
spotlight

books in catalan

SPOTLIGHT. BOOKS IN CATALAN - LONDON BOOK FAIR, OLYMPIA LONDON / BOOTH 6F74,6G70,2C33-31 / APRIL 5-7 2022

Catalan Literature is showcased at the London Book Fair 2022 with the programme **Spotlight. Books in Catalan**. With a series of 8 panel events, it will feature a selection of some of the finest Catalan authors such as Irene Solà, Sergi Pàmies, Eva Baltasar, Aina Bestard, Raül Garrigasait, Borja Bagunyà, Marta Orriols and Josep Maria Esquirol.

Each conversation pairs one Catalan author with a UK peer, including award-winning authors and translators such as Max Porter, Jay Griffiths, Daisy Johnson, David Constantine, Yara Rodrigues Fowler, Vassiliki Tzomaka, Peter Bush, Rupert Thomson and renowned publisher Christopher MacLehose.

These events will be chaired by the editor of *Monocle 24 Books* and host of *Meet the Writers*, Georgina Godwin; Founder and Director of the European Literature Network, Rosie Goldsmith; and award-winning writer, editor and translator, Daniel Hahn.

The programme will offer a rich overview of Catalan writing including Modern Classics, Contemporary Fiction, Literary Non-Fiction, and Children's books. It will also exhibit the work of eight illustrators, a representative selection of the prominent illustration scene in Catalonia and the Balearic Islands.

Along with these events, **Spotlight. Books in Catalan** includes a matchmaking programme to foster professional relationships between Catalan and English-speaking publishers and agents.

The Spotlight programme is the culmination of many years of successful trade and cultural cooperation between Catalan and British publishing professionals as well as the confirmation of an enriching literary exchange.

TUESDAY 05 APRIL

11:45H-12:30H

The Importance of Being a Classic

Speakers

Raül GARRIGASAIT, translator and writer

Christopher MacLEHOSE, publisher Mountain Leopard Press

Chair

Rosie GOLDSMITH, Dir and Founder, European Literature Network

Author, translator and expert in Catalan literature **Raül Garrigasait**, whose latest novel *Els estranys* (*The Others*), winner of the Catalan Bookseller's Prize, has been recently published in English by Fum d'Estampa, will be in a panel discussion with prestigious publisher **Christopher MacLehose**, to talk about the importance of classics in publishing, the essential role that translation plays in bringing cultures together, as well as the translation of Catalan Modern Classics into English as a contribution to this shared literary tradition. This event will be chaired by **Rosie Goldsmith**.

LONDON BOOK FAIR OLYMPIA THEATRE



Raül Garrigasait, Solsona, 1979 is a writer and a classicist. In his non-fiction he has explored such themes as cosmopolitanism (*El gos cosmopolita i dos espècimens més* [The Cosmopolitan Dog and Two Other Specimens]), the beginnings of modernity in Catalonia (*El fugitiu que no se'n va* [The Fugitive Who Won't Leave]) and the relationship between Greco-Roman classics and power (*Els fundadors* [The Founders]). His novel *Els estranys* (*The Others*, Fum d'Estampa 2017) won the Catalan Bookseller's Prize, the Òmnium Award for Best Catalan Novel, and the Setè Cel Prize.



Christopher MacLehose is the founder of Mountain Leopard Press. He previously established MacLehose Press, where he was publisher from 2008 to 2020, and Harvill Press, where he was publisher from 1984 to 2003. He is committed to publishing literature in translation to the highest standard and has published literature and crime fiction in translation from more than thirty-five languages, and prize-winning writers from many cultures. He was awarded the London Book Fair Lifetime Achievement Award in 2006.



Rosie Goldsmith is director and founder of the European Literature Network and Editor-in-Chief of *The Riveter* magazine. She was a BBC broadcaster for 20 years and is today an arts journalist and presenter. Rosie is a passionate linguist (French, German and Italian) and traveller and has lived in Europe, Africa and the USA. She was chair of the judges for the EBRD Literature Prize 2018-2020. Known as a champion of international literature, translation and language learning, she promotes them whenever she can.

