

New Czech Books 2020



Introduction

Dear readers,

Although the exceptional circumstances of the pandemic year of 2020 mostly prevented Czech writers from attending international book fairs and festivals, it didn't stop them from writing. As a result, this publication is able to provide you with an update on some of the excellent works which emerged across all genres.

In 2021, Czech books in translation will be presented at the traditional book fairs in Frankfurt and London, but also in Warsaw as the guest of honour, and very importantly in Paris, where the Czech Republic is returning to after more than ten years. The Czech Republic will also be the guest of honour at the Lakes International Comic Art Festival in Kendal, UK.

Throughout 2021, the Czech Literary Centre aims to focus on rejuvenating interest in Czech poetry. Recently, the Czech Republic has witnessed a growth in environmentally conscious poetry written by the younger generation of poets, and in this catalogue we look at the work of Jonáš Zbořil.

In the field of prose, 2020 saw a large number of talented young writers come to prominence: Lucie Faulerová, Lenka Elbe, Helena Hrstková, Vratislav Kadlec and Klára Vlasáková. Experts and the media were also impressed by the prose work of writers who are normally associated with other disciplines or genres – such as Martin Daneš (translating and journalism), Miřenka Čechová (ballet and performance), and Sylva Fischerová (poetry). Bookshops also offered new works by the stalwarts of Czech prose, whose bestsellers have been translated into various languages and have established a loyal readership abroad – Jiří Hájíček, Jakuba Katalpa and Markéta Pilátová.

I would also like to draw your attention to some outstanding works of non-fiction – for example husband and wife Petr and Petra Třešňák's book about raising a child with serious disabilities. I trust you will discover some inspiring literature in this year's edition of *New Czech Books*!

Martin Krafl

*Programme coordinator for the presentation
of the Czech Republic at international book fairs
Head coordinator of the Czech Literary Centre*

CzechLit – Czech Literary Centre

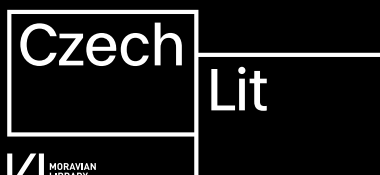
CzechLit – Czech Literary Centre is a state-funded organisation supporting and promoting Czech literature abroad and in the Czech Republic. The centre is a section of the Moravian Library.

The Czech Literary Centre:

- Promotes prose, literature for children and young adults, poetry, drama, comics, non-fiction and new forms of literature
- Acts as an information hub for foreign publishers, translators, Czech studies specialists, event organisers and others interested in Czech literature
- Provides grants for authors to attend cultural events abroad
- Cooperates on international literature and translation projects with partner institutions abroad and in the Czech Republic
- Organises residencies for foreign translators, Czech studies specialists and authors
- Runs the bilingual website czechlit.cz with information about books, authors, grants, residencies and Czech literature news
- Cooperates with the network of Czech Centres, which promote Czech culture abroad, as well as with other governmental and non-governmental cultural and non-profit organisations and individuals
- Is involved in the presentation of Czech literature at book fairs abroad in cooperation with its parent institution
- Holds the annual Susanna Roth Award for young translators of Czech literature

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Fiction

Miřenka Čechová

BALLET DANCERS

A fascinating story about a ballerina's disillusionment in the bohemian atmosphere of 1990's Prague.

This fictional diary of a young student dancer at a conservatory not only uncovers the world of ballet schools, dormitories, cut-throat competition and complete exhaustion, but also Prague in the 1990s with its nightclubs, drugs and sexual experimentation. *Ballet Dancers*, though, focuses more on “old style” classical dancing, an outdated method which should have been discarded a long time ago: destroying the

individual through drills and humiliation in the quest for robotically perfect creatures for whom failure is not an option, and whose body does not even belong to them.

The director and ballet dancer Miřenka Čechová draws from her own experiences and diary entries with a fine sense of uncompromising self-irony.



Baletky
Paseka, 2020, 224 pp

“*Ballet Dancers* shows where breaking bones can lead – to the unwavering conviction that a simple life is not worth living and that real experiences can only be found through suffering. At a time when perfection is celebrated, a happy ending in the form of failure is as relieving as icy water on a ballerina’s crippled insteps.”

—A2

“What we should be left with is the seriousness of the subject which the author explores on various levels – a critique of a power system which abuses its own authority and absurd standards, and contrastingly, an openness towards the loosening of gender differences.”

—iLiteratura

Photo: Agáta Faltová



Mířenka Čechová (1982) is involved in dance and physical theatre both in the Czech Republic and abroad. During her studies she received a prestigious Fulbright scholarship for research and teaching at the American University in Washington DC, where she was the first person ever to teach physical theatre. She has performed in more than 18 productions, many of which were awarded important international prizes. She has been involved in more than ten productions as a director and choreographer, often in international co-productions. As an academic she has taught and lectured at several American universities. She has helped found two theatre groups and has been successful as a writer with her fictional literary-photographic-comics project *Miss AmeriKa* (2018) and the fictional diary of a ballet student *Baletky* (Ballet Dancers, 2020).

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English, German and French
 sample translations available

Lucie Faulerová

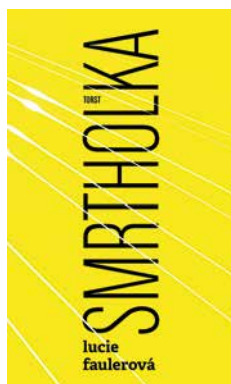
DEATHMAIDEN

A brisk, engagingly written family mosaic about three siblings and the desire to live your own life in spite of the darkness.

While travelling on the subway, the main protagonist Marie witnesses the suicide of a young girl. This tragic event forces her to consider her own chaotic life, relationships and darkness. To the rhythmic rumble of the train, scenes appear from the past, and these tragic, as well as occasionally comic fragments, are gradually pieced together to form the story of her family and two siblings. No matter how much

Marie's life is filled with tragedy, depression and suicidal thoughts, there is also humour (albeit cynical) and a forthright look at relationships and love.

The novel has been selected to be part of the EU CELA project, which connects and mentors emerging European authors and translators.



Smrtholka
Torst, 2020, 208 pp

“Lucie Faulerová is extremely adept at portraying relationships and intimate moments. For example, the scenes between Marie and her brother Adam are very touching and expertly capture the feelings and experiences that occasionally overwhelm us all.”

—Czech Television, Art

“*Deathmaiden* contains an almost filmic sequence of images. As though consciousness and unconsciousness flowed into and out of each other, over and through each other, like in film editing and montage.”

—Aktuálně

Photo: Ondřej Lipár



Lucie Faulerová (1989) is a writer who graduated in Czech Studies from Palacký University in Olomouc. Her doctoral thesis examined the phenomenon of the unreliable narrator. She has been an editor at the literary journal *Aluze* since 2014, and also works with Czech conceptual artist Kateřina Šedá – for example, on the book *Brnox*, which won the 2017 Magnesia Litera Award in the journalism category. Her debut novel, *Lapači prachu* (*Dust Catchers*), was published in 2017 and rights have been sold to Germany and Spain. Faulerová's second novel, *Smrtholka* (*Deathmaiden*), came out in 2020.

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English, German, French, Dutch,
Spanish, Portuguese, Italian,
Slovenian, Serbian, Romanian, Polish
sample translations available

Matěj Hořava

STOPOVER

These stories from Georgia by the mysterious novelist Matěj Hořava provide a gripping account of an exotic country lying between Asia and Europe.

The story's narrator is a Czech university teacher in Tbilisi, who lives in a block of flats for foreigners on the outskirts of the large city, in a closed-off world. He flees from his current situation to other regions, but also to his homeland, where he experiences his own stopovers and love. Matěj Hořava

follows on successfully from his first autobiographical novel set in the Banat in Romania – his narrator continues to search for the essence of home and human nature in a fragmentary depiction of everyday life, using a lyrical prose which is similar to literary reportage.



Mezipřistání
Host, 2020, 136 pp

“This is writing that is revolutionary, different, bold, dreamlike, deep and wild.”

—*Reflex*

“The language used is one of the leitmotifs. Hořava’s unique and unmistakable poetic was certainly in full flow in his second book.”

—*Czech Radio, Vltava*

Photo (for illustrative purposes only): Vojta Sedláček



Matěj Hořava (pseudonym, 1980) lives outside the Czech Republic and little is known about his life. His debut novel *Pálenka: Prózy z Banátu* (Distilled Spirit: Stories from the Banat, 2014) was received enthusiastically by Czech readers and critics and was awarded the Magnesia Litera for discovery of the year. The novel also won the 2015 Czech Book Award and has been published in five languages. In *Mezipřístání* (Stopover, 2020), his second novella, he follows on from his debut work by describing another region: Georgia.

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English and German sample
translations available

Klára Vlasáková CRACKS

This disturbing debut by the young screenwriter is an original analysis of a society ignoring its impending doom.

When the novel opens with a mysterious globe arriving to Earth from outer space, it could easily just be another sci-fi story. However, Klára Vlasáková avoids genre stereotypes and describes a society through resigned, apathetic figures who remain lifeless, becoming ever more blind and affected by the

unknown sphere, the presence of which is left entirely unexplained. The gloomy but fast-paced psychological narrative could be a metaphor for a dehumanized society which has been transformed into a lifeless machine. A stylistically convincing novel which forces the reader to think.



