

Bank Austria Literars 2010

Press kit published on the occasion of the
presentation of the award winners on October 7,
2010, in connection with the Frankfurt Book Fair

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Picture Material

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Press Release

Bank Austria Literaris

The Pre-Eminent Award for Eastern European Literature

Frankfurt/Vienna – The Bank Austria Literaris was launched in 2006 and is staged every two years. This literature award aims to present works by Eastern and Southeastern European authors to readers and audiences in the German-speaking world and direct attention to the exciting polyphony of literary voices in the region.

The Bank Austria Literaris is held for the third time this year and offers a total prize money of 150,000 euros, which is the highest among literary sponsorship awards in the CEE region. For one, this focus on Central and Eastern Europe corresponds to the economic activities of Bank Austria's who, on the strength of being a member of the UniCredit Group, is the market leader in this region. Above all, however, it complements Bank Austria's existing, wide-ranging cooperations in the realm of arts and culture. With KulturKontakt Austria and Wieser Verlag publishing house, it has teamed up with two partners that have also gained extensive experience in Eastern Europe.

The Bank Austria Literaris 2010 covers 16 Eastern and Southeastern European countries.

In Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Estonia, Croatia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Czech Republic, Turkey, Ukraine, and Hungary, local juries (mostly consisting of two jurors) nominated 53 literary authors. This selection was made after careful evaluation of the books published in the respective countries in 2008 and 2009.

The Viennese jury comprised the following members: **Dr. Susanne Scholl, Dr. Cornelius Hell, Dr. Jana Cvikova, Lojze Wieser** and **Annemarie Türk**. The jury was chaired by **György Dalos**.

Award winners have been announced in the genres of both PROSE and POETRY. Furthermore, eight grant recipients have been invited to take part in KulturKontakt Austria's Writers in Residence program.

The Award Goes To

PROSE Award Winner: **Renata Šerelyte**, Lithuania

POETRY Award Winner: **Àkos Fodor**, Hungary

Special Jury Award: **Boris Khersonsky**, Ukraine

Grant Recipients

Jana Benová, Slovakia

Adrian Chivu, Romania,

Andrei Hvastov, Estonia

Inga Iwasiów, Poland

Sema Kaygusuz, Turkey

Judit Ágnes Kiss, Hungary

Aidas Marcenas, Lithuania

Goran Vojnovic, Slovenia

Award Winners 2006 and 2008

Teodora Dimova

Anna Zonová

Florian Lazarescu

Rudolf Jurolek

Agda Bavi PÜain

Srdan Valkjarevic

Palmi Ranchev

PROSE Award Winner: Renata Šerelytė

Biography

Renata Šerelytė was born in 1970 in a small Lithuanian town and studied Lithuanian Studies at the University of Vilnius. She subsequently worked as an editor and journalist for various magazines and newspapers.

Renata Šerelytė's poems were first published in 1986. *Jundos lemtis* (*Jundas Schicksal/Jundas Destiny*, 1997), her historical adventure novella for young readers, was named Best Lithuanian Children's Book and won her the Šarunas Marciulionis Award. She received the Žemaitė Prize for her novel *Ledynmečio žvaigždės* (*Sterne der Eiszeit/Stars of the Ice Age*, 1999) and in 2001, Šerelytė won the Vaičiulaitis Award for the stories she had published in the literary magazine „Metai“.

Since 1995, Renata Šerelytė has written for arts magazines and newspapers as a critic and essayist. In 1997, she made her debut as a playwright. Her play *Stoglangis* (*The Skylight*) won her the second prize at the Open Society competition for children's and youth theater in 1999.

