



**international  
literature festival**

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**the european  
poet of  
freedom**

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17–19 March 2016 · GDAŃSK



# THE EUROPEAN POET OF FREEDOM

is the only Polish festival dedicated to the latest European poetry. During the Festival we announce the winner of a most unique award – for the volume of foreign-language poetry translated into Polish. For this reason alone it is worth joining us for the three days in March.

A poem allows us to see the world and ourselves from a different perspective, broadens our horizons, frees us from stereotypes, preconceptions and cognitive clichés. A poem is a lesson in empathy. It opens our eyes to reality and teaches us to take it with a pinch of salt. This is how we understand freedom as embedded in the name of the festival and the award.

Coming into contact with great poetry written in other languages offers us yet another thing – the possibility, despite cultural differences, to meet others in a vision and experience in the hope of discovering our deepest, translingual and transnational common ground, such as a smile or a handshake.

## **TADEUSZ DĄBROWSKI**

artistic director  
of the European Poet of Freedom  
International Literary Festival

# PROGRAMME

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**17** MARCH, THURSDAY

European Solidarity Centre – library	5:00 P.M.	<b>Nominees 2016 – Meeting</b> with Sergei Stratanovski (Russia) and Adam Pomorski, translator of <i>Graffiti</i> Moderator: Barbara Marciniak → s.15
	6:00 P.M.	<b>Nominees 2016 – Meeting</b> with Ana Blandiana (Romania) and Joanna Kornaś-Warwas, translator of <i>Mea Patria A4</i> Moderator: Karol Maliszewski → s.10
City Culture Institute	7:30 P.M.	<b>Art of Freedom – Debate</b> with D. A. Powell (U.S.), Olga Tokarczuk and Stefan Chwin Moderators: Tadeusz Dąbrowski, Agnieszka Wolny-Hamkała → s.16
	8:30 P.M.	<b>Critical Quarter</b> – Piotr Śliwiński on experiencing poetry → s.18
	9:00 P.M.	<b>Poetry Meeting in Thirteen-Part Harmony:</b> poetry readings in original versions by Festival guests → s.17
	10:00 P.M.	<b>Concert:</b> Marcin Świątlicki + Jazzfliki → s.17

# 18 MARCH, FRIDAY

Faculty of Languages, University of Gdańsk	11:00 A.M.	<b>University of European Poetry – Meeting</b> with Paula Bozalongo (Spain), Versopolis poet Moderator: Olga Nowak → s.24
	12:00 A.M.	<b>University of European Poetry – Meeting</b> with Versopolis poets Goran Čolakhodžić (Croatia), Veronika Dintinjana (Slovenia), Gjoko Zdraveski (Macedonia) and translators Danuta Cirić-Straszyńska, Dorota Jovanka Čirić and Joanna Pomorska Moderator: Natalia Wyszogrodzka–Liberadzka → s.24
	2:00 P.M.	<b>University of European Poetry – Meeting</b> with Versopolis poet Jonathan Edwards (Great Britain) and translator Maciej Świerkocki Moderator: Tomasz Wiśniewski → s.24
“Pod Żółtciem” Library	4:00 P.M.	<b>Nominees 2016 – Meeting</b> with Daniel Jonas (Portugal), author of <i>Passageiro frequente</i> Moderator: Piotr Śliwiński → s.13
	5:00 P.M.	<b>Nominees 2016 – Meeting</b> with Lidija Dimkova (Macedonia) and Danuta Cielic-Straszyńska, translator of <i>pH Neutralna za životot i smrtta</i> Moderator: Andrzej Franaszek → s.11
	6:00 P.M.	<b>Nominees 2016 – Meeting</b> with Yahya Hassan (Denmark) and Bogusława Sochańska, translator of <i>Digte</i> Moderator: Grzegorz Jankowicz → s.12
City Culture Institute	7:30 P.M.	<b>About Them Right Here – Talks on translation</b> with Andrzej Kopacki and Piotr Sommer Moderator: Grzegorz Jankowicz → s.19
	8:30 P.M.	<b>Critical Quarter</b> – Karol Maliszewski on experiencing poetry → s.18
	9:00 P.M.	<b>Crossing Borders. Discussion</b> with Versopolis poets Moderator: Tomasz Wiśniewski → s.24

