

Prima Vista

The Impossible Dream

Tartu international literary festival

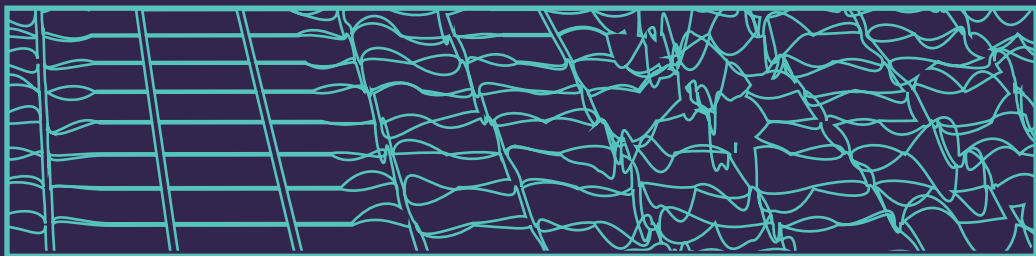
8th-13th May in Tartu

6th May in Paide



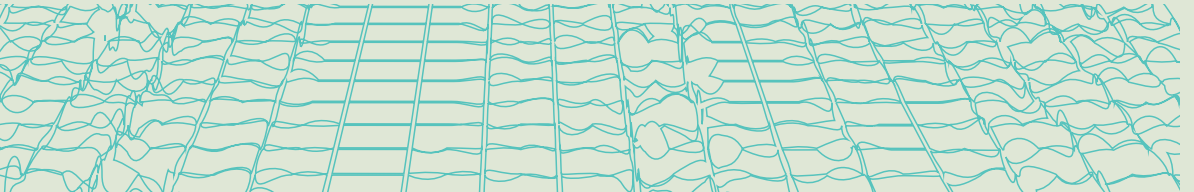
KIRJANDUSFESTIVAL.TARTU.EE

2023





Prima Vista 2023 venues

- **University of Tartu Library** (W. Struve 1)
 - **Tartu Public Library** (Kompanii 3/5)
 - **Tartu Literature House** (Vanemuise 19)
 - **Culture Club Salong and summer garden**
(Vanemuise 19 basement, entrance from the courtyard)
 - **Apollo Bookstore at Tartu Kaubamaja** (Riia 1)
 - **Vilde ja Vine** (Vallikraavi 4)
 - **Culture Club Promenaadiviis** (Promenaadi 5)
 - **Town Hall Square**
 - **Corner of Town Hall Square and Rütli Street**
 - **Vein ja Vine** (Rütli 8)
 - **Estonian Literary Museum** (Vanemuise 42)
 - **Tartu City Museum** (Narva maantee 53)
 - **Aparaaditehas, Armastuse saal** (Kastani 42)
 - **Pallas Gallery** (Riia 11)
 - **Tiigi 12**
 - **Tartu Public Library Karlova-Ropka branch** (Tehase 16)
 - **Tartu Public Library Tammelinn branch** (Suur kaar 56)
 - **Tartu Public Library Annelinna branch** (Kaunase pst 23)
 - **Tartu Public Library Ilmatsalu branch** (Kooli tee 5)
 - **Main gate of Raadi Cemetery** (Kalmistu 22)
 - **Urve Cafe** (Puiestee 73a)
 - **Fahrenheit 451° raamatutuba** (Kastani 42)
 - **AHHAA** (Sadama 1)
- 

I HEARD A STRANGE CALL

Worlds, star systems, galaxies like living beings are interconnected by thousands of invisible threads. I heard a strange call from this country, from this town, sent me by a being – a human being, as you say, a call as an eternal yearning for goodness, forgiveness and for eternal love.

The cosmic loneliness of that being, its thirst for a higher unity, was so deep and so tender that it created a supreme sound, a wave like the music of the spheres stretching through billions of light-years, cosmic holes and dark matter to where we live.

Because, truly, there exists the supreme sound born of that yearning, forming an invisible tunnel between the galaxies of the Universe when some being on a far-off planet just happens to perceive it.

I am happy to be that far-off visitor among you. And what I want to say is this: listen to the lonely yearning in yourself, dreaming of the impossible. For it is the finest fineness of the matter, created only by a living, vibrating, doubting, suffering, imperfect, pining, changing being dreaming at the same time of the delicate empire of love.

In every billionth second that a human being dedicates to dreaming of beauty, peace, and love, a billion invisible but unbreakable building blocks are formed for that tunnel between those two – the one who calls and the one who listens – where a train moving at supersonic speed darts through the light years from one galaxy to another in a second.

Mehis Heinsaar,
the patron of Prima Vista 2023

Translated from Estonian by Kersti Unt



Photo: private collection

Programme

Monday, May 8th

13.00 "Page by Page - Your Book Project" / "Seitenweise" **Estonian Final Competition** *at the Tartu Public Library*

As part of an international project, young German language learners read Julia Rabinowich's book "Dazwischen: Wir" and prepared their vision of the book, choosing freely between video, slam poetry, play or comics. The novel the youngsters worked with is an impressive story of travel and migration, an appeal against hatred and hate speech. The results of their creative work will be presented in Tartu. The jury will select the Estonian winner/winning team who will travel to Berlin to meet the project participants.

The competition was initiated by the Central Agency for German Schools Abroad (ZIA) to motivate young language learners to creatively engage with German youth literature. Participating students are up to the 10th grade.

13.00 Meeting with Mann Loper *at the Karlova-Ropka Library*

Mann Loper has published three novels and several shorter prose texts, most intended for teenage readers and fall under the science fiction genre. Her latest young adult novel, "The City of Angels," was also recognized as a Good Youth Book this spring, and "The Beginning After the End" won third place in the Estonian Children's Literature Centre and Tänapäev Publishers' Young Adult Novel Competition in 2014, while "Songs Will Be Made of Whom" was mentioned in the Estonian Writers' Union's novel competition.

17.00 Literary and Cultural Historical Tour at the Raadi Cemetery **led by Kaspar Jassa** *The meeting point is at the main gate.*

18.00 "Impossible Was Possible, But It Was a Dream" - Literature and Music Evening of Tartu Authors Writing in Russian *at the University of Tartu Library's Tõstamaa Room*

Moderators Marina Raudar and Julia Barsukova. Works of Tartu authors writing in Russian, Estonian poetry translated into Russian, and bard and folk songs will be performed.

The event is in Russian.

19.00–20.45 Masked Ball *at Urve Cafe*

Once again, it's time to be dandy and decadent in Tartu, this new West Berlin, where the Iron Curtain is less than 100km away on Lake Peipus ... Did you know that even Mihkel Mutt, the grand old dandy who wrote Estonia's top decadent work "Sources of Life" (do you remember the villainous Polizia Braun from there, the first Estonian decadent of the Soviet era?) has returned to Tartu? The city's most exclusive dandies will showcase their costumes, accessories and toys. Everyone is welcome to join. The bar-ball-bubble at Chez Urve will be open. DJ Muda will be playing.

19.00 Theater evening "Lenz" *at St. John's Church in Tartu*

Laval on Tartu Ülikooli humanitaarteaduste ja kunstide valdkonna üliõpilased Konrad Valk, Catlyn Rebas, Paap Nõmm, Killu Issak ja Robert Lackmann. Juhendaja Mihkel Kohava. Alusmaterjalina on kasutatud (Tartu kuulsaima kirjaniku) J. M. R. Lenzi Goethele pühendatud satiirilist näidendit „Pandaemonium Germanicum” (1775, eesti keelde tõlkinud Jaan Undusk), J. M. R. Lenzi elulugu (koostanud Vahur Aabrams, 2003) ning noppeid Lenzi teistest teostest. Lenz oli tunnistajaks saksa kirjanduselu värvikirevale tormlemisele ja tunglemisele. Goethe kaasaegse ja sõbrana jäi ta alati oma geeniussest mõttekaaslase varju. Kuid kas Lenz soovis võimatut, kui võttis ette tee maailmakirjanduse tippu, Goethe kõrvale, tulles ise aga perifeerselt Liivimaalt, Tartust?

21.00 The ambassador's reception of the Embassy of Utopia hosted by Ambassador Mehis Heinsaar at the Embassy premises on the corner of Rüütli Street and Town Hall Square

Tuesday, May 9th

10.00 "Living Library" for school children *at Tammelinn Library*

In the Living Library, visitors can meet with "living books," which are people with exciting life stories, experiences, professions or hobbies. Each "living book" talks about their personal experiences in small groups, in several different rounds. Getting to know the books helps broaden readers' horizons and can also help with future planning. The "Living Library" was first introduced in Estonia in 2006 as part of the European Council campaign "All Different, All Equal". The format was developed and piloted for the Roskilde music festival in Denmark in 2000 and has since spread and found increasing use worldwide.

11.00–19.00 Prima Vista book fair at Town Hall Square

11.00–14.00 Children's program at Prima Vista Book Fair

14.15–18.00 Cultural program at Prima Vista Book Fair

14.00 "Impossible is Possible: Wizards in Russian Literature" -
Public lecture by Roman Voitekhovich, a lecturer *at the University of Tartu at*
Äksi Room, University of Tartu Library

"And impossible is possible ...," wrote Aleksandr Blok, adding: "Let any wizard take away all deceiving brilliance!" How did wizards arise in Blok's work and what do we know about them in Russian literature? Let's try to understand.

The event is in Russian.

14.00 Literary-historical walk "Tartu (city) writers' journey",
meeting in front of Tiigi 12 house

The walk goes through the park to Vanemuise Street and from there to the Tartu Public Library. Along the way, walkers meet several Tartu writers through their work and get an idea of different times and situations in Tartu. The journey is led by Ülo Treikelder from the Tartu City Library and Ants Siim from the Tartu City Museum. The journey is 1.5 km long.

16.00 Opening ceremony of Prima Vista 2023
at the Conference Hall of the University of Tartu Library

17.30 Rimma Markova's (Sweden) poetry evening "Poems of War and Peace" *at the Conference Hall of the University of Tartu Library*

Rimma Markova, whose poems were translated into Estonian by Katrin Väli and published in the March issue of Looming, reads texts from the cycle "Try not to write about war", discussing whether it is possible or impossible to write poetry today that is not about war.

The event is in Russian.

18.00 Literary Tuesday at the hall of Tartu Literature House:
Patron's Evening Talk

Mehis Heinsaar, the patron of Prima Vista 2023: "As this year's patron, my wish is to reduce the sharp contrast and opposition between the city and the countryside, to make the voice of the countryside, forest, and sea a little more audible in the city. To make audible the voice of those, who say that it is not necessary to constantly develop and produce profit in Estonia's nature, but that amidst all

the wealth of forests, land, islands, and seas that surround us, one can feel great happiness just by listening and observing. This is what I want to talk about at the patron's evening."

19.00 Linor Goralik (Israel) and the presentation of the ROAR (Russian Oppositional Arts Review / Resistance and Opposition Arts Review) magazine *at the Conference Hall of the University of Tartu Library*

The guest will be interviewed by TÜ Associate Professor Roman Leibov. The online publication ROAR, which has been published since 24.04.2022, features texts that oppose war and Russian official culture and propaganda – prose, poetry, works of art, graffiti, audio and video clips.

The event is in Russian.

19.30 Latvian poets Anna Belkovska, Lote Vilma, and Marija Luīze Melķe *at the Tartu Literature House cultural club Salong*

The poetry evening features award-winning young Latvian poets Anna Belkovska, Lote Vilma, and Marija Luīze Melķe. Their activities as poets, illustrators, theatre people, and reflectors of social themes influence Latvia's current cultural landscape. The opening words will be said by the Latvian Ambassador to Estonia, Kristine Našeniece. The poetry evening will be hosted and translated by Contra and Ilze Tālberga. The event is in Latvian with translations into Estonian available in a poetry booklet created for the event.

21.00 Concert at cultural club Salong: guitarists Edgars Rubenis (LV) and Eerik Kokk (EE)

Edgars Rubenis emerged in the Latvian music scene in the mid-2000s as a member of the experimental rock band Mona de Po in Riga. His current musical activities include early blues and ragtime. Eerik Kokk is a guitarist for Project Dekadenz but also performs solo from time to time.

Free admission.

21.00 The ambassador's reception of the Embassy of Utopia hosted by Ambassador Clara Amaral (Portugal) *at the Embassy premises on the corner of Rüütli Street and Town Hall Square*

21.30 Toomas Kiho's poetry mix "Wishing the Impossible - Love" *at Vein ja Vine.*

Wednesday, May 10th

10.10 Meeting with Kaia Raudsepp *at Tammelin Library*

Kaia Raudsepp is a young adult author who is known for her understanding of Estonian youth and her insightful treatment of their problems. Despite the complex issues addressed in her books, Raudsepp's writing instils courage and optimism in her young readers. Her book "Just Don't Be Alone" was awarded the Good Young Adult Book 2021 prize, and her book "The Invisible Girl" was recognized as a laureate of the "Young Reads" award. Raudsepp has also received the Margus Karu Young Adult Literature Award for her novels "The Invisible Girl" and "Just Don't Be Alone".

