HIRONDELLE

VOICES THAT CROSS BORDERS

Across languages, bodies and landscapes. Between intimate stories and history. Hirondelle publishes books that seek new ways of belonging to the world.

ADRIANA KUČI

Lili Bosniae

Adriana Kuči writes about history at the point where it ceases to be a date and becomes a body, a memory, a language. Lili Bosniae connects Sarajevo, Ljubljana, Darfur and medieval Bosnia, asking through the stories of women what war leaves behind long after it is supposed to have ended. A multilingual, lyrical novel about loss and non-belonging, but above all about the tenderness that survives despite everything.

''Where history falls silent, literature begins to speak." — Maja Drolec

ANA KALIN

I Should Have Met Her Yesterday (Včeraj bi jo morala spoznati)

After unsuccessful fertility treatments and personal disappointments, Živa leaves Slovenia and opens a small bookshop in the Netherlands. Yet a new place cannot erase the questions we carry with us. Ana Kalin writes about migration, belonging, inequality and new beginnings, and about the gradual realisation that home may not be a place, but a space in which we can truly encounter ourselves for the first time.

''Nothing in this novel is accidental." — Maja Črepinšek, Bukla

MAJA DROLEC

Where Will the Birds Fly When the Sky Runs Out? (Kam bodo letele ptice, ko bo zmanjkalo neba?)

When a long marriage comes to an end, a woman in later life unexpectedly discovers a new space for freedom, desire and intimacy. Then the water comes. The devastating floods of 2023 interrupt her private story with that of a community confronted by loss and solidarity. A novel about love and natural disaster, in which rising waters redraw the boundaries of human life itself.

''An exceptionally compelling read." — Gabriela Babnik Ouattara, Jantarna lastovka

LILIJANA HOMOVEC

Someone Always Leaves First (Nekdo vedno odide prvi)

Lila is a mature, independent woman who has already built a life on her own terms. When a younger man enters that life, she must decide whether she is willing to risk intimacy once again. Lilijana Homovec writes with tenderness but without sentimentality about love, ageing, the body, loss and autonomy — and, above all, about how life need not become smaller with age unless we allow it to.

''Lilijana Homovec paints the human soul poetically, with gentleness and longing." — Karmen Simonič Mervic

MARIJA JAKOPIN

Crystal Death (Kristalna smrt)

Shortlisted for Best Slovenian Crime Novel — Krimifest 2025

A murder takes place in a Slovenian forest. But in Marija Jakopin's novel, the forest is far more than a backdrop: her knowledge of nature, forestry and human psychology becomes an integral part of the crime plot itself. The case is investigated by detective Andrej and his colleague Damir, an unusual duo whose encounters bring humour, cultural differences and linguistic misunderstandings into an otherwise dark story.

''It is precisely the dynamic between the two that lends this dark story its lively undertone." — Dr Dan Podjed

METKA SUŠEC PRAČEK

I Am No Longer Afraid (Ni me več strah)

Following her husband's death, Sara, a lawyer approaching retirement, finds herself entering a stage of life for which society has already assigned her a role. She refuses to accept it. The novel explores widowhood, work, erotic desire, loneliness and ageing, but above all asks how a woman can reclaim the centre of her own story as the roles through which the world has defined her begin to fall away.

''Metka Sušec's writing could be described as intricate, filigree-like weaving." — Mimi Podkrižnik Tukarič

NIKOLAI JEFFS

Poems of an Unknown Anarchist (Pesmi neznanega anarhista)

Nikolai Jeffs, essayist, theorist, university professor and a long-standing thinker on postcolonialism, racism and social relations, brings political thought into poetry in Poems of an Unknown Anarchist. Yet these are not poems of slogans or manifestos. They are poems about the possibility of another world, written with anger, irony, lucidity and human warmth. Here, poetry once again becomes a space for a public voice — and for the question of who the future belongs to.

''A breath of fresh air that is by no means an anomaly in the tradition of Slovenian poetry and civic consciousness." — Muanis Sinanović

MIRJAM DULAR

Razglednice / Postcards

Bilingual Slovenian–English edition

A postcard is always addressed to someone. Someone leaves, someone stays; someone writes, someone waits to read the words. In this bilingual Slovenian–English collection, Mirjam Dular explores the space between two people: closeness and absence, the body, memory, language and everything that remains unspoken. The two languages are not merely an original and its translation, but two ways of approaching another person.

''Are you?" — "I. Am." — Mirjam Dular

POLONA CAMPOLUNGHI PEGAN

A Little House on Mars (Hišica na Marsu)

Bilingual Slovenian–Bosnian edition

In Polona Campolunghi Pegan's poetry, love begins in the body but does not end at its boundaries. Skin, breath and touch open out towards the sea, the moon, the forest, the desert and, finally, Mars. This bilingual collection in Slovenian and Bosnian creates an intimate space for two, where eros meets vulnerability, closeness meets distance, and language becomes both a boundary and a bridge.

''Above all, I would say that I reject boundaries." — Polona Campolunghi Pegan, interview for Jantarna lastovka

LITERATURE IN TRANSLATION

SARGON BOULUS

The Knife Sharpener (Brusilec nožev)

Selected poems translated into Slovenian

A selection of poems by the Iraqi-Assyrian poet Sargon Boulus (1944–2007), one of the most important voices in contemporary Arabic poetry. His poems emerge at the intersection of exile, memory, war and the constant search for home. They connect the Arabic poetic tradition with international modernism and are inhabited by travellers, exiles, cities and shadows of the past. Through them, Boulus reflects on identity, loss, love and the human condition. The clarity of his language conceals extraordinary lyrical and intellectual power.

''A pivotal poet, and perhaps the most important contemporary poet since al-Sayyab?" — Khalid al-Maaly

HIRONDELLE

Hirondelle is an independent Slovenian publishing house built around its authors, meticulous editorial work and books that move across languages, cultures and borders. We primarily publish contemporary literature — fiction and poetry — while also developing a carefully curated programme of nonfiction, children's books and young adult literature. We pay particular attention to women's voices, migration, belonging and literature in translation, including works from Africa and the Arab world.

We regard every manuscript as something fragile and precious. We polish it like a diamond — with the precision of craftsmanship, patience and care. Yet we believe that literature is not born of knowledge and discipline alone. It also requires a spark, something elusive: the moment when words lift from the page, begin to glow and, like a swallow, cross the night sky.

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