



LITERARY FESTIVAL

PRIMA VISTA

2025

5.–10. May

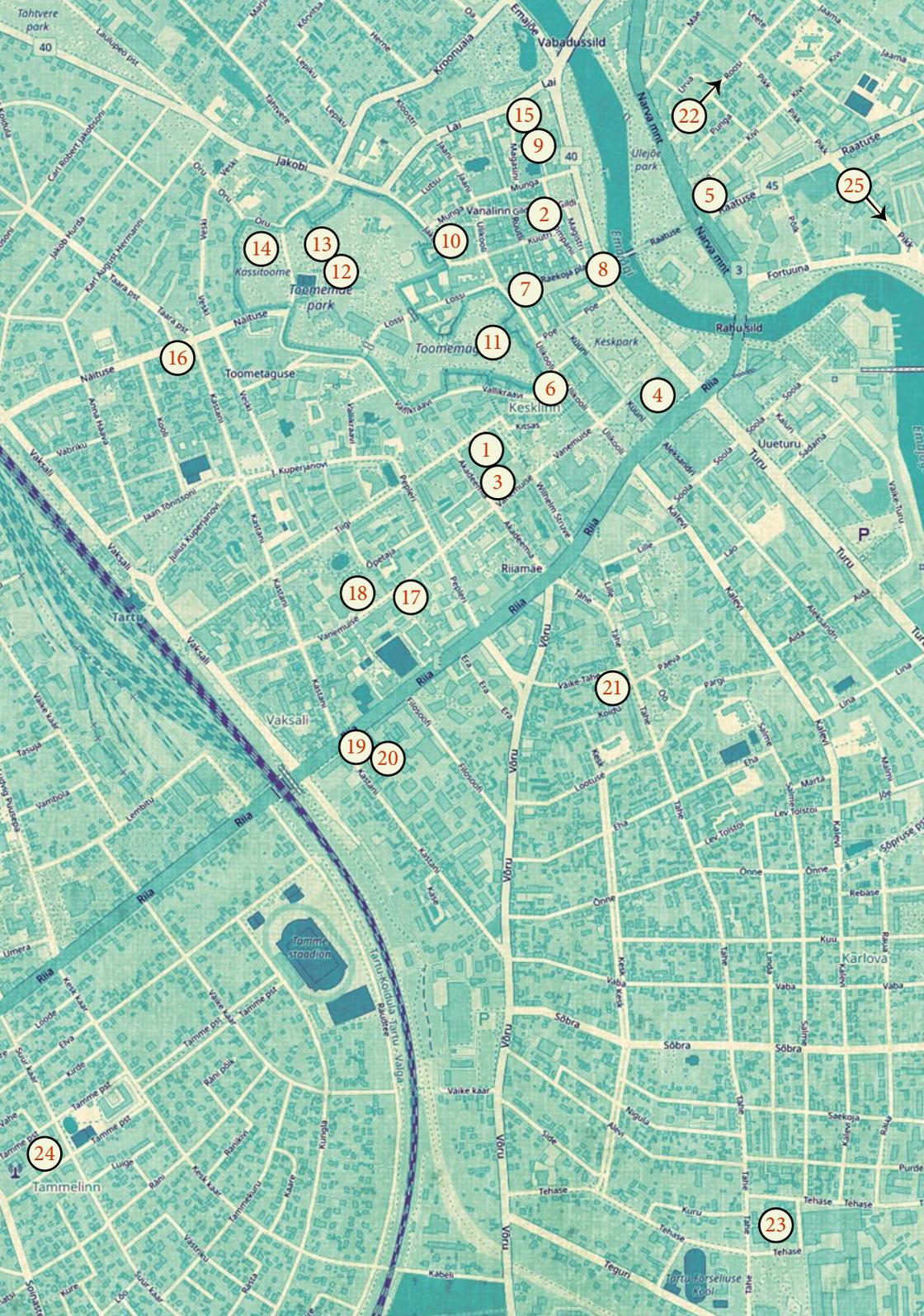


BOOK AS A PLACE
PLACE AS A BOOK



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Prima Vista 2025 toimumiskohad / Venues

- 1 Tartu Ülikooli Raamatukogu / University of Tartu Library (W. Struve 1)
- 2 Tartu Linnaraamatukogu / Tartu Public Library (Kompanii 3/5)
- 3 Tartu Kirjanduse Maja / Tartu Literature House (Vanemuise 19)
- 3 Kultuuriklubi Salong / Culture Club Salong (Vanemuise 19 keldriruum, sissepääs hoovist / ground floor, entrance from the back yard)
- 4 Tartu Kaubamaja Apollo raamatupood / Apollo bookshop of Tartu Kaubamaja shopping centre (Riia 1)
- 5 Tartu Linnamuuseum / Tartu City Museum (Narva mnt 23)
- 6 Vilde ja Vine / Restaurant Vilde ja Vine (Vallikraavi 4)
- 7 Raekoja plats / Town Hall Square
- 8 Kaarsild (raekoja platsi poolne ots) / Arch Bridge (Town Hall Square side)
- 9 Genialistide klubi - Magasini tänava Suvila / Genialists' Club - courtyard (Magasini 5)
- 10 Tartu Elekriteater / Cinema theatre Elekriteater (Jakobi 1)
- 11 Tartu tähetorn (Uppsala 8)
- 12 Toomkiriku varemed / ruins of Tartu Cathedral
- 13 Kristjan Jaak Petersoni monument
- 14 Kassitoome, Toomeoru serv / The valley of Toomemägi
- 15 Tartu Uus Teater / Tartu New Theatre (Lai 37)
- 16 Tartu Saksa Kultuuri Instituut / Tartu German Cultural Institute (Kastani 1)
- 17 Eesti Kirjandusmuuseum / Estonian Literary Museum (Vanemuise 42)
- 18 Jakob Hurda mälestusmärk / Monument to Jakob Hurt (Vanemuise 45b)
- 19 Raamatupood Biblioteek / Bookshop Biblioteek (Kastani 42)
- 20 Fahrenheit 451° raamatutuba / Fahrenheit 451° Book Room (Kastani 42)
- 21 Butiikhotell Villa Margaretha esine / In front of Villa Margaretha Boutique Hotel (Tähe 11)
- 22 Eesti Rahva Muuseum / Estonian National Museum (Muuseumi tee 2)
- 23 Tartu Linnaraamatukogu Karlova-Ropka harukogu / Karlova-Ropka Library of Tartu Public Library (Tehase 16)
- 24 Tartu Linnaraamatukogu Tammelinna harukogu / Tammelinna library of Tartu Public Library (Suur kaar 56)
- 25 Tartu Linnaraamatukogu Annelinna harukogu / Annelinn Library of Tartu Public Library (Kaunase pst 23)

Tartu Linnaraamatukogu Ilmatsalu harukogu / Ilmatsalu library of Tartu Public Library (Kooli tee 5)

Ilmatsalu põhikool / Ilmatsalu Basic School (Kooli tee 5, Ilmatsalu)

Raamat kui paik, paik kui raamat

Raamatus „Nähtamatud linnad”, mille autor on Italo Calvino, jutustab meile kõigile tuttav veneetslane Marco Polo Hubilai-khaanile linnadest, mis jäävad valitsejale nähtamatuks, sest isegi kui need oleksid olemas, ei jõuaks valitseja neid iialgi külastada, impeerium on selleks liiga suur. Ühel hetkel küsib valitseja, miks ei jutusta Marco Polo kunagi oma kodulinnast Veneetsiast. Ja maadeavastaja küsib seepeale vastu, et millest muust ta siis valitseja arvates kogu aeg räägib kui mitte oma kodulinnast. Iga teist linna kirjeldades ütleb ta ju tegelikult midagi ka Veneetsia kohta. Polo mõte on lihtne: et teha vahet linnade vahel, tuleb üks linn aluseks võtta, ja tema võtab Veneetsia.