12.00 Discussion "Including Other Species"

in the hall of Tartu Literature House

In the discussion, artist Uku Sepsivart and writer David Hartley (UK) will introduce their work. The conversation will be moderated by semiotician and poet Timo Maran and Sara Bédard-Goulet who is a curator and a Visiting Research Fellow of Romance Studies at the University of Tartu. The discussion is a pre-event of the project "Poetics of Survival", which is part of the Prima Vista literature festival "Future Better and Worse" taking place as part of the programme of the European Capital of Culture Tartu 2024.

The discussion will be held in English.

14.00 "Living Library" for school students *at Karlova-Ropka Library*

See page 5 for more information

16.00 Andrei Ivanov "The Writer and the Reader in the New Era": author's evening and presentation of a new book

at the Conference Hall of the University of Tartu Library

The evening will be moderated by Timur Guzairov, PhD. Andrei Ivanov's new book "Twilight Melancholy" was awarded the Estonian Cultural Endowment's annual prize for Russian language literature in March. The author's evening will explore whether spiritual melancholy and ordinary depression are the same things and whether the book is a cure for melancholy or a celebration of it. The event will be held in Russian.

17.00 Author's evening with German writer Jenny Erpenbeck

at the hall of Tartu Public Library

The guest will be interviewed by University of Tartu lecturer Hella Liira. Jenny Erpenbeck's short story collection "The Old Child" and novel "Go, Went, Gone" have been published in Estonian, translated respectively by Sigrid Reili and Terje Loo-gus, and her latest works are available in Tartu libraries in German. The conversation will be in German, with simultaneous translation into Estonian.

17.30 Book presentation at Tartu Kaubamaja Apollo bookstore: Epp Petrone and Väike Myy's "Our Country Life" (Petrone Print)

At the same time as the nature book presentation, there will be a discussion about country life featuring Epp Petrone, Kristel Vilbaste ("Our Drinking Water," "Our Meadow Herbs"), and Aune Past ("Our Spring Flowers"). In the book "Our Country Life," two women living in the countryside exchange letters about how to collect crisis supplies and make their lives more efficient. The conversation will cover topics such as homemade preserves, cellar building, raising cows and sheep, geese and ducklings, as well as foxes, sparrowhawks, and roe deer on their farms. The fun and informative stories end with major life changes that await both women.

18.00 Yelena Skulskaya's author evening and public lecture "Metamorphosis" at the Conference Hall of the University of Tartu Library

The evening is hosted by Juku-Kalle Raid and the patron of the festival, Mehis Heinsaar will also participate. The evening starts with a lecture on Vladimir Nabokov, who throughout his life tried to achieve the impossible - to rid himself of great creative jealousy towards Dostoyevsky and Kafka, trying to prove that their works are unfit for reading. The event will also present Skulskaya's new prose book "The Revenge of the Boy" and translations of Estonian poets. The event is in Russian.

18.30 Meeting with Finnish writer Anni Kytömäki at the hall of Tartu Literature House

Finlandia laureate Anni Kytömäki's novel "Margarita" (2020) was translated into Estonian in 2021 by Toomas Tallo. The guest will be interviewed by Heidi Iivari. The conversation will be in Finnish with a translation into Estonian.

21.00 The ambassador's reception of the Embassy of Utopia hosted by Ambassador Cloud Circuit (Canada) at the Embassy premises on the corner of Rüütli Street and Town Hall Square

21.00 City Writer's Evening at Promenaadiviis

The Festival mood continues under the leadership of Tartu's current City Writer Mart Kivastik.

Thursday, May 11th

10.00 Meeting with Kristi Piiper *at Annelinn Library*

Kristi Piiper was born in Tartu. Her debut book "Salapaha" (2015) is a collection of the author's childhood memories. In the same year, "Truth or Dare. Stella," the first book in a series of youth novels, was published. In her books, she values adventure, humour, and excitement in addition to real-life problems. Kristi Piiper has written a dozen children's books and youth novels and has received several awards, including first place for the manuscript "First Time" in the 2022 young adult novel competition organized by the Estonian Children's Literature Center and Tänapäev Publishing House.

12.00 Adventure game "Literary Adventures for Youth with the TartuFic Mobile App"

A literary orientation game for 7th and 8th-grade students in the city.

14.30 Meeting with Rimma Markova (Sweden) *at the Tartu City Museum*

The day is moderated by Anastassia Korchinskaya. Rimma Markova's novels "Stoltz" and "Black Viking" tell stories of mixed families. The meeting with the author will discuss people's self-determination and the perception of "own" and "foreign," which may sometimes be related to some impossible desires.

The event is in Russian.

16.00 "The Painful Break of Existence": Ekaterina Velmezova's Author Evening *at the Tartu City Museum*

Ekaterina Velmezova is a professor at the University of Lausanne and a visiting professor at the University of Tartu. She is also a translator of Jaan Kaplinski's poetry and the author of a trilingual poetry book "Time, Beginning and End." The evening is moderated by Nadezhda Valk.

The event is in Russian.

16.00 Author evening with Norwegian writer Hanne Ørstavik *at the hall of Tartu Public Library*

The guest will be interviewed by translator Sigrid Tooming. Hanne Ørstavik's novels "The Pastor" and "Love" have been published in Estonian both translated by Sigrid Tooming.

The conversation will be in Norwegian with simultaneous translation into Estonian.

17.30 Author evening and lecture “Clothes and their Perception at Protest Meetings” with Linor Goralik (Israel) at the Tartu City Museum

The event is moderated by Lyudmila Kazaryan. Linor Goralik is not only known as a writer and the author of several anti-war projects, but also as a recognized fashion researcher, marketer, applied artist, and comic book creator. Her poems and fairy tales will also be presented during the meeting, which will help to reveal the secrets of her versatile talent.

The event is in Russian.

18.00 Author evening with Lithuanian writer Gina Viliūnė at Tartu Literature House

The writer will speak about her historical detective novels, which take the reader on an adventure through medieval Vilnius. The conversation will be illustrated with historical visual material. Estonian readers can get to know Viliūnė's work through the novel “Murder in the Shoemaker's Workshop”, and the second part of the detective novel series will soon be available in Estonian. The author will be interviewed by Tiina Kattel, and the event will be in Lithuanian with translation into Estonian.

18.30 Presentation of the book “Nights at the Museum” by Ron Whitehead and Jinn Bug at the Tartu Literature House cultural club Salong

In the Spring of 2019, American poet Ron Whitehead was the writer-in-residence of the Tartu City of Literature international residency program. During his stay at Karl Ristikivi's house, he immersed himself in Tartu's cultural life, travelled around Estonia and organized Insomniacathon at Prima Vista. Together with his partner Jinn Bug, they created a poetry collection inspired by Tartu and Estonia, which was translated into Estonian by Doris Kareva and published as a bilingual book by Utopia bookstore. The book was first presented in 2020, but due to the circumstances at the time, the authors participated in the presentation through a video call. Now, Ron and Jinn are finally returning to Tartu, and the book will be presented in person by the authors and the translator at the Tartu Literature House cultural club Salong.

20.00 TarSlämm Poetry Slam Finals at Vilde ja Vine, with guest performer Marius Povilas Elijas Martynenko (Lithuania)

It has become customary for the TarSlämm Finals to take place during the springtime Prima Vista festival, and now the time has come! On May 11th at 8 pm, the brightest performers from four preliminary rounds will compete on stage at Vilde ja Vine, led by hosts Sirel Heinloo and Toomas Leppik. The finalists are Mikk Siemer, Taavi Novek, Mihhail Boitsov, Janiš Laende, Liine Roos, Murca, Kristina Ruder, Mona Tärk, Silver Sepp, and Anna-Liisa Leppik. The guest per-

former is Lithuanian poetry slam champion (2015), poet, and actor Marius Povilas Elijas Martynenko, who will perform in both English and Lithuanian.

21.00 The ambassador's reception of the Embassy of Utopia hosted by Ambassador Hans Platzgumer (Austria) at the Embassy premises on the corner of Rüütli Street and Town Hall Square

Friday, May 12th

10.00 "Living Library" for school youth *at Annelinn Library*

See page 5 for more information

11.00 "Living Library" for school youth *at Ilmatsalu Library*

See page 5 for more information

14.00 Aleksei Turovski's public lecture "Impossible and unlikely in the world of animals - through myths and fiction"

at Tartu University Library's sound archive

At the festival, the beloved animal researcher and semiotician will be seen in an unusual role, not only talking about animals but also about literature, but just as interestingly and engagingly.

The event is in Russian.

15.00 Watching the River Flow: a writing walk with Andy Willoughby (UK)

A writing walk to explore the river as a real and mythological place, as a conduit to dream and memory, and as the repository of personal and public memory. Meeting place by the fountain Kissing Students at the Town Hall Square. Attendees need a notepad and a pen/pencil.

In English.

16.00 Rimma Markova (Sweden) poetry class "It still seems like mother is here..." *at Tartu University Library's sound archive*

Who among us wouldn't want the impossible – for our mother to live forever and always be close? Before Mother's Day, Rimma Markova presents a poetry collection "Mother" filled with pain and love.

The event is in Russian.

16.00 Swedish writer Lina Nordquist's author's evening

at the hall of Tartu Public Library

The guest will be interviewed by literary scholar Esbjörn Nyström (Sweden). The focus of the discussion is Lina Nordquist's debut novel "I Follow You" (Eesti Raamat, 2022, translated by Tiina Mullamaa).

17.00 Olga Einasto and Elmet Neumann's acoustic concert

"Songs for mothers who can do the Impossible"

at the sound archive of the University of Tartu Library

17.00 Introduction to the AHHA Stage Poetry Festival: open mic program on the AHHA Centre rooftop

18.00 AHHA Stage Poetry Festival premiere in the planetarium

See page 23 for details.

19.00 AHHA Stage Poetry Festival in the planetarium

See page 23 for details.

19.00 Literature With Spark: an evening of young authors

at the Tartu Literature House cultural club Salong

Readings by Aliis Aalmann, Päiv Dengo, Sanna Kartau, Kelli Kiipus, Gregor Kulla, and Janika Läänemets.

19.00 Literary night of the series of events Evenings of Estonian Science Fiction

at the hall of Tartu Literature House

20.00 The presentation of the new album "Armastuse kitsas rada" (The Narrow Path of Love) by the band OLEM

at the Armastuse saal at Apraaditehas

This heart-music ensemble will be presenting 14 songs based on poems by Ernst Enno. These songs offer the listener both material for contemplation and a quiet space to be in the midst of all the external hustle and bustle and an opportunity to immerse in the inner world shared by Ernst Enno and OLEM and anyone who finds a moment to listen.

The members of OLEM involved in creating this album are:

Ken Arula - melodies, vocals, guitar
Hanno Padar - guitar
Birgid Täht - piano
Marta Mutso - violin
Maria Mutso - cello
Ermo Talvik - drums

NB! The concert has an entrance fee, and tickets priced at €12 are available on-site.

21.00 The ambassador's reception of the Embassy of Utopia hosted by Ambassador Maarja Pärtna at the Embassy premises on the corner of Rütli Street and Town Hall Square

Saturday, May 13th

13.00 Award ceremony for the winners of the Ulakass Review Contest *at the Estonian Literary Museum*

13.00 AHHA stage poetry festival in the planetarium

See page 23 for details.

14.00 AHHA stage poetry festival in the planetarium

See page 23 for details.

15.00 Award ceremony for the winners of the information search game for the youth *at the Fahrenheit 451° bookstore*

May 13 at 10:00 am – May 14 at 10:00 am

INSOMNIACATHON II and Prima Vista 20 at Tartu Literary House

Insomniacathon is back! Many may remember how in 2019, under the leadership of the Tartu City of Literature writer-in-residence of the time, the American Beat poet Ron Whitehead, something completely unprecedented happened at Prima Vista — a 24-hour nonstop cultural program called Insomniacathon took place at Tartu Literature House on the last day of the festival. Whitehead himself developed the format and concept of this event, and to the delight of the festival team, he returns to Tartu this year to bring Insomniacathon II to the audience in collaboration with the festival, and to present their jointly written book "Nights at the Museum" / "Õöd muuseumis" with Jinn Bug, inspired by Ron's Tartu residency and translated into Estonian by Doris Kareva. In addition to Ron, old friends of the festival from Estonia and elsewhere, as well as new performers, can be seen on this day. Not entirely coincidentally, we also celebrate Prima Vista's 20th anniversary on this day.

Schedule:

10.00 Opening of Insomniacathon *at the stairs of Tartu Literature House*

11.00–13.00 Book auction in the hall

Kivisilla Cultural Center organizes the "301 Books Auction". The auction catalogue can be found at www.inderlin.ee, and the auctioned items can also be viewed on-site for one hour before the auction. If someone cannot come to the event, they can also submit their bids via email (ym@hot.ee) until May 12, 2023.

12.00 Midday talks with festival patron Mehis Heinsaar in the summer garden

13.15 "Subculture Dandy: Fashion, Literature, Art, and the Art of Living" — an exclusive lecture by Magister Artium Kaspar Jassa in the hall

14.00 Performance of "Daphnis and Chloe" by the Department of Classical Philology in the attic

Who or what is "Daphnis and Chloe"? In short, it is a love story from ancient times. Simply put, it is a story of love between a boy and a girl. However, to be more precise, "Daphnis and Chloe" is a work consisting of four books, written by Longus. The play has been staged by the Department of Classical Philology at the University of Tartu, with the screenplay and direction by Richard Rees, and course instructor Kadri Novikov.