13:15H-14:00H

Loss, Plants and Feathers

Speakers

Marta ORRIOLS, writer**Max PORTER**, writer

Chair

Daniel HAHN, translator, writer and editor

Prize-winning Catalan author **Marta Oriols**, whose piercingly honest debut novel, *Aprendre a parlar amb les plantes* (*Learning to Talk to Plants*, Pushkin Press, 2020) has already sold rights to 15 countries and has been compared to the work of Margaret Atwood and Alice Munro, will have an intimate conversation on grief and love, loss and the vital pulsations of life with **Max Porter**, award-winning author of *Grief is the Thing with Feathers* (which was translated in 23 languages), *Lanny* and *The Death of Francis Bacon*. Do expect a session of a moving mingle of darkness and tenderness, and perhaps the exorcism of grief. This event will be chaired by **Daniel Hahn**.

LONDON BOOK FAIR
LITERARY TRANSLATION CENTRE

Marta Oriols is emerging as one of the finest of the recent fine crop of female prose stylists from Catalonia. She studied creative writing at the Barcelona Athenaeum and she is also the author of a 2016 short story collection. Her debut novel, *Aprendre a parlar amb les plantes* (*Learning to Talk to Plants*), was sold to several languages even before its original Catalan publication appeared and earned her the Òmnium Award for Best Novel of 2018.



Max Porter is the multi-award winning author of three novels. He frequently collaborates with theatre-makers, artists and musicians. His work has been translated into over thirty languages. He lives in Bath, England.



Daniel Hahn is a writer, editor and translator with eighty books to his name. His work has won him the International Dublin Literary Award and the Independent Foreign Fiction Prize and been shortlisted for the Man Booker International Prize, among many others. Recent books include *Catching Fire*, a translation diary.

16:30H-17:15H

The Intimate Experience of Time

Speakers

Josep Maria ESQUIROL, philosopher, essayist and professor**Jay GRIFFITHS**, writer

Chair

Georgina GODWIN, broadcaster

Jay Griffiths, author of *Wild: An Elemental Journey*, *Pip Pip* and *Why Rebel*, books that account for some of the most compelling and insightful reads in British contemporary non-fiction, will have a conversation on time, experience, and meaning with Philosophy professor at the University of Barcelona **Josep Maria Esquirol**, author of *The Intimate Resistance* (Fum d'Estampa, 2021), a quest for purpose amidst the stress and nihilism of today's high-tech world, an essay turned into a bestseller against all odds, and an instant classic for Catalan philosophy. This event will be chaired by **Georgina Godwin**.

LONDON BOOK FAIR
LITERARY TRANSLATION CENTRE

Josep Maria Esquirol, Sant Joan de Mediona, 1963 is Professor of Philosophy at the University of Barcelona (UB), where he directs the Aporia research group. He is the author of numerous studies on contemporary philosophy and gives seminars on the subject at universities abroad.



Jay Griffiths is the award-winning author of many books including *Wild: An Elemental Journey*. She has broadcasted and written widely, including for Radiohead and the Royal Shakespeare Company. Her work has received widespread accolades including from Gary Snyder, Barry Lopez, Don Paterson, John Berger, Philip Pullman, KT Tunstall and Nikolai Fraiture. Her latest book is *Why Rebel*.



Georgina Godwin is Books Editor for *Monocle 24* and the host of the flagship literary show *Meet the Writers*, and current affairs programme *The Globalist*. She chairs events worldwide and hosts a number of commercial podcasts. She is on the boards of the charities English PEN and Developing Artists.

16:30H-17:15H

Across Language and Time:
Translating Classics

Speakers

Prof. Peter BUSH, translator**Prof. Charles KRASZEWSKI**, translator**Ka BRADLEY**, commissioning editor, Penguin Classics

Chair

Rosie GOLDSMITH, Dir and Founder, European Literature Network

Sometimes words travel not only across cultures and languages, but across time as well. This is the case of translating classics - books written decades or even centuries ago. The timeless ones, despite being from a different era, bring us stories and characters that can still be relevant and exciting. For this reason, there are translators and publishers willing to take on the special challenge of translating and publishing them. What is their approach? What are they looking for in older literature? How is the process different from working with contemporary literary works? Last but not least, do less popular languages have a chance for their William Shakespeare or Jane Austen - read outside a narrow circle of academics? Answers to these questions will be sought by speakers of this discussion panel, co-organised by the **Polish Book Institute** and the **Institut Ramon Llull**.

LONDON BOOK FAIR
OLYMPIA THEATRE

Peter Bush has translated a number of classics: from Spanish, Fernando de Roja's *Celestina*; from Catalan, Mercè Rodoreda's *In Diamond Square* (Virago, 2013), Joan Sales' *Uncertain Glory* and *Winds in the Night* (The MacLehose Press), Josep Pla's *The Gray Notebook* (NYRB, 2013) and Pla's short story collections *Life Embitters* and *Salt Water* (Archipelago Books, 2015 and 2020), and Rosa Maria Arquimbau's *Forty Lost Years* (Fum d'Estampa, 2021). He is now working on Proust's *The Guermantes Way* (OUP) and Balzac's *The Lily in the Valley* (NYRB). A *Film* (3000 meters) by Víctor Català has just been published by Open Letter.