Et teha vahet paikade vahel, tuleb üks paik aluseks võtta. Kas siis selleks, et teha vahet raamatute vahel, tuleks üks raamat aluseks võtta? – Tegelikult me vist paratamatult teeme seda nii kohtade kui ka raamatutega. Niipaju kui olen lugenud ja inimestega rääkinud, tundub kõigil olevat kusagil see üks sügavalt läbi elatud koht ja üks eriline „Heureka!” raamat, mis eristub teistest avastamistest ja on justkui kese või ankur. Sinna kõrvale võib aja jooksul ilmuda teisi paiku ja teisi raamatuid, aga kese ja ankur on kõige alus.

Tundub ka, et nii nagu Marco Polo oli oma Veneetsia mingil moel kaotanud, juhtub kese-koha ja ankur-raamatuga samamoodi: nendega käib kaasas ilmajäämise kogemus. Muidugi, seda teeb aeg, see suur suverään. Isegi kui paik ja raamat on mingil kujul alles, siis me ise oleme juba muutunud. Kokkuvõttes oleme kaotanud korraka nii paiga, raamatu kui iseenda. Ja ilmselt just sellest tuleb sõnade mängivate inimeste – loojutustajate – kiindumus kohtadesse. Soovist taasluua. Taasleida.

Tõsi, „Nähtamatute linnade” Marco Polo väitel mälopildid kustuvad, kui nad on juba sõnadega paika pandud. Sellepärast ta kartiski Veneetsiast otse rääkides sellest linnast lõplikult ilma jääda. Aga kui miski on juba nagunii kaotatud, siis võiks ju arvata, et sõnadega saab ainult leida. Lihtsalt paratamatult juba ühe teise paiga. Või kuna jutustajaid, kirjutajaid on kümneid, sadu, tuhandeid, siis mitmuses: ühed teised paigad. Otsatu arv variatsioone ühest paigast. Sest kui paik on raamat, siis on ta nagu ühes Borgese loos kirjeldatud liivaraamat, mille lehekülgede arv on lõputu. Või nagu raamatukogu. Mulle meeldibki mõelda, et paik on raamatukogu.

Mõelgem korraks veel pealkirja „Raamat kui paik, paik kui raamat” esimesele poolele. Mis mõttes saab raamat olla paik? Esiteks muidugi selles mõttes, et raamat, ja ma räägin praegu paberramatust, on füüsiline objekt. Seega lisaks sellele, et tema sisse saab minna ülekantud tähenduses – nagu pildi sisse –, on ta paik ka täiesti konkreetselt. Raamatu lehtedelt, nagu mis tahes ruumist, võib leida asju, märke, jälgi. Enamasti on need seotud inimesega: autogramm, pühendus, ekliibris, lehtede vahele ununenud järjehoidja, postkaart, kiri, rahatähed; sinna kuivama pandud taim, allajoonitud sõnad, leheservale tehtud märkmed. Mõne tellitava raamatu puhul tagakaanele kirjutatud aadress. Sisselõikest paberisse imibunud verepiisk, teksti udustanud veepiisk või pisar, ümberlâinud kohv, hoiukohast raamatusse imibunud lõhnad, niiskus, seda pleegitanud valgus. Kõik need jäljed elustavad midagi.

Või siis raamat kui paik selles mõttes, et mälus võib tekkida võrdusmärk raamatu ja koha vahele, kus me seda lugesime. Me ei mäleta mitte ainult raamatut ja mõeldud mõtteid ja läbielatud tundeid, vaid ka – või vahel isegi rohkem – selle lugemisega seonduvat kohta, ümbrust, valgust, hääli, ja seda, missugused me ise siis olime. Raamat kui paik elustab kogemuse.

Book as a Place, Place as a Book

In the book *Invisible Cities* by Italo Calvino, Marco Polo, the Venetian we all know, tells Kublai Khan about cities that are invisible to the sovereign, for even if they existed, he would not have time to visit them all; the empire is simply too large. At one point, the sovereign asks why Marco Polo never tells him anything about his home city, Venice. Polo responds by asking what does the great sovereign think he has been talking about the whole time if not his home. When describing other cities, he always says something about Venice. His idea is simple: to see the differences between cities, one of them needs to be used as the benchmark, and he uses Venice.

So, to see the differences between places, one place needs to be used as a reference point. Does this mean that to see the differences between books, one book has to be taken as a starting point as well? – I think this is what tends to happen with both books and places. From what I've read and heard, everybody appears to have that one place with deep connection and that one 'eureka' book that stands out among the other discoveries and serves as a kind of centre or anchor. Over time, other places and books may appear as well, but that one centre or anchor always remains the starting point.

It also seems that just like Marco Polo had lost his Venice in some way, a sense of loss almost always accompanies our „centre-place” and „anchor-book”. Yes, it is all the doing of Time The Great Sovereign. Even if the place or the book survive in one form or other, we are not the same. So we end up losing them all: the place, the book, ourselves. And that must be the reason why the people who like to play with words – the narrators – are so obsessed with places. They wish to recreate and thus regain lost places.

True, according to Calvino's Marco Polo, memory's images are erased, once they are fixed in words. That's why he was afraid of losing Venice when speaking of it. But if something has already been lost, wouldn't this mean that words might help to find it again? Only that the place we'll find will inevitably be another one. Or, as there are countless storytellers, it would make more sense to say in plural: other places. Infinite variations of a place. For if a place is a book, it would be like Borges' Book of Sand, with endless number of pages. Or a library. I'd like to think of a place as a library.

Let us consider for a moment the the festival's motto, Book as a Place, Place as a Book. How can a book be a place? Firstly, of course, a book, I mean a book printed on paper, is a physical object. Thus, as you can metaphorically enter a book – much like a picture – it's also a place in itself. In a book, as in any space one can find things, signs, traces. They are often linked to people: an autograph, a dedication, ex libris, a bookmark between pages, a postcard, a letter, a bank note, a flower put there to dry, underlined words, notes on the margin. An address on the back cover of a subscribed book. A drop of blood from a cut, a tear or drop of water blurring out the text; coffee marks; smells captured into the book from the places it's been in; dampness or bleaching. All this brings something to life.

Or a book as a place, in the sense that a memory connects the book with the place where we read it. We don't just remember the book and the thoughts we had or what we felt but also – sometimes even more – the place related to reading it, the sights, the light, the voices, and what (who?) we were at the time. A book as a place revives a past experience.

And then there are books about which we can say, if we describe them, that the place is its main character. Be it a city, a block, a street, a house, a room or perhaps a village, an island, a place in nature; or a

place that doesn't exist any more or not yet or not in the same shape or form, however, it has been revived so convincingly as if it really existed. The writings of this year's festival guests have examples of almost all of these books-as-places.

Allow me now to return to *Invisible Cities*. The book has a passage where Marco Polo describes a bridge, stone by stone, and Kublai Khan wants to know which stone is the one that supports the bridge. Polo says that the bridge is not supported by one stone or another, but by the arch that they are all part of. When the sovereign asks why, then, Polo spoke of the stones and not of the arch, the explorer answers: without stones, there would be no arch.