Bibliography

Novels:

- *Ledynmečio žvaigždės* (*Sterne der Eiszeit/Stars of the Ice Age*). Vilnius: Tyto Alba Publishers, 1999. 208 pages
- *Vardas tamsoje* (*Ein Name in der Dunkelheit/A Name in the Darkness*). Vilnius: Lithuanian Writers Union Publishers, 2004. 204 pages
- *Mėlinbarzdžio vaikai* (*Blaubarts Kinder/Bluebeard's Children*). Vilnius: Alma Littera Publishers, 2009. 216 pages

Stories:

- *Žuvies darinėjimas* (*Das Ausnehmen der Fische/The Gutting of Fish*). Vilnius: Lithuanian Writers' Union Publishers, 1995

- Balandų ratas (Der Kreis der Tauben/The Circle of Doves). Vilnius: Lithuanian Writers' Union Publishers, 1997
- Oji tepasakė miau (Sie sagte nur miau/She Only Said Meow). Vilnius: Lithuanian Writers' Union Publishers, 2001. 165 pp.
- Balzamuotojas (Der Balsamierer/The Embalmer). Vilnius: Lithuanian Writers' Union Publishers, 2006. 158 pages

Essays:

- Laukiniai mėnesiai (Die wilden Monate/The Wild Months). Vilnius: Alma Littera Publishers, 2006. 160 pages

Children's books:

- Jundos lemtis (Jundas Fate). Historical adventure novella for young people. Vilnius: Tvermė Publishers, 1997
- Prakeiktas kardas (Das verfluchte Schwert/The Dammed Sword). Historical adventure novella for young people. Kaunas: Šviesa Publishers, 1997
- Ėriukas po baobabu, arba Megztinis su uodega (Das Lamm unter dem Affenbrotbaum oder Der Pullover mit dem Schwänzchen/The Lamb under the Monkey-Bread Tree, or the Pullover with the Little Tail). [Poems for Children]. Vilnius: Lithuanian Writers' Union Publishers, 2000. 62 pp.

Plays:

- Skenduolė (Die Ertrunkene/The Drowned Woman). 1997
- Žvakelė Šv. Pranciškui (Eine Kerze für den Heiligen Franziskus/A Candle for Saint Francis). 1999

POETRY Award Winner: Ákos Fodor

Biography

Ákos Fodor was born on May 17, 1945, in Budapest. From 1963 to 1968, he was enrolled at the Franz Liszt Academy of Music, Budapest; from 1968 to 1988, he served as an editor with Hungarian music publisher Zeneműkiadó; since then, he has been a freelance writer. In 2007, he was awarded the Artisjus Prize by Hungary's Society for Authors' Rights. He published his first volume of poetry, *Kettőspont (Doppelpunkt/Colon)*, in 1978 and has since added twelve others, for instance *Pontok (Punkte/Points)*, 2008) and *Gonghangok (Gongklänge/Gong Sounds)*, 2009). Fodor has also authored radio plays such as *Sancho Pansa szigete (Sancho Pansa's Island)*, 1995), and his translation of one hundred and seventy haikus by Matso Basho (*Matso Basho: Százhetven haiku*) appeared in 1998. Fodor's translations and adaptations of a considerable number of operas and musicals have been produced by various theaters.

Ákos Fodor is one of the few whose poetry is never susceptible to intellectual hypocrisy. His short-form poetry – it is no coincidence that his most of his works are haikus – sets him apart from all the cluttered, drab, claptrap poems of his time, and their distilled conciseness creates an explosive dramatic tension.

Special Jury Award: Boris Khersonsky

Biography

Boris Khersonsky, born in 1950 in Czernowitz, is a psychiatrist and writer who lives in Odessa, Ukraine. He studied medicine in Odessa, has headed the Institute of Psychology at the University of Odessa since 1999, and has authored numerous monographs on psychiatric and psychological issues.