Ka Bradley is a commissioning editor at Penguin Classics, where she acquires for the Penguin Classics and Penguin Modern Classics lists.



Charles Kraszewski is a translator of literature from Polish, Czech, and Slovak. Among his translations we find Adam Mickiewicz's *Crimean Sonnets*, *Forefathers' Eve* and *Ballads and Romances*, as well as the Dramatic Works of Cyprian Kamil Norwid. He is currently working on a broad anthology of the works of Renaissance poet Jan Kochanowski, and the heroic poems of the Slovak Romantic Jan Holly. He is the author of three volumes of original verse in English, one in Polish, and a satirical novel.



Rosie Goldsmith is director and founder of the European Literature Network and Editor-in-Chief of *The Riveter* magazine. She was a BBC broadcaster for 20 years and is today an arts journalist and presenter. Rosie is a passionate linguist (French, German and Italian) and traveller and has lived in Europe, Africa and the USA. She was chair of the judges for the EBRD Literature Prize 2018-2020. Known as a champion of international literature, translation and language learning, she promotes them whenever she can.

WEDNESDAY 06 APRIL

10:00H-10:45H

Literature and the City

Speakers

Borja BAGUNYÀ, writer

Rupert THOMSON, writer

Chair

Georgina Godwin, broadcaster

Borja Bagunyà is spearheading a new generation of young literary talents – his latest novel *Els angles morts* (Dead Angles) is the portrait of a marriage leading towards an unusual existential crossroads, packed with pitiless, corrosive humour. He will be in conversation with **Rupert Thomson**, whose memoir, *This Party's Got to Stop*, won the Writer's Guild Non-Fiction Book of the Year, and his collection of stories set in the Catalan capital, *Barcelona Dreaming*, was the editor's choice at the *New York Times* and was shortlisted for the Edward Stanford 'Fiction with a Sense of Place' Award. In this panel, they will explore how cities shape literature and how literature shapes cities. This event will be chaired by **Georgina Godwin**.

LONDON BOOK FAIR AUTHOR HQ



Borja Bagunyà is one of the most outstanding authors from the new generation of Catalan writers. He holds a degree in literary theory and comparative literature, and his three published works have met with great praise from critics. When he was just 24 years old, his book of short stories *Defensa pròpia* won the Mercè Rodoreda Award and the QWERTY Award. Since 2011, he has taught literary theory at the University of Barcelona, and he is co-founder of the Bloom Literature School, also in Barcelona.



Rupert Thomson was born in Eastbourne, East Sussex and studied Medieval History and Political Thought at the University of Cambridge. His highly acclaimed works include novels *Secrecy*, *The Five Gates of Hell*, *Death of a Murderer*, *The Book of Revelation*, *Soft!*, and *The Insult*, and a memoir, *This Party's Got to Stop*. In 2015, Thomson was named a fellow of the Royal Society of Literature. His book *Barcelona Dreaming* (Other Press, 2021) was awarded The Irish Times: Best Book of the Year; New York Times Book Review: Editor's Choice; The Times (UK): Book of the Week Pick; Foreword Reviews: Book of the Day Pick; Conde Nast Traveler: Best Book of the Season Pick.



Georgina Godwin is Books Editor for *Monocle 24* and the host of the flagship literary show *Meet the Writers*, and current affairs programme *The Globalist*. She chairs events worldwide and hosts a number of commercial podcasts. She is on the boards of the charities English PEN and Developing Artists.

15:15H-16:00H

The Boundaries of the Book: Illustrated Non-Fiction for Children

Speakers

Aina BESTARD, designer and illustrator

Vassiliki TZOMAKA, designer and illustrator

Chair

Daniel HAHN, translator, writer and editor

International bestselling author and illustrator **Aina Bestard**, creator of the successful illustrated series *What's Hidden*, pushes the limits of traditional illustration with each publication, as she does again in her latest book published in English by Thames and Hudson, *Lost Landscapes*, where she explains the early life of our planet with exceptional illustrations and textured paper. Together with fellow Thames & Hudson's renowned illustrator and designer **Vassiliki Tzomaka**, specialised in depicting striking environments, they will be discussing their creative process, influences and style, as well as giving the audience an insight to their approach to illustrated non-fiction for children. This event will be chaired by **Daniel Hahn**.