Praskliny
Listen, 2020, 232 pp

“The leitmotif of *Cracks* is a mysterious object in the form of a white levitating sphere, whose sudden and inexplicable appearance brings disquiet to a weary human society on Earth, blighted by climate change, and with it a whole series of burning questions to which no-one can find a plausible answer”

—*iLiteratura*

“Klára Vlasáková presents an image of a world in crisis which is not futuristic – in fact most readers will recognize it: it is a world which has lost the ability to govern and control its own destiny.”

—*Aktuálně*

Photo: Ondřej Lipár



Klára Vlasáková (1990) is a screenwriter and journalist who writes screenplays for film, comics as well as radio plays. She works regularly with several media organizations – Czech Television, Czech Radio and the cultural section of the newspaper *Právo*. Her debut novel *Praskliny* (Cracks) was published in 2020.

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English, German and French
sample translations available

Markéta Pilátová

DIVINER

A novel about people with extraordinary, supernatural powers in a country without faith.

Markéta Pilátová has chosen to set her novel, *Diviner*, in the misty landscape of the Jeseníky Mountains in North Bohemia, infamous as the site of gruesome medieval witch trials. However, she combines this setting with parallel worlds bordering on the fairy tale. In spite of that, the story takes place in the present and focuses on two very

different men with “supernatural” powers, abilities verging on sorcery. Both the diviners and the powerful manipulators of the communist regime use their abilities in their own ways, inadvertently drawing attention to the atheist Czechs who desperately wish for something to believe in: something mysterious, miraculous or spiritual.



Senzibil
Torst, 2020, 320 pp

“In *Diviner*, Markéta Pilátová’s experiences from Latin America, where faith, ritual and magic have a key role, intertwine with the realities of life in the vicinity of her current residence.”

—*Czech Radio, Vltava*

Photo: Jiří Sobota



Markéta Pilátová (1973) is a novelist, Hispanics scholar and journalist. She graduated in Romance Studies and history from Palacký University in Olomouc. After graduating she worked there as a lecturer for six years. From 2007 to 2008 she was the foreign affairs editor of the weekly magazine *Respekt*. She subsequently travelled to Argentina and Brazil: for five years she taught the children of Czechs who had emigrated from Czechoslovakia to Brazil and Argentina. She has published essays, articles on international politics, reports, reviews, short stories and columns for several different Czech publications (e.g. *Respekt*, *Lidové noviny*, *Právo*). In addition to novels she has also written award-winning books for children and young adults. Her books have been translated into German, Dutch, Polish, Portuguese and Spanish. She lives in Prague and Velké Losiny.

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English, German and French
sample translations available

Vratislav Kadlec

THE FOREST BOUNDARY

Vratislav Kadlec's prose debut offers seventeen short stories which in many ways are reminiscent of Jorge Luis Borges.

A man whose name is stolen by a magpie, faces disappearing into the mist, a mysterious body behind a bathroom wall and a broken coffee machine causing a catastrophe at sea – but also the inability to convey your feelings to your loved ones, childhood injustices eating away under the skin, separations hanging like a heavy cloud over summer days, a fear of open doors, and groping for an authenticity which is slipping through your fingers. Beech leaves, animal cemeteries and stars at the end of the world.

Each story explores different types of boundaries, indistinct thresholds both internal and external, as well as milestones in life from which there is no coming back. The characters often find themselves in unhappy situations, though there is still some humour in the narration and we occasionally sense the narrator's wry smile behind some of the text.



Hranice lesa
Argo, 2019, 176 pp

“The book offers a very precise mixture of irony, humour and nostalgia, linking it to the broad tradition of short-story writers from Gogol to Kafka, Čapek and Borges, with a distinctive, purely contemporary language and style of narration.”

—H7O

“Big issues in small stories. Vratislav Kadlec's short stories are equal to those by the masters. This collection shows that a short story can be more satisfying than a drawn-out novel.”

—Aktuálně

Photo: Jan Kříkava



Vratislav Kadlec (1981) is a writer and translator. He was editor-in-chief of the Czech literary monthly *PLAV* and founder of the theatre group *Prvobytně pospolná společnost* (Primitive communal society). He lives in Prague and is a translator of fiction, in particular for children and young adults. *Hranice lesa* (The Forest Boundary, 2019) is his short-story debut.

AWARDS:
2020 Magnesia Litera Award
– Discovery of the Year

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www.argo.cz

English and French sample
translations available

Jiří Hájíček

SAILING SHIPS ON LABELS

A novelistic image of an ordinary middle-aged woman who has to start over.

Jiří Hájíček's fifth novel describes over twelve chapters the story of a university professor approaching fifty whose husband leaves her for a younger woman. Her only child has now grown up, she is estranged from her sister, her parents have to be looked after and she is beginning a new life in South Bohemia – an environment which is emblematic for Hájíček. He once again demonstrates his strengths

as a character writer and expert on female qualities. The reader sympathises with the main character, Marie, due to her realism and sense of irony. The aim of the novel is not only to describe the romances of an abandoned middle-aged woman, but to show readers that even a wearisome, lonely, difficult, though mainly ordinary life is worthy of a novelist's attention.



Plachetnice na vinětách
Host, 2020, 296 pp

“Life is no picnic. Problems arise from a troublesome family history, from the relationships in a village where they haven't quite forgiven you for going to the city in search of a better life, and from ideas about responsibility and about yourself. Jiří Hájíček writes extremely well about all of these. He does so with ease, a knowledge of human nature and with humour.”

—*Deník*

“Hájíček has written one of his best books – quiet and ordinary, distinctly unaggressive, in fact minimalist. Its strength lies in the spoken and unspoken, in the possible, in a subject which everyone can immediately relate to.”

—*Lidové noviny*

Photo: Lucie Kaňová



Jiří Hájíček (1967) is a prose writer who has written five novels. He lives in České Budějovice in South Bohemia and has worked as a bank clerk since 1993. He began as a poet and made his debut as a prose writer in 1998 with the short-story collection *Snídaně na veřejí* (Breakfast on Safety Island). Hájíček is part of the realist trend in contemporary Czech literature. His writing mainly draws from the environment of rural South Bohemia. He has won the most important Czech literary prize, the Magnesia Litera Award, three times. His books have been published in a number of European countries including Germany.

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English, German and French sample
translations available

Sylva Fischerová

THOUSANDS OF PLATEAUS

These short stories by the renowned poet offer polished texts which surprise us with their paradoxes and stylistic experiments.

Sylva Fischerová's new stories are relatively short but have clearly been pared to the bone, to a pure crystalline form which is sustained by atmosphere and style and yet raises profound questions and highlights original and unclichéd paradoxes. They are built up vividly, laconically, playfully, but also with sophistication: we have the interweaving

of high and low culture, the past with the present, dialogue with narration, literature with life. The result is a remarkable collection of short stories which is neither developing nor recycling previous ideas, instead it offers the best prose that Sylva Fischerová has written and ranks amongst the top contemporary Czech prose.



Tisíce plošin
Druhé město, 2020, 154 pp

“The short story is a genre which Fischerová feels very much at home in. She is in her element within these ten pages. Here she is at her most convincing – and not only in the context of her own work, but in Czech short-story telling in general since 1989. *Thousands of Plateaus* has a very good chance of being successful in translation, and not only because of the reference in the title.”

—*Lidové noviny*

“[Fischerová] has published ten collections of poetry and therefore knows how to quickly dive into the depths of languages and slang, which she employs brilliantly and plays with very contentedly.”

—*Czech Radio*

Photo: Karel Cudlín



Sylva Fischerová (1963) is one of the most formidable Czech writers of her generation. She is the author of ten collections of poems, three volumes of short stories, two novels and two children's books. Her prose book *Evropa je jako židle Thonet, Amerika je pravý úhel* (Europe Is Like a Thonet Chair America Is Right Angle, 2012) inspired by the writer's travels in America was nominated for the prestigious Magnesia Litera Award and has been published in German. Fischerová was born in Prague, but lived in Olomouc until the age of eighteen. She initially studied philosophy and physics at Charles University but eventually switched over to classical philology. She currently holds a position in the Department of Greek and Latin Studies at Charles University, Faculty of Arts. She specializes in Greek literature, philosophy, and religion. Sylva Fischerová's work has been translated into many languages – three collections of poems have been published in Great Britain and the US.

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English and German sample
translations available

Jakuba Katalpa ZUZANA'S BREATH

The story of a young Jewish girl's nightmarish adolescence during the Second World War, written in raw language.

Zuzana is of Jewish origin and the daughter of a confectioner from Holašovice. She has been loved by two men since she was young, though she is only interested in one of them. The story depicts the German occupation and the war-torn end of a girl's "sweet" world, which had been full of the sunlit certainties of childhood. The environment of the transportation and concentration camp in which Zuzana finds herself during her adolescence is described

naturalistically and realistically, which is further enhanced by the raw, harsh language of the narrative. Zuzana survives but there is not even a sweet homecoming as her childhood friendship with two boys has been disrupted. The book is divided into three parts – childhood, adolescence and adulthood – describing the transformation from childhood to womanhood during a period of transformation in society.



Zuzanin dech
Host, 2020, 309 pp

"The dramatic story does not examine the issues of guilt and punishment or the weight of great history. With gentle, yet surgical precision, Jakuba Katalpa searches for what is hidden beneath the surface; she does not judge, she describes; sensitively recording how someone is able to keep going at all times."

—Host

"The author's style is raw and yet concise and urgent, giving the book an energy which keeps the reader's attention even after reading it."