What else is each and every one of those books-as-places if not another stone in the vast bridge leading us to places that exist only as long as they are written down. Be it Kjell Westö's Helsinki, Leonardo Padura's Havana, Markus Thielemann's Lüneburg Heath, or Tartu or Tallinn of me and you – to give just a few examples – all of them are layers of an infinite map of infinite worlds. Books-as-places and places-as-books are the most modern and timeless mapping application that I'm aware of.

I wish you all find exciting journeys and – even more, that you make unexpected discoveries. May you find something at this festival you did not expect. Let's continue celebrating Estonian Book Year!

Kai Aareleid

Patron of the 2025 Prima Vista literary festival

PROGRAM



Tartu International Literature Festival Prima Vista 2025

NB! Prima Vista events are free of charge, except for those explicitly stated otherwise in the program.

Monday, May 5th

**12:00–13:00 „Living Library” for school children
in Karlova-Ropka library**

In the „Living Library,” participants can meet so-called living books—people with fascinating life stories or unique backgrounds. Each „living book” shares their personal experiences, professions, or hobbies in small groups over multiple rounds. These interactions broaden perspectives and can also help with future career planning. The „Living Library” concept was first introduced in Estonia in 2006 as part of the Council of Europe’s „All Different – All Equal” campaign. The format was originally developed and piloted for the Roskilde Music Festival in Denmark in 2000 and has since spread and gained popularity worldwide.

**13:00 Literature competition „Page by Page” /
„Seitenweise”; Estonian Final
at the hall of Tartu Public Library**

As part of an international book project, young learners of German have read Juliane Pickel’s novel „Krummer Hund” and created free-form creative works based on the book (such as videos, slam poetry, plays, or comics). The creative works of Estonian participants will be presented in Tartu. A jury will decide which of the participating students will attend the winners’ meeting in Berlin. The competition, initiated by the Central Agency for German Schools Abroad (ZFA),

aims to inspire young learners of German from Central and Eastern Europe to engage creatively with contemporary German youth literature. Participants are school students aged 15–18.

**16:00 A Walk in the Footsteps of the Baltic Germans –
and perhaps also Eduard von Keyserling?
Meeting point: ruins of Tartu Cathedral**

This walk takes participants back more than a hundred years to the memories of Baltic German students who studied at the University of Tartu. We will explore whether traces of their springtime celebrations, diligent studies, and mischievous student pranks can still be found in the city. The walk is suitable both as a standalone event and as a prelude to the meeting with Klaus Modick, who wrote about a Baltic German student, Eduard von Keyserling, in his novel „Keyserling’s Secret”.

Guides: Professor Reet Bender (German Studies, University of Tartu) and Kadi Kähär-Peterson (Coordinator of the Centre for Baltic German Studies).

[More information: heimaterevisited.ut.ee](https://heimatrevisited.ut.ee)

**18:00 An Evening with German Writer Klaus Modick
at the hall of Tartu Public Library**

The conversation with the guest will be led by Professor Liina Lukas, a literary scholar from the University of Tartu. The discussion will focus on the novel „Keyserling’s Secret” („Keyserlings Geheimnis”), which tells the story of Baltic German writer and German literary impressionist Eduard von Keyserling, whose greatest secret is connected to Tartu. The novel was published by Eesti Raamat (2020) and translated by Anne Arold. Books by the author will be available for purchase at the event.

The discussion will be held in German, with simultaneous translation into Estonian. Supported by the Tartu German Cultural Institute.

18:00 Cinema Theatre Tartu Elektriteater presents: „Golem: How He Came into the World” (Germany, 1920; directors: Paul Wegener, Carl Boese)

The screening will be introduced by writer Paavo Matsin.

Ticket: €7, see elektriteater.ee for details.

19:00 Literary Stroll in Tartu with Kaspar Jassa, gathering at the Kristjan Jaak Peterson monument

The tour guide and writer Kaspar Jassa will lead a literary-historical tour of downtown Tartu. Tartu's writers will be remembered through quotes and biographical events during the excursion. The gathering point is at the Kristjan Jaak Peterson monument on Toomemägi. The stroll will end at the Koidula and Jannsen memorial.

19:30 Lecture, discussion and poetry evening with Klaske Havik (Netherlands) at the University of Tartu Library Conference Hall

The lecture „Urban Literacy: Reading and Writing Architecture” will focus on questions such as how we can read and write places and how the gaze of the literary writer offers tools for architects and planners to make designs more site-specific, more empathic, and more evocative. Through the book *Urban Literacy*, three literary perspectives are proposed that address the experiential, social and imaginative aspects of place as branches of a literary approach to architecture. In the conversation „Writing Places” with Eik Hermann, the practical and philosophical potential of a literary approach to architecture will be discussed, including the initia-

tive Writing Urban Places, an international network of architects, writers, literature scholars, and others interested in urban narratives. The poetry reading will include poems from the collection of poems „Way and Further”. In this collection of poems, Klaske Havik builds her worlds in words. With stone, sand, snow and salt as founding materials, her poems unveil lived, remembered, and imagined places. Poems will be read in Dutch / English by author Klaske Havik and in Estonian translation by Urmo Mets. [The event is in English.](#)

Tuesday, May 6th

11:00–19:00 Prima Vista Book Fair at Town Hall Square

[See the fair programme on page 74.](#)

11:30–12:15 Meeting with Tuuli Tolmov at Tammelinn Library

Tuuli Tolmov has written both short stories and novels. She is a founding member of the Estonian Young Adult Literature Association. Since 2017, she has been the regional representative for NaNo-WriMo (National Novel Writing Month) in Estonia. Her book „Esimene käik” was recognised as a Good Young Adult Book 2023 by the Estonian Children’s Literature Centre and the Estonian Union for Child Welfare.

12:20–13:05 Meeting with Laura Evisalu
at Karlova-Ropka Library

Laura Evisalu has published the young adult novels „Juhused”, „Oodates Norra kuningat”, and „Õiged mehed”. Her novel „Juhused” was recognised in the 2020 Young Adult Novel Competition

organised by the publishing house Tänäpäev and the Estonian Children's Literature Centre.

11:00–14:00 Children's Programme at the Book Fair

14:00 Polish Flag Day at Town Hall Square

Carillon with a polonaise, speeches by Deputy Mayor Raimond Tamm and the Chargé d'Affaires a.i. of the Republic of Poland, Artur Jan Orzechowski, followed by a procession to the university's main building. Laying of flowers at King Batory's memorial plaque. Commemoration of Poles and friends of Poland who have passed away in Tartu at Kaarsild Bridge.

15:00 Historical-Literary Walk: „Polish Traces in Tartu”

This walk takes us back centuries in search of signs of Poland's connections with the city of Tartu and its people. The walk begins at Toomemägi near the ruins of the Cathedral and continues towards the city centre. From 1582 to 1625, Tartu (then Dorpat) was the capital of the Tartu Voivodeship within the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth (Rzeczpospolita). In 1583, King Stefan Batory granted the city special privileges, and in 1584, he established the colours of the Tartu city flag.

16:00 Opening of Prima Vista 2025 and the Micro Library near the Old Observatory

See page 83.

17:00 Meeting with Latvian writer Andris Kalnozols at the hall of Tartu Public Library

The guest will be in conversation with Contra. Kalnozols' book, „Call Me Calendar”, will be available for purchase at a special price. The event will be in Latvian with consecutive translation into Estonian.

17:15 Curator's Tour of the „Estonian Book 500” Wall Installation at Estonian National Museum Exhibition

500 years ago, the story of the Estonian language book began. To celebrate the Estonian Book Year, a wall installation has been created in the shape of a primer rooster's head in the foyer of the A-section of the Estonian National Museum. Using a witty visual language, artist Siiri Taimla-Rannala has depicted the entire vibrant narrative, thereby revealing the history of the Estonian literary language, reading, education and literature.