LONDON BOOK FAIR AUTHOR HQ



Aina Bestard, Mallorca, 1981 studied Design at ESDI and then a postgraduate course in illustration at EINA in Barcelona. She has worked as a fashion designer and fabric printer for Miró Jeans and Women's secret, and designed shoes for Camper. She is the author of the internationally bestselling series *What's Hidden* and the delicate *Amazing Animal Babies*, among others. Her work has received many awards such as the Crítica Serra d'Or or the Bologna Ragazzi Award (BRAW).



Vassiliki Tzomaka is a designer and illustrator based in Colchester, UK. She has a PhD in illustration from the Centre for Children's Book Illustration, Cambridge School of Art. For the 'Extreme Environments' series (Thames & Hudson) she has drawn on her BSc in chemistry and MA in environmental studies to devise a distinctive visual approach to introducing children to the life in extreme environments.



Daniel Hahn is a writer, editor and translator with eighty books to his name. His work has won him the International Dublin Literary Award and the Independent Foreign Fiction Prize and been shortlisted for the Man Booker International Prize, among many others. Recent books include *Catching Fire*, a translation diary.

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THURSDAY 07 APRIL

10:00H-10:45H

Fiction, Gender and Identity

Speakers

Eva BALTASAR, writer
Yara RODRIGUES FOWLER, writer

Chair

Daniel HAHN, translator, writer and editor

Full of powerful and physical imagery, multi-awarded Catalan poet and novelist **Eva Baltasar** is the author of critically acclaimed *Permafrost*, translated in 10 languages, published in English by And Other Stories (2021), which will be followed by *Boulder* this summer. Eva's work is a breathtakingly forthright call for women's freedom, and speaks boldly of the body, of sex, and on the self. She will be in conversation with the talent of **Yara Rodrigues Fowler**, praised for their *Stubborn Archivist* as the witty successor of Sally Rooney. They will discuss new rules for fiction writing, gender, identity, and success. This event will be chaired by **Daniel Hahn**.

LONDON BOOK FAIR

LITERARY TRANSLATION CENTRE



Eva Baltasar. Barcelona, 1978 has published ten poetry collections, which have earned her many awards including the 2008 Miquel de Palol, the 2011 Benet Ribas, and the 2016 Gabriel Ferrater. After her highly successful debut as a novelist with *Permagel*, she published *Boulder*, the second novel of an ongoing trilogy, whose third and final novel, *Mamut*, was published in Catalan in February 2022.



Yara Rodrigues Fowler. Her first novel, *Stubborn Archivist*, was longlisted for the Dylan Thomas Prize 2020 and the Desmond Elliot Prize 2019. **Yara** was named one of *The Observer's* 'hottest-tipped' debut novelists of 2019 and was shortlisted for the *Sunday Times* Young Writer of the Year 2019. **Yara's** second novel, *there are more things* (2022), has been described as "a blistering collage of revolution, sisterhood and joy". **Yara** received the John C Lawrence Award from the Society of Authors for research to write there are more things. *there are more things* was shortlisted, as a work in progress, for the Eccles Centre and Hay Festival Writer's Award 2019.



Daniel Hahn is a writer, editor and translator with eighty books to his name. His work has won him the International Dublin Literary Award and the Independent Foreign Fiction Prize and been shortlisted for the Man Booker International Prize, among many others. Recent books include *Catching Fire*, a translation diary.

11:45H-12:30H

New Fiction at the Threshold of Myth

Speakers

Irene SOLÀ, writer and artist
Daisy JOHNSON, writer

Chair

Daniel HAHN, translator, writer and editor

A fearlessly creative and original new voice in Catalan literature, **Irene Solà** brings to British audiences *When I Sing, Mountains Dance*, a novel that has been translated to more than 20 languages and is the winner of the European Union Prize for literature. Solà's intensity and talent finds her British counterpart in multi-awarded author **Daisy Johnson** (known for *Everything Under*, *Fen* or *Sisters*). They will share with the audience their folktale atmospheres of imagination and myth, their unusual characters, and their literary dance with the strangeness of reality. This event will be chaired by **Daniel Hahn**.