—Právo

Photo: author's archive



Jakuba Katalpa (1979) is a writer who made her debut in 2006 with the novella *Je hlína k snědku?* (Is Soil for Eating?), for which she was nominated the Magnesia Litera Award for discovery of the year. In 2009 her novel *Hořké moře* (The Bitter Sea) was nominated for the Jiří Orten Award. In 2013 the prose work *Němci* (Germans) was awarded the Josef Škvorecký Prize, the Czech Book Award and was nominated for the Magnesia Litera Award for prose. The novel has been published in translation in five countries including Germany and Italy. In 2017 she published *Doupě* (The Den), her meticulous, multi-level novel set in the present day. Her most recent novel is *Zuzanin dech* (Zuzana's Breath, 2020).

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English, German and French
sample translations available

Lenka Elbe

URANOVA

A thrilling, darkly comic novel set in a town with a long mining tradition.

The story's main character is Henry Robotham, an Englishman in his 50s. In August 1968, his girlfriend Angela was in Jáchymov, tracking down her Czech ancestors, when she fell into a hole and vanished without a trace. Thirty years later, Henry's therapist recommends he return to the town of uranium, silver and heinous political crimes. He does so in order to bring

to an end once and for all the trauma which has plagued his soul for three decades. He is accompanied on his journey to the post-revolutionary Czech Republic by his neurotic partner Suzanne, all of which marks the start of a successful literary experiment combining fantasy, absurdity and horror.

"In addition to being entertaining and a pleasure to read, this novel also raises serious issues with an unobtrusive elegance. Lenka Elbe knows how to create original and distinctive characters and place them in situations where comic absurdity subtly transforms into mournful melancholy and vice versa."

—*Respekt*

"*Uranova* is remarkable because Lenka Elbe's literary debut is not just another manifesto by the new generation, and it doesn't even try to hold up the proverbial mirror to society. It is first and foremost a courageous genre experiment which doesn't need to boast about its uniqueness."

—*iDNES*



Uranova
Argo, 2020, 400 pp

Photo: Jan Křikavá



Lenka Elbe (1979) lives in Prague, where she graduated in journalism and mass communication from Charles University. After a short spell as a journalist she began working in advertising and occasionally as a television screenwriter. The main theme of her work is freedom and the never-ending struggle against the dark forces which attempt to destroy it. In her writings she likes to combine reality with the world of fantasy. Her writing has been influenced by the works of Franz Kafka, Umberto Eco and Haruki Murakami. In addition to writing she is also involved in graphic design and photography. Her novel *Uranova* (2020) was chosen for the seventh Susanna Roth Award for beginner translators of Czech literature.

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English and French sample
translations available

Martin Daneš SCATTERED WORDS

A novel about the life of one of the greatest Czech-Jewish writers, Karel Poláček.

The central figure in this biographical novel set during the Second World War is the journalist and writer Karel Hirsch, whose name, however, is a cover for the famous Czech writer Karel Poláček. Hirsch, trapped in Prague, is unable to get out in time and is gradually limited in what he can do by the ever-tightening restrictions. In spite of the situation, he is able to stay remarkably calm by trying to see the onerous circumstances around him as an opportunity to change his life. He also has a late romantic encounter with his lover, the Jewish lawyer Dora Vaňáková, to whom he runs from his furious wife. For Czech writers who found themselves in the midst of war, it was typical that the books they wrote during

this time of crisis, face to face with death, were their most optimistic and bright. Karel Poláček, who died on the Death March from Auschwitz, was no exception – and the novel captures this in the story of his life. Although it is a novel about the final years of this great writer, it is not a biography: it only describes the final moments of his life. Martin Daneš also has an affinity with the writer as he has translated two of his books into French and has been interested in him for a long period.

The novel was published simultaneously in French entitled *Les Mots brisés* by the prestigious French publishers La Différence.



Rozsypaná slova
Druhé město, 2020, 334 pp

“Scattered Words is not just a novel about Karel Poláček or his alter ego Karel Hirsch. It is also about searching for a stance in life which would allow us to express ourselves freely, regardless of the age, its values and social conventions, so that we wouldn’t have to deny our own identity or be constantly ashamed of our own, all too human, frailty.”

—H70

Photo: Karel Steiner



Martin Daneš (1962) is a Czech writer who emigrated to Paris in the 1980s and studied journalism and international relations. After returning to the Czech Republic he contributed articles to the Czech, French and Belgian press. At the start of the 1990s he was a diplomatic advisor in the Office of the Czech President. In the following years he became the editor-in-chief of several periodicals: *Denní Telegraph* (1992–1993), the monthly *Mezinárodní politika* (2000) and even *Hustler* (2001–2004). His first book was published in 1998. He also translates Czech fiction into French: in addition to one book by Karel Čapek he has also translated two novels by Karel Poláček: *Muži v ofsajdu* (Men Offside, 1931) and *Bylo nás pět* (We Were a Handful, 1946). He lives in Paris and also writes in French.

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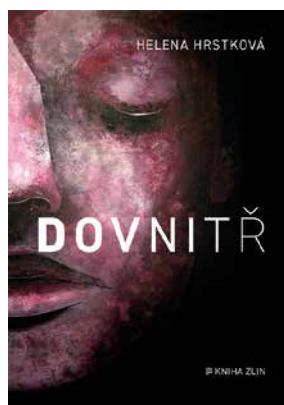
Helena Hrstková

INWARDS

A complex story about loneliness and violence, interspersed with dreams and the possibility of hope in the form of love.

Helena Hrstková has written a homage to psychological novels and deals with horrors such as abuse, sex trafficking, the porn industry and murder, as well as the institutional treatment of violent behaviour, all interweaved with descriptions of dreams. Narrated from an unconventional perspective alternating between the second and third person from the position of the narrator, the prose addresses the novella's protagonist, the outsider

Igor. She comments on the characters' behaviour and is herself a mysterious figure throughout. Igor is a lonely, love-sick man without a job or future, who has to confront the unexplained death of his neighbour, Zuza, as well as his own fears and the hope he has found on the number 22 tram in Prague. The complex composition of this debut contributes towards the novella's overall impressiveness.



Dovnitř
Kniha Zlín, 2020, 160 pp

“Helena Hrstková’s debut work is notable for its unusual narration and a story as dark as a moonless, starless night.”

—*Czech Television, Art*

Photo: Michaela Hrstková



Helena Hrstková (1989) is a writer who studied creative writing at the Josef Škvorecký Literary Academy, and literature at Masaryk University. She is a social worker and a tattoo artist. She lives in Prague.

Ondřej Štindl

UNTIL YOUR HEAD STARTS SPINNING

A multi-genre, socially relevant novel with an anti-hero in the main role.

In this dark absurd novel, Ondřej Štindl looks at today's divisions in Czech society from the perspective of Johan, a journalist, whose stream of consciousness provides the novel with its structure. Opposing him is Petr the internet troll – a carpenter spreading conspiracy theories and hate speech under various pseudonyms. Out for

revenge, Johan sets off in pursuit of his opponent. In the end, though, he is forced to help him when it transpires that Petr has a dysfunctional relationship with his son. This eclectic novel in terms of genre draws on elements from road movies, social satire and psychological horror.



Až se ti zatočí hlava
Argo, 2020, 256 pp

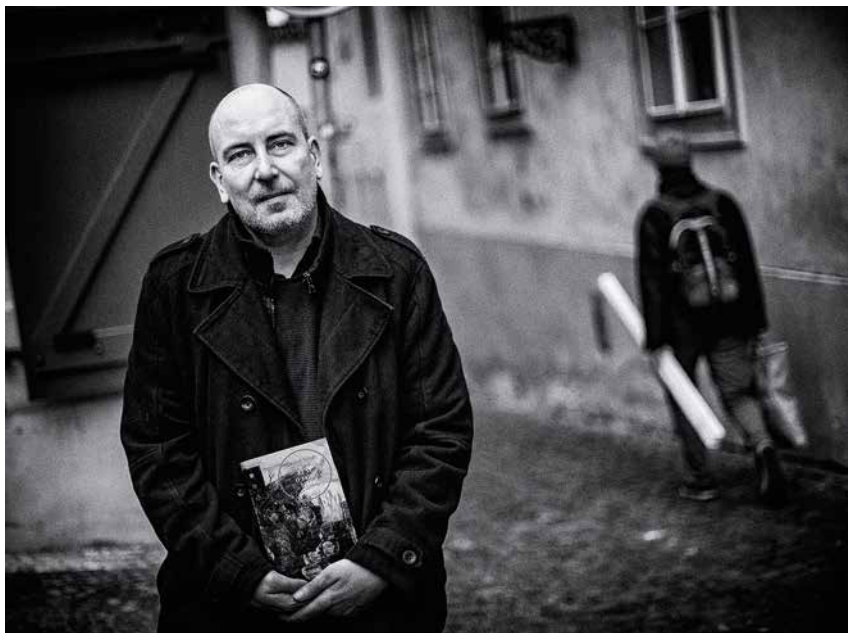
“Until Your Head Starts Spinning kicks off with a desire for personal revenge and then smoothly transforms into the story of an unlikely relationship between enemies, before finally beginning to slightly resemble a dark version of the French comedy *Le Chevre* with Pierre Richard and Gerard Depardieu.”

—*Czech Radio, Wave*

“Until Your Head Starts Spinning openly examines the social and political situation of the past few years, partly as parody, partly more in depth and with more ambition.”