# 19 MARCH, SATURDAY

"Pod Żółciem" Library	11:00 A.M.	<b>Confrontations</b> – Jacek Dehnel vs. Piotr Sommer Moderator: Anna Kałuża → s.20
	12:00 A.M.	<b>Nominees 2016 – Meeting</b> with Vanni Bianconi and Joanna Wajs, translator of <i>Pronuncerai il mio nome</i> (In Italian with Polish translation) Moderator: Jarosław Mikołajewski → s.9
	1:00 P.M.	<b>Nominees 2016 – Meeting</b> with Anikó Polgár (Hungary) and Anna Górecka, translator of <i>Régészniő körömcipőben</i> Moderator: Justyna Sobolewska → s.14
City Culture Institute	3:00 P.M.	<b>Judge the Book by Its Cover – Debate</b> with Przemek Dębowski, Anna Pol and Marcin Wicha Moderator: Justyna Sobolewska → s.21
	3:45 P.M.	<b>Critical Quarter</b> – Grzegorz Jankowicz on experiencing poetry → s.18
	4:00 P.M.	<b>Poetry from across the Ocean – Meeting</b> with D. A. Powell (U.S.) (In English with Polish translation) Moderator: Tadeusz Dąbrowski → s.20
	5:00 P.M.	<b>Confrontations</b> – Ryszard Krynicki vs. Jacek Podsiadło Moderator: Agnieszka Wolny-Hamkało → s.22
Gdańsk Shakespeare Theatre	8:00 P.M.	<b>European Poet of Freedom Gdańsk Literary Award Ceremony</b> – <i>Winged Words. A Bouquet of Quill Feathers</i> directed by Paweł Passini → s.6

# 21 MARCH, MONDAY

Centre for  
Contemporary  
Art Ujazdowski  
Castle  
Jazdów 2,  
Warsaw

6:30 P.M.

**Poetry readings.** Guests: Anikó Polgár, Siergiej Stratanowski, Ana Blandiana, Lidija Dimkovska, Daniel Jonas and others. Poems in Polish will be read by Beata Jewiarz and Łukasz Lewandowski.

## VENUES

### City Culture Institute

ul. Długi Targ 39/40

### European Solidarity Centre

Biblioteka, pl. Solidarności 1

### Faculty of Languages, University of Gdańsk

ul. Wita Stwosza 55

### “Pod Żółwciem” Library

ul. Św. Ducha 111/113

### Gdańsk Shakespeare Theatre

ul. Wojciecha Bogusławskiego 1



# THE EUROPEAN POET OF FREEDOM AWARD

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The City of Gdańsk Literary Award presents multiple languages, communities and literary world views. It has been awarded every other year since 2010. So far it has been received by **ULADZIMIR ARLOU** (Belarus), **DURS GRÜNBEIN** (Germany) and **DORTA JAGIĆ** (Croatia). The freedom in the title primarily denotes the courage to cross boundaries of culture, language, and politics and to shape poetic visions, however difficult and obscure they may be.

Every alternate year the competition nominates seven European authors, whose poems are published in special bilingual volumes, most often for the first time on the Polish market. It is worth noting that alongside the poet awarded the 100 000 PLN prize, his translator is also recognised.

The laureates are chosen by a jury comprising distinguished Polish creative artists and intellectuals specialising in various artistic and scientific fields – **KRZYSZTOF CZYŻEWSKI, PAWEŁ HUELLE, ANDRZEJ JAGODZIŃSKI** (Secretary of the Jury), **ZBIGNIEW MIKOŁEJKO, KRZYSZTOF POMIAN** (Chairman of the Jury), **STANISŁAW ROSIEK, ANDA ROTTENBERG** and **OLGA TOKARCZUK**.

The Winner of this year's competition will be announced on 19 March at the Award Ceremony in the Gdańsk Shakespeare Theatre. The Ceremony will be directed by **PAWEŁ PASSINI**, theatre director, composer, and pioneer of interactive theatre in Poland.