As part of the Prima Vista program, the panel curator, literary scholar, and poet Sirel Heinloo invites you to a tour of the Estonian National Museum (ERM) and will present a substantial Estonian book and cultural history within the rooster-shaped exhibit. Together, you will also take a brief look at the permanent exhibition.

Please Note: Registration in advance through the museum's website <https://www.erm.ee/> is required to join the curator's tour. Participation with a „Meetings” permanent exhibition ticket or a museum card (free of charge).

NB! This tour is in Estonian; a tour in English will take place on Saturday, May 10th (see page 68).

18:30 Literary Tuesday: Patron's Evening „The Map of Tartu”

A discussion on places, place-based literature, and echoes of locations with Jan Kaus and this year's Prima Vista patron, Kai Aareleid. Musical performance by Villu Veski.

Jan Kaus has written the collection „The Map of Tallinn”, while Kai Aareleid's Tartu novel „Burning Cities” unfolds one possible map of Tartu. Saxophone virtuoso Villu Veski, together with accordionist Tiit Kalluste, has created the albums „Voices of the Northern Isles I–III”, inspired by places and their resonances. And so, we set off.

20:00 Concert: „When the World Stands Still” at the Cultural Club Salong, Tartu Literature House

Songs based on the poetry of Polish poet Zbigniew Herbert and Estonian poets.

Performers: Tõnis Mägi (vocals) | Kärt Johanson (vocals) | Ain Agan (guitar) | Andre Maaker (guitar)

Wednesday, May 7th

11:00–12:00 „Living Library” for schoolchildren at Annelinn Library

See page 52.

12:00 Meeting with Marius Marcinkevičius (Lithuania) and Lina Itagaki (Lithuania) in the hall of Tartu Public Library

Lithuanian writer Marius Marcinkevičius and illustrator Lina Itagaki will meet readers of all ages. The event is especially aimed at children in Years 4–5. The discussion will be moderated by Tiina Kattel. The event will be in Lithuanian with consecutive interpretation into Estonian.

15:00 Presentation of Angela Soop's artist's book „The Four Seasons” in the Luts Room of Tartu Public Library

Angela Soop's (Kaili-Angela Konno) artist's book contains material from the four-part solo exhibition series „War and Peace”. The publication includes texts by various authors and photographs of the artworks and exhibition views.

Contributors: part I – Margot Kase's interview with Angela Soop, part II – Anti Saar, part III – Jan Kaus, part IV – Eero Epner. The photographs in the publication were taken by Stanislav Stepashko, with some also taken by Martin Ivask.

**15:30 Discussion at the Micro Library:
„The Physical Properties of Books”**

Speakers: Eik Hermann, Ulla Väljaste, and Tõnis Tootsen.
Moderated by Andrus Laansalu.

**16:00 Evening with German writer Markus Thielemann
in the hall of Tartu Public Library**

The guest will be in conversation with Hella Liira, lecturer at the University of Tartu. The discussion will focus on Thielemann's recently translated novel „Thunder Rolls in the Northern Sky” (Eesti

Raamat, translated into Estonian by Piret Pääsuke), which brings the Lüneburg Heath onto the literary map. Thielemann's 2024 novel, originally titled „Von Norden rollt ein Donner”, was shortlisted for the German Book Prize, ranking among the six most notable German-language novels of the year. Books will be available for purchase at the event.

The conversation will be held in German with simultaneous interpretation into Estonian. The event is supported by the Goethe-Institut Estonia.

17:00 Presentation of Susanna Veevo's book „My Turkey” (Petrona Print) at the Apollo bookstore in Tartu Kaubamaja.

Why and how did the author fall in love with Turkish culture? What challenges and personal growth did she experience while studying at a university there? And why does she now love Turkey „passionately, but from a distance”?

17:00 Opening of the book illustration exhibition „Ummakumma” at the Culture Club Salong, Tartu Literature House

Writer Kaspar Jassa will discuss the creation of the vignettes for his book „Ummakumma” (2002) and read excerpts from the text. The exhibition features enlargements of the small shadow illustrations, offering visitors a journey through aesthetic delight. The exhibition is supported by the Tartu Cultural Endowment.

17:30 Presentation of Eva Koff's novel „Õhuskõndija” („Air Walker”) in the Great Hall of Tartu City Museum

Early 20th century, Tartu, Ülejõe. Beasts in the backyards, winding gutters, the floodplains of the Emajõgi River. The restless buzz of the Electric Theatre, the first people in the skies of Livonia. Two young women – Nora and Magdalena. The power of imagination, the call of the air.

Must one choose between the earth and the sky? Between the stomach and the heart? „Air Walker” is the story of Nora and Magdalena growing into themselves—a tale of the freedom to be oneself, of love, its transformations, and its boundlessness. The author will be in conversation with Jaak Tomberg, and excerpts will be read by Maria Ehrenberg.

**18:00 Evening with Cuban writer Leonardo Padura
in the hall of Tartu Public Library**

The guest will be in conversation with Anneli Ramos Pöder, who is of Estonian-Cuban heritage and the author of „Cuba in One Breath”. The discussion will take place in Spanish with simultaneous interpretation into Estonian.

The writer’s visit to Estonia is supported by the Embassy of Spain in Tallinn.

**18:00 Discussion: „Stories of Cultural Conflicts and Roots” –
based on the „Minu...” series by Petrone Print
at the Apollo Bookstore at Tartu Kaubamaja.**

Epp Petrone and Annela Laaneots, who have together published five books in the „Minu...” series, will be in conversation. Petrone authored the series’ opening books, the classic cultural conflict stories „Minu Ameerika” 1, 2, and 3. Laaneots has written „Minu Setomaa”, a story of personal roots, and „Minu Tai saared”, which explores a foreign culture. Several other authors from the „Minu...” series will also join in to share their insights.

**19:00 Presentation of Toomas Kiho’s poetry collection
„Pundinuiad” at the Tartu Literature House**

„Toomas Kiho is truly unique in Estonia’s poetry landscape. With the mind of a mathematician, a deep commitment to Estonia’s cultural affairs, an understanding of academia like no other, a witness

to many governments—yet not broken by the abundance of foolishness, but rather transforming it into words, with sorrow, intellectual depth, and an unwavering embrace of love. His poetry is rich in insight, carrying a rare ethical power. Deeply connected to Estonia.”
—Kalevi Kull

20:00 Cinema Theatre Tartu Elektriteater presents:
„Wings of Desire” (West Germany, France, 1987;
director: Wim Wenders, Screenplay: Wim Wenders,
Peter Handke, Richard Reitinger)

The screening will be introduced by film journalist and critic Tristan Priimägi.

Ticket: €7, see elektriteater.ee for details.

Thursday, May 8th

15:00 A stroll along Vanemuine cultural street,
starting at the Jakob Hurt Memorial

During the walk, Ants Siim from the City Museum and Ülo Treikelder from Tartu Public Library will share stories and read excerpts. The stroll concludes in Central Park.

16:00 „Walking with Mother River” –
a psycho-geographical journey and performance in motion
with Andy Willoughby (UK) and Joanna Ellmann (Estonia),
meeting point at the Arch Bridge (Town Hall Square side)

Andy and Joanna invite you to take a walk with them by the beloved Emajõgi river, taking part in some meditative/magical interactive moments with the river, its history and ecology and hear some of

their collaborative work they have been developing since 2023 (Andy's last visit to Tartu) in a new sequence entitled *When Rivers Entwine* seeks to link Tartu's river with the River Wear in Andy's town of residence Durham in the North East of England through the mixed consciousness of the two poets. Some of your response on the walk will be collected at the end so Andy and Joanna can respond to/weave them into a new end piece for their bi-lingual sequence. They will perform one or two poems along the way and a few at the end of this original journey.