15.30 Prima Vista Birthday Cake in Salong or Courtyard

Program at the Tartu Literary House Culture Club Salong:

17.10 Akadeemia Magazine presents: Penny Boxall's work in Estonian translation

17.30 Penny Boxall (UK)

18.00 Andy Willoughby and Anton Flint (UK): Between Stations

18.40 Ron Whitehead (USA) and Aapo Ilves

19.10 David Hartley (UK)

19.40 The magazine Akadeemia presents: Hans Platzgumer's work in Estonian translation

20.00 Concert "Writers in Music":

Hans Platzgumer & Convertible (acoustic ensemble)

Hans Platzgumer – vocals, guitar, keyboards

Chris Laine – bass, vocals

Michael Schneider – percussion

Poems translated by Piret Pääsuke and performed by Maarja Jakobson.

Since 2004, American lyricist Hannah Mac Kenna and Austrian musician Hans Platzgumer have collaborated under the name Convertible to create dozens of songs, 21 of which were included in the bilingual poetry collection “Convertible Song Book” (Vienna, 2022). The English original texts were translated into German by Hans Platzgumer himself. In Tartu, about ten songs from the collection will be performed.

Alla Puugovitsa:

Jan Kaus – vocals, guitar

Toomas Täht – ukulele, bass guitar, comb, body

Eva Koldits – piano, melodica

Indrek Koff – trumpet, bass guitar, ukulele, harmonica

Alla Puugovitsa is a band of two writers and two actors that overflows with creativity. The ensemble was formed during the development of the play “Style Exercises”. For Prima Vista, a specially curated program will mainly feature Alla Puugovitsa’s work, along with some of the play’s beautiful and powerful numbers.

The concert will be hosted by Toomas Leppik.

22.00 Marius Povilas Elisas Martynenko (Lithuania)

22.30 Cloud Circuit (Canada)

23.00 Open Mic

00.00 DJs and night program

01.30 Open Mic

02.30 Creative writing workshop with ChatGPT

03.30 Fairy tale hour

04.49 Sunrise humming with Silver Sepp

5.30 Tartu City of Literature literary videos program

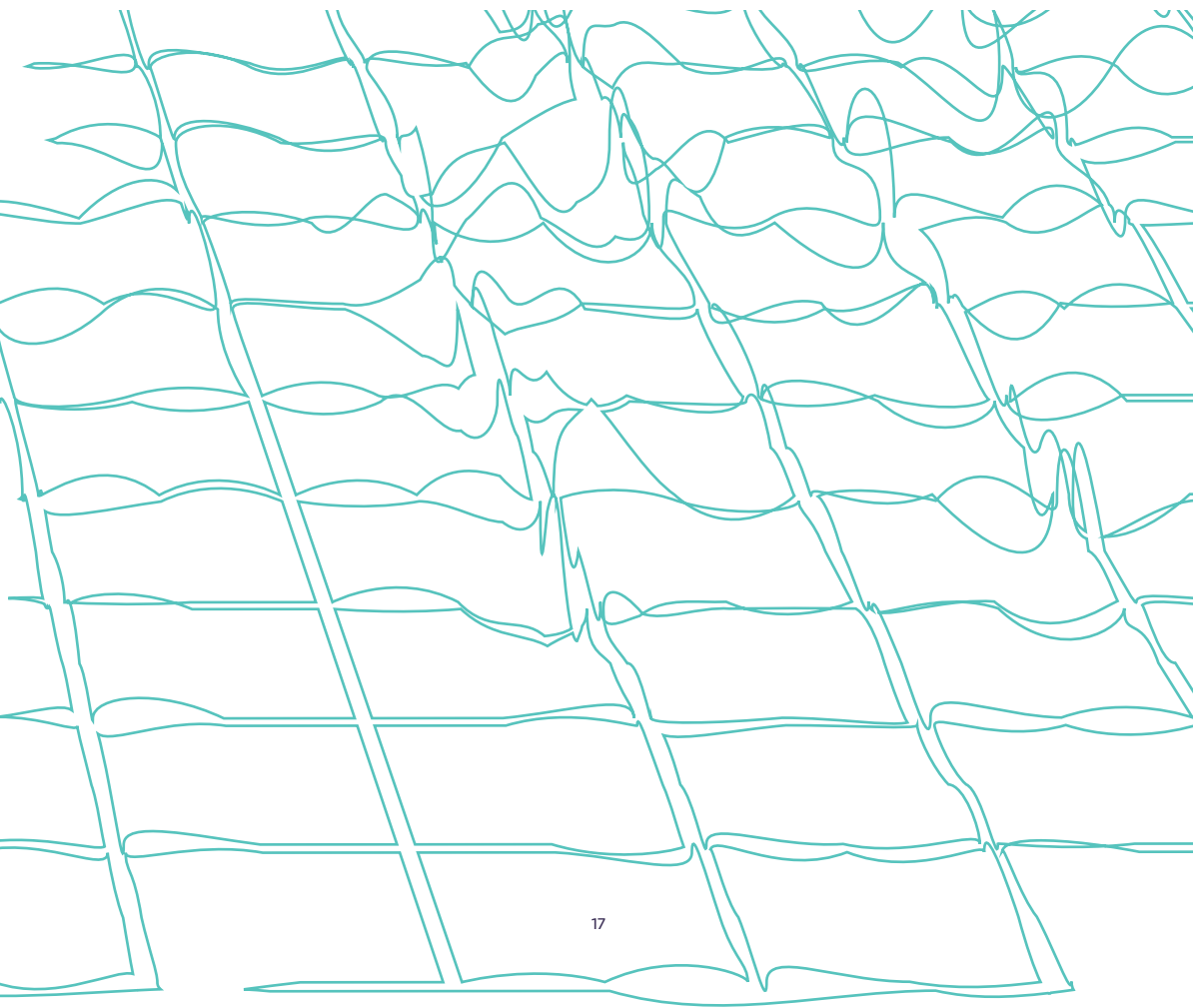
6.00 Depressive cover songs by Kerstin Vestel

7.00 Open Mic

8.30 Surprise performer

9:00 Fanfare sounds and a wake-up call from Kaisa Ling in the summer garden

9:30 The closing of Insomniacathon II and Prima Vista 2023 in the summer garden



Saturday, May 6th

Prima Vista in Paide

Program at Paide Music and Theater House

Host: Kai Väärtnõu (Book Friend of the Year 2022)

11.00–16.00

Book fair in the foyer

11.00–12.00

Children's play: Miksteater's "The Key" in the small hall

12.00–13.00

Presentation of Tiiu Saariste's book "Järvamaa Song and Dance Festivals" Part II in the small hall

13.15–14.45

Wittenstein's tour in Paide "Historical Books of Paide", starting at PAMT

15.00–16.00

Paide Theater Studio's play "My Name is Nobody" in the small hall

16.00–17.30

Poetry Slam in the small hall: Mari-Liis Mürsepp and local poetry enthusiasts

18.00–19.00

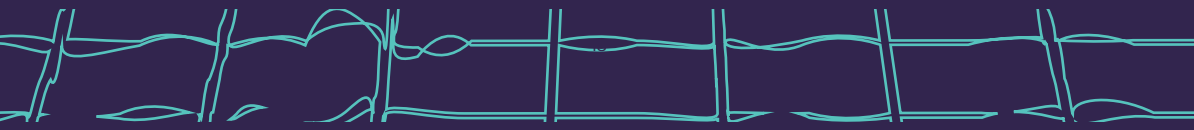
Meeting with Prima Vista patron Mehis Heinsaar, and guests Lauri Sommer and Kristel Mägedi in the small hall

19.00–20.00

Cloud Circuit (Canada) in the small hall

20.00

Dr Ormusson's (Igor Kotjuh) disco "Musical Sparks" in the small hall



Prima Vista Book Fair

May 9th at Town Hall Square **11.00-19.00**

- Ilmamaa Publishing
- Emakeele Sihtsus
- SA Kultuurileht
- Eesti Raamat
- Tallinn University Press
- Koolibri
- Estonian National Museum
- Mina Ise/Väike-Tarvastu Publishing
- Keropää Publishing
- Avita Publishing
- Atlex Publishing
- Petrone Print
- Nornberg & Co Publishing
- University of Tartu Press
- Otto Wilhelm
- Toledo Publishing
- Kaksikhammas Publishing
- Estonian Literary Museum
- Fantaasia Publishing
- Vabamõtleja
- Kirjastusselts Zeus
- Johannes Esto Publishing
- Estonian Ornithological Society
- SE&JS Publishing
- Studium
- Hunt Publishing
- Fahrenheit 451° Bookstore
- Legend
- Raudhammas
- Helios Publishing
- Tete dor
- Viiking Publishing
- Argo Publishing
- Tartu University Library e-bookstore
- Tartu Public Library

Cultural Program at the Book Fair:

11.00–14.00 Children's program in the big tent

11.00 Karlova Kindergarten children's welcome concert

11.15 Art workshop with writer Liis Sein for kindergarten children

12.30 Art workshop with writer Aidi Vallik for 2nd-4th grade children

14.15–14.30 Introduction of Legend Publishing's books

14.30–14.45 Introduction of Contra's (Mina Ise Publishing) books

14.50–15.10 Introduction of Iris Assad's book "Seal, kus tuksub inimkonna süda" ("There, Where the Heart of Humankind Beats") (Nornberg & Co Publishing)

15.30–16.00 Just Dance School's dance students

16.00–16.20 Dance fusion "The Impossible Dream"

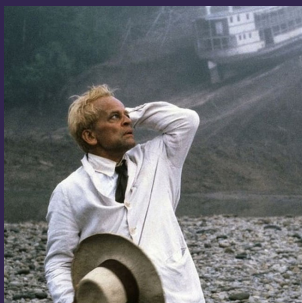
16.30–16.55 Introduction of Leo Luks's book "Kolm punkti" ("Three Points") (Vabamõtleja Publishing)

17.00–17.40 Thanking the participating publishers of the charity project

18.00–18.30 Wuthering Heights dance performance

The film program

at the cinema theatre Electric Theater



„Fitzcarraldo“ (1982)

Monday, May 8 at 20:00, ticket €4

When it comes to ranking the craziest film projects in the world, Werner Herzog's "Fitzcarraldo" is always rightfully included. Carlos Fitzcarraldo was a Peruvian rubber baron who decided to transport a steamship through the jungle to reach the rubber trees. And Werner Herzog did the same thing when he set out to film the story. With the help of indigenous people, a 300-ton steamship was pulled through the jungle, and the film's lead actor Klaus Kinski went berserk throughout the entire shoot, threatening to kill the director in the end. It's no wonder that the local indigenous people who participated in the filming offered to kill the actor so that they could finish the shoot. "Fitzcarraldo" is a crazy and touching film about big dreams, perseverance, and the soothing power of opera.

The film will be shown in German, Spanish, and Italian with Estonian subtitles.

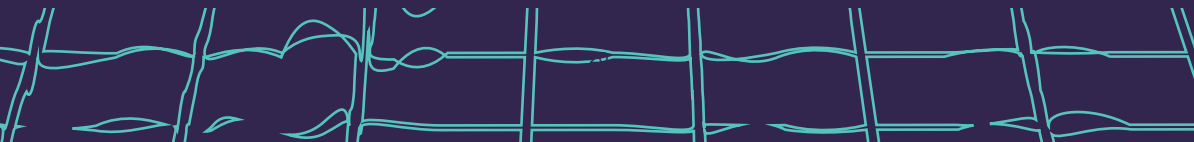


"The Wizard of Oz" (1939)

Saturday, May 13 at 17:00, ticket €4

Based on L. Frank Baum's novel of the same title, "The Wizard of Oz" is a fantasy film about a little girl named Dorothy, who mistakenly ends up in a magical world with her dog Toto. To get back home, Dorothy and Toto must find their way to the powerful Wizard of Oz. Along the way, they meet several strange characters. Initially a box office failure, the film won two Oscars and has since become one of the most-watched and culturally influential films of all time. "The Wizard of Oz" is also one of the few films listed on the UNESCO Memory of the World Register.

The film will be shown in English with Estonian subtitles.





"The Fabulous Baron Munchausen" (1962)

Saturday, May 13 at 19:15, ticket €4

Based on the stories of Rudolf Erich Raspe, the fantastic film "The Fabulous Baron Munchausen" is a visually stunning tale about the legendary braggart whose incredible adventures take him to the Russian-Turkish war, the belly of a whale, the moon, and beyond. The film's director is the legendary Czech stuntman Karel Zeman, who is often compared to the grandfather of fantasy cinema, Georges Méliès, for his innovative spirit, technological ingenuity, and boundless imagination.

The film will be shown in Czech with Estonian subtitles.

Exhibitions dedicated to the 20th anniversary of Prima Vista at the Tartu Public Library

April 27-May 24, on the 2nd-floor exhibition space

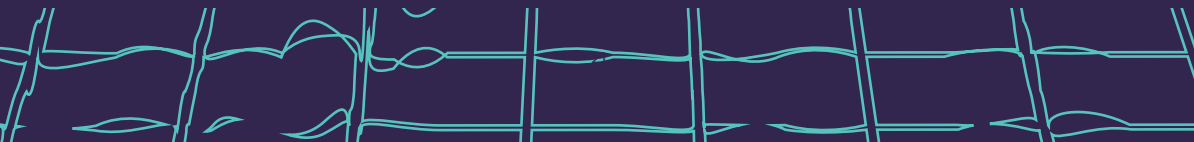
"Primavera with Prima Vista: 20 Years of the Literature Festival Prima Vista"

An overview of the festival's themes, patrons, and foreign guests over the years.

