can also watch Rasa Bugavičute-Pēce's play *I Had a Niece* on the 11th and 12th May in the theater hall of the Estonian National Museum. The dramaturg is Rasa Bugavičute-Pēce. The director of the play is Valters Sīlis, the play has been translated by Contra. Cast: Rea Lest and Henrik Kalmet. Tickets by Piletilevi.



Photo: Karlīna Vitoliņa

Agneta Pleijel (Sweden)

Agneta Pleijel (born 1940 in Stockholm) is one of the most prominent living writers in the Swedish language. She writes in many different genres: the novel, the drama, the poetry, the literary criticism and the cultural journalism. She made her debut as a playwright in 1970 and her first collection of poems was published in 1981. Relatively late, she wrote her first novel *Vindspejare*, which in 1987 became her major breakthrough as a writer.

Pleijel's latest novel, *Dubbelporätt* from 2020, was published in 2021 in Estonian translation by Anu Saluäär. The novel focuses on a real event: the famous artist Oskar Kokoschka painted in 1969 a portrait of the even more well-known detective story writer Agatha Christie. The dialogue and the novel's depiction of the six sittings, on the other hand, come from Pleijel's own imagination, although many of the images that emerge during the conversation are again historically substantiated. During the sessions in the novel, Kokoschka and Christie will, first with considerable difficulty, then with greater ease, have conversations that to a large extent discuss the relationship between life and art. Despite all the obvious differences, both appear as artists in heart and soul, both in their works and in their lives.

Treating real, historical events and people in a fictionalized form is not unusual in Pleijel's writing. This is repeated in several works, for example in the drama *Kollontaj* (1979) about the Soviet ambassador in Sweden and author Aleksandra Kollontaj and in *Fungi* (1993) about the naturalist Franz Wilhelm Junghuhn.

Closer to Pleijel's own family background are the novel debut *Vindspejare* (1987) and the novel trilogy *Drottningens chirurg* (2006), *Kungens komediant* (2007) and *Syster och bror* (2009), where the author has depicted human destinies through her own family tree from the 18th century onwards. In the collection of poems *Mostrarna och andra dikter* (2004)

there are poems about close relatives in recent times. The two-part autobiography *Spådomen* (2015, in Estonian 2019) and *Doften av en man* (2018) then moved on directly to Pleijel's own life, even though this had clearly been evident in several previous works.

Love, the oppressed femininity and the exploration of masculinity are important motifs throughout the books, as in *Hundstjärnan* (1989) from a young girl's perspective and in the modern classic *En vinter i Stockholm* (1997, in Estonian 2000) from a middle-aged woman's point of view. The novel's main character has been subjected to several betrayals in her marriage and escapes into a relationship with an old acquaintance, a man from the Balkans, on a temporary work stay in *vv*Stockholm. This connection is also temporary, without any realistic hope of a future. It becomes clear how experiences during growing up strongly affect the woman even in the novel's present.

The author's global outlook was present long before *Dubbelporätt*. Pleijel, who spent parts of her childhood in the United States, has never limited her writing to Swedish environments only: One novel, *Lord Nevermore* (2000) is set largely in Australia and two others in Java. From this island come even some of Pleijel's ancestors - from Java descended Pleijel's grandmother Carolien, who is portrayed in the story "Eld och luft: Minnen av mormor" (2009), where her grandfather and his brother (portrayed in *Vindspejare*) emigrated from Sweden in 1890s, and in Java the author's mother - pianist, translator and author Sonja Berg Pleijel was also born.

Agneta Pleijel has for a long time been active as a literary critic and debater and was head of culture at the newspaper *Aftonbladet* in the 1970s. The book *Litteratur för amatörer* (2012) collects articles and essays on mainly Swedish literature. Agneta Pleijel's writing has been

awarded many prestigious literary prizes since the 1980s. This includes the Swedish Academy's Nordic Prize 2018.

When we asked Pleijel about game limits, she answered: "Game limits are crossed when the opponent shouts: "No!" or expresses dissatisfaction, but writing as a game has no limits (is limitless)."