[In English and Estonian.](#)

[The walk is part of the project "Tartu Revisited" – Walks with Former Writers-in-Residence. See also page 84.](#)

17:30 An Evening with Finnish Author Kjell Westö at Tartu Public Library

The distinguished author of Finnish-Swedish literature will be in conversation with literary scholar Esbjörn Nyström. Westö's novels vividly depict his hometown, Helsinki, across various decades of the 20th century. His latest novel, „Twilight 41” („Skymning 41”), explores World War II, particularly the end of the Winter War and the brief peace period of 1940–1941. The book remains eerily relevant even in 2025. Published by Eesti Raamat, translated by Tõnis Arnover. Copies will be available for purchase on-site.

[The discussion will be in Swedish, with simultaneous translation into Estonian. Supported by the Finnish Institute and the Finnish Literature Exchange \(FILI\).](#)

18:00 „Literature with Spark” – An Evening of Emerging Writers at the Culture Club Salong, Tartu Literature House

Featuring readings by Helena Aadli, Mihhail Boitsov, Triinu Kree, Talvike Mändla, Heneliis Notton, and Joosep Vesselov.

19.30 „The Most Important Street in the World” – A Spring
Evening Discussion with Julia von Lucadou and
Ernesto Salazar-Jiménez, moderated by Kai Aareleid
at the German Cultural Institute

German author Julia von Lucadou hails from Heidelberg, a UNESCO City of Literature, and is currently a Goethe Institute resident in Tartu. Ernesto Salazar-Jiménez, with Venezuelan roots, joins from Bremen, another UNESCO City of Literature.

The discussion will be in English, with readings in multiple languages.

20:00 TarSlämm Poetry Slam Final at Vilde & Vine,
featuring guest performer Yuri Miki (Japan)

The grand and electrifying finale of TarSlämm traditionally takes place during the Prima Vista festival – and the time has come! On May 8th, the most outstanding performers from the four preliminary rounds will take the stage at Vilde & Vine, led by hosts Sirel Heinloo and Toomas Leppik. The special guest is renowned Japanese performance poet Yuri Miki.

Estonian and English translations of Yuri Miki’s performance will be displayed.

Friday, May 9th

10:15–11:15 „The Living Library” for schoolchildren
at Tammelinn Library

See page 52.

**10:20–11:05 Meeting with Reeli Reinaus
at Ilmatsalu Primary School**

Award-winning author Reeli Reinaus has published numerous books for children and young adults. Her works seamlessly capture everyday childhood experiences, teenage struggles, crime stories, and thrilling tales with a touch of mystery.

**10:30 Puppet show „Adventure in the Book Forest”
at the hall of Tartu Public Library**

Ilmar Tomusk’s play „Adventure in the Book Forest” was created for the Tartu Public Library puppet theatre troupe to mark the celebration of the 500th anniversary of the Estonian book.

**11:15–12:00 „The Living Library” for Schoolchildren
at Ilmatsalu Library**

See page 52.

12:00–12:45 Meeting with Liina Vagula at Annelinn Library

Liina Vagula is a young adult author whose books offer deep and engaging experiences, reflecting the challenges and dreams of young people. Her stories help readers see their own problems through different perspectives.

**13:00 „An Alternative Guide to Local Saints” –
a walk with Quigley Cryan Brockbank (UK),
meeting point at Town Hall Square**

„I spent my residency writing about a specific English saint, so in the tour, I explore the overlapping space between sainthood and folklore

through a series of homemade miracles and martyrdoms.”

— Quigley Cryan Brockbank

The tour will be in English.

The walk is part of the project “Tartu Revisited” – Walks with Former Writers-in-Residence. See also page 84.

15:00 Workshop and reading with the current writer-in-residence of Tartu City of Literature, Helene Grøn (Denmark) in the Fahrenheit 451° bookstore

Mixing readings of her work with encouraging the participants to write and reflect on themselves, Helene will explore the connections between memories, place and storytelling. In her work and time in Tartu, Helene will write through the literary form of memory as expressed – in books, buildings, and surroundings. Participants are invited into exploring memory as a guide of poetry and form, leading to a deeper understanding of and kinship with the existing stories around us.

16:00 An evening with Kristiina Ehin: „In the Landscapes of Heart Dams” at the hall of Tartu Public Library

Ehin’s novel „Behind the Heart Dams” is largely about Tartu, yet other places also play a symbolic and meaningful role in this polyphonic work, written in prose, poetry, and diary form. Between the two fundamental questions—„Where do we come from?” and „Where are we going?”—the novel explores the mutual influences of places, personal experiences, and cultural narratives, all set within the natural and memory landscapes of heart dams. This multi-layered autobiographical novel, recognised with the Vilde Literary Prize and nominated for the Estonian Cultural Endowment’s Prose Award, will be discussed by the author Kristiina Ehin and literary scholar Eve Pormeister.

16:30 „Tartu: Rewritten” – A Walk with Kristina Sadauskienė (Lithuania), meeting point at Kassitoome

An hour-long walk through central Tartu. Starting point – near the Kassitoome. Ending point – not clarified. Despite the guide’s claim that everything is true, she is not to be completely trusted.

The tour will be in English.

The walk is part of the project “Tartu Revisited” – Walks with Former Writers-in-Residence. See also page 84.

17:00 Circa 7 Celsius: presentation of the anthology of young Baltic writers at the Genialist’s Club courtyard

18:30 Meeting with Latvian Author Daina Tabūna at the Bibliotēk Bookstore, part of the Latvian Book Club

The meeting with the author will take the form of a discussion, where participants can join actively or simply listen. The discussion will be led by Ilze Tālberga. Copies of Tabūna’s book „Witches” will be available for purchase on-site.

The event will be held in English.

**20:00 Concert „Writers in Music”
at the Culture Club Salong, Tartu Literature House**

Joonas Veelmaa’s cabaret songs

Mahtra Sõda: Joosep Vesselov and Kaisa Kuslapuu

Naelravi

Afterparty: DJ Berk Vaher

20:00 Cinema Theatre Tartu Elektriteater presents:
„City of God” (Brazil, France, USA, 2002;
directors: Fernando Meirelles and Kátia Lund)

The screening will be introduced by festival guest, the writer Ernesto Salazar-Jiménez.

Ticket: €7, see elektriteater.ee for details.

Saturday, May 10th

11:00 Curator’s tour in English: „Estonian Book 500”
Wall Installation at the Estonian National Museum

500 years ago, the story of the Estonian language book began. To celebrate the Estonian Book Year, a wall installation has been created in the shape of a primer rooster’s head in the foyer of the A-section of the Estonian National Museum. Using a witty visual language, artist Siiri Taimla-Rannala has depicted the entire vibrant narrative, thereby revealing the history of the Estonian literary language, reading, education and literature.

As part of the Prima Vista program, the panel curator, literary scholar, and poet Sirel Heinloo invites you to a tour of the Estonian National Museum (ERM) and will present a substantial Estonian book and cultural history within the rooster-shaped exhibit. Together, you will also take a brief look at the permanent exhibition.

Please Note: Registration in advance through the museum’s website <https://www.erm.ee/> is required to join the curator’s tour. Participation with a „Meetings” permanent exhibition ticket or a museum card (free of charge).

13:00 Presentation of Mariann Rückenbergr's book
„The Witch Daughter's Legend: The Tale of Sookrat
and Hendrick von Tisenhusen” (Ferialum OÜ)
at the Apollo bookstore at Tartu Kaubamaja.