April 25-May 24, in the 4th-floor foyer

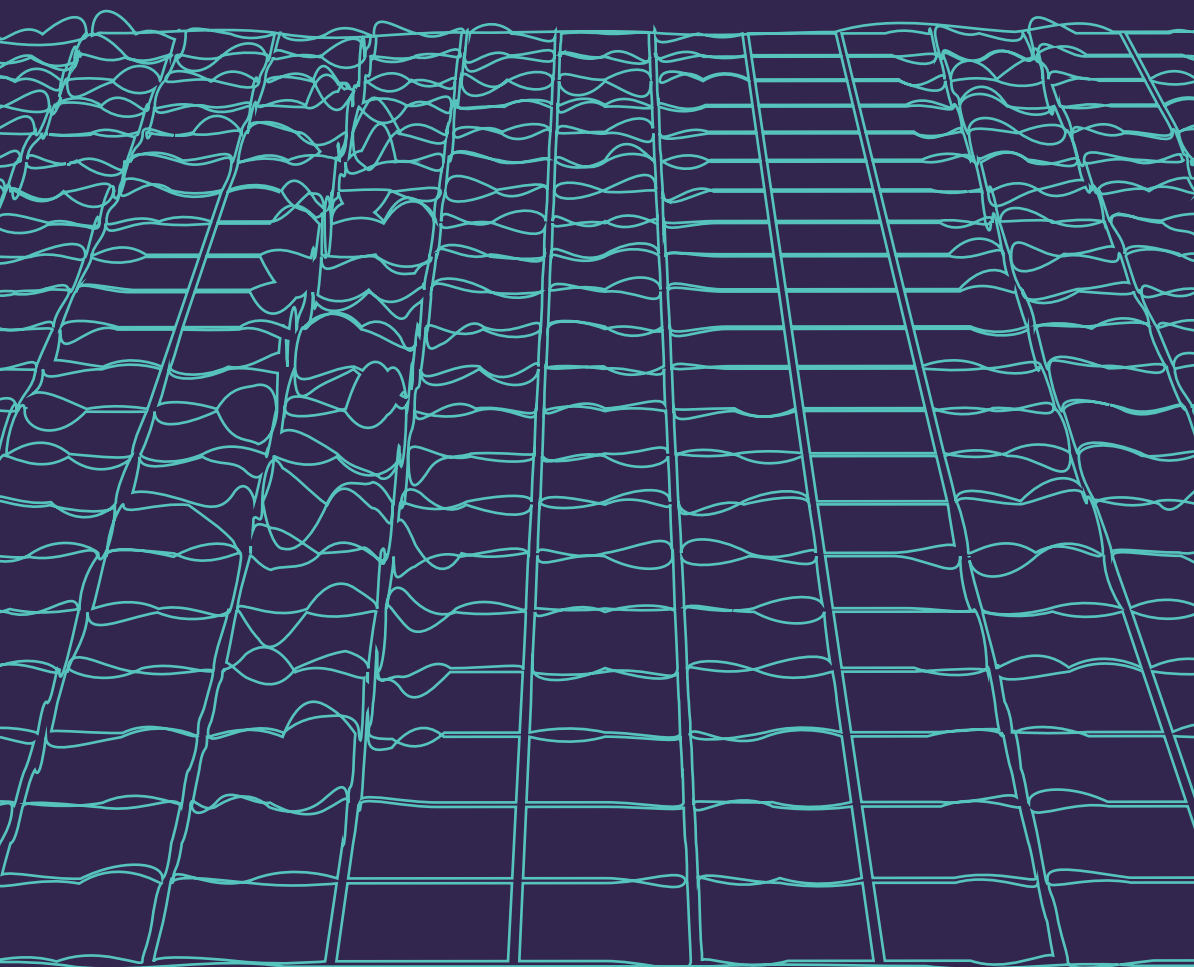
"Music in the Middle of Literature"

Music that has been played at the Literature Festival Prima Vista over the past 20 years.



Prima Vista Charity Project

This year's Prima Vista charity project is being carried out in cooperation with the Ukrainian House and is aimed at Ukrainian children living here. As part of the project, publishers donate children's books to the Ukrainian House, and on the first day of the festival, the children from the Ukrainian House will go on a nature hike with Juhani Püttsepp. The participating publishers will be thanked on Tuesday, May 9th at 17:00 during the Prima Vista book fair, where the children from the Ukrainian House will also perform.



AHHAA Stage Poetry Festival in the Planetarium

Get ready for an unforgettable experience at the exciting stage poetry festival in the Tartu AHHAA Science Centre planetarium! This literary festival, in cooperation with AHHAA Science Centre and Estonian Stage Poetry Society, combines the world of poetry and technology to create a unique cultural experience. It is the first of four international projects of the Urban Travel Machines festival.

Thanks to a creative course held in Helsinki in December, we are proud to present five different 360° environments for five different poets. Transported into these atmospheres, you can listen to performances by Giovanni Baudoncki (Belgium), Eleonora Fisco (Italy), Sergio Garau (Italy), Maja Jantari (Finland), and Jaan "Luulur" Malin (Estonia), as well as performances by Sveta Grigorjeva, Sirel Heinloo, Joonas Veelmaa, Teele Lember, and Irene, born in collaboration with the planetarium.

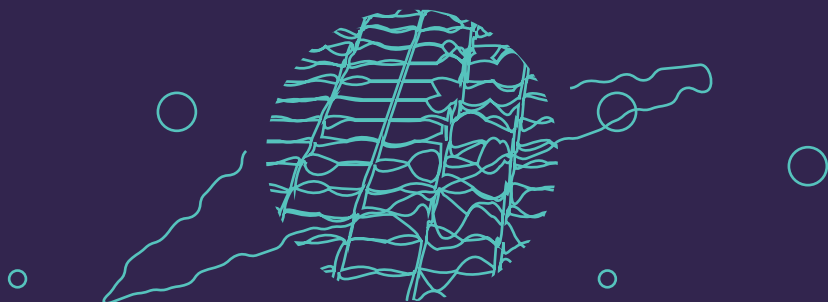
The opportunity to experience this unique cosmic and poetic journey is available on Friday evening (May 12 at 18:00 and 19:00) or Saturday afternoon (May 13 at 13:00 and 14:00). Come and explore the intersection of poetry and technology and immerse yourself in an intimate environment that fully embodies the world of poetry with cutting-edge technology.

Join us and witness the future of stage poetry!

NB! The planetarium sphere is small, with only about 20 seats. The performances are free, but to secure a seat, please register by May 11 at the latest on the Fienta platform: <https://fienta.com/et/ahhaa-lavaluulefestival-planetariumis>

During the festival, on May 9th and 10th, AHHAA Poetry Lab workshops will also take place, including creative writing with Sirel Heinloo, performance training with Philip Meersman (Belgium), and UTM presentations on the 360° poetry projection backstage lab. Learn more and register at www.lavaluule.ee or www.ahhaa.ee.

The Urban Travel Machines project is co-funded by the European Union under the Creative Europe Programme.



The Embassy of Utopia

The Embassy of Utopia is a space and thought experiment, whose doors are open from May 8th to 13th as part of the Prima Vista literature festival and Tartu 2024 European Capital of Culture program.

The Embassy of Utopia is a sanctuary for positive uncertainty, bold thinking, and untamable imagination. It is a meeting place for poets who never write any poetry and for those for whom writing is the only possible form of existence, for vagabonds on their way to new tomorrows, and for archaeologists whose shovels dig into the sands of the future.

The Embassy of Utopia offers a space for ideas that are too wild to fit into newspapers with long and illustrious histories, too audacious to be spoken by politicians' greased lips, too poetic to find readers in the murky depths of the internet, yet too beautiful, too painful, and too important to leave unspoken.

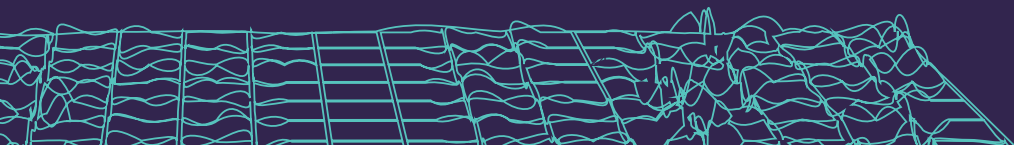
The doors of the Embassy of Utopia open on the evening of May 8th at the corner of Town Hall Square and Rütli Street and remain open until the early hours of May 13th. When the Ambassador of Utopia exits the building, the Embassy itself becomes mobile. On such occasions, the Embassy can be imagined as a circle with the Ambassador at its centre, and with a diameter equal to the sound of the Ambassador's voice, but no less than 7 metres.

From the evening of May 8th until the early hours of May 13th, the Embassy of Utopia will host 5 keynote addresses and 550 speeches about longing for a different existence. The five speeches, which open the doors to a world of boundless imagination every night at nine o'clock, will be given by Mehis Heinsaar, Maarja Pärtna, Cloud Circuit, Hans Platzgumer, and Clara Amaral.

The 550 speeches will be delivered by people — writers and judges, poets, students and teachers, foresters and businessmen, editors, critics, activists, architects, actors and explorers, lost, forgotten, famous and unknown, academics and non-academics — people who seek their way through the same fog and look at the same sun that shines on all of us.

The exact schedule of the Embassy of Utopia program "555 speeches about longing" will be published at the beginning of May.

The Embassy of Utopia is created by Jan Teevet and Oliver Issak, and the project manager of the Embassy is Lisanna Lajal.



Prima Vista 2023 art program

From April 24th to June 4th, 2023

The 16 exhibitions of this year's art program feature the work of 21 artists and many students. The exhibitions showcase a wide range of art, more or less related to the festival theme, including graphics, drawings, artist books, plate camera photos, landscape photos with sound, paintings, sculptures, leather art techniques, bookbinding, and tapestries.

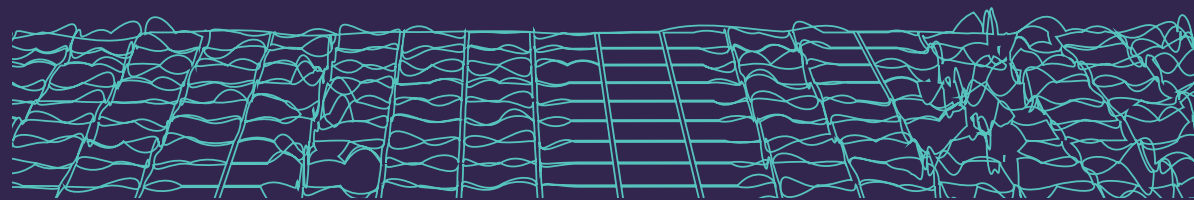
The theme of Prima Vista 2023, "Wishing the Impossible," can prompt several questions. "Where does the border between possibility and impossibility lie, how different or similar is it for us?" muses Aet Ollisaar. The students of Pallas have approached the theme from both a broader and a more personal perspective. The message from the media design students is, "Everything is knotted! It seems impossible to unravel. Unravelling the knot may seem like an impossible wish, but the desire to do it should be in everyone... Dealing with oneself is not easy, but manual activity in cooperation with a mental activity helps to find answers to many questions." Maila Kåos, curating the exhibition of leather design students, approaches the theme from another level: "Time is like a dream, something we cannot control. By wishing for more time, we desire something impossible, because none of us has more than 24 hours a day to use. We choose how we fill our own time."

Artists have explored the theme in a global and social context. Eve Kask writes, "Let us dream of the impossible so that no one has to endure extreme existential loneliness and so that humanity can reach a consensus on

what is important: to avoid self-destructive behaviour." Ardo Sägi adds, "We are waiting for a possible message about humanity, honesty, and perseverance. Will the bearers of these messages arrive, with what message, and will these messages be accepted...?"

Through a therapeutic process, Ukrainian artist Viktoria Berezina brings the harsh war theme before the viewers: "I thought I would never be able to do anything beautiful again. Every day, I see war before my eyes, and in my head, only fragments of images that fit better into the 'Black Book.' While designing the calendar, I discovered that light still burns in my heart. I found many blooming flowers, green trees, forests, wild animals inside me..."

Toomas Kalve, Dorel Sabre, and Andrus Kannel handle the theme in a way that values culture, heritage, and the natural environment. In Toomas Kalve's photo series "Kalvetaarium," portraits of culture keepers captured with an old plate camera are showcased. "These stopped moments are a record for the future," writes the photographer. Dorel Sabre, who curated the bookbinding exhibition of Friedrich Reinhold Kreutzwald's book "Estonian Folktales," says, "These fairy tales have fascinated readers of all ages for over 150 years. Will bookbinding open the door to this ancient and exciting mythological world, and what associations will arise when looking at the book covers?" Andrus Kannel highlights connections between the human-designed physical and natural environments in his works...



□ 24.04.–27.05.2023 at the Pallas Gallery

Joint exhibition “See You Tomorrow!” by the painting students of the Pallas Higher School of Art and the Latvian Academy of Art, and an exhibition of student paintings on the theme “Wishing the Impossible” led by Sirje Petersen.