Agneta Pleijel will meet readers on Thursday, the 12th of May at 4 p.m. in the hall of Tartu Public Library, the talk title is A Match with a Pen and a Brush. She converses with Esbjörn Nyström (Sweden). The talk focuses on Agneta Pleijel's novel Dubbelporträtt. En roman om Agatha Christie och oskar Kokoschka. (Varrak, 2021, translated into Estonian by Anu Saluäär). The talk is in Swedish, with synchronised translation into Estonian.



Photo: Göran Segeholm

Nyk de Vries (Netherlands)

Nyk de Vries is a poet, writer and musician, who grew up in a small Frisian village Noardburgum. He writes in both Frisian and Dutch and has published several novels and collections of prose poetry. From 2019 to 2021 he was Dichter fan Fryslân, poet laureate of Friesland, in which position he made eight poetry films with filmmaker Herman Zeilstra. His readings are often accompanied with music and video, which is also the case in Tartu. About the theme of this year's festival he has said: „For me, the game is to take the reader along with relatively understandable language and then, almost imperceptibly, to lead him or her into a world that is a lot more ambiguous. That is not without reason. I grew up in a small community where not everyone read a book every day. I would like to reach the people I come from. Of course there are limits to this game."

Nyk de Vries performs at the event Poetry Party With The Lyrical Self in the rooms and the courtyard of the culture club Salong on Saturday, May 14th at 7 p.m.



Photo: Rogier Maaskant

Grownups (Latvia)

Grownups is a poetry & sound performance by Latvian poets Krišjānis Zelģis and Artūrs Punte. The project is based on the conceptual poetry book „Pieaugušie” („Grownups”) by Krišjānis Zelģis. On stage the poets' voice interactively generates and triggers sound elements prepared by Artūrs Punte on modular synthesisers. They aim to find connections between conceptual poetry and sound, and to make the perception deeper by giving poetry additional sonar dimension. Authors are looking for inner rhythm and saturation of the spoken word and create unique soundscapes determined by poetry.

**Grownups performs at the event
Poetry Party With The Lyrical Self in
the rooms and the courtyard of the
culture club Salong on Saturday,
May 14th at 7 p.m.**



Nina Lykke (Norway)

Nina Lykke (b 1965 in Trondheim) is a Norwegian writer. She grew up in Oslo, graduated from the Copenhagen college of graphic art and has since 1989 worked in Oslo as a graphic designer.

She has written three novels and a collection of stories; her novel *Full spredning* (2019) was translated into Estonian by Sigrîd Tooming and was published in 2021.

Nina Lykke's writings are characterised by satire, mixed with humour and tragic themes. The protagonist of *Full spredning* Elin works and lives (!) in a small room of a G. P. medical centre, looking back at her marriage of about twenty years and its break up, talking at times to Tore, a plastic skeleton standing in the corner of her room. The book is charming with its wittiness and sharp observations about the work of a G. P. and modern life. Its main themes are faithfulness and faithlessness, breaking up of a marriage, the real and imaginary life of the middle class, growing old, medicine, dementia, and life in the social media. *Full spredning* is Nina Lykke's fourth novel which won the Norwegian Brage literary award in 2019 and was also staged at the Norwegian national theatre in 2021. To the question where do game limits/boundaries lie she replied:

"I see humour and comedy in almost everything. So for me, there really is no limit to «game» (which I in this case translate to humour/laughter) and playfulness.

My only objection, or limit, is when everything in a story - or book/film - is comical, because then the humour disappears. The basic tone has to be serious, so that the humour becomes sort of a byproduct."

The talk with Nina Lykke will take place on Thursday, May 12th at 6 p.m. in the hall of Tartu Public Library and will be led by her translator Sigrîd Tooming. The talk will be in Norwegian, with synchronised translation into Estonian.