Ever since his literary contributions of the 1960s, Khersonsky has been a central figure of the literary underground and Samizdat activity. Before Perestroika, his publications appeared in the Russian émigré press; from the second half of the 1990s, his poetry has appeared in Ukraine and Russia. 2006 saw the first book publication of this Russian-language author in Russia. Since then, he has published: „Ploshadka pod sastrojku“ (2008, NLO Publishers), „Spirituals“ (NLO Publishers, Moscow 2009; also includes „Semejni archiw“). Among others, he was awarded the prize of the „Nowij Mir“ magazine (2008) and a Brodsky Grant (2008).

So far, Khersonsky's major work is „Semeijni archiw“ („Family Archive“) – it traces the story of a Jewish family living in and around Odessa from the beginning of the 20th century to its end; Khersonsky began his „work in progress“ several decades ago; the one-hundred and fifty page „prose poem“ (that can just as well be labeled „poetic prose“) poses quite a challenge when it comes to assigning it to a genre – it has been called a „novel in a poetic form “ as well as a „novella in letter form.“ On the basis of an imaginary archive, which contains not only photos but also dramatizable fragments of dialog, chronological records, descriptions, and dream sequences, the private life of individual family members is told against the backdrop of the so-called Great History. Geographically, the story that spans the 20th century and centers on Odessa branches out to the Baltic region, Poland, Western Ukraine and all the way to Bessarabia; its decisive events include World War I, the October Revolution, Stalin's Terror of the 1930s, the years of the „Great Patriotic War,“ and the Holocaust. Explored from various perspectives, traces of memory reach back to Germany, the Gulag in Kolyma, or emigration to Israel and the US.

Local Juries

Bosnia-Herzegovina:	Hana Stojic and Enver Kazaz
Bulgaria:	Fedia Filkova and Yordan Eftimov
Estonia:	Reet Kudu
Croatia:	Alida Bremer and Kruno Lokotar
Lithuania:	Cornelius Hell
Poland:	Doreen Daume and Esther Kinsky
Romania:	Corina Bernic and Carmen Musat
Russia:	Erich Klein and Jana Fanailowa
Serbia:	Sasa Ciric and Lidija Kusovac
Slovakia:	Jana Cviková and Dana Krsáková
Slovenia:	Brane Cop and Lojze Wieser
Czech Republic:	Libuse Belunkova and Petr Borkovec
Turkey:	Asuman Büke and Hande Ögut
Ukraine:	Chrystyna Nazarkewytsch and Claudia Dathe
Hungary:	András Lakatos and Gabor Nyerges

Authors and Titles

Bosnia-Herzegovina

Selvedin Avdić	Sieben Ängste (Seven Fears)
Ahmed Burić	Die letzten Tränen aus Blut and Erdöl (The Last Tears of Blood and Petroleum)
Enes Karić	Der Gesang der Wildvögel (The Song of the Wild Birds)
Mirsad Sijarić	Noch eine Weise von Liebe and Krieg (Another Lay of Love and War)
Stevan Tontić	Das Heilige and das Verdammte (The Holy and the Dammed)

Bulgaria

Milen Rouskov	Hingeworfen in die Natur (Cast into Nature)
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Estonia

Andrei Hvostov	Die blauen Berge (The Blue Mountains)
Asta Põldmäe	Briefe an die Schwälbchen (Letters the Little Swallows)
Mari Saat	Die Erlöserin von Lasnamäe (The Saviour of Lasnamäe)

Croatia

Tomica Bajsić	Das Kreuz des Südens (The Southern Cross)
Renato Baretić	Hotel Grand
Damir Karakaš	Ein herrlicher Ort für das Unglück (A Wonderful Place for Bad Luck)
Maša Kolanović	Sloboština Barbie
Milko Valent	Stille Werkzeuge (Silent Tools)

Czech Republic

Jakub Rehák

Lichter zwischen Brettern

(Lights Between the Boards)

Martin Ryšavý

Reisen nach Sibirien (Journeys to Siberia)

Jana Šrámková

Hruškadóttir/Birndóttir

Lithuania

Laura Sintija Černiauskaite

Benedikts Schwellen (Benedikt's Thresholds)