—*iLiteratura*

Photo: Jan Křikava



Ondřej Štindl (1966) is a film and music critic, writer, screenwriter and DJ. The film *Pouta* (Walking Too Fast), based on his script, premiered in 2010. He has twice received the Czech Lion Award for his screenplays: in 2010 for *Pouta* and in 2017 for the serial *Svět pod hlavou* (The World Below Your Head). In 2020 he was awarded the Ferdinand Peroutka Prize for his journalistic work. He is the author of the novels *Mondschein* (2012), *K hranici* (To the Border, 2016) and *Až se ti zatočí hlava* (Until Your Head Starts Spinning, 2020).

RIGHTS:
Argo publishers
Veronika Chaloupková:
veronika.chaloupkova@argo.cz
www.argo.cz

English sample translation available

Poetry

Jonáš Zbořil

THE NEW WILDERNESS

A minatory collection carried along on the original wave of environmental grief and a commitment to nature.

In this thematically linked poetry collection inspired by “environmental grief”, or rather legitimate concerns about the future of the planet and humanity, the author uses the term “the new wilderness” to construct new poetic space – the idea of the world “after us”. He brings together science, the

internet and poetry to form a unique style, which could be part of the new trend of so-called environmental poetry. Mankind is on the same level as ponds and greenery; time and space are categories which can be interpreted very loosely.



Nová divočina
Host, 2020, 84 pp

“Although Zbořil has been inspired by scientific facts and discoveries, his collection cannot be reduced to merely looking at scientific views of the present or future through poetry. Here science serves as the starting point for the construction of artistic time-space, which is guided by a fresh imagination and a fair amount of poetic exaggeration.”

—*iLiteratura* “

“Zbořil’s term ‘the new wilderness’ is taken out of its original context and transformed into a unique poetic style, an effective image of humanity today. Will there be room for humanity in this new wilderness?”

—*Práva*

Photo: Barbora Linková



Jonáš Zbořil (1988) studied English and Czech at Charles University. He works as a presenter in Czech Radio. As well as writing he is also involved in music and is a member of the bands *Sundays on Clarendon Road* and *Steakhouse Orchestra*. His first poetry collection, *Podolí*, was published in 2013, and his second, *Nová divočina* (The New Wilderness), in 2020.

RIGHTS:
Dana Blatná Literary Agency
Dana Blatná:
blatna@dbagency.cz
www.dbagency.cz

English sample translation available

Martin Stöhr

APPLIED LYRICISM

A nostalgic, wistful collection about life, love and the city of Brno.

Martin Stöhr is a prominent Czech poet and his new book would appear to have been written for people of his generation, for his family, for Brno, but primarily for himself. These are beautiful memoranda, images from times slipping into the past, when “the old world silently falls”, from childhood, youth and approaching old age, which he observes and portrays anew in coloured ink – no reason to despair, instead there is room for uncovering gold in the form of securing a simple

love for a complex city. The colour emerges from the linguistic wealth, from the variety of the palette from which it is drawn, the subtle feeling for an image, clean cuts, a strongly evoked atmosphere and its sharp fractures. The book is imbued with a strange wistful quality, a nostalgia when observing the change and permanence of a city and our former selves, the feeling of futility and uselessness at any attempts at art, but which is indispensable nevertheless.



Užitá lyrika
Host, 2020, 68 pp

“If it is still possible to talk about beauty in connection with poetry, then I believe that this collection is not only Stöhr’s most beautiful, but it ranks among the most sensitive, most impressive and most intensely poetic Czech verse of the past twenty years.”

— *Czech Radio, Vltava*

“Stöhr’s sixth collection so far is a living paradox. The title and the graphic design alone! So minimalist, prosaic and economical. And inside? It’s true that there are not many poems and most of them aren’t particularly long, and yet it is a book replete with unbelievable vividness, fertile imagination and refined lyricism.”

— *Tvar*

Photo: author's archive



Martin Stöhr (1970) is a poet and journalist who started off in the wider stream of spiritual poetry. He graduated from Palacký University's Faculty of Education in Olomouc. *Užitá lyrika* (Applied Lyricism) is his sixth book of poetry. His poems have been published in a number of Czech anthologies, in journals in Slovakia, and in translation in Germany, Poland, Slovenia and Bulgaria. He is an editor for the *Host* magazine and publishing house. He lives in Brno.

RIGHTS:
Dana Blatná Literary Agency
Dana Blatná:
blatna@dbagency.cz
www.dbagency.cz

English sample translation available

Comics

Tereza Drahoňovská & Štěpánka Jislová HAIRLESS: MY LIFE WITH ALOPECIA

An autobiographical graphic novel about living with the autoimmune disease alopecia.

This graphic novel, the protagonist of which has alopecia and loses all of her hair in a matter of weeks, tells of the problems in trying to adjust to adverse circumstances and the need to find yourself again. To present this story, the debut writer Tereza Drahoňovská teamed up with her colleague from the Czech branch of Laydeez Do Comics, Štěpánka Jislová, to create an informative as well as entertaining graphic novel, which appears accessible and straightforward even while looking at a difficult subject.

The 120-page *Hairless – My Life with Alopecia* is not only interesting because of its topic. The honest descriptions which ring true are also enhanced by inventive and modern visual work, where the distinctive simplified caricatures are organically enhanced by added colour, in this case pink. The authors hope that the comics will help those thousands of people who are affected by this disease, but it will certainly resonate with others too.



Bez vlasů
Art by Štěpánka Jislová
Paseka, 2020, 120 pp

“*Hairless* is a graphic novel which will undoubtedly hold its own abroad and be universally understood around the world.”

—*iLiteratura*

“It is one of the best, if not the best graphic novel to come out of the Czech Republic in 2020.”

—*Czech Radio, Vltava*

Tereza Drahoňovská (left) and Štěpánka Jislová. Photo: Ondřej Tůma



Tereza Drahoňovská (1990) graduated in journalism and media sciences from Charles University. Together with Štěpánka Jislová she formed the Prague branch of Laydeez Do Comics, which promotes the work of female comics writers.

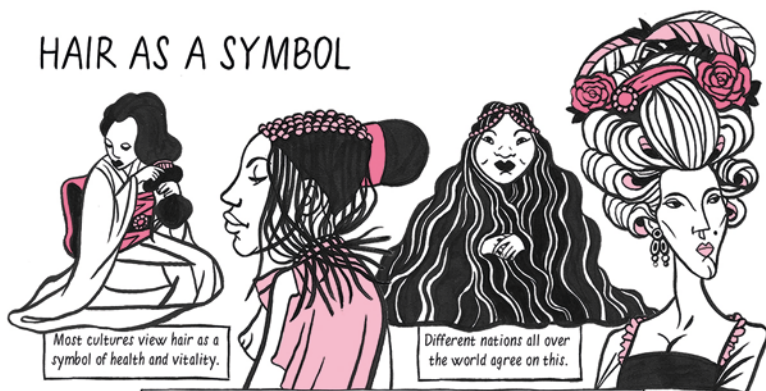
Štěpánka Jislová (1992) graduated from the Ladislav Sutnar Faculty of Design and Art in Plzeň and has published her short comics stories in a number of Czech and international collections. She contributed to the comics series *Češi* (The Czechs, 2013-2016) and illustrated the graphic novel *Milada Horáková* (2020).

AWARDS:
2020 Muriel Award – Best graphic novel

RIGHTS:
Paseka Publishers
Agáta Faltová:
Agata@paseka.cz
www.paseka.cz

English, German and French
sample translations available

HAIR AS A SYMBOL



Styling your hair is a way to express yourself, your lifestyle and your desired identity.



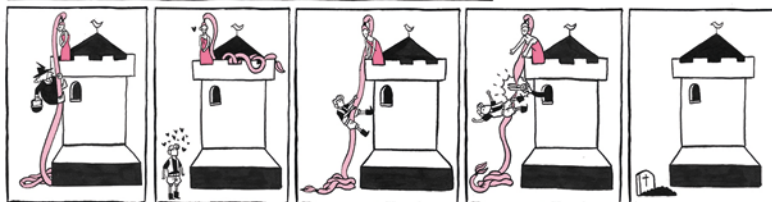
Our hair expresses our identities. Depriving someone of their hair takes away a part of their personality.



Even the Bible talks about the symbolic meaning of hair. It is a source of superhuman power in Samson and Delilah's story.



In fairy tales, cutting off a character's hair sets them free from their mother's influence...



...or serves as a punishment.



Today's pop-culture uproots those deep-set stereotypes. When a heroine cuts her hair, she is no longer a passive, helpless girl, but takes control of her own destiny.

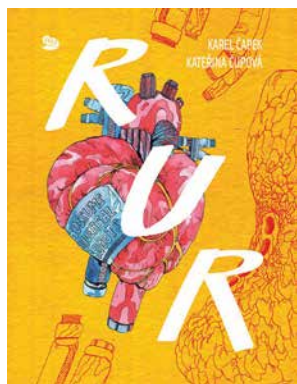
Kateřina Čupová & Karel Čapek R. U. R.

Čapek's *R. U. R.* is back in a fresh new production which could conquer the world again one hundred years on.