□ 3.05.–4.06.2023 Exhibitions at the University of Tartu Library

On the 1st floor: Exhibition “Shapes and Imaginations” by sculpture department students of Pallas’ 1st and 2nd year, curated by Rauno Thomas Moss

On the 2nd floor: Exhibition “Time” by students of Pallas’ leather design and restoration department, curated by Maila Kāos

On the 2nd floor: Bookbinding art exhibition “Estonian Folk Tales” by the Estonian Association of Bookbinders, curated by Dorel Sabre

On the 2nd floor: Exhibition “Moments of the Year” by Ukrainian artist Viktoria Berezina

On the 2nd floor: Exhibition “Red Book” by Estonian artist of Ukrainian origin Nestor Ljutjuk

On the 2nd floor: Drawing and artist book exhibition “Solitude and Unity” by graphic artist and EKA lecturer Eve Kask

On the 2nd floor: Exhibition “Messengers” by graphic artist and Pallas lecturer Ardo Sägi; Graphic exhibition “Knot” by Pallas media design department students

On the 3rd floor: Exhibition “The Voices of Places - Landscape Photos with Sound” by photographer, semiotician, and Pallas lecturer Andrus Kannel

On the 3rd floor: Exhibition “Kalvetaarium - Plate Camera Photos of Estonian Culture Keepers” by photographer Toomas Kalve

On the 3rd floor: Exhibition “Would Like to Go Skiing” by 3rd-year students of Pallas’ textile department, participating students are Caroliina Ladva, Grete Maruste, Inger Tammela, Karl Olaf Kolla, Liisa Hanvere, Renate Eensalu, and Ülle Järv, curated by Aet Ollisaar.

Exhibition openings

3.05.2023 at 12.00 Exhibition opening of Pallas textile department students’ tapestry exhibition at the University of Tartu Library

4.05.2023 at 16.30 Exhibition opening at the University of Tartu Library: Eve Kask, Ardo Sägi, Pallas media design department students, and exhibitions by Toomas Kalve and Andrus Kannel

5.05.2023 at 16.30 Exhibition opening at the University of Tartu Library: Pallas sculpture and leather design students and the Estonian Association of Bookbinders’ bookbinding exhibition

Rimma Markova (Sweden)

Poet and prose writer, and member of the Swedish PEN Club, Rimma Markova was born in St. Petersburg in a family of geodesists. She graduated from the Pedagogical Institute with a degree in drawing and worked as a school teacher in the Murmansk Oblast for 12 years. Her first two poetry books were published there. Markova returned to St. Petersburg as a recognised poet but later emigrated to Sweden, where she has lived for over 20 years.

Rimma Markova's poems have been translated into Swedish, English, Georgian, Bulgarian, and Chinese. This spring, her works were published in Estonian in the journal *Looming*, translated by Katrin Väli. Markova's poetry is sincere, and simple, without embellishments or pathos, reminiscent of everyday speech. Each poem is strong due to its simplicity and honesty.

Markova is also known as a prose writer. Her novel "Stoltz" is about the relationship between a Swede named Stoltz and his Russian wife Olga. The book "The Black Viking", which has been published in Sweden in Russian with a parallel translation in Swedish, is about the self-identification of a child from a mixed family: the teenage protagonist feels like a stranger both in Sweden, where he lives and in Russia, where his mother is from, as well as in his father's home country of Somalia.

Markova has participated in numerous international poetry festivals and has been a laureate of prestigious cultural and literary awards. In 2011, Markova was awarded the "Public Educator of the Year" title in Sweden.

When asked, "What does the phrase 'the impossible dream' mean to you?", Rimma Markova replied: "I wish to see Russia as a free democratic country. A country that is not a source of shame. Unfortunately, this wish is still impossible."



Photo: Vassil Nemirovsky

Linor Goralik (Israel)

"If for creating good literature someone's suffering, be it at least a minute, should be necessary, we should not have literature at all." (From an interview with Linor Goralik)

Linor Goralik is an author of prose and poetry books, a translator, artist, marketer, and cultural expert, born in Dnipropetrovsk. Since 1989, she has been living in Israel, where she graduated from the University of Beer-Sheva with a degree in Computer Science and has tried her hand in various fields, such as being a programmer, lecturer, and businesswoman. Later, Goralik moved to Moscow, but after the annexation of Crimea in 2014, she emigrated back to Israel, where she mainly focuses on literature and journalism. She is also a recognized fashion theorist and business consultant.

Linor Goralik entered the literary scene in 2001 as a blogger - her highly popular posts on the legendary Russian-language LiveJournal have become a pillar of the Russian-speaking internet. Her short prose, essays, fairy tales, and poems often enchant with absurdity, reflecting post-Soviet life and its everyday reality. Goralik is also known as a translator, having translated novels by Etgar Keret and poems by Vitautas Pliura into Russian (in collaboration with Stanislav Lvovsky).

The writer's works are highly appreciated by both readers and literary critics, and she has been awarded prestigious literary prizes and scholarships, including the Joseph Brodsky Memorial Fund scholarship. Her dystopian novel "All Those Who Can Breathe" published in 2019 was shortlisted for the "Big Book" award.

Goralik has also written extensively for children. She discusses topics with children that are rarely addressed in contemporary Russian-language literature, such as children's limited freedom, the difficulty of choices, and responsibility for the consequences of decisions made. In addition, she hosts a video blog called "News-26", where she

explains Russian politics and war to 12-year-olds in an understandable way.

Linor Goralik is known for her civic activism and outspoken criticism of Putin's regime and the aggression against Ukraine. She is also the author of several anti-war projects: last year, she created the online publication ROAR (Resistance and Opposition Arts Review), where texts opposing war and contrasting with Russia's official culture and propaganda are published, including prose, poetry, art, graffiti, audio, and video clips.

When asked "What does the phrase 'to wish for the impossible' mean to you?" Linor Goralik responded: "For me, the phrase 'to wish for the impossible' primarily means to exist in life. It seems to me that at the moment when my wishes are limited only to what is achievable, my life becomes terribly impoverished. Wishing for the impossible is tense and depressing, but for me personally, it is essential not to lose this ability over the years."



Photo: Anna Kozlova

Anna Belkovska (Latvia)

Anna Belkovska (born in 1992) is a poet and playwright. Her first poetry collection, "Veranda," received the Latvian Literary Award for the best debut in 2022. Currently, Anna is working on her next books; one of them will be a story about teenagers in Latvian rural towns in the beginning of the 2000s. Additionally, she is working on a theatre performance, which will premiere during this festival, about her father and their life with his addiction. In this case, Anna will also debut as a performer.

When asked about her impossible dream, she said: "As a person and a writer, my impossible dream is to have more time. Juggling work in two different fields, poetry and theatre, while also taking care of friends and family, travelling, battling depression and anxiety, and pursuing other interests leaves me lacking sufficient time. I have to accept that there will never be enough time to do everything I want. I am constantly compromising and changing my priorities. Still, it remains impossible to accomplish everything at once, especially during the Baltic winter, when even simple tasks can be a significant challenge."

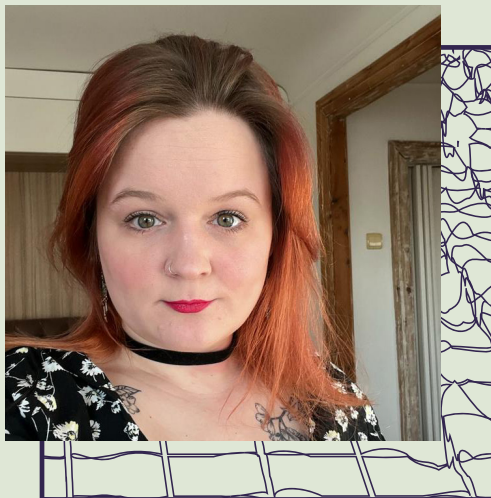


Photo: private collection

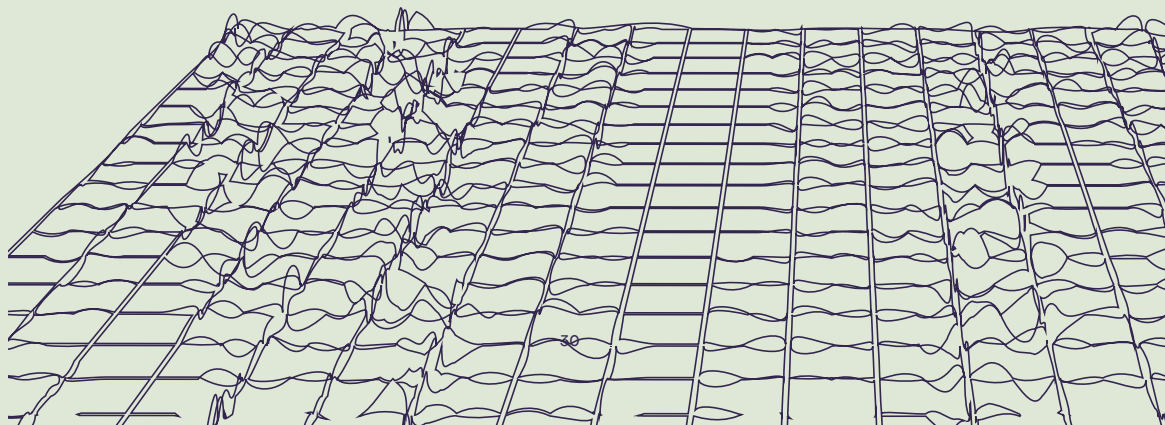
Lote Vilma (Latvia)

Lote Vilma (born in 1993) is an illustrator and poet. She is also a comic artist, and her first graphic novel is due to be released this year. Lote has written and illustrated two books: a picture book with poems for children called "Dzejnieks un Smarža" [The Poet and the Scent] (2019) and a prose poetry book for young adults called "Ūdenstornis" [The Water Tower] (2021), both of which have received national awards for their illustrations or written text. Her debut poetry book, "Meitene" [A Girl], was published in 2021 and it has no illustrations. In addition to writing and drawing, Lote is now one of the hosts of a radio show about literature and can be seen once a month drawing for an improvised drawing-theatre show at a local bar.

About impossible dreams, Lote Vilma says the following: "I am not sure that it is a dream if it does not have at least a little hope of coming true. It seems to me that such a dream would feel like a dead one, besides – who can really say what is and what isn't possible? Or maybe an impossible dream is such a dream that never has an ending, something you must strive for your whole life. Either way, I feel that a dream has to feel alive. I dream of knowing myself deeply and by that finding more peace in being here. I hope that creative work, both mine and others, is one way that could take me there."



Photo: Estere Betija Grāvere



Marija Luīze Melķe (Latvia)

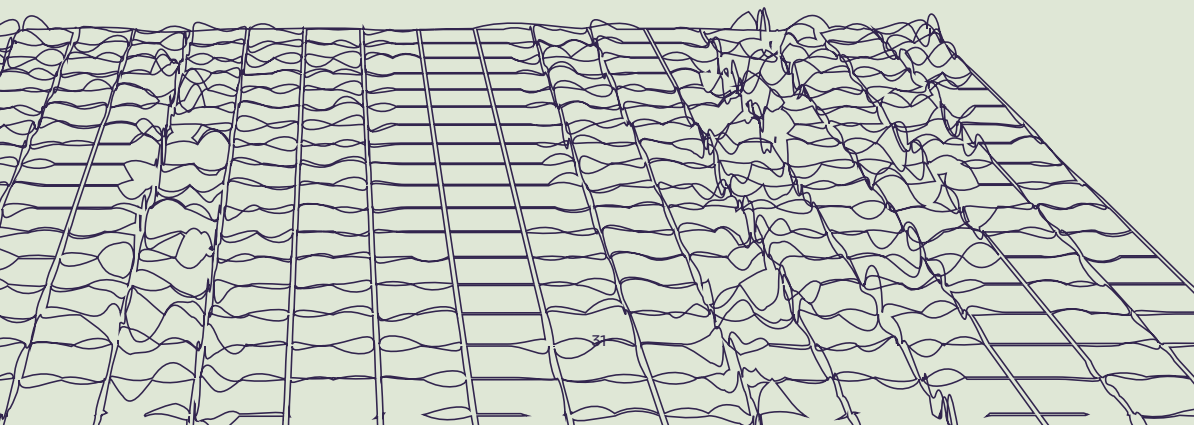
Marija Luīze Melķe (1997) is a poet and actress, cartoonist and publicist, so far considered promising in all of those things. Occasionally this potential gets celebrated with a nomination for some National prize.

"My impossible dream both as a person and a poet would be having such a financial income

I wouldn't have to worry about my living," says Melke.