**Gdańsk  
Shakespeare  
Theatre**

**19 March  
8:00 P.M.**

**"Winged Words. A Bouquet of Quill  
Feathers"** – the Gdańsk Literary Award  
Ceremony  
*Admission by invitation only*

**NOMINEES  
FOR THE EUROPEAN  
POET OF FREEDOM  
CITY OF GDAŃSK  
LITERARY AWARD  
2016**



Bianconi (...) is an original voice, separate yet rooted in tradition. I do not want to claim Bianconi is satisfied with his competition against the classics; his sophisticated formal stronghold, where nothing is left to chance (...), is the scaffolding, the structure, necessary to weld (...) pure poetic matter, recalcitrant and untamed.

**DAMIANO REALINI**, *La Regione*

The poet of little foreign lands, in his poems he raises the issue of emotional and linguistic uprooting, linguistic emigration, often portrayed against the background of the complicated history of modern Europe. Multilingual erudite and translator, his life is spread between Switzerland, Italy and Britain (...), he has created the Babel Festival of Literature and Translation and co-operated with many Swiss and Italian publishers.

**JOANNA WAJS**

# VANNI BIANCONI

*Wymówisz moje imię*  
(*Pronuncerai il mio nome*)

Translated from Italian  
by Joanna Wajs

**"Pod Żółtciem"**  
Library

**19 March**  
**12:00 P.M.**

**Author's meeting** with Vanni Bianconi  
and Joanna Wajs  
*Meeting in Italian with Polish interpreter*



# ANA BLANDIANA

*Moja ojczyzna A4*  
(*Patria mea A4*)

Translated from Romanian  
by Joanna Kornaś-Warwas

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The reflective dimension of Blandiana's poems, requiring the coexistence of clearly formulated questions and answers, does not stop the poet from rejecting the air of an omniscient and omnipotent sage. On the contrary, she often aims at the aesthetics of doubt and ignorance, confusion and ambiguity, which allow her to create a unique lyric tension.

**DAN CRISTEA**, *Luceafărul de dimineață*

Ana Blandiana (born Otilia Valeria Coman) is a writer engaged in the fight for civil equality in Romania. She had the courage to directly oppose Ceaușescu in public statements and interviews for Radio Freedom and the foreign press. In Ceaușescu's final years, Ana Blandiana's name was forbidden in Romania and her books were banned from libraries.

**JOANNA KORNAŚ-WARWAS**



Library of  
the European  
Solidarity Centre

17 March  
6:00 P.M.

**Author's meeting** with Ana Blandiana  
and Joanna Kornaś-Warwas

The poems and ballads in the collection *pH Neutralna za životot i smrtta* (*pH Neutral History*) penetrate banal mundanity in search of the meaning of life. The poet, through her distinct perception of reality, depicts a world identical to the everyday world we have before our eyes, but seen from the perspective of the nomadic subject. It is not a sort of distraction from reality which imposes a new form of escapism, but an eye-to-eye encounter with her own dilemma and disagreement with the torn-apart world in which we live.

**GOCE SMILEVSKI**, *Naše pismo*

Lidija Dimkowska is an independent and original poet prone to bold self-reflection, a creator of unusual and often surprising associations and metaphors. She openly uses her freedom to create her own poetic world, (...) while preserving her allegiance to Macedonian cultural and religious tradition. The poet is an avid traveller and translator from Macedonian, Slovenian and Romanian.

**DANUTA CIRLIĆ-STRASZYŃSKA**

## LIDIJA DIMKOVSKA

*pH neutralna wobec życia i śmierci*  
(*pH Neutralna za životot i smrtta*)

Translated from Macedonian  
by Danuta Cirlić-Straszyńska

“Pod Żółtciem”  
Library

18 March  
5:00 P.M.

**Author’s meeting** with Lidija Dimkowska  
and Danuta Cirlić-Straszyńska



It rarely happens that one can hold a book that burns one's hands. And this is what I felt (...). Yahya Hassan did not write a pamphlet, did not write a manifesto – he gave us words and images describing how it feels to be Yahya Hassan, a Middle Eastern refugee's son, a son of two languages, a son of Denmark.