This historical novel takes place in 1625 in Estonia and Livonia, following a journey from near Paide to Põltsamaa and along the Emajõgi River to Tartu. It is likely one of the first books in world literature to tell a story from the perspective of an Estonian woman in the early 17th century. One of the novel's climactic moments is the historical event of Tartu's siege and capture by the forces of Gustav II Adolf, marking the beginning of Swedish rule in Estonia.

13:00 Pilgrimage to the Hedgehog with David Hartley (UK),
meeting point in front of Villa Margaretha
Boutique Hotel (Tähe Street 11)

On the outskirts of the city stands an iron hedgehog who is not often seen. His spikes are sharp, and he lifts a lantern to hold back the dark. There he waits for his faithful disciples who come to worship in his spiny glory. Join UK storyteller David Hartley on his pilgrimage to visit the statue, taking in a few strange and hidden corners of Karlova along the way. All praise the hedgehog!

The tour will be in english.

The walk is part of the project “Tartu Revisited” – Walks with Former Writers-in-Residence. See also page 84.

14:00 „Eellülitus”: Literature x Performing Arts
at Tartu New Theatre

A collaboration between Kanuti Gildi SAAL and the young literature magazine Värskke Rõhk, this performance art literary program highlights creators who work both on stage and in writing, giving

them the opportunity to present their literary work to an audience. What happens when written words come to life on stage? How far can they go?

Performers: Sveta Grigorjeva, Liisbeth Horn, Kärt Koppel, Getriin Kotsar, Heneliis Notton, Jarmo Reha, Astra Irene Susi, and Kristel Zimmer.

The event is part of the pre-program for the Ümberlülitus festival.
Project managers: Saara Liis Jõerand, Kerly Ritval.

14.00 The Vaba Akadeemia theatre troupe “Frogs” presents “Lysistrata” in the attic hall of the Tartu Literature House

The troupe “Frogs”, made up of secondary school students who took part in the Vaba Akadeemia theatre course, will bring a studio/style adaptation of Aristophanes’ Lysistrata to the stage at the literary festival. Audiences will witness the wildest peace plan of the ancient world, conceived by women who had grown tired of waiting for their men to stop waging war. The director is Helery Pikk, and the stage text is based on Anne Lill’s translation.

15:00 Tartu Literature House history tour led by Ants Siim

We head off on a history tour of Tartu Literature House. Under the guidance of Ants Siim, you will hear the exciting stories that have taken place between the walls of Vanemuise 19. We’ll find out how Theodor Luts’s 19th-century aristocratic palace became Tartu’s „Hollywood” and how the building known as the House of Literature in the 1930s became the infamous KGB „light blue house”. We also look at how the literary community reclaimed its house in the 1990s and developed it into the vibrant literary-cultural centre it is today.

N.B.: Those interested are invited to register. The number of places is limited. The

link to the registration form can be found under the event info on the festival's website: <https://kirjandusfestival.tartu.ee/en/>

15:30 Awarding of the best in the school youth information search game „Find the place where you can get it” in the Fahrenheit 451° bookstore

See page 86.

16:00 „Life as a River” – writing mythical, allegorical and symbolist poetry with Andy Willoughby at the Culture Club Salong, Tartu Literature House

Writing realist, mythological, allegorical, and symbolist poetry out of the river map of your life in a very active creative workshop with Andy Willoughby, which is full of sketching, writing, and spontaneous performance games. Suitable for new writers, experienced writers, stage poets, page poets and just-this-one-time poets. The work produced can later be taken over into any form or genre you like, flowing like the eternal creative river Andy conjures up with you. Andy has previously taken a version of this workshop to Bucharest and Helsinki and is very excited to be bringing it to Tartu where he first thought of it whilst on his Tartu UNESCO City of Literature residency in 2019. Please note that you can write in any language you choose in this workshop, but the instructions will be in English.

16:00 Cinema Theatre Tartu Elektriteater presents: „Luulur” (Estonia, 2025; director: Raivo Kelomees)

Ticket: €7, see elektriteater.ee for details.

17:00 University of Tartu classical philology students theatre group presents: „ΨΑΠΦΩ” in the attic hall of the Tartu Literature House.

Who was the favourite poet of great ancient authors like Plato, Ovid, and Catullus? If you guessed a short, dark-haired woman from the island of Lesbos, you guessed correctly. But who is this great „Sappho”, and why has nothing great of hers survived? A deceitful amateur production, inspired by fragments of historical truth, attempts to answer these questions.

18:00 Latgalian-Võro-Seto-Kadrina poetry evening at the Tartu Literature House cultural club Salong.

Poets Ligija Purinaša, Anita Mileika, and Raibis from Latvia, and Kauksi Ülle, Maryliis Teinfeldt-Grins, and Andreas Kalkun from Estonia will perform. Greetings will be given by the Latvian Ambassador to Estonia, Kristīne Našeniece.

The event will be held in Latgalian (translated into Võro), Võro, and Seto languages, as well as Kadrina dialect.

20:30 ŪGA x „juos īluos līluos” at the Culture Club Salong, Tartu Literature House

A performance by a rap group from Latgale: the Latgalian rap princess ŪGA together with the girls’ group „juos īluos līluos”.

21:30 Open Mic session and
22:30 Afterparty with DJ BIRCH PLEASE (Latvia) at the Culture Club Salong, Tartu Literature House

BOOK FAIR

Tartu Town Hall Square
Tuesday, May 6th 11:00–19:00



Prima Vista Book Fair 2025

Participants: AS Koolibri | Estonian Literary Museum (Eesti Kirjandusmuuseum) | Estonian Publishing House Ltd. (Eesti Raamat OÜ) | Estonian National Museum (ERM - Eesti Rahva Muuseum) | Atlex Publishing (Kirjastus Atlex) | Bertram Publishing (Kirjastus Bertram) | Canopus Publishing (Kirjastus Canopus) | Ilmamaa Publishing Ltd. (Kirjastus Ilmamaa OÜ) | Nordur Publishing (Kirjastus Nordur) | Pegasus Publishing (Kirjastus Pegasus) | SE&JS Publishing (Kirjastus SE&JS) | Zeus Publishing Society (Kirjastuselts Zeus) | Kultuurikontakt Ltd. in collaboration with KVART Publishing (Kultuurikontakt OÜ koostöös kirjastusega KVART) | Legend | Mina Ise Ltd. + Keropää Ltd. (Mina Ise OÜ + Keropää OÜ) | Fantaasia Publishing Ltd. (OÜ Kirjastus Fantaasia) | Lummur Ltd. (OÜ Lummur) | Studium Ltd. (OÜ Studium) | Otto Wilhelm Ltd. (Otto Wilhelm OÜ) | Pähkliööbik Ltd. (Pähkliööbik OÜ) | Petrone Print Ltd. (Petrone Print OÜ) | Embassy of the Republic of Poland (Poola Vabariigi suursaatkond) | Book Room Fahrenheit 451° (Raamatutuba Fahrenheit 451°) | Raudhammas | Kultuurileht Foundation and Estonian Academic Publishers (SA Kultuurileht ja EKSA) | Tallinn University Press (Tallinna Ülikooli kirjastus) | Tartu Public Library (Tartu Linnaraamatukogu) | University of Tartu Press (Tartu Ülikooli Kirjastus) | Toledo Publishing (Toledo kirjastus) | University of Tartu Library E-book Store (TÜ Raamatukogu e-raamatupood)

Programme at the Book Fair

11:00 Opening of the fair. Welcome speech by Prima Vista patron Kai Aareleid

11:00–11:15 Performance by kindergarten children

11:15 Meeting with Els Heinsalu

12:30 Meeting with Mika Keränen

14:00 Celebration of Polish Flag Day (see also page ...)