Karel Čapek's play *R. U. R.* or *Rossum's Universal Robots* (1920), famous for giving us the word robot (apparently suggested to Karel by his brother, Josef), was written in 1920. Kateřina Čupová stays true to Čapek's story and transfers the original stage settings into comic bubbles. We find ourselves on the island where Rossum has his factory for building robots. The artificial beings, at first sight indistinguishable from humans, are the creators' dreams come true. Rossum, the factory founder, wanted to "scientifically dethrone God" and "destroy the slavery of labour" for future generations, creating a free and independent humanity. The robots, used

more and more by indolent people for military ends, become infected with human resentment, rebel against their makers and destroy humanity.

Although this science-fiction social dystopia may appear somewhat simplistic to today's readers, this graphic-novel adaptation provides it with new energy. Kateřina Čupová's artistic treatment suggests a certain affinity with Frankenstein's monster. We can visit areas where Čapek's scenery directions can't take us, and this incredibly detailed depiction of the island microcosm reminds us of Lang's *Metropolis* (1927).



R. U. R.
Art by Kateřina Čupová
Argo, 2020, 256 pp

"The graphic-novel adaptation of Čapek's famous play pleasantly surprises especially with unexpectedly delicate drawing."

—*iLiteratura*

Kateřina Čupová. Photo: author's archive



Kateřina Čupová (1992) graduated from the animation studio at Tomáš Baťa University in Zlín. She has published short comics stories in a number of Czech magazines and anthologies. She published the webcomic *The Author's Apprentice* (2018) with the help of the platform Kickstarter.

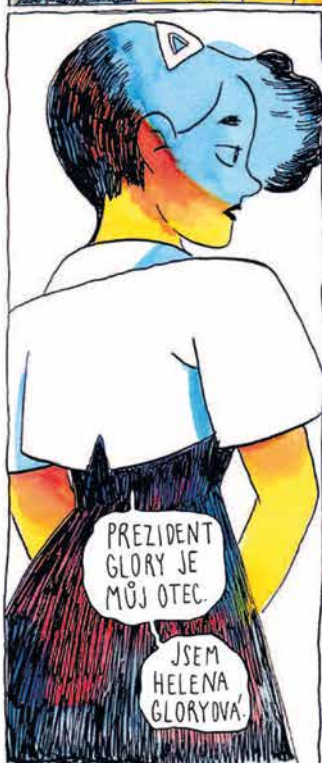
Karel Čapek (1890-1938) was a Czech writer, intellectual, journalist, translator and photographer. He was a seven-time aspirant for the Nobel Prize for Literature and was famous mainly for his plays and feuilletons. His brother Josef became a well-known painter and writer; his sister Helena wrote prose as well as an outstanding autobiography. He undertook a number of trips abroad which provided him with inspiration for his travel writing and prose.

RIGHTS SOLD:
France (Glénat), Turkey (Dergah)

RIGHTS:
Argo publishers
Veronika Chaloupková:
veronika.chaloupkova@argo.cz
www.argo.cz

English and French sample translations available





Jiří Franta

SINGLE

In this tragicomic graphic novel, the protagonist wanders the streets of Rome and Prague in the company of football fans and the occasional love-interest.

This ambitious and at the same time quite intimate work was influenced by Chris Ware and his composition of comics windows, which takes the reader away from the traditional linear style of reading. Franta also uses a similar style for filling his drawings with detailed backgrounds and a large number of figures. The fan-filled stadiums at football matches stand out in particular due to the number of people and the detail in the drawings.

In the first of two loosely connected stories, the protagonist has to find a partner for a planned romantic trip to Rome following an unexpected break-up. The journey and the holiday are full of tragicomic adventures, largely influenced by the amount of alcohol consumed. In the second story he meets a girl during a fight between football hooligans. Although she's a fan of a rival club, she invites him to her home following a night in a bar, but the intense relationship doesn't last long. The seemingly banal stories are elevated by Franta's drawing style and his wealth of artistic and narrative ideas.



Singl
Art by Jiří Franta
Labyrint, 2019, 200 pp

“It is no secret that Jiří Franta is an exceptional artist with a unique style, and this has been confirmed in his new graphic novel, which can be admired from many perspectives.”

—*iLiteratura*

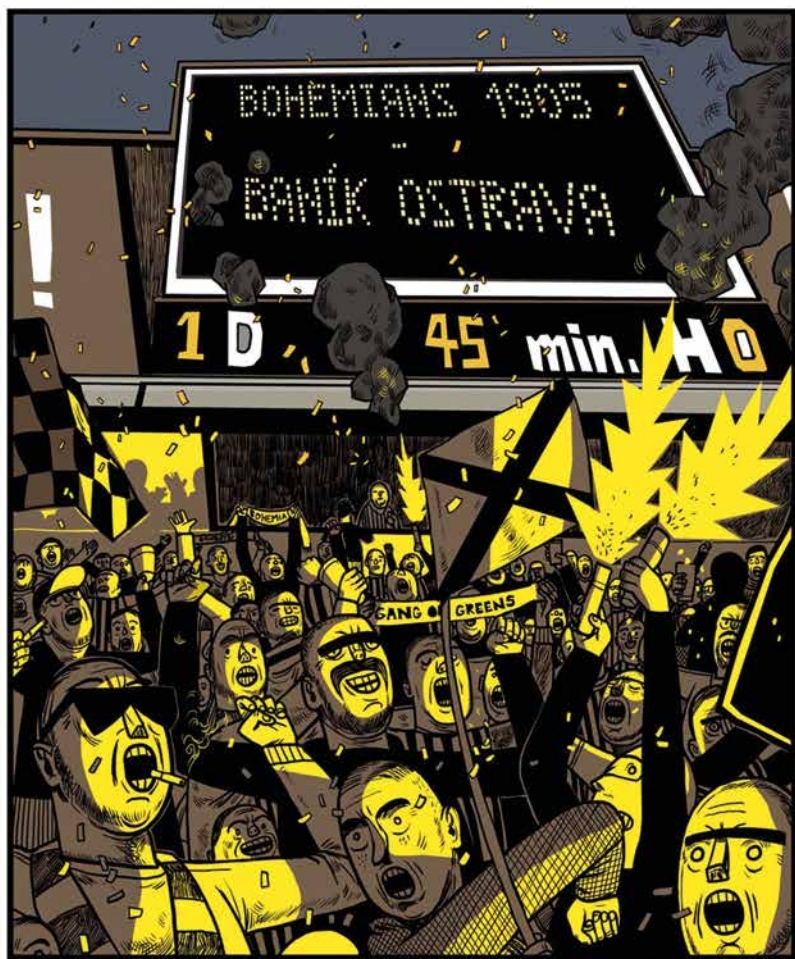
Photo: Daniela Dostalková



Jiří Franta (1978) has been drawing and painting his whole life. His main interest is painting but he also often creates installations, sculpture and videos. He is a member of the Rafani group, part of the artistic duo Franta-Böhm, and co-founder of the comics magazine KIX. He has exhibited in the Czech Republic and abroad, and has been a finalist on several occasions at the prestigious Jindřich Chalupecký Award.

AWARDS:
2020 Muriel Award – Best drawing

RIGHTS:
Labyrint publishers
Joachim Dvořák:
joachim.dvorak@seznam.cz
www.labyrint.net/stranka/21/english





Children's and Young Adult

Martina Součková, Dagmar Honsová & Marie Štumpfová LET'S FORECAST THE WEATHER

Weather experts Dagmar Honsová and Martina Součková have produced a book which fills the gap in the market for high-quality illustrated meteorology reference books for children.

Everyone understands the weather. If the forecast on television is not enough for us, we can check the internet or look out the window. We change our clothes and plans for our trips according to the weather forecast. Is weather really a science at all? Of course it is, and it's fun! Did you know, for example, that there is a grain of sand in every drop of rain? Why did weather sayings come into being and how did they help

our ancestors? This richly illustrated handbook will reveal how the weather was predicted in the past, help uncover quite a few meteorological mysteries and teach the reader how to make their own storm in a glass of water. In this stylishly illustrated book, children will learn a lot of interesting facts about natural processes and gain an understanding of the climate crisis debate.

Age: 10+



Předpovídej počasí
Illustrated by Marie Štumpfová
Paseka, 2020, 120 pp

“Who’d have thought a book on meteorology could be so clever, readable and attractive.”

—*Tvar*

“The authors take a broad look at forecasting from its beginnings in the age of antiquity to today’s weather satellites. They introduce terms relating to the weather and the structure of forecasts. However, they also take into account ancient prognosticators and revolutionary data in this area, including television productions.”

—*Nejlepší knihy dětem*
(*Best Children’s Books*) catalogue

Dagmar Honsová. Photo: author's archive

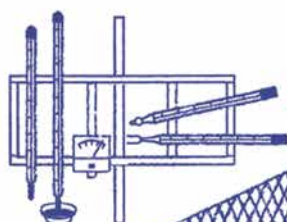


Dagmar Honsová (1980) graduated from the Faculty of Agriculture at the Czech University of Life Sciences. She has been forecasting the weather for almost fifteen years for the company Meteopress and she works with various news outlets. She is working on an educational programme on meteorology for schools.

Martina Součková (1982) graduated in physical culture from Palacký University in Olomouc. She works at the Czech Hydrometeorological Institute and also trains young people in rowing.

Marie Štumpfová (1984) graduated from the studio of illustration and graphics at Prague's Academy of Arts, Architecture and Design and completed an internship at Vladimír Kokolia's studio at the Academy of Fine Arts. She also works in graphic design and created the graphics for the magazine *PAGE*. She illustrated Jiří Dvořák's book *Jak zvířata spí* (How Animals Sleep, 2014), which has been translated into several languages accompanied by her illustrations and was awarded a Golden Ribbon Award.