# YAHYA HASSAN

*Wiersze (Digte)*

Translated from Danish  
by Bogusława Sochańska

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LILLIAN MUNK RÖSING, *Politiken*

In an uncompromising and ruthless manner, Yahya Hassan discusses domestic violence, subjugation and the religious hypocrisy of adults and depicts life in an immigrant ghetto, where residents cynically abuse the social benefits offered by the state and forbid their children to integrate with Danish society, which results in marginalisation and criminal affiliations.

BOGUSŁAWA SOCHAŃSKA



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"Pod Żółwiem"  
Library

18 March  
6:00 P.M.

**Author's meeting** with Yahya Hassan  
and Bogusława Sochańska

# DANIEL JONAS

**Częsty przechodzień**  
**(Passagerio frequente)**

Translated from Portuguese  
by Michał Lipszyc

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Daniel Jonas's poetry spans very distinct eras, classical, romantic and modern, and creates a certain apotheosis of echoes, traces and heritage, all manifested with unusual subtlety. (...) The author masterfully uses rhetoric and verbal games, yet never allows them to turn into an empty or aimless exercise.

**ANTÓNIO GUERREIRO**, *Jornal Público Online*

Regarded as one of the strongest and most original and independent voices in modern Portuguese poetry. He possesses not only a broad range of topics but also formal discipline, and is able to preserve a balance in his attentive attitude towards the language.

Daniel Jonas is a pedagogue, playwright and translator, focusing mostly on anglophone and francophone literature.

**MICHAŁ LIPSZYC**

**"Pod Żółtciem"**  
**Library**

**18 March**  
**4:00 P.M.**

**Author's meeting** with Daniel Jonas



Being a woman is indeed nothing if not checking-in at consecutive stations of life, which have already been visited by scores of ‘travelling’ women. Pregnancy, labour, miscarriage, breastfeeding, dependence on others do not constitute a discrete, individual story but a ritual revisiting of the same stations in which goddesses and heroines embody various forms of female subjugation.

ÉVA BÁNKI, *ÚjNautilus*

A poet, literary historian, translator. Anikó Polgár graduated with a degree in Classics, translates from Latin and Ancient Greek and has written numerous academic works and essays on ancient literature.

## ANIKÓ POLGÁR

*Archeložka w czótenkach  
(Régésző körömcipőben)*

Translated from Hungarian  
by Anna Górecka



“Pod Żótwiem”  
Library

19 March  
1:00 P.M.

**Author’s meeting** with Anikó Polgár  
and Anna Górecka

# SIERGIEJ STRATANOWSKI

*Graffiti* (*Graffiti*)

Translated from Russian by Adam Pomorski

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15 Sergei Stratanovski is one of the most important figures in the history of Russian *samizdat* and the wonderful movement of so-called informal culture after 1968. Unrelenting in his poetic, ideological and political views, all his life he has been pursuing the responsibility for ideas of freedom and humanism, which has been affirmed by the influence of his poetry on many poets of younger generations and public activity. (...)

## ADAM POMORSKI

The collection *Graffiti* combines ironic poems and poetic notes, fragmentarily referring to urban street graffiti and revealing a sceptical view of the modern consciousness of the Russian Everyman in its horrific mental absurdity of an undying totalitarian and genocidal heritage.

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Library of  
the European  
Solidarity Centre

17 March  
5:00 P.M.

**Author's meeting** with Sergei  
Stratanovski and Adam Pomorski



# ART OF FREEDOM DEBATE

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The 'art of freedom' may well be the most difficult and the most beautiful of all kinds of art, since it concerns not only artistic activities but also life itself. The debate will focus on politics and the place of ideology in literature and in cultural politics. We will be interested in finding an answer to the question whether the aforementioned fields are mutually antagonistic. Can poetry be engaged in any of them? Where is the border between engagement and electioneering, between literature serving an idea and ideology or as manipulation in literature?