14:30 Ilmamaa Publishing – Toomas Kiho presents his poetry collection „Pundinuiad”

14:45 Estonian Publishing House Ltd. book presentations

15:00 Legend and Raudhammas book presentations

15:15 Bertram Publishing – Rait Toompere presents his book „Kunstimaja” (The Art House)

15:30 Kultuurikontakt Ltd. in collaboration with KVART Publishing – Annika Mägimets presents her children’s book „The Island of Mysterious Clues”

15:45 Estonian National Museum book presentations
16:00 Embassy of Poland book presentations
16:30 Performance by Just Dance School
16:45 Handover of books donated for the Prima Vista charity project and appreciation of publishers
17:00 Dance performance „From Place to Place”
18:00 Group dance „Wuthering Heights”

ART PROGRAM

April 21th – July 20th



Prima Vista 2025 Art Program

This year's art program is inspired by both the Estonian Book Year and Prima Vista's theme, „Book as Place, Place as Book.” Each participating artist has interpreted the theme in their own way and through their chosen technique. Some have drawn inspiration from the Book Year and the 500-year history of the Estonian book, while others have explored the idea of place as a metaphor, the deeds and locations associated with Kalevipoeg, or stories connected to Southern Estonia. Some artists have based their work on the works of a specific Estonian writer or poet, interpreting the theme of place as reflected in their works. As an exception, a young photographer has chosen to focus on the people associated with Prima Vista and their stories.

The program features works by both Pallas students and professional artists, showcasing a variety of techniques and materials, including graphics, painting, photography, and textile art.

The group exhibition „PelguPAIK” features artists and writers Jan Kaus, Anti Saar, Kalli Kalde, Urmas Viik, Eve Kask, Maryliis Teinfeldt-Grins, Piia Ruber, Lembe Ruben, Angela Soop, and Mudlum. The exhibition is curated by Lembe Ruben and Kaili-Angela Konno.

Tartu Public Library, all three floors
April 22th – May 19th, 2025
Opening: **April 21st at 18:00**

„PelguPAIK” brings together artists and writers who master both words and visuals. The exhibition showcases works reflecting the beauty or pain of places.

Angela Soop's artist book „Four Seasons”
presentation at Tartu Public Library
May 7th at 15:00

See page 59.

The Pallas University of Applied Sciences Textile
Department student dual exhibition, curated by
Aet Ollisaar and designed by Madis Liplap

University of Tartu Library, 2nd floor
April 30th – July 20th, 2025
Opening: April 29th at 16:00

The third-year students' tapestry exhibition „Sinu minu meie ei ole sama,, („Your Mine Ours is Not the Same”), featuring Sigre Kodasma, Hanna-Maria Org, Grete Ottis, and Liisi Tasso, complemented by works from the department's methodological collection. The students were mentored by Aet Ollisaar.

Third-year students of the Pallas Textile Department explore the word „place” and reflect it in their works. Each of them has based their work on a literary piece and found their own place within it. Just as people are different, so are the students' places and their interpretations. The exhibited works reveal connections between specific locations, moments, and emotions.

A tapestry design created by fourth-year students for the Estonian Book Year, with contributions from Sofia Lanman, Marite Rikkas, Inger Tammela, and Kristiin Kuuslap. The idea and texts were created by Mart Jagomägi and Krista Aru. The students were mentored by textile department lecturer Marju Roos, and the project was led by Aet Ollisaar. The tapestry will be embroi-

dered and expanded throughout the year at many public libraries in Estonian counties.

Signe Oidekivi's and Liisa Nurme's photo and video exhibition „Readers”, which portrays the organisers, performers, and participants of the Prima Vista festival.

The photos were taken by Signe Oidekivi, while Liisa Nurme made the interviews and wrote the texts.

University of Tartu Library, 2nd floor

April 30th – July 20th, 2025

Opening: **April 29th at 17:00**

The portrait exhibition „Readers” focuses on the behind-the-scenes forces and participants of Prima Vista. With this exhibition, we aim to introduce both the festival organisers and the visitors. The exhibition offers a unique opportunity to engage in a kind of dialogue with the subjects, explore their favorite books and reading places, and learn about the connection of the people in the portraits to the festival and literature more broadly.

Jonna Kubu's painting exhibition „Vaade ja imesta” („View and Wonder”), a meeting point of words and images based on Jan Kaus's work „View”.

University of Tartu Library, 2nd floor

April 30th – July 20th, 2025

Opening: **April 29th at 17:00**

„View and Wonder” is an exhibition that illustrates/interprets the places described in Jan Kaus's book „View”. Each viewer creates their own interpretation, their own kind of view/place. The paintings depict moments that are both familiar and elusive. They are

visual responses to the text—ways in which literature can become a place, experienced through color, light, and composition. The exhibition centers around the question of how literary space can expand into painting. How does literature speak in art, and how does art speak in literature?

Helen Bunder's painting exhibition „Minu sees on kaks hunti” („There Are Two Wolves Inside Me”), inspired by Mirjam Paaes's poetry.

University of Tartu Library, 2nd floor
April 30th – July 20th, 2025
Opening: April 29th at 17:00

„The exhibition is inspired by Mirjam Paaes's poems. The paintings were created in November 2024 during the Gullkistan artist residency in Iceland. Spending a month immersed in poetry and the magical nature, I was deeply moved by Mirjam's masterfully crafted words. Through me, the words found their lines, shapes, and colors, expressed with brushes and paint.”

Toomas Kuusing's dual linocut print exhibition „Kalõvipoig” and illustrations for Lauri Sommer's book „Lugusid lõunast,” („Stories from the South”).

University of Tartu Library, 2nd floor
May 3th – July 20th, 2025
Opening: April 30th at 17:00

„Kalõvipoig”

This Kalevipoeg-themed exhibition presents linocut illustrations for the Võro-language „Kalõvipoig.” Toomas Kuusing's approach is

minimalist and austere, yet multilayered in every sense. As Marju Kõivupuu writes: „Undoubtedly, Kuusing’s work is a significant contribution among the many artistic interpretations of Kalevipoeg, adding substantial value to the Võro-language ‘Kalõvipoig’.”

„Lugusid lõunast,, („Stories from the South”)

Lauri Sommer’s „Stories from the South” is a selection of recordings retrieved from old cassette tapes. Some are based on the tales of elderly storytellers, some on family traditions, and others on folklore or pure imagination. Certain stories are presented both in their original dialect and in free translation. The collection serves as a continuation of the old storytelling tradition and follows in the footsteps of Juhan Jaik’s „Võrumaa Tales.” The stories take place in Võrumaa, the Peipsi region, Setomaa — both on the Estonian and Petseri sides —, Kulkna (Kolpino) Island, and the village of Chudskaya Rudnitsa on the opposite shore of Lake Lämmijärv. The narratives are complemented by Toomas Kuusing’s linocut prints.

PROJECTS

From the 3rd of April
to the 5th of May



Projects

Micro Library – A Library of Physical Impact

The core idea of the micro library is very simple. Libraries always emphasize how many books they have. Sometimes, that number is 700,000. Sometimes it's 2 million. No one can read even a fraction of those books. This vastness is, of course, impressive, but on a human scale, it is impossible to grasp or comprehend. But one can take a step in the opposite direction—create a library with, for example, 9 to 13 books. This is a manageable amount for a person, even though it still cannot be read through very quickly.