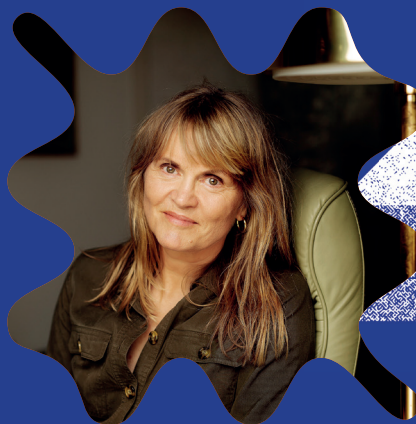


Photo: Agnete Brun

Esbjörn Nyström (Sweden)

Esbjörn Nyström earned his PhD in German Literature from the University of Gothenburg in 2004. As of 2022, he is employed as a Research Advisor at Luleå University of Technology. He has previously been a lecturer and researcher in German at the universities in Gothenburg and Stockholm. At the University of Tartu, he taught Swedish philology in 2008–2011 and 2014–2017. Since 2017, Nyström has been engaged with the Prima Vista literary festival. His main research interests are editorial theory as well as dramas, opera librettos and screenplays from the 20th century in German, Dutch and Scandinavian languages.



Esbjörn Nyström will talk with the Swedish writer Agneta Pleijel on Thursday, the 12th of May at 4 p.m. in the hall of Tartu Public Library, the talk title is A Match with a Pen and a Brush. The talk focuses on Agneta Pleijel's novel Dubbelporätt. En roman om Agatha Christie och oskar Kokoschka. (Varrak, 2021, translated into Estonian by Anu Saluäär). The talk is in Swedish, with synchronised translation into Estonian.

Māris Šverns trio Baložu pilni pagalmi (Latvia)

Baložu pilni pagalmi have been a cornerstone of the Latvian indie scene since 1994 and are widely regarded as a local underground cult band. Each of their records is widely anticipated amongst their devoted fans. The band is a constantly experimenting phenomenon – breaking the cliché notions of the right kind of music. Baložu pilni pagalmi create welcoming melodies about everyday life with a unique sound, which allows listeners to experience that elusive catharsis of early morning hour revelations after a night spent in good company.

(C) Positivus Festival (2017).

Bandcamp: <https://balozupilnipagalmi.bandcamp.com>

The band has released 12 full-length song albums, not including five solo albums by songwriter Māris Šverns, the last of which was released in 2019 and co-created with poet Madara Gruntmane.

Line-up:

Māris Šverns

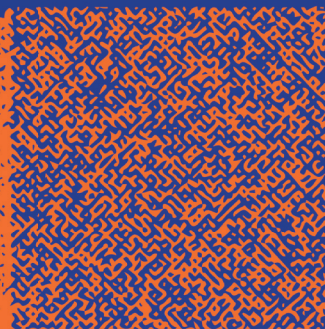
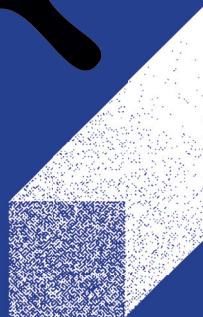
Klāvs Lauks

Uldis Cedra

"Baložu pilni pagalmi" will perform at the concert Writers in Music at the culture club Salong on Thursday, May 12th at 8 p.m



Photo: Aivars Ivbulis



Carl Neville (UK)

Carl Neville has written two short books on film for Zer0, one on British cinema of the 90s and the other on American cinema of the 1970s as well as two novels, Resolution Way and Eminent Domain for Repeater. He is also the film critic for Tribune. His writing reflects his interest in class, politics and popular culture.

What are the limits of a game for you?

I think as long as the participants are all there voluntarily and the rules are transparent then there should be no limits as such.



Tariq Goddard (UK)

Tariq Goddard is the author of six novels, which have been shortlisted for and won the Whitbread, Wodehouse, Commonwealth and Independent Publishers Awards. He is the Founder and Publisher of Repeater Books, and previously Zer0 Books. His new novel High John The Conqueror is out in November of this year.

What are the limits of a game for you?

There are many games in life, but life is not one of them.



Tariq Goddard and Carl Neville will perform on Friday, May 13th at 5 p.m. at the culture club Salong where they introduce the anthology The Repeater Book of Heroism. The guests will be interviewed by Berk Vaher. The talk is in English.

Jill Kenny (Ireland)

With a B.A in English Literature and M.Sc in Multimedia, Jill is a writer based in the midlands of Ireland. Her work explores themes of interdependence and self-awareness, and writing bios in third person induces a few-minute-long existential crisis for her, but is good inspiration for further writing. Recent publications: Future Perfect with Introduction by President Michael D. Higgins; Arc, Canada's National Poetry Magazine. Recent competitions-Shortlisted: Black Horse Poetry Competition; Over the Edge New Writer of The Year Competition; Trócaire/Poetry Ireland competition winner. Jill was awarded a National Mentoring Scheme with the Irish Writers Centre in November 2021, and with the guidance of Markievicz awardee, Joanna Walsh, is working on her first poetry collection. When asked where the limits of game are for her, Jill replied with a short creative piece.