**City Culture  
Institute**

**17 March  
7:30 P.M.**

**Art of Freedom.** Debate of D. A. Powell, Olga Tokarczuk and Stefan Chwin; Moderators: Agnieszka Wolny-Hamkało and Tadeusz Dąbrowski

# POETRY MEETING IN THIRTEEN- PART HARMONY AND JAZZTLIKI'S CONCERT

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17

The first day of the Festival will conclude with an evening of poetry in a dozen languages. **D. A. POWELL**, the European Poet of Freedom Award nominee **VANNI BIANCONI**, **ANA BLANDIANA**, **LIDIJA**

**DIMKOVSKA**, **YAHYA HASSAN**, **DANIEL JONAS**, **ANIKÓ POLGÁR** and **SIERGIEJ STRATANOVSKI**, as well as the Versopolis poets **JONATHAN EDWARDS**, **PAULA BOZALONGO**, **VERONIKA DINTINJANA**, **GORAN ČOLAKHODŽIĆ** and **GJOKO ZDRAVESKI** will present their poems in the original languages.

**MARCIN ŚWIETLICKI** will combine poetry with music. A poet, prosateur and lead singer with Świetliki and Czarne Ciasteczka, will sing with Jazztliki, a band of young jazz musicians from the Tri-City.

City Culture Institute	17 March 9:00 P.M.	<b>Poetry Meeting in Thirteen-Part Harmony</b>
	17 March 10:00 P.M.	<b>Marcin Świetlicki and Concert by Jazztliki</b>

# CRITICAL QUARTER

## ON EXPERIENCING POETRY

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Renowned critics will talk about life and poetry from their own perspectives. Is it a vocation or a profession? Why is poetry an indispensable link in the transmission of culture? What does poetry offer and does it play a social role?

In their short speeches, or testimonies, the literary critics **GRZEGORZ JANKOWICZ**, **KAROL MALISZEWSKI** and **PIOTR ŚLIWIŃSKI** will try to convince us that poetry is not a discipline only available to initiates, specialists, or aesthetes but a platform for dialogue, and that reading poetry should not only be a holiday celebration but an everyday adventure helping us learn to listen to each other and to discover ourselves, and finally, that good poetry is always contemporary.

18

<b>Critical Quarter. On experiencing poetry</b>		
City Culture Institute	17 March 8:30 P.M.	Piotr Śliwiński
	18 March 8:30 P.M.	Karol Maliszewski
	19 March 3:45 P.M.	Grzegorz Jankowicz

# ABOUT THEM RIGHT HERE

## TALKS ON LANGUAGE AND TRANSLATION

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During a festival where poetry translators play one of the leading roles, the subject of translation cannot be omitted. In conversation with **PIOTR SOMMER** and **ANDRZEJ KOPACKI**, renowned translators and editors of *Literatura na Świecie* we will talk about the essence of translation, translator's duties and the state of Polish translatology. The pretext behind the conversation is the anthology *O nich tutaj* ["About Them Right Here"], a sort of encyclopaedia of language adventures, a selection of essays on translation and language published between 1984–2015.

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City Culture  
Institute

18 March  
7:30 P.M.

**About Them Right Here. Talks on  
language and translation** with Andrzej  
Kopacki and Piotr Sommer

# POLISH POETS CONFRONTATIONS

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**JACEK DEHNEL** and **PIOTR SOMMER**.  
**RYSZARD KRYNICKI** and **JACEK  
PODSIADŁO**. At first glance they have

nothing in common, they represent different generations and poetic schools, different ways of incorporating tradition and engaging with cultural texts. Nonetheless, these contrasts illustrate the variety in the idiomaticism of modern poetry, how multiple its inspirations, and in how many ways it reacts to political and civilisational changes. Will this discussion lead to the discovery of common ground in the discussants' world, and poetic, view? Will they emphasise the universal qualities of poetry, regardless of its aesthetics or ideational background?

<b>Confrontations</b>		
<b>"Pod Żółwiem" Library</b>	<b>19 March 11:00 A.M.</b>	Jacek Dehnel vs. Piotr Sommer
<b>City Culture Institute</b>	<b>19 March 6:00 P.M.</b>	Ryszard Krynicki vs. Jacek Podsiadło

# JUDGE THE BOOK BY ITS COVER DEBATE

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21

A graphic project can also carry meaning. It is not just a commentary on the content between the covers but also an extension and complement to it. At times it may even be a polemical variation on the content. How can a book embody a soul? We will find out from those who see it before we do.