Photo: Olafs Ošs



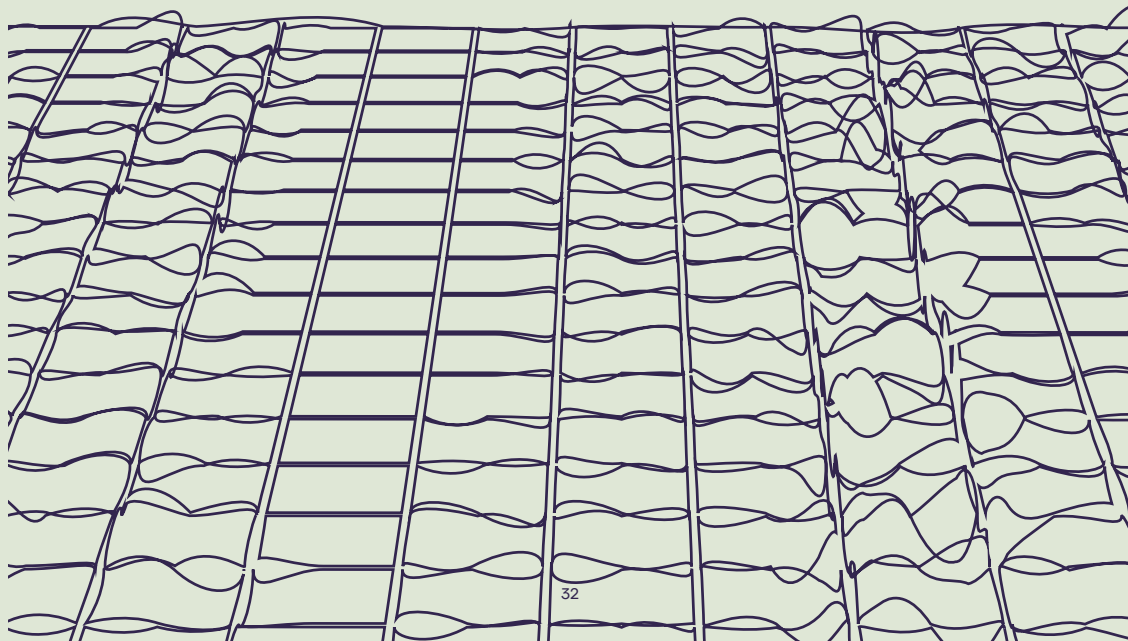
Edgars Rubenis (Latvia)

Edgars Rubenis is a guitarist and composer with a background in experimental rock and new music composition. Pains And Boogies, his current three-album project, explores the vitality of fingerpicked steel-string guitar traditions. Working particularly with the forms of early blues and ragtime, he writes seemingly old yet entirely new music – material that pays homage to these styles' great originators and dares to diverge at its own will.

Edgars Rubenis first emerged on the underground music scene in mid-2000s as the member of Riga's experimental rock band Mona de Bo. Often considered one of the most vital forces on the Baltic scene of the recent decade, this ensemble released 5 albums spanning psychotic indie garage, collisions of free-improv and noisy drone rock.



Foto: private collection



Jenny Erpenbeck (Germany)

Writer and director Jenny Erpenbeck was born in 1967 into an intellectual family in East Berlin, Germany. Her journey to literature took time, although her grandparents and scientist father were also writers. After studying bookbinding, Jenny Erpenbeck worked in theatre as a props master and costume designer, and discovered her passion for theatre. After studying theatre studies and music theatre direction, she worked in opera houses in Austria and Germany and has been a freelance director since 1998.

Her debut work, the novella "The Old Child" (Die Geschichte vom alten Kind), was published in 1999 and drew parallels with Kafka's distorted worlds. The book immediately gained great attention in the German literary scene and has been translated into Estonian (Pegasus, 2009, translated by Sigrid Reili). In her debut novel "Visitation" (Heimsuchung, 2008), Erpenbeck tells the story of a summer house and its inhabitants throughout the 20th century, but above all, it is a book about home, place, and everything that binds people to a certain location, landscape, and culture. Her novel "Go, Went, Gone" (Gehen, Ging, Gegangen, 2015) explores the refugee crisis in Europe and has been widely acclaimed.

Her novel "The End of Days" (Aller Tage Abend, 2012), which was published in Estonian at the end of 2021 as "Viimsepäeva õhtu" (translated by Terje Loogus), has been described as a literary experiment. Erpenbeck uses the power given to the writer to let impossible things happen in depicting the protagonist's life - she gives a child born in Galicia in the early 20th century five different lives and lets her die five times. In her latest novel "Kairos" (2021), Erpenbeck is considered to have created one of the most sincere and best novels about the decline of East Germany. In the novel, which is set in East Berlin in the late 1980s, she tells a love story of a couple with a significant age difference against the backdrop of events that lead to the fall of the Berlin Wall.

Erpenbeck's work, recognized with numerous literary awards, has been translated into 30 languages. According to critics, she is one of the most exceptional literary voices of contemporary German literature, whose works harmoniously blend the voice of reason and the heart. Her prose, with its evocative language, meticulous composition, and wide range of interpretations, exhibits traits characteristic of poetry. When asked about her impossible dream based on the theme of the festival "The Impossible Dream," the writer responds: "My unfortunately likely unfulfillable dream is that all nations on earth would resolve their disagreements without bloodshed."



Photo: W.B

Anni Kytömäki (Finland)

Anni Kytömäki (b. 1980) is a writer from Southern Finland, whose works portray humans as a part of nature, rather than above it. In her novels "Kultarinta" (Gold-enbreast), "Kivitasku" (Stone Weaver), and "Margarita," she tells stories of non-con-formists, people who have been defending forests, swamps, and cliffs long before the present time. Kytömäki is fascinated by the deep roots of nature conservation and pacifism, often considered phenomena of modern times.

In her novels, Kytömäki reminds us that humanity has long aspired towards something better than what we seem to be achieving at the moment. Her second important message is that we are not alone on our planet. In the novel "Kultarinta" (2014), alongside humans, the bear takes on a protagonist role, and in the novel "Margarita" (2020, translated into Estonian in 2021), the narrator is at times a freshwater pearl mussel. The freshwater pearl mussel, which has lived on Earth since the time of dinosaurs, is now an endangered species, as it does not survive water pollution and river damming. In Estonia, freshwater pearl mussels only live in one river in Lahemaa National Park.

Kytömäki's novels have received several awards, and "Margarita" won the most prestigious literary award in Finland, the Finlandia Prize, in 2020. The book was translated into Estonian in 2021 (translated by Toomas Tallo, and published by Vesta Raamatud). This is the first translation of Kytömäki's works.

The events in "Margarita" mainly take place in the 1950s, when Finland was recovering from war and rebuilding society. Due to economic demand, forests were extensively logged, and efforts were made to derive as much benefit as possible from the human population. It was recommended that every woman give birth to at least six children to ensure a sufficient number of soldiers in

case of a new war. The life of the protagonist, young masseuse Senni, is endangered due to this goal. At the same time, the freshwater pearl mussel living in the depths of the river loses its home as the sheltering trees are logged from the shores and the riverbed is dredged straight. Both humans and river mussels are victims of "well-being," but their shells prove to be resilient.

Reflecting on the theme of this year's festival, Anni Kytömäki says: "It is said that history teaches. At the present time, it seems again that nothing has been learned. New generations are being drawn into war - a war that threatens not only humans but also all other inhabitants of the Earth and entire ecosystems. Once again, soldiers, pacifists, fathers, mothers, children, leaders, workers, entrepreneurs, artists, people from different parts of the world see and experience horrors that make us say, 'I didn't know it was like this.' My impossible dream is that from birth, it would be clear to all human beings that war is exactly like this - more terrible than anyone can imagine. Then wars would become part of history."



Photo: Vytenis Kriščiūnas

Hanne Ørstavik (Norway)

Hanne Ørstavik is a Norwegian author born in 1969. She has published fourteen novels, two of which have been translated into Estonian: "Love" (1997, translated in 2021) and "The Pastor" (2004, translated in 2010), both translated by Sigrid Tooming. Ørstavik is one of Norway's most distinctive authors, and her works have received several awards, including the Brage Prize. Her books have been translated into more than 30 languages. She studied psychology, French, and sociology at the University of Oslo and later participated in creative writing courses.

The action of the novels published in Estonian takes place in remote and harsh northern Norway, and their themes are serious. "Love" is a small but very impactful work that tells the story of nine-year-old Jon and his mother Vibeke. Both mother and son are searching for love but from very different places. It is a masterfully written and structured narrative where the stories of mother and son unexpectedly alternate, building suspense and tension to the very end. "Love" was ranked 6th among the best Norwegian books of the last 25 years in 2006.

While "Love" takes place over a single evening, "The Pastor" takes place over the course of a week. The main character is a young female pastor named Liv, whose thoughts are fixated on the past. The story alternates between the present, Liv's own past, and Norway's past, as Liv writes her doctoral thesis on the bloody religious conflict between the Sami and Norwegians in 1852. A significant portion of the novel is devoted to reflecting on religion and faith.

Loneliness and the inability to connect with others, which often end tragically, are common themes in both books. The novels exude a Nordic chill with precise language. Quoting translator Sigrid Tooming, the author can be called "a cultivator of deep and sensitive psychological novels who does not play to the gallery but presses on the pain points of human life in search of truth."

If Hanne Ørstavik could wish for the impossible, she would wish for a healed earth where each of us is healed and held and where going to bed at night is safe.



Photo: Baard Henriksen

Gina Viliūnė (Lithuania)

All of Gina Viliūnė's (1974) books are a tribute to the city of Vilnius, its history, people, and its fascinating atmosphere. Reading her books, it quickly becomes clear that Gina loves her city very much, feels its special spirit, and tries to convey it in her books.

Her historical detective novel "Murder in the Shoemaker's Workshop" ("Žmogžudystė batsiuvio dirbtuvėje", 2020), which has also reached Estonian readers, began with unexpected coincidences. On a bitterly cold winter day, the Vilnius Guides Association organised a tour of an exhibition of footwear found during international archaeological excavations. The tour was led by the exhibition curator, archaeologist, and enthusiast Arūnas Puškorius. Gina recalls that as she listened to his stories, she thought how nice it would be to put it all in a book. Soon after, the director of the Tyto alba publishing house, Lolita, suggested that she write about a mysterious person – the Vilnius executioner.

The second part of the trilogy, "Trap for the Merchant's Killer" ("Spąstai pirklio žudikui", 2021), has also been published and will reach Estonian readers this summer, as well as the third part, "Deadly Arquebus Shot" ("Mirtinas arkebuzos šūvis", 2022).

Viliūnė's books are certainly suitable reading material for anyone who already knows and loves Vilnius, as well as for those who plan to visit this wonderful city or who simply have an interest in history. Her books are very geographically accurate, and by solving some historical mysteries with her characters, it is possible to explore present-day Vilnius.

Regarding impossible dreams, Viliune says, "To dream about something that seems impossible is to move forward. The dream always comes first. And if you believe in it, a miracle can happen. A prime example would be the Baltic states three decades ago. We dreamt about freedom and now we have it. That is why we shouldn't stop dreaming!"



Photo: Vytenis Kriščiūnas

Lina Nordquist (Sweden)

Lina Nordquist (b. 1977) is a new fiction writer. Her debut novel, „Dit du går, följer jag,” (2021), translated into Estonian by Tiina Mullamaa (“Järgnen sulle”, Eesti Raamat, 2022), tells a story of a family in the same house from the end of the 19th century to the 1970s.

We meet two narrators on two different timelines: Unni comes from Norway with her family and settles in a croft in the middle of a forest in Sweden. The daughter-in-law of Unni’s son Roar, Kåra, dislikes both the croft and the family. The two stories are presented to the reader in parallel – in every second chapter. Central to the novel is severe poverty, mental illness and deeply held secrets.

The title, echoing the Book of Ruth in the Old Testament, expresses loyalty and togetherness in complicated situations. These values carry a completely different meaning for Unni and Kåra. In addition to good insights into the eras depicted, into nature and psychology, the novel is distinguished by beautiful and lyrical Swedish.

Soon after the debut, Lina Nordquist’s second novel, „Livet innan du dör” (2022), was published. Here, the time and environment are completely different; this time an area with detached houses in a contemporary urban environment during a single summer evening is depicted. All the people who meet here carry unpleasant secrets or traumas. As in *Dit du går, följer jag*, the reader alternately sees different people’s perspectives.

Before she became a novelist, Nordquist had a career as a researcher. Nordquist first studied pharmacy and received her doctorate in medical science at Uppsala University in 2007. In addition to research and writing, Lina Nordquist has long been active in the Liberal party, working mainly with health care policy. Since 2018, she has been a member of Sweden’s Riksdag and since 2022, held important posts of group leader for the Liberals in the Riksdag and of deputy party chairman.

Lina’s opinion on an impossible dream:

“Quite frankly, I am not a fan of the word “impossible”. At one time, space trips and female presidencies were considered undoable – unimaginable even. Who are we to decide that something cannot be done? Of course, we should daydream. We should imagine, yearn and hunger for! And we must never forget our only real limitation: do we want it badly enough to really dedicate ourselves?”



Photo: Emily Dahl

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 from 2008–2011 and from 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.



Photo: private collection

Ron Whitehead (USA)

Ron Whitehead is an American poet, activist, and scholar who has published dozens of books and albums. Whitehead was born in 1947 in the state of Kentucky, studied at the University of Louisville, and has been active in both education and cultural management for decades. His work, which has been characterized by Hunter S. Thompson as a "a dazzling mix of folk wisdom and pure mathematics," has been translated into more than 20 languages, and he has performed at many festivals in both the United States and Europe, including Estonia. In 2012, he performed at the "Zero Tolerance. Diverse Universe. Explosion" performance art festival, and in 2014, he appeared at the Head-Read literary festival. In 2019, Whitehead was a guest of the Tartu City of Literature residency program and organized a 24-hour cultural marathon called Insomniacathon in collaboration with Prima Vista. His poetry, co-written with his partner Jinn Bug, inspired by his residency, was published in 2020 as a bilingual book "Õöd muuseumis / Nights at the Museum," translated into Estonian by Doris Kareva.