Piece on Play

Play is the end

I play with letters and words. It's a game and it isn't. Reading horizontally and vertically makes sense to me. I currently want to play with the below piece to better suit my mood. For example, jumble up the lines into a kind of sphere, bar the 'end' at the end, suggesting there is no solution: just an eventual end to life, a life I spent contemplating this particular pattern. It's not a bad job: play. Psychoanalyst D.W. Winnicott believed children play to master anxiety or ideas that could lead to anxiety. Does this make you sad? For whom? Play is the coin rubbed against the scratch card. Win what exactly? Scratching the surface hard enough will not magically produce a prize that wasn't there, but the square will become

more distinct and may give some satisfaction. The discarded scratch card is

also the game. Writing appears: anything new is play. Everything that disappears is play too. If it comes back, you say. Fresh ink and blank page is play. Duh, you say. Blank page contains everything. Not Michelangelo, 'The sculpture is already complete within the marble block' everything, just everything. Once, outside in a winter in the Himalayas, snow fell on my notepad - the mountain was white and the sky and the snow was too, and the more I wrote the more my notepad filled with white. I could never write it and that is fine. Snowflakes dissolve into pages like ink into people. Both become light enough to play but don't know how. Maybe we are linked to everything in unimaginable ways: the speck of dust and the dustless mantelpiece. Literal speech, on purpose, reveals little. Play has the energy reality doesn't have to take itself seriously. Play evokes words like connection, journey, time; they must be kicked barefoot like you would an old patchy football, as far away as possible. Your throbbing foot will help you understand. Play runs away with itself when it's allowed play. Play doesn't apologise.

Play is

The beginning

Jill Kenny is the guest performer of the finale of TarSlámm taking place at Vilde and Vine on Friday, May 13th at 7 p.m.



Adelaide Ivánova (Brazil)

Adelaide Ivánova is a Brazilian poet, photographer and activist. She has published ten collections of poetry, most recently „chifre“ („the horn“) in 2021. Her book „o martelo“ („the hammer“) was awarded Rio literary award in 2018 and the book has been translated into English, German, Spanish and Greek. Ivánova is also a documental photographer and her poems are intertwined with political issues. Her thoughts about the game limits are as follows:

„In an ideal society, the limits to any game would be respecting nature and life on Earth, which would mean respecting human and non-human animals, respecting art as a livelihood, respecting native peoples and their knowledge production etc. But we don't live in an ideal society yet, so the limits of the game are definitely those imposed by asset managers, landlords, billionaires, armies etc.“

Adelaide Ivánova performs at the event Poetry Party With The Lyrical Self in the rooms and the courtyard of the culture club Salong on Saturday, May 14th at 7 p.m.



Photo: Pedro Pinho

Nikola Madžirov (North Macedonia)

Nikola Madžirov is a poet and translator from North Macedonia. He has said that he is „a descendant of refugees against his will“, which refers to his ancestors' fleeing during Balkan wars in the beginning of 20th century. His poems hold an air of homelessness or non-belonging, although at the same time they are rooted.

Madžirov's poems have been translated into more than 30 languages, in Estonian his collection of selected poems „Valgus ja tolm“ („Light and Dust“) was published in 2016. „For five decades I've been living in a town among three state borders constructed by changing history and by the flags torn by the wind and wars. It's the ideal place where one can understand the temporariness of the absolutistic myths, a place where one can touch the silence of the urge for non-belonging. As a child I would go on the top of the Belasica mountain, where the borders of the three states meet, and I would run in circles watching how my shadow crosses the three borders and comes back to my body, safe and tired. What scares me now is the world's game with the borders. I can see how the shadows of the tanks are crossing them, scarring our trust in time.“

Nikola Madžirov performs at the event Poetry Party With The Lyrical Self in the rooms and the courtyard of the culture club Salong on Saturday, May 14th at 7 p.m.



Photo: Civitella Ranieri

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