“Book artists” – graphic designers and typographers – **PRZEMEK DĘBOWSKI** (Karakter), **ANNA POL** (Marginesy Publishing House) and **MARCIN WICHA** (author of *Jak przestałem kochać design* [“How I Stopped Loving Design”]) will participate in the debate.

City Culture  
Institute

19 March  
3:00 P.M.

**Judge the Book by its Cover.** Debate by  
Przemek Dębowski, Anna Pol and Marcin  
Wicha. Moderator: Justyna Sobolewska

One of the guests of the Festival is D. A. Powell, a critically acclaimed American poet, winner of the National Book Critics Circle Award, Kingsley Tufts Poetry Award, and Lyric Poetry Award (awarded by the Poetry Society of America). Born in 1963 in Albany, Georgia, he won renown with his poetic books: *Tea* (1998), *Lunch* (2000) and *Cocktails* (2004), which have been referred to as the AIDS trilogy, although the disease is just a pretext for more general musing on love, carnality and death expressed in unique language mixing pop-cultural quotations with romantic idiom and biblical pathos, violence with tenderness. He also published *Chronic* (2009), *Useless Landscape, or A Guide for Boys* (2012), and *Repast* (2015).

For the Festival the City Culture Institute published *Plamy z musu / How Must Might Stain*, a bilingual collection of D. A. Powell's poems.

# POETRY FROM ACROSS THE OCEAN D. A. POWELL

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No fear, here, of heritage nor of music nor, refreshingly, of authority. Mr. Powell recognizes in the contemporary the latest manifestations of a much older tradition: namely, what it is to be human.

**CARL PHILLIPS**, *The Kingsley and Kate Tufts Poetry Award*

Powell has a perfect ear... [His] great subject is passion, in all its stages and manifestations: passion sought, spent, relived in the mind, played out in language.

**DAN CHIASSON**, *The New Yorker*

<b>City Culture Institute</b>	<b>17 March 7:30 P.M.</b>	<b>Art of Freedom.</b> Debate of D.A. Powell, Olga Tokarczuk and Stefan Chwin; moderators: Agnieszka Wolny-Hamkało and Tadeusz Dqbrowski
	<b>19 March 4:00 P.M.</b>	<b>Poetry from Across the Ocean.</b> Author's meeting with D.A. Powell; presented by: Tadeusz Dqbrowski

# **VERSOPOLIS POETS**

**AT THE EUROPEAN  
POET OF FREEDOM  
FESTIVAL**



**VERSOPOLIS** is a literary network for poetry, founded in 2014 with the aim of supporting young European poets and promoting their work abroad. The network comprises 13 literary festivals, including the European Poet of Freedom International Literary Festival.



VERSOPOLIS

In its second year Versopolis has been promoting over 100 poets – Spanish, Croatian, Slovenian, Welsh and Macedonian, invited to Gdańsk, among other locations.

Poland is represented by **JUSTYNA BARGIELSKA, KRYSZYNA DĄBROWSKA, ŁUKASZ JAROSZ, GRZEGORZ KWIATKOWSKI, JAKOBE MANSZTAJN, ADAM PLUSZKA, KRZYSZTOF SIWCZYK** and **JULIA SZYCHOWIAK**. Poets' profiles, original and translated samples of their work, and the latest literary news from all over Europe are available at [versopolis.com](http://versopolis.com).

# PAULA BOZALONGO

## *Dreaming is getting it right in the past*

Translated from Spanish into Polish

by Marcin Kurek

Translated from Spanish into English

by Gordon E. McNeer

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This is poetry craving dialogue, spread between i and You, where 'i' is in lower case and 'You' in upper. Bozalongo finds a language of love devoid of pretence or demands. "Surprise me looking for love in the cold / or in the slow rainy day traffic" – one of the poems reads. Such are the texts: cold on the outside, burning from the inside. Meditative and expressionistic.