Meteorologická stanice



1 Meteorologická budka:

Maximální teploměr v meteorologické budce si klidně můžete splést s lékařským teploměrem. Zatímco naši nejvyšší tělesnou teplotu obvykle naměříme kolem 38. hodiny, maximální teplotu vzduchu musíme před přechodem studené fronty naměřit klidně dopoledne. Minimální teploměr nás ukazuje nejnižší teplotu, tu většinou naměříme těsně před východem slunce, ať je jakákoliv roční období. V budce najdeme ještě suchý a vlhký teploměr, na jehož šídle je navlhlá punčůška. Jedná se o psychrometr, kterým měříme vlhkost vzduchu.

2 Heliograf/slunečoměr
Sklenná koule koncentruje sluneční paprsky, kterými vypaluje linii do papírového pásku. Z délky linie lze vyčíslit délku slunečního svitu.

3 Sněhoměrná lať:

Měří se pomocí ní výška sněhové pokrývky. Měření se provádí v zimním období v klimatologických termínech dvakrát denně.

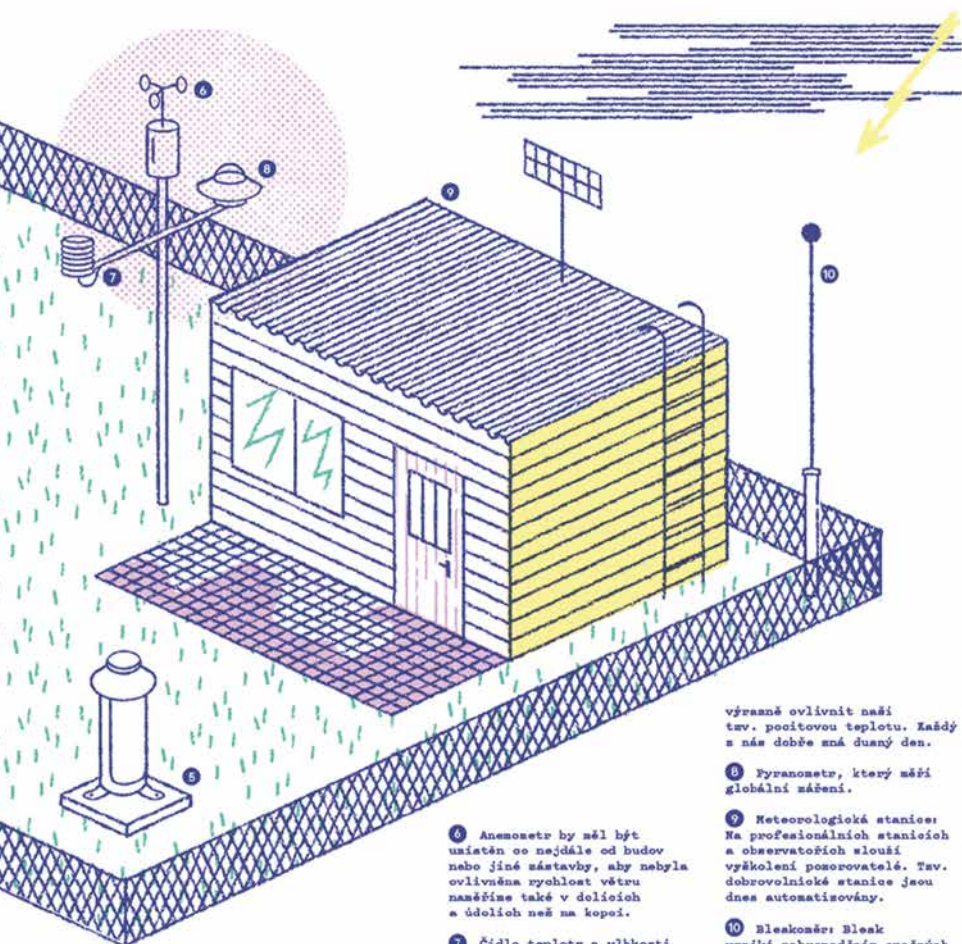
4 Hydrometeorologické přístroje: Výparoměr s vodní hladinou je relativně vzácný a to kvůli těžké údržbě.

5 Ombrograf/sráškoměr
si můžete jednoduše vyrobit i doma ze sudu nebo z jakékoliv otevřené nádoby. Je dobré vědět, kolik milimetrů srážek spadlo a zda je nutné večer salátovat.

Hele, tady z té skleněné koule můžeme asi vědět, kdy bude pršet.

Prosim tě, to je heliograf a měří se s ním délka slunečního svitu.





výrazně ovlivnit naši
tav. pocitovou teplotu. Každý
z nás dobře zná dušný den.

8 Pyranometr, který měří
globální záření.

9 Meteorologická stanice:
Na profesionálních stanicích
a observatořích slouží
výškolení pozorovatelé. Tav.
dobrovolnické stanice jsou
dnes automatizovány.

10 Bleskoměr: Blesk
vzniká nahromaděním opačných
elektrických nábojů
v bouřkovém oblaku.

6 Anemometr by měl být
umístěn co nejdále od budov
nebo jiné zástavby, aby nebyla
ovlivněna rychlost větru
naměříme také v delších
a údolích než na kopci.

7 Čidlo teploty a vlhkosti
vzduchu: Vlhkost vzduchu
dokáže v letním půlroce

Vlasta Baránková

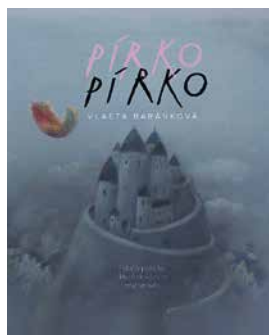
THE FEATHER

A fairy tale about how one colourful feather and a child's imagination can save the people of a small, ubiquitously grey town from an evil wizard.

One day, a dazzling, colourful bird called Phoenix wanders into a land where the people live without hope or joy. But not even the all-pervading greyness can disguise this bird's beautiful brightly coloured feathers. Although the evil wizard's soldiers try with all their might to destroy the bird, they are unsuccessful and he flies away. However, he leaves behind a feather which some children find, and with

its help they breathe new life back into the land. A fairy tale in which the traditional struggle between good and evil is depicted as the contrast between greyness and colour. Feathers are part of the flyleaf. The book is also suitable as a first reader.

Age: 6+



Pírko
Illustrated by Vlasta Baránková
CPress, 2020, 40 pp

“The author finishes with an important message: Watch out, we must stay alert – the darkness and greyness could return... This age-old story of struggling against evil and authoritarian forces (King Šedomur is based on old folklore archetypes) unfolds through Vlasta Baránková's words and pictures. The narration is intensified by the illustrations which range from shades of grey to bright colours.”

—*Nejlepší knihy dětem*
(*Best Children's Books*) catalogue

Photo: author's archive



Vlasta Baránková (1943) has illustrated almost one hundred books. She has worked on books with folklore subjects and contemporary children's stories for renowned publishing houses in the Czech Republic, as well as for international writers for the Swiss publishers Bohem Press. At the start of her career she worked in graphic design and the typographic editing of children's books, and since the 1990s she has mainly focused on children's illustrations. Her illustrations are characterized by an unbridled imagination, warmth and precise technique. Baránková has presented her books at dozens of exhibitions in the Czech Republic and abroad.

Vojáci s hlasitým rámušem připochochovali na náměstí.

„Zmizte!“ křičeli. „Pryč odsud!“

Lidé se rozprchli.

Z úkoryů vyděšeně pozorovali, jak se sprška šípů snesla ke kašně.

Pták udiveně a pobaveně sledoval počinání vojáků.