Aidas Marčėnas

Tänze (Dances)

Renata Šerelytė

Blaubarts Kinder (Bluebeard's Children)

Poland

Sylvia Chutnik

Taschenatlas für Frauen

(Pocket Atlas for Women)

Jacek Gutorow

Inne Tempo

Inga Iwasiów

Bambino

Anna Wieser

Delta

Romania

Radu Andriescu

Der metallurgische Wald

(The Metallurgical Forest)

Svetlana Cârstea

Die Schraubstockblume (The Vise Flower)

Adrian Chivu

Zeichenheft (Drawing Book)

Ioana Pârvolescu

Das Leben beginnt am Freitag

(Life Begins on Friday)

Lucian Dan Teodorovici

Die anderen Liebesgeschichten/

Das Wolfskind (The Other Love Stories/

The Wolf Child)

Russia

Boris Khersonsky

Aus dem Familiennalbum

(From the Family Album)

Michail Eisenberg

Gedichte aus „Perechod na letnee wremja“

(Poems from „Perechod na letnee wremja“)

Sachar Prilepin

Sankja

Serbia

Vladimir Arsenijević	Predator/Wurzellosigkeit (Predator/Rootlessness)
Jelena Lengold	Der Jahrmarktzauberer (The Fairground Magician)
Milena Marković	Vogelauge am Zaun (Bird's Eye On the Fence)
Dragana Mladenović	Schrifteinband (Written Binding)
Zlatko Paković	Die gemeinsame Asche (The Common Ash)
Zlatko Paković	Die gemeinsame Asche

Slovakia

Jana Beňová	Geleitplan (Café Hyäne)/Petržalka (Escort Plan (Café Hyäne)/Petržalka). Galapagos
Karol Chmel	Chiaroscuro. Notizen, Abschreibungen, Palimpseste (Chiaroscuro. Notes, Writing- Offs, Palimpsests)
Mária Ferencuhová	2 Gedichtzyklen aus/Das Prinzip der Unsicherheit (Two Cycles of Poems from/ The Principle of Uncertainty)
Jana Juráňová	Ein Herz und eine Seele (Twin Souls)
Vit'o Staviarsky	Auffangstation (Reception Center)

Slovenia

Milan Dekleva	Audrey Hepburn, slišiš metlo budističnega učenca
Goran Vojnović	Tschefuri raus

Turkey

Sema Kaygusuz	Ein Ort in deinem Gesicht (A Place in Your Face)
Semra Topal	Disintegration of the sacred skin

Ukraine

Jurij Izdryk

Der 2-Gigabyte-USB-Stick
(The Two Gigabyte USB Stick)

Marianna Kijanowska

Der Pfad am Fluss/Prometheus
(The Path by the River/Prometheus)

Andrij Ljubka

Terrorismus: Ein Lehrwerk
(Terrorism: A Textbook)

Tanja Maljartschuk

Tierwort (Animal Word)

Viktor Neborak

Geschichte aus der Vyhovska-Straße
(Story from Vyhovska Street)

Judit Ágnes Kiss

Der Brennesseljóska (Stinging-Nettle Jóska)

Ákos Fodor

Punkte/Gongklänge (Points/Gong Sounds)

The Literaris Festival of Reading on November 18, 2010

With the help and sponsorship of KulturKontakt, the works by the three top winners of the Bank Austria Literaris award will be translated into German and published by Wieser Verlag.

In order to present these award-winning writings to a wider audience, during the “Buch Wien” book fair, the „Lesefest“ („Festival of Reading“) of the Bank Austria Literaris will be staged at Radio Kultur Haus Wien on November 18, 2010, where Fritz von Friedel will read from the prizewinning works.

November 18, 2010, 7.30 p.m.

Bank Austria Literaris 2010

Lesefest (Festival of Reading)

ORF Radiokulturhaus

Argentinierstrasse 30a, 1040 Vienna