The poems are set in the hinterland, not far from the city where the protagonist has "an unsolved issue with". Decay precedes blossoming, fruit stones spell rot. Čolakhodžić's poems spread over abandoned structures of language and culture and their author "turns over the sorrow in the dark like the earth during autumn digging". Exuberant, dark poetry in the times of fireworks and paper flowers.

# GORAN ČOLAKHODŽIĆ

## *Beyond the Garden*

Translated from Croatian into Polish

by Dorota Jovanka Čirlić

Translated from Croatian into English

by the author

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While reading Dintinjana not only do we dive into the world of codes and symbols but we also spy on the author in her study – the texts are created both before our eyes and for our eyes. The father and his baby son, watched by the author on board a plane, transform into a relief; the biblical Veronica leaves to go shopping. Dintinjana. Reviver of statues. Sculptor of mundanities.

## VERONIKA DINTINJANA

### *Alphabet of Signs*

Translated from Slovenian into Polish  
by Joanna Pomorska  
Translated from Slovenian into English  
by the author with Rose Aasen,  
E. Underhill and Ciaran O’Driscoll

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## JONATHAN EDWARDS

### *My Family and Other Superheroes*

Translated from English by Maciej Świerkocki

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Edwards’s poetry makes you turn into a boy who, after days in bed with the flu, goes outside and sniffs the first breeze of spring and the whole of life ahead of him, gets on his bike and rides like the wind, taking in everyday events, little celebrations and minuscule secrets so that, in a number of years, when he goes down with adulthood, he can retrieve them from his own poems.



For Zdraveski writing equals a search for his own identity. In the centre of his poetry lies a house, not a home, which does not yet offer protection, which needs to be domesticated, filled with his personality. The protagonist walks the border between what is his own and what is inherited and borrowed. He wants to experience through

his own skin but the body already has its own story as “it remembers everything / even the fear of your mother”. He seeks to learn who he is and, simultaneously, is horrified of being solidified in this form. Which indeed is fortunate for his poems and for us.

# GJOKO ZDRAVESKI

*the body remembers everything*

Translated from Macedonian into Polish  
by Danuta Cirić-Straszyńska

Translated from Macedonian into English  
by Lazar Popov, Scott Stewart & Luke  
Crane

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Faculty of  
Languages,  
University of  
Gdańsk

18 March  
11:00 A.M.  
– 3:00 P.M.

**The University of European Poetry.**  
Meetings with Versopolis poets and  
translators

City Culture  
Institute

18 March  
9:00 P.M.

**Crossing Borders.** Discussion with  
Versopolis poets

## FESTIVAL'S WORKSHOPS

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How can we access literary texts without inhibition? How can we read in our own way, regardless of multiple readings added over time? How can we read critically, at times against the author's wishes, and engage with the text on equal terms? How can we unblock our imagination? **JACEK DEHNEL, KRZYSZTOF KUCZKOWSKI** and **PAWEŁ PRÓCHNIAK** will run Creative Reading Workshops for adults.

## READING LESSONS

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Can literature, as scrutinised from a school desk, also be fascinating? In the search for valuable literature, pupils and students will receive help from the literati, literary critics and historians **GRZEGORZ JANKOWICZ, ANNA KAŁUŻA** and **PIOTR ŚLIWIŃSKI**. Guests will meet pupils and students for Reading Lessons organised by the Tygodnik Powszechny Foundation.

Instytut Kultury Miejskiej	17–18 March	<b>Creative Reading Workshops</b> <i>Pre-registration is required, more: <a href="http://www.europejskipoetawalnosci.pl">www.europejskipoetawalnosci.pl</a></i>
	18 March	<b>Reading Lessons</b> <i>Closed registration</i>



## ORGANIZERS



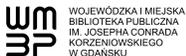
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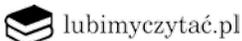


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The City Culture Institute in Gdańsk is the organiser of the European Poet of Freedom International Literary Festival. The Award is founded by the City of Gdańsk.

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**[info@europejskipoetawolnosci.pl](mailto:info@europejskipoetawolnosci.pl)**

City Culture Institute

Długi Targ 39/40, Gdańsk

phone: 58 760 72 16

**[www.ikm.gda.pl](http://www.ikm.gda.pl)**

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