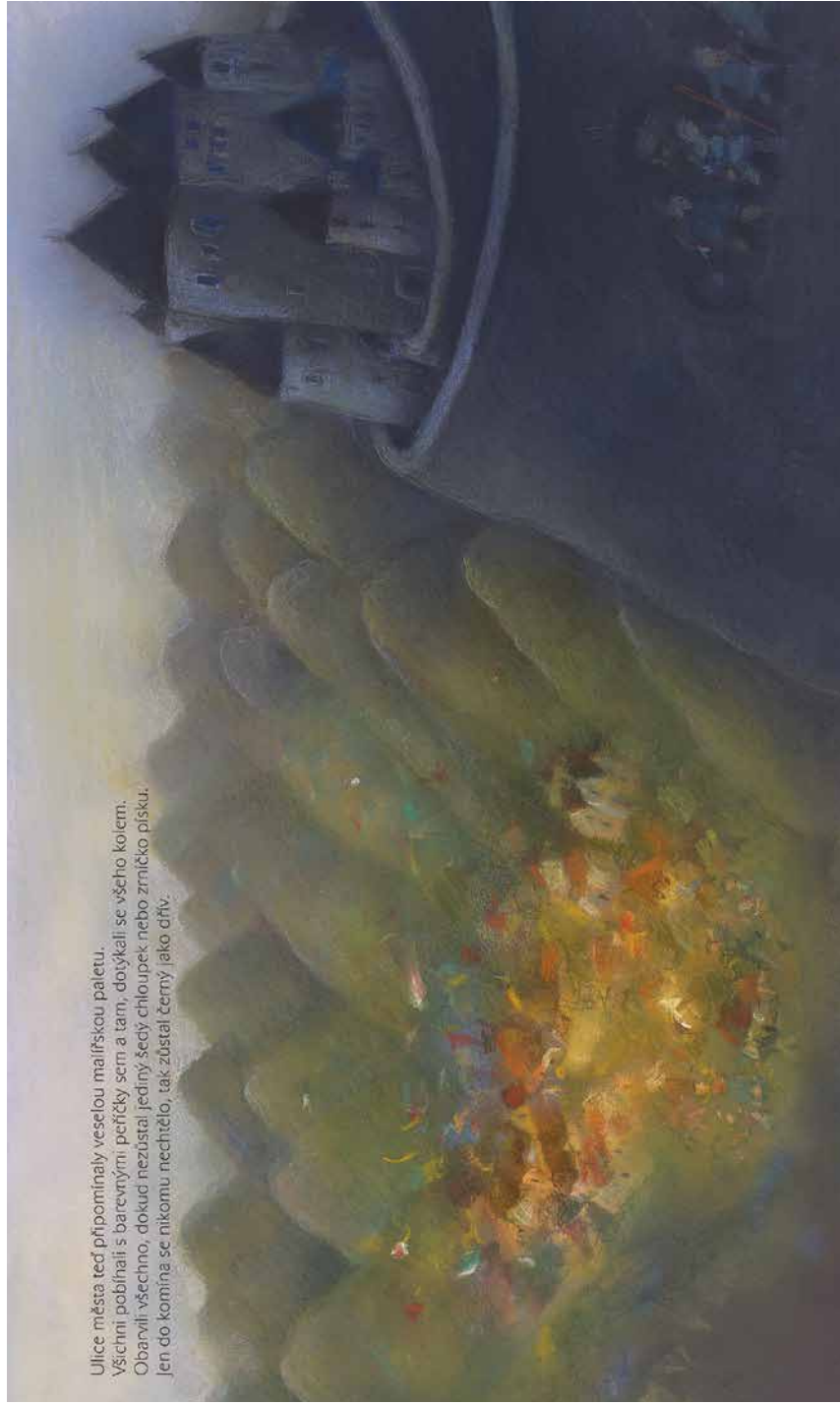
Kupodivu nezraněný se po chvíli vznesl vzdušnou.

Jen jedno pestré pírko se z výšky krouživě sneslo na dlažbu.



THE FEATHER

Ulice města teď připomínaly veselou malířskou paletu.
Všichni pobíhali s barevnými perličky sem a tam, dotýkali se všeho kolem.
Obarvili všechno, dokud nezůstal jediný šedý chloupek nebo zrníčko písku.
Jen do kominu se nikomu nechtělo, tak zůstal černý jako dřív.



Vojtěch Matocha & Karel Osoha DUSTZONE: THE WHITE CHAMBER

The conclusion to a thrilling three-part series for older children
– the adventure-packed story of Dustzone draws to a close.

Dustzone is a mysterious, frightening neighbourhood in the middle of modern day Prague, the only place where electricity doesn't work and no one knows why. The third part of this series takes place during a stiflingly hot summer and tension is growing on the borders of Dustzone. The residents of Krchleby patrol the slopes of Gallows Hill, led by the mysterious Melichar. At any moment, crowds of people will swarm up through the dark alleys in search of a machine invented long ago, which stops Dustzone from spreading.

While preparations take place for the final showdown in the dilapidated houses and empty squares, the protagonists of the series decide to take the fate of the district into their own hands. The final instalment in the successful Dustzone trilogy brings the denouement Czech readers have been impatiently waiting for. The adventure-filled narrative from the dark corners and cellars of old Prague is complemented by the atmospheric black-and-white drawings of Karel Osoha.

Age: 9+



Prašina: Bílá komnata
Illustrated by Karel Osoha
Paseka, 2020, 260 pp

“Running along winding alleys, through lofts and old tenements, climbing walls and discovering secret passages, clashing with dangerous figures from the ‘underground’ and searching for clues – all of this has a very distinctive charge which stimulates the imagination and adds the right amount of ‘*Dustzone*’ tension.”

—iDNES

Photo: Agáta Faltová



Vojtěch Matocha (1989) studied mathematics and is now a software developer for mobile phones. His debut, *Prašina* (Dustzone, 2018), became a bestseller and is admired by readers across generations. *Prašina* was awarded the Teachers' Prize for the Development of Children's Reading and the Nights with Andersen Night Sleepers' Prize. The author has also been nominated for the Magnesia Litera Award, the Jiří Orten Award and the Golden Ribbon.

Karel Osoha (1991) is one of the leading Czech comics artists. He won the Muriel Award for Best Drawing for *Češi 1948: Jak se KSČ chopila moci* (Czechs 1948: How the Communist Party Seized Power, 2016). The illustrations for the book *Prašina* (Dustzone, 2018) and the first volume of the comics trilogy *Návrat Krále Šumavy* (The Return of the King of the Šumava, 2018) earned him a nomination for the Czech Grand Design Awards.

RIGHTS SOLD:
Slovakia (Artforum)

RIGHTS:
Paseka Publishers
Agáta Faltová:
Agata@paseka.cz
www.paseka.cz

English sample translation available

Petr Borkovec & Petra Josefína Stibitzová THINGS WE LOSE

Poems about things which can be lost by anyone who has ever owned anything – in a pop-up book for young readers.

A book for forgetful people containing stories about things which we lose every day, but also about those curiosities which we can discover at the lost and found. Have you ever wondered what happens to these things and how we can actually ever find them

again? The respected Czech poet Petr Borkovec has written an enjoyable pop-up book for children about the things we leave behind on the train, at school, on a fence, in a shop – anywhere. A book for young readers but which the adult reader will naturally enjoy too.

Age: 3+



Věci, které ztrácíme
Illustrated by Petra Josefína Stibitzová
Meander, 2020, 18 pp

“Petra Josefína Stibitzová presents a subtle, light combination of muted pastel colours, tangled scarves, beads, toy cars and transistor radios; the illustrations do not support or supplement the text – they are part of it.”

—*Tvar*

Photo: Jana Plavec



Petr Borkovec (1970) is a poet, novelist and translator. He won the Jiří Orten Award for his early collection *Ochoz* (Gallery, 1994). His first book for infant readers was the poetry pop-up book *Všechno je to na zahradě* (Everything is in the Garden, 2012), and since then he has written four books for children. In addition, he writes poems, short stories and novellas.

Petra Josefína Stibitzová (1988) graduated from the studio of illustration and graphic design at Prague's Academy of Arts, Architecture and Design. She illustrated the three-part comics *Mor* (The Plague, 2016–2017) by Milada Mašíňová and *Pajasan* (Ailanthus, 2016) by Vratislav Brabenec. She inventively illustrated Emma Pecháčková's short-story bird books *Holub Kolumb* (Columbus Pigeon, 2013) and *Holub Pírko* (Feather Pigeon, 2019). She also illustrates workbooks for the publishing house Cesta domů, and designs posters and prints.



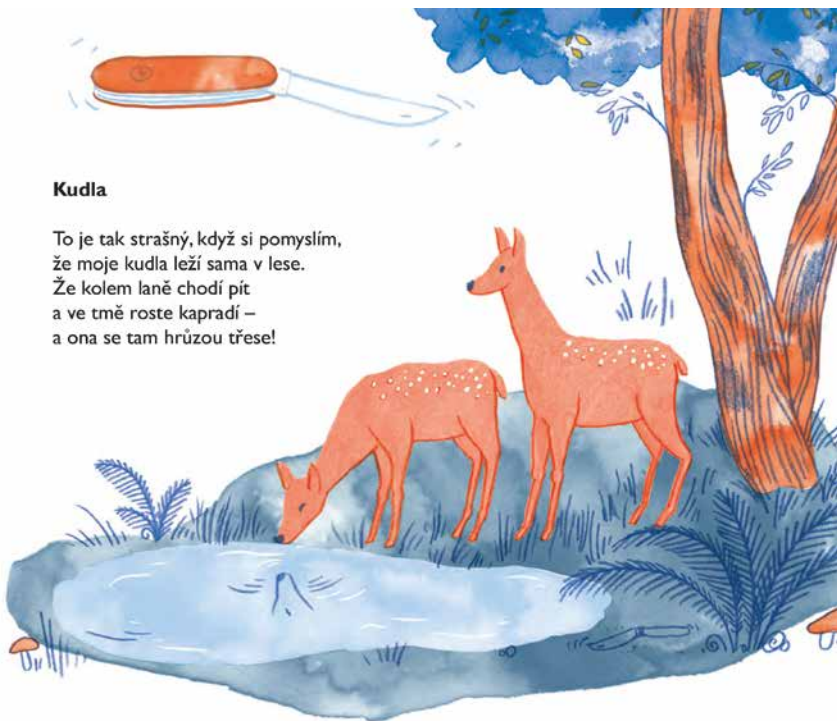
Vlak

Ve vlaku, který nestaví,
ztracený košík s jahodami,
ztracený košík plný hub,
krabice s vánočními ozdobami.
A průvodčí, co nemá žádnou práci,
se prázdným vlakem domů vrací
a přemýšlí, co všechno lidé ztrácí.
Pak usíná...



Kudla

To je tak strašný, když si pomyslím,
že moje kudla leží sama v lese.
Že kolem laně chodí pit
a ve tmě roste kapradí –
a ona se tam hrůzou třese!



Non-fiction

Petr Třešňák & Petra Třešňáková SOUNDS OF WAKING UP

An in-depth examination of life with a child with a severe disability from a parental, psychological and spiritual perspective.