A large library is like a metropolis—no matter how much you explore it, most of it will always remain unseen. A micro library is a room or perhaps just a corner of a room. You can read through and memorize every nuance, adjacency, and detail. In this meeting model, quantity and vastness do not dominate.

When there is no need to worry about volume and overwhelming choice, one can read in peace. There is time to focus on a sentence and a paragraph. There is also time to focus on design. Who came up with the absurd idea that books shouldn't be judged by their covers? Of course they should be! The material and colors of the cover, the weight of the pages, the sound they make when turned. Does the book stay open in your hands? Are there alternatives to bound pages? Where are the Greek-style scrolls? A single page could be a one-ton stone slab. Who shattered a poem into pieces again?

The Library of Physical Impact features three sets of books this time:

Tuesday, May 6th – selection by Jaak Tomberg and Andrus Laansalu

Wednesday, May 7th – selection by Eik Hermann

Thursday, May 8th – selection by Lina Itagaki (Lithuania)

Friday, May 9th – selection by Jaak Tomberg and Andrus Laansalu

Librarian: Andrus Laansalu

On Wednesday, May 7th, at 15:30, a discussion on the physical qualities of books will take place. Participants include Eik Hermann, Ulla Väljaste, and Tõnis Tootsen. Moderated by Andrus Laansalu.

NB! Access to the micro library requires a Tähetorn ticket, which costs €3 when purchased at the ticket office with the code „Prima Vista”. The ticket includes full access to the observatory, and Museum Card holders get free entry. The Thursday discussion is free of charge.

„Tartu Revisited” – Walks with Former Writers-in-Residence

The writer-in-residence programs in Tartu UNESCO City of Literature began in 2017, and since then, more than 15 writers from various cultural backgrounds have spent extended stays here through different residency programs. Living and writing temporarily in a new place can bring fresh inspiration to one’s work. Likewise, new creators and fresh perspectives can expand and redefine the way a place is perceived and understood.

As this year’s theme focuses on the relationship between books and place, we have invited some of our former resident writers back to Tartu. We asked them to take us on a walk through their Tartu, introducing the places that inspired them and sharing thoughts and texts connected in one way or another to their time here.

English poet Andy Willoughby is a frequent guest in Tartu and was the writer-in-residence here in 2019. This time, together with the Tartu poet Joanna Ellmann, he will lead participants on a psychogeographical journey along the banks of the Emajõgi. Lithuanian writer Kristina Sadauskienė was in Tartu in 2023 as part of a special project supported by the North and Baltic Countries Cultural Mobility Program, which brought together five writers from Lithuania and Iceland over two years. Sadauskienė, who is also an experienced guide, has inspired the entire walking tour project with her ideas. Her walk will take participants from Kassitoome through the city center. Manchester writer David Hartley was in Tartu as a participant in the project „Bring Your Own Utopia”, which was prepared for last year’s festival. As part of this, he collaborated with Henri Hütt on the storytelling event „The Forest of Ink and Skin”. Alongside this, David took the time to explore many different places and spaces in Tartu and now invites participants to join him on a pilgrimage to the Hedgehog. Also from Manchester is Quigley Cryan Brockbank (Quigley CB), who was a writer-in-residence in Tartu last autumn. She will lead a walk titled „An Alternative Guide to Local Saints.” Through tales of homemade miracles and martyrdom, she will explore the overlapping space between sainthood and folklore through a series of homemade miracles and martyrdoms. All walks will be conducted primarily in English, but the experience of space speaks a universal language.

Prima Vista charity project „A Book Writes a Person”

Traditionally, the Prima Vista literature festival includes a charitable initiative titled „A Book Writes a Person”, which aims to highlight the importance of reading and help broaden the range of reading materials available to different social groups. We extend our heartfelt thanks to all Estonian publishers who have supported us over the years with their generous donations! This year, we are collecting books for the

residents of the Tartu city homes run by the SA Hoolekandeteenused foundation. The foundation's mission is to create opportunities for people with psychosocial disabilities to lead active lives within the community. Additionally, the residents of these Tartu homes are warmly invited to a concert by folk musician Annika Mändmaa at Tartu City Library on 8 May. The formal handover of the donation and the acknowledgement of the participating publishers will take place on May 6th at the book fair in Tartu Town Hall Square.

„Find a Place Where You Can Get It”

The literary information search game „Find a Place Where You Can Get It” invites students from grades 8 to 12 to test their skills in finding information from various databases or libraries. The game takes place online **from April 28 to May 5**, and prizes will be raffled among the participants!

For more information: otsikohta@gmail.com

PARTNER CITY DAY

Valga Cultural Centre
April 29th 10:00–19:00



Prima Vista Partner City Day in Valga April 29th, Valga Cultural Centre, Keskk 1

10:00–11:00 Prima Vista children’s program
in the Cultural Centre’s Theatre Hall

Mika Keränen and Contra – „Literature is Cool!”

A discussion about literature, life, literary life, and football.

Prima Vista Partner City Day Program
in the Cultural Centre’s Oval Hall

12:00 Opening of the day

12:15 „How to Translate a Place?”

This year’s Prima Vista patron Kai Aareleid talks about places, literature, and place-based literature through the eyes of a translator and writer.

13:00 Andris Kalnozols „Call me Calendar”

A conversation between Latvian writer Andris Kalnozols and translator Contra.

Kalnozols’ book „Call Me Calendar” was a great success in Latvia, offering hope to readers during difficult times. The book was translated into Estonian by poet Contra.

13:45–14:00 – Break

**14:00–14:45 Presentation of Toomas Kiho’s
poetry collection „Pundinuiad”**

„Toomas Kiho is truly unique in Estonia’s poetry landscape. With the mind of a mathematician, a deep commitment to Estonia’s cultural affairs, an understanding of academia like no other, a witness to many governments—yet not broken by the abundance of foolishness, but rather transforming it into words, with sorrow, intellectual depth, and an unwavering embrace of love. His poetry is rich in insight, carrying a rare ethical power. Deeply connected to Estonia.”
—Kalevi Kull

14:45–15:30 Taavi Liias: „War in Estonian Literature”

Taavi Liias is a writer from Valgamaa and a former intelligence officer. His works are inspired by his experiences during foreign missions.

15:30–16:15 Break

**16:15–16:45 Presentation of the August Gailit Short
Story Award at the Nipernaadi Statue in Säde Park**

Folk musician Koidu Ahk – „Rändaja õhtulaul” („Traveller’s Evening Song”)
Speech by jury chair Jaanus Vaiksoo
Presentation of the August Gailit Short Story Award
Speech by the award winner

17:00–19:00 Evening program dedicated to August Gailit
„Mr. Ge” at Valga Museum (Vabaduse 8, Valga)

Welcome by Koidu Ahk and children from the Lüllemäe music group
Opening of the August Gailit exhibition „Mr. Ge”
Ingrid Kormašov „The Return of August Gailit”
Toomas Kiho „Remembering Gailit”

All day from 12:00–18:00

Book fair in the foyer of Valga Cultural Centre
An exhibition of Etnowerk’s Valgamaa-themed collection is displayed in the Cultural Centre’s gallery.

Peakorraldajad / Main organisers

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Eesti Kirjanduse Selts / Estonian Literary Society – tartu.kirjandus.ee
Eesti Kirjanike Liidu Tartu osakond / Tartu Department of the Estonian Writers' Union – www.ekl.ee/tartu
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ELV tehnika

Fahrenheit 451° raamatutuba / Fahrenheit 451° Book Room

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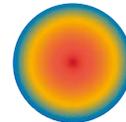
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