Whitehead's poetic style can be characterized as a post-Beat generation movement, which has also been influenced by rock music, European avant-garde, and his home state of Kentucky. Whitehead was selected as the American Beat Poet Laureate for 2021-2022, and in 2022, the National Beat Poetry Foundation awarded him the title of lifelong New Generation Beat Poet Laureate. Regarding this year's festival theme, he says: I have been making my impossible dreams come true for 40 years, and I will continue to do so until the day I die."

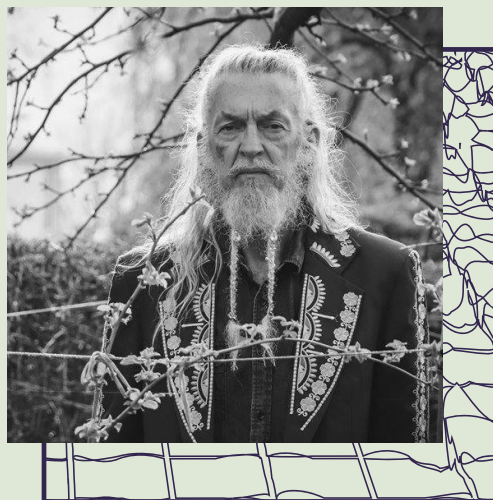


Photo: "Ron Whitehead in Ann Marvet's Magic Garden, Karl Ristikivi Museum" by Jinn Bug

Jinn Bug (USA)

Jinn Bug is a poet, photographer, gardener, activist, visual artist, fiber artist, and life-long dreamer. Her photography, vignettes, and poems have appeared in Appalachian Heritage, New Southerner, LEO Weekly, Fiolet & Wing—An Anthology of Domestic Fabulism, Aquillrelle, For Sale, Pure Uncut Candy, The Rooted Reader, Gyroscope Review, Necro Magazine and other print and online publications. Her most recent book of poetry is “Nights at the Museum”. In 2023, her sonnet “Eden without Us” won the Southern Shakespeare Festival worldwide sonnet contest. She is currently working on a book called “Everything Lost Comes to the Intersection.” Visit her at www.JinnBug.com.

When asked about her impossible dream, Jinn says the following: “I’d like to finish my book “Everything Lost Comes to the Intersection” in Estonia in 2024 as a UNESCO writer in residence! But perhaps that’s a possible dream. Like Ron, I have spent my life dreaming and making those dreams come true. One of my current “impossible dreams” is inspiring—by example—my neighbors to return their yards to biodiverse habitats.... feeding themselves and the natural world. This dream has been some 20 years in the making. I was deeply encouraged by how many folks in Tartu are committed to growing fruit, vegetables, and flowers in an urban environment.



Photo: Self-Portrait as Lachesis by Jinn Bug

David Hartley (UK)

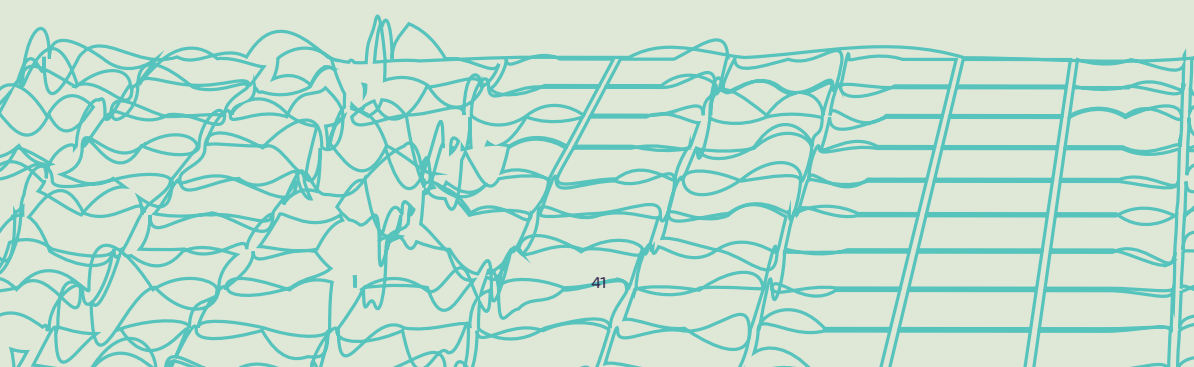
David Hartley is a writer of strange stories from Manchester, UK, and writer-in-residence

with Tartu 2024 project Bring Your Own Utopia. He writes about ghosts, gods and invisible elephants, and his short story collection Fauna was shortlisted for the prestigious Edge Hill Prize. He holds a PhD in creative Writing from The University of Manchester and is now the co-host of the Autism Through Cinema podcast. His fiction has appeared in Ambit Magazine, Black Static Magazine, and The Ghastling and it explores the boundaries of the real and the unreal. There are ghosts, gods, impossible birds, and invisible elephants. For his residency, he is exploring the edgelands of Tartu and Manchester, trying to write about portals and Memories.

Last night he dreamed of swimming pools, as he often does. The pool stretched into multiple rooms and the water shimmered beneath mood lighting. The depth was unfathomable, and sometimes the pools were full of people, and sometimes empty. When he left the pool in search of a friend, he had to pass through car parks, halls of residence, overgrown wasteland, and the backstage area of an old theatre. He could not find his friend. He was told the friend had gone to the pool. He could not find a way back to the pool. When he wakes, he dreams of a world with no frustration. He dreams of a time when the irritations of life can be set aside so that greater puzzles can be attended to. He dreams, perhaps impossibly, of a drowning of conventions so that we might swim more confidently among the wonderfully weird.



Photo: private collection



Penny Boxall (UK)

Penny Boxall is a poet whose published collections are *Ship of the Line* (Eyewear, 2014); *Who Goes There?* (Valley Press, 2018); and *In Praise of Hands* (with Naoko Matsubara's woodcuts, Ashmolean Museum, 2020). She has won the Edwin Morgan Poetry Award and the Mslexia/PBS International Women's Poetry Prize. She is the Royal Literary Fund Fellow at Lucy Cavendish College, University of Cambridge, and has held fellowships/residencies with UNESCO Cities of Literature, Tartu, Estonia (2022); Merton College, University of Oxford (2019); Château de Lavigny, Switzerland (2018); Hawthornden Castle, Scotland (2017, 2023); and Gladstone's Library, Wales (2017). In 2021 she received funding from Arts Council England to develop her first novel for children, and she is currently working on 'Replaying the Tape', a collaboration with palaeontologist Dr Frankie Dunn and percussionist Dr Jane Boxall, which will premiere in New York City in autumn 2023.

Penny Boxall spent a month in Tartu as a writer-in-residence in Tartu in August 2022 as part of the Tartu-Norwich writers exchange program. A selection of her poems, inspired by her experiences here, has been translated into Estonian by Kersti Unt and published in the magazine *Akadeemia* (May 2023). We are happy to welcome Penny back to Tartu and when we asked her what she thinks about the theme of this year's festival, she replied with a poem:

Impossible Tasks

Tell her to find me
a well without wet
a night without darkness
a way to be right

Tell her to find me
a thing without fault
a sea with no current
a way to forget

Tell her to find me
a peppercorn feast
a dawn without morning
a way to be just

Tell her to find me
a home with no door
a closer horizon
a way to be sure

Tell her to find me
an acre of land
a sickle of leather
a way to be found



Photo: private collection

Andy Willoughby (UK)

Andy Willoughby is a poet, dramatist, publisher and producer from the North East of England. He has a long history of collaborating with writers and musicians from Finland and Estonia since the early 2000s. He was Tartu UNESCO City Of Literature writer in residence in 2019 and had work commissioned by Turku City of Culture in 2011. As a Co-Director he was able to invite Tartu poetry legend Jaan Malin to the T Junction International Poetry Festival in Middlesbrough. His works include *Tough* (Smokestack Books), *Sampo: Heading Further North* with Bob Beagrie (Red Squirrel Press - also published in Finnish and Estonian) and his latest book was *Between Stations* (Smokestack Books) which has been translated into Estonian and Finnish by Kersti Unt and Kalle Niinikangas and will be launched by Enostone Press at Prima Vista. His work is featured in many anthologies including *The Land of Three Rivers: The Poetry of North East England* (Bloodaxe Books), *From the Ancestors: Poems and Prayers for Future Generations* (Trancemission Press) and *Summer Anywhere* (Dreich Press).

When asked what his impossible dream was, Andy replied: "My Impossible Dream is that the connection to nature we felt during the Covid Pandemic is not completely lost. Like many others, my wife Rebecca and I felt a great healing presence during lockdown from the nature all around us. It was amplified in the great silence with nature returning so quickly to thrive as society suddenly stopped polluting everything, we saw deer in the local parks, otters in the local ponds and heard the birds thriving all around us, most

people yearned to connect and it was clear to see if we as humans just stop, look and listen we realise we are not alone and separate but part of this great spirit of being, we need it much more than it needs us. There is no true happiness possible in living while ignoring its magic. When Ron Whitehead asked me for a poem for his *From the Ancestors* anthology I was drawn to write about this feeling in our Durham locality and realised its universality. My impossible dream is we remember the power of the days the earth stood still, the great silence, work to heal the harm we have done as humans to nature remembering how we are in turn nurtured and healed by it.



Photo: private collection

Anton Flint (uk)

Anton Flint is an international rock guitarist and Jazz pianist from Middlesbrough. He was in proto-grunge band The Joes in Seattle, USA in the early 1990s, and worked as a jazz pianist in the South of France in the early 2000s. He has a long history of backing and collaborating with poets working with Lemn Sissay with the Giro Poets in Manchester, backing numerous well-known poets from around the world as part of the Electric Kool Aid Cabaret Trio including poets such as Joelle Taylor, Siddhartha Bose, Jacob Samla Rose, Rachel Long and Esa Hirvonen. He has collaborated closely with Andy Willoughby since they formed punk / Jazz / poetry improvisational duo Barbed Wire Dogs in Manchester and London in the 1990s. He devised the multi-media soundtrack to Andy's Between Stations Live with Finnish Rock guitar legend Masi Hukari and co-wrote the songs for various theatre projects including Salamander Songs (funded by Arts Council England, 2017) and scored the soundtrack for the short film The Last Salamander (Dan Perry Productions 2017).



Photo: private collection

Marius Povilas Elijas Martynenko (Lithuania)

Date of birth: 1993-03-02

Current role: actor, writer, entertainer.

Ultimate goal: survival.

Failed to reach adulthood. Published four books, created performances, and acted in cinema, television, and theatre. Fathered two sons. During all these things the artist wasn't sure what exactly he was doing.

He once ripped such a powerful fart that made his spine crack. To this day it seems like the most impressive achievement. It is unique, whereas everything mentioned before has been done often by many individuals. Also, the man himself succeeded in spitting on fly while it was still in the air. Elijas has been awarded Lithuanian Ministry of Culture award for artistry.

This man believes that everything is a game. Often tries to remind this to himself and others. All the creative work is either an invitation to play or the game itself. He is certain that the ultimate truth is not a statement. It is a question. An absurd one. Though it is yet to be found.



Photo: private collection

Convertible (USA/Austria)

Convertible is a musical project formed by American lyricist Hannah Mac Kenna and Austrian musician Hans Platzgumer in 2004. They have released dozens of songs together.

The successor to the groundbreaking New York grunge band HP Zinker from the 1990s, Convertible continues to oscillate between electronic pop music and purely acoustic minimalist singer-songwriter style. The melancholic tone, lyrical depth, as well as affinity for unconventional and constantly surprising composition and arrangement techniques, have remained distinctly unique.

In April, Convertible released their latest single "Lift The Needle". Following their album "Holst Gate II" which was released in 2021 and features several songs performed in Tartu, Hans Platzgumer's band surprises with an epic, timeless, densely orchestrated song about the end of times.

The most important songs of Convertible, along with their performance list, are compiled in a bilingual poetry collection called "Convertible Song Book" (Text/Rahmen Verlag, Vienna 2022), with German translations done by Hans Platzgumer himself. For the concert "Writers in Music", the poems are translated into Estonian by Piret Pääsuke and will be read by actress Maarja Jakobson. In Tartu, the songs will be performed by a small lineup in semi-acoustic versions.