This book by husband and wife Petr and Petra Třešňák tells the story of bringing up a daughter with autism combined with intellectual disability and severe behavioural issues. It is not so much an account of autism as the search for balance in an extremely challenging situation and coming to terms with the birth of a disabled child. Fourteen-year-old Dorotka's parents reflect in a readable way on the inner transformation they have undergone

over years of caring for her around the clock, and capture the magical moments of life with an atypical child as well as the alarming scenes of agitation and self-harm. The text, which blends the perspective of the father and the mother, alternates tales of everyday situations with psychological and spiritual reflections.



Zvuky probouzení
Druhé město, 2020, 296 pp

“Petr and Petra Třešňák have written a book about living with a daughter suffering from a severe form of autism in which they almost cruelly reveal and examine themselves with detailed introspection. At the same time, it is a book which is uncommonly complex.”

—*Deník N*

“The strength of this publication lies in the depth of the ideas it offers. And although Petr Třešňák begins by stressing that the book is not intended as a survival manual for these situations and that they haven't discovered such a method... well, perhaps – in a modest way – they have.”

—*Novinky*

Petr Třešňák (left) and Petra Třešňáková. Photo: Petr Třešňák



Petr Třešňák (1976) is a journalist working for *Respekt* magazine. He focuses mainly on health and social issues. His article *The Big Clean-up of the Homeless* was awarded third prize in the European Year 2010 Journalist Award. In 2013 he was awarded the EU Health Prize for Journalists for *Adventures in Ward 14*, his report on psychiatric treatment. He is a two-time recipient of the Czech Journalist Prize and in 2014 he was awarded the Czech Psychiatric Association Journalist Prize for an article on children with autism. Caring for his daughter, Dorota, who suffers from a severe form of autism, led him to founding the society *Děti úplňku* (Children of the Full Moon) and the idea of filming the eponymous documentary film.

Petra Třešňáková is a psychotherapist; the vice-chair of an association leading the Homesharing pilot project; and she was behind the idea for the film *Děti úplňku* (Children of the Full Moon). She is currently involved in a pilot project for respite foster care, which links families who have children with ASD with ordinary families, offering them relief during difficult times. She specializes in individual psychotherapy, crisis intervention and counselling. She works with spiritual themes, dreams, the integration of extraordinary experiences and holistic approaches to life.

RIGHTS SOLD:
Serbia (Kamelia Izdavaštvo)

RIGHTS:
Druhé město publishers
Jan Pražan:
prazan@druhemesto.cz
www.druhemesto.cz

English sample translation available

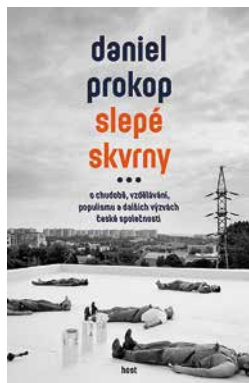
Daniel Prokop

BLIND SPOTS

This book provides essential information about the functioning of Czech society (and others) and the crisis facing democracy and politics.

An important manual in the fight against disinformation in relation to the most pressing national as well as global problems: the lack of faith in democracy, poverty, the integration of minorities, the gulf in access to education and opportunities, populism in politics, and the myths which prevent citizens from viewing issues objectively. This book's overview of

society's problems is multifaceted and supported by substantial arguments and statistical data and has been thoroughly researched, and yet the author has clear viewpoints and offers much food for thought.



Slepé skvrny
Host, 2020, 256 pp

“This book can be read as a possible guide to solving the problems in Czechia today, but more generally it also tells us how to argue objectively, non-ideologically and with as much basis in fact as possible.”

—*iLiteratura*

“Sociologists often argue about the extent to which social scientists should be socially committed without losing their independence and objectivity – which are of fundamental importance for scientific work. Prokop’s book has something to say in this respect: not to become an activist, exaggerate or agitate, but also not to make a secret of your convictions and values.”

—*Aktuálně*

Photo: Lea Michalová



Daniel Prokop (1984) is a sociologist who specializes in social and political quantitative research. In 2019 he established PAQ Research, his own sociology research organization, which focuses on projects mainly relating to education, social issues and social policy. He worked for ten years for the Median agency, three of which as its director. He specializes in the themes of poverty, the stratification of Czech society, inequality in education, and populist discourse. He is a researcher at Charles University's Faculty of Social Sciences, a member of the expert group for the creation of the Education Strategy 2030, and co-author of the *Eduzměna* analysis of problems in the Czech education system.

Grants for publishing Czech literature abroad

Every year, the Czech Ministry of Culture awards grants to support the publication of Czech prose, poetry, drama, essays, comics and children's literature abroad. The grants cover books, excerpts and magazines.

BOOKS

Publishers can apply for funding for:

- translation costs (up to 50% of the total cost of publishing)
- graphic design, typesetting and printing costs (up to 50% of the total cost of publishing)
- copyright costs (up to 15% of the total cost of publishing)
- promotion costs (up to 25% of the total cost of publishing)

In total, the grant can cover up to 70% of the total cost of publishing.

EXCERPTS

Publishers, agents and translators can apply for funding for:

- the translation of an excerpt of between 10–25 standard pages (1800 characters with spaces)

MAGAZINES

Magazines can apply for funding for:

- publishing costs of an issue where at least 50% of the total content is dedicated to original Czech literature. In total, the grant can cover up to 70% of the total cost of publishing.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

- completed application form
- contract with the copyright holder
- contract with the translator (applies only to publishers and literary agents)
- CV and translator's qualifications (education, translated titles)
- the publishing plan for this year and next year (applies only to publishers)

PAYMENT CONDITIONS

- The grant is paid to the applicant after the book / magazine has been published or excerpt has been translated. Proof of this has to be sent to the Ministry of Culture (for details see the grant application form).

APPLICATION DEADLINES

- 15th May for books and excerpts to be published in the same year as the application is submitted
- 15th November for books and excerpts to be published in the following year after the application is submitted

CONTACT PERSON:
Radim Kopáč, Ministry of Culture Czech Republic
radim.kopac@mkcr.cz
+420 257 085 221

For more information visit:
www.mkcr.cz/literature-and-libraries-1123.html?lang=en



MINISTRY OF CULTURE
CZECH REPUBLIC

Travel grants

The Czech Literary Centre offers subsidies to support Czech authors travelling to literary events abroad (festivals, readings, book launches, lectures, debates etc.). The applicant can be an event organiser or an author.

Event organisers can request support for appearance fees, travel expenses, meal allowances, accommodation, promotion, interpreting and moderation costs. The subsidy can cover up to 70% of total costs for the event.

Authors can request support for appearance fees, travel expenses and meal allowances. The subsidy can cover up to 100% of the total costs. Accommodation is provided by the event organiser.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

- completed application form
- budget for the event (applies only to event organisers)

PAYMENT CONDITIONS

- Event organisers: can receive 40% of the awarded amount before the event (based on an invoice and proof that the author will be taking part in the event) and 60% after the event on the basis of a final report, invoices and documentation. Alternatively, they can receive 100% of the awarded amount after the event on the basis of a final report, invoices and documentation.

- Authors: can receive 50% of the awarded amount within 15 days after the presentation of the planned event in the organisers materials (on the basis of documentation proving the author's travel expenses and proof of the author's presence at the event) and the remaining 50% on the basis of a final report, invoices and documentation. Alternatively, they can receive 100% of the awarded amount after the event on the basis of a final report, invoices and documentation.

2021 APPLICATION DEADLINES

- 20th January (for the period of 1st April to 15th October)
- 31st August (for the period from 15th October to 15th December)

Residencies for translators and Czech studies specialists

The Czech Literary Centre residency programme is intended for foreign translators of Czech literature, Czech studies specialists and literary scholars with an interest in Czech culture. The residents are accommodated in Prague or Brno for two to four weeks. Application deadlines are announced on the CzechLit.cz website twice a year — in the spring (for the autumn period) and in the autumn (for the spring of the following year).

THE RESIDENT RECEIVES

- a 250 EUR per week contribution to living costs
- accommodation in a studio apartment
- support from the Czech Literary Centre in the form of information, contacts, meetings etc.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

- completed application form (including a cover letter and a description of the project)
- CV
- bibliography

REQUIREMENTS FOR APPLICANTS

- ability to communicate in Czech or English
- at least one published translation or scholarly work (including in magazines)

The Moravian Library

The presentation of Czech book culture at book fairs abroad has a long tradition. The Moravian Library, one of the leading Czech heritage institutions, has been in charge of coordinating the Ministry of Culture's national expositions since 2014. In cooperation with the Ministry of Culture, authorities of Czech literary culture and Czech Centres abroad, the Moravian Library focuses not only on presenting major publishing houses but also on small publishers and printers. Significant Czech literary awards and their winners, along with a selection of current fiction and non-fiction are presented within the framework of a thematic national exposition. The accompanying cultural programme aims at bringing Czech authors together in the form of discussions and readings, especially at the Leipzig Book Fair (focused primarily on translations) or at the most important venue, the Frankfurt Book Fair. Czech book culture is presented in a similar scope also at the book fair in Bologna, which focuses on books for children, and at the London Book Fair. The Moravian Library is also the parent organisation of the Czech Literary Centre, which supports and promotes Czech literature abroad and in the Czech Republic.

Moravian Library
Kounicova 65a
601 87 Brno
Czech Republic

www.mzk.cz
mzk@mzk.cz