LONDON BOOK FAIR

AUTHOR HQ



Irene Solà holds a degree in Fine Arts from the University of Barcelona and a Master's in Literature, Cinema and Visual Culture from the University of Sussex. She has published a volume of poems, recognized with the Amadeu Oller Prize and her first novel won the 2017 Documenta Prize. Her work has been exhibited at the Whitechapel Gallery (London) and the CCCB (Barcelona), among others. *When I Sing, Mountains Dance* (Granta, 2022) is the winner of the prestigious 2019 Anagrama Catalan Novel Award.



Daisy Johnson's debut short-story collection, *Fen*, was published in 2016 and won the Edge Hill Prize. In 2018 she became the youngest author ever to be shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize with her debut novel *Everything Under*. Her novel *Sisters* was published in 2021. She lives in Oxford.



Daniel Hahn is a writer, editor and translator with eighty books to his name. His work has won him the International Dublin Literary Award and the Independent Foreign Fiction Prize and been shortlisted for the Man Booker International Prize, among many others. Recent books include *Catching Fire*, a translation diary.

15:25H-16:10H

Literature of the Self: Truth and Fiction

Speakers

Sergi PÀMIES, writer
David CONSTANTINE, writer

Chair

Georgina GODWIN, broadcaster

Sergi Pàmies is one of the most outstanding and popular Catalan short story writers of all time. His latest collection, *The Art of Wearing a Trench Coat*, which explores different kinds of love as well as the limits of fiction writing, has been just published in English. An author of neat style and a humorous sense of the absurd, Pàmies will dialogue with poet and one of the finest British contemporary writers of short stories, **David Constantine**, author of a prestigious and multi-awarded body of work that includes books such as *Tea at the Midland* or the selected stories *In Another Country*. They will offer their personal approach to fiction, from the self to the imagined. This event will be chaired by **Georgina Godwin**.

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LITERARY TRANSLATION CENTRE



Sergi Pàmies is a very regular presence in newspapers, radio, and television. Born in French exile, he is the author of three novels but best known for his short story collections. His previous literary awards include the 2007 City of Barcelona Prize and the eighth volume of stories, *L'art de portar gavadina* (*The Art of Wearing a Trench Coat*, Other Press 2021) has already earned him both the 2019 Catalan Critics' Prize and the 2019 Serra d'Or.



David Constantine has published a dozen volumes of poetry (most recently – 2020 – *Belongings*); also two novels and six collections of short stories, the most recent of these being *The Dressing-up Box*, (2019). His *Tea at the Midland* (2012) won the Frank O' Connor International Short Story Award. He is an editor and translator of Hölderlin, Goethe, Kleist and Brecht. With his wife Helen he edited *Modern Poetry in Translation* (2004-12).



Georgina Godwin is Books Editor for *Monocle 24* and the host of the flagship literary show *Meet the Writers*, and current affairs programme *The Globalist*. She chairs events worldwide and hosts a number of commercial podcasts. She is on the boards of the charities English PEN and Developing Artists.

CATALAN & BALEARIC ILLUSTRATORS

Aina Bestard, Patricia Geis, Violeta Lópiz, Cristina Losantos, Joan Negrescolor, Miguel Pang, Júlia Sardà & Dani Torrent

The programme **Spotlight Books in Catalan** at the LBF 2022 includes an exhibition that represents the rich and prominent illustration scene in **Catalonia** and the **Balearic Islands** showcasing authors with distinctive personalities, distinguished careers, and an international outlook. Commissioned by the **Institut Ramon Llull** in partnership with IBBYCAT, this selection is curated by illustrators **Carmen Segovia** and **Marta Altés**.

It features works by **Aina Bestard, Patricia Geis, Violeta Lópiz, Cristina Losantos, Joan Negrescolor, Miguel Pang, Júlia Sardà** and **Dani Torrent**.



Violeta LÓPIZ, *The True Story of a Mouse Who Never Asked for It*. Written by **Ana Cristina Herrerros**.



Júlia SARDÀ, *The Queen in the Cave*. Walker Books, 2021.



Patricia GEIS, *Ulises*. Combel, 2021.



Joan NEGRESCOLOR, *Eu, Alfonsina*. Orfeu Negro, 2019.



Miguel PANG, *Bienvenue Chez Moi*.
Written by Miguel Tanco. L'Agrume, 2019.



Cristina LOSANTOS, *La Maternitat d'Elna: una illa de pau*.
Script by Meritxell Margarit.



Dani TORRENT, *Viajes en trenes de primera clase*.
Triqueta Editora, 2022



Aina BESTARD, *Paisatges perduts de la terra*. Script and content by Museu de Ciències Naturals de Barcelona. Zahorí Books, 2020.

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Catalan and Balearic illustrators exhibition

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