Line-up:

Hans Platzgumer - vocals, guitar, keyboards

Chris Laine - bass, vocals

Michael Schneider - percussion

<https://www.platzgumer.com>

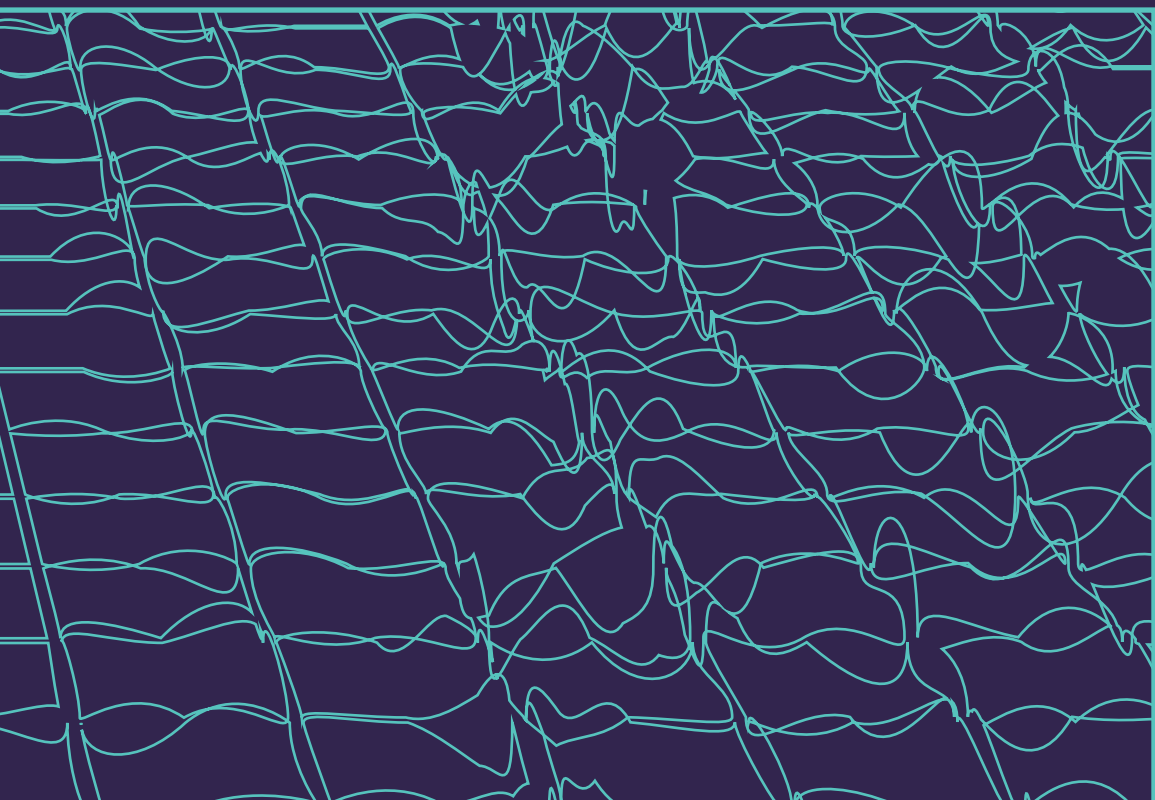
<https://www.textrahmen.at/buch/hannah-mackenna-hans-platzgumer-convertible-song-book/>

<https://www.noiseappeal.com/artists/convertible/>



Photo: Gerhard Klockner

The Ambassadors of the Embassy of Utopia



Mehis Heinsaar (Estonia)

Mehis Heinsaar, born in 1973, is a celebrated Estonian writer and the patron of the 2023 Prima Vista literary festival. He first made a name for himself as a poet, affiliated with the renowned literary group Erakkond (The Group of Hermits), back in 1997. However, it was his collection of short stories, "Vana-meeste näppaja" (Snatcher of Old Men), published in 2001, that truly brought him widespread recognition. Heinsaar's remarkable talent has been acknowledged with numerous prestigious awards, and his works have been translated into over 10 languages.

Heinsaar's storytelling style, often characterized as magical realism, is both captivating and poetic. Readers are often taken by surprise at how seamlessly supernatural elements or characters are woven into the natural world in his narratives. In 2021, a film titled "The Gardener of Tension Fields," directed by Joosep Matjus and Katri Rannastu, drew inspiration from Heinsaar's poetry collection of the same name, which was published in 2018. More recently, Heinsaar's latest novel, "Lost Tribe," has received widespread acclaim, earning him the main award in literature from the Estonian Cultural Endowment, the first Estonian Literary Museum Friend's Award, and the A. H. Tammsaare Literary Award.

See also page 3.



Photo: private collection

Clara Amaral (Portugal)

i'm not sure if it's an impossible wish wish wish maybe i don't like it when the word "wish" and "impossible" are together like close together i think i think some words shouldn't be in proximity since it might disturb the order of things like what things what order oh just you know it might do a bad spell a spell of the baaaaaaaaaaaaad d d d d and prevent happenings and turn stuff stuffy stuff being turned sometimes i listen to classical music and i thrive i thrive so much so so much i don't know it's weird i know it's weird specially because it's all this dead white men right right and i wish it wouldn't be just those dead white men that wrote the classical classical music that i so much so much thrive on so YA maybe that is something i wish you see right there it just came out of me i literally didn't even noticed it it was just when i was rereading what i wrote cause i do that that i saw that i said i wrote i wish if you know what i mean i think you do i hope you do i do you do so that's that that

sometimes i also wish i could write different things you know things that would be open things closed things middle things high things the things i've been writing lately have to do with dance my grandma dance again alexander technique a girl having time's back my great grandmother my mother hands with six fingers my mother i sometimes

Clara Amaral is an artist working with text and performance. Her interdisciplinary artistic practice questions what it means to be a reader, to be a writer, aiming to expand existing modes of reading, writing and publishing.

Central to her practice is the investigation of publishing modalities and the performative aspect of writing and language, through an intersectional feminist approach.

Her works have been presented in The Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Belgium, Sweden, Austria, Norway, Switzerland, France, etc.

www.misted.cc



Photo: private collection

Cloud Circuit (Canada)

<https://cloudcircuit.ca>

Montréal poetrysound ensemble Cloud Circuit finds inspiration in communication glitches, broken speech, and contact lost. Cloud Circuit's motors are the gray areas of connection, those lost threads, dropped signals, failures of technology, and outages at the edge of night. In performance, Cloud Circuit's approach is collaborative and improvisational; its sound and words composed, dissected, and refracted. Deanna Radford channels her poetry as deconstructed word events, Jeremy Young plays sine tones in flux and amplified surfaces.

Early on, Cloud Circuit included members Alexandre St-Onge and Philippe Vandal. The group has performed in settings shaped by communities of sound, music, and literature; it has shared the stage with David Grubbs, Ora Clementi, Christopher Tignor, Flying Horses, skintone, Alex Zhang Hungtai, Vito Ricci, Paul Dutton, Lea Bertucci, Sarah Pagé and Jonah Fortune, Jessica Ackerley, Eliza Kavtion, Michel Meunier, Ylang Ylang, Greg Davis, Khaleefa "Apollo the Child" Hamdan, Rasiqra Revulva, Jessica Pavone, and others.

-30-

[150 words]

~ME YOU THEY ~

It is a human invention, a story, a destination,
something to strive for that we might
move through and be within.
It is a process. It is the dream of a lifetime.
It is a dream.
It is a lifetime. It is time.
It is work. It is not work. It is the jackpot. It is
the impossible. It is the ordinary.
It is the extraordinary.
As a force, it is the hope for something better.
For justice. For nirvana. For relief.
For pleasure.
For harmony.
It is personal and it is shared.
Utopia is we.

~Deanna Radford

Montreal, Montréal, Tiohtià:ke, Mooniyang

March 30, 2023



Photo: Jeremy Young

Hans Platzgumer (Austria)

Hans Platzgumer is a writer, musician, and composer. He was born in 1969 in Innsbruck and currently lives between Bregenz and Vienna. He writes novels and essays and creates theatre and radio play music.

Having studied music in Vienna and Los Angeles, and lived in various parts of the world, Platzgumer has released dozens of albums and performed in thousands of concerts. He has written punk, rock, and electronic music for different ensembles, and his rock trio HP Zinker, formed in New York, was nominated for a Grammy in the 1990s. Platzgumer will bring his semi-acoustic indie rock band Convertible to Tartu.

After an international music career, Platzgumer's creative focus has shifted to literature in recent decades. He has published 10 books to date, including a couple of essay collections and a book of song lyrics. His autobiographical debut novel about life as a musician, "Expedition," was published in 2005, and "Elephantenfuss," which takes place 25 years after the Chernobyl disaster in the surrounding death zone, gained wider attention when it was published in 2011. Platzgumer's most successful novel, "Am Rand" (2016), nominated for the German Book Prize, has been translated into Estonian as "Serval." An excerpt from his latest novel, "Bogners Abgang" (2021), can be read in the April issue of the Akadeemia magazine, translated by Piret Pääsuke.

As a novelist, Platzgumer is interested in extreme situations, the grey zone between life and death, and border situations that reveal the true nature of humanity. The overarching theme of his work is the ethics of human behaviour and choices, and the perception of responsibility. Platzgumer is not only a novelist but also a sensitive and critical essayist who analyzes contemporary society and cultural life. In the Embassy

of Utopia at the festival, he will present his vision of a world that may still be impossible today. He describes it as follows: "My utopia, perhaps impossible, perhaps only becoming reality like a phoenix from the ashes, is humanity that can transcend the broadly destructive, self-destructive form of contemporary capitalist global order, and, contrary to short-sighted, selfish interests, can understand itself as part of nature."

<https://www.platzgumer.com>



Photo: Frederick Sams

Maarja Pärtna (Estonia)

Maarja Pärtna is a writer, translator, and editor who focuses on socio-ecological themes in her work. She has published five poetry collections. Her spatial poetic collection "Vivarium", published in 2019, combines historical trauma with climate anxiety and articulates a growing sense of risk perception in an apparently stable welfare society. Her prose poetry collection "Living City", published in 2022, focuses on urban nature, the possibility of better coexistence with non-human animals, as well as lyrical childhood memories. These lead back to the traces of ecocide from Estonia's oil shale industry, which is one of the local manifestations of the global ecological crisis.

Pärtna has studied English language and literature, as well as world literature, at the University of Tartu. As a translator, she has rendered essays by Kathleen Jamie, Margaret Atwood, Edward Said, and Robert Macfarlane into Estonian. She has worked as a literary editor for publications such as *Müürileht* and *Värske Rõhk* and has edited several poetry collections. Pärtna has been awarded the Gustav Suits Poetry Prize, Juhan Liiv Poetry Prize, and the title of Young Carrier of Culture of Tartu. Her poems have been translated into ten languages.

Pärtna's impossible desire is to live in a world where protected areas are not necessary because we have learned to live in balance with nature. She explains: "We would then know other species and their needs well enough, and leave them enough space so that as many creatures as possible can survive the dangerous Anthropocene era. In such a world, human activity would fit within planetary boundaries. But unfortunately, even protected areas are not truly protected now, and resources such as timber and minerals are still extracted from there."



Photo: private collection

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TARTU

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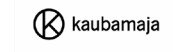
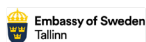


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Estonian Literary Society
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The organising team of Prima Vista 2023

Krista Aru

Chairwoman of the Board of the non-profit association International Literary Festival Prima Vista
phone: 737 5700, krista.aru@ut.ee

Ilona Smuškina

Founding member of Prima Vista, board member, coordinator of the charity program
phone: 515 3387, ilanasmuskina@gmail.com

Marja Unt

Board member, contact person for the literary festival, program manager
phone: 742 7079, 5690 6836, marja.unt@gmail.com

Berk Vaher

Board member, project manager
phone: 511 7162, berkvaher@gmail.com

Svea Kaseorg

Board member, financial manager
phone: 5845 3430, svea.kaseorg@ut.ee

Linda Jahilo

Board member, coordinator of the German and Nordic countries and Tartu Public Library programs
phone: 5340 2168, linda.jahilo@luts.ee

Katrin Tegova

Manager of communications
phone: 5650 2721, katrin.tegova@kirjandusfestival.tartu.ee

Annika Aas

Coordinator of the foreign language program
phone: 526 6442, annika.aas@luts.ee

Olga Einasto

Coordinator of the Russian program
phone: 553 7982, olga.einasto@ut.ee

Tiit Pähnpuu

Designer-artist
phone: 5683 6893, tpahnpuu@gmail.com

Edith Hermann

Coordinator of the art program
phone: 5661 2608, edith.hermann@pallasart.ee

Elena Sipiia-Mironov

Coordinator of the Prima Vista book fair
phone: 525 1456, elena.sipiia-mironov@ut.ee

Kersti Kuusemäe

Coordinator of the Prima Vista book fair
pvraamatulaat@ut.ee

Luule Ahu

Coordinator of the Living Library
phone: 746 1036, luule.ahu@luts.ee

Evelin Arust

Coordinator of the Latvian and Lithuanian program
phone: 5394 4633, evelinarust@gmail.com

Jaak Tomberg

European Capital of Culture literary project Futures Better and Worse coordinator, phone: 5331 6276, jaak.tomberg@gmail.com

Triin Ploom-Niitra

The project manager of „Särtsuga kirjandus“, Apollo program, „Esimene samm“ and The Day of the Book and the Rose
phone: 5568 0253, triinploom@hotmail.com

Ceili Perlov

Coordinator of the partner city program
ceili.perlov@ut.ee

Ädu Neemre

Coordinator of the children's program
phone: 736 1390, adu.neemre@luts.ee

Anu Amor-Narits

Coordinator of the children's program and the charity program
phone: 736 1390, anu.amor-narits@luts.ee

Kirsti Läänesaar

Coordinator of the charity program
phone: 736 1390, kirsti.laanesaar@luts.ee

Kadi Prii

Volunteer coordinator
kadi.prii@ut.ee

Tiina Sulg

Organiser of the dance project
tiina.sulg@luts.ee

Kadi Kass

Project manager of the information search game
mskadi@gmail.com

Klaari Tamm

Homepage administrator
klaari.tamm@luts.ee

**Non-profit association International Literary Festival Prima Vista – www.kirjandusfestival.tartu.ee
W. Struve 1, Tartu 50091**

