

VOICES FROM GEORGIA 2021-2022



WRITERS' HOUSE OF GEORGIA
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PROJECT DIRECTOR

Maia Danelia

EDITORS

Irine Chogoshvili, Shota Iatashvili

TRANSLATORS

Donald Rayfield, Maia Kiasashvili

TECHNICAL DESIGN

Magda Tsotskhalashvili

COVER ILLUSTRATION AND DESIGN

Eka Tabliashvili

PHOTO CREDITS

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WRITERS' HOUSE OF GEORGIA

Writers' House is located in an enchanting Art Nouveau mansion built in 1905 by the biggest Georgian philanthropist of the times, David Sarajishvili, and has witnessed series of significant events and historical highlights since the beginning of the 20th century. One of the core cultural organisations in the country and the region today, Writers' House is savoring the great literary heritage, continuing to create an active platform for arts and literature and connecting artists with their audience. The organisation manages an impressive number of cultural and literary projects and also acts as a facilitator of publishing and translation processes. It has been established in 2008 by the Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection of Georgia. Today, Writers' House is an open institution with the main task of representing Georgian culture – its traditions and modern processes and serves the interests of the national policy of the Government of Georgia for literature and the promotion of Georgian books and literature abroad.

CONTACT

13 Ivane Machabeli Str. /0105 Tbilisi /
Georgia www.writershouse.ge +995 32 297 41 06

For further information please contact:

Maia Danelia / mdanelia@writershouse.ge

Irine Chogoshvili / ichogoshvili@writershouse.ge

Zaza Shengelia / zshengelia@writershouse.ge



MINISTRY OF CULTURE, SPORT
AND YOUTH OF GEORGIA

ABO LASHAGASHVILI

THE RUBY OF AL-TABARD

The Ruby of Al-Tabard is a historical detective story, set in Tiflis in the 19th century. Akopa, a thief, is hiding from anyone's eyes a photo album he has stolen and has conversations with the photographs in it. The jeweller Rashkevich disappears. The Irishman O'Hara who has arrived from India, and the coarse Russian policeman Khriply are searching for an answer in a city which they compare to a two-faced Janus, one face looking towards Asia, the other towards Europe. A donkey is sent up in a hot-air balloon. The civil servant Vakhvakhov is translating Shakespeare. The dandy Argutinsky is playing billiards. The engineer Glebich puffs at his pipe as he tells the legend of the precious ruby that his family possesses, and why does a secret customer promise Akopa the thief a thousand tumans in gold?

The Ruby of Al-Tabar is the fifth novel in the series about mishaps in 19th-century Tiflis, where there are lots of allusions, historical characters and there are the sounds and humour of the city at that time. This may be an evasion from today's noise, but it is not an escape from reality.

ROYAL MARY

In 19th century Tiflis, where European and Asian architecture merge, near the main avenue, between Tatars square and Shaitan Bazaar, steeped in tobacco and coffee aromas, there is a theft! Royal Mary, a 5 years old English horse, an unbeaten favorite at all the horse-races in Caucasus, is stolen from the famous Ali Khanov stable. Royal Mary was to be presented to the Persian Shah, who was planning to visit the Georgian capital in a couple of days. There are no clues in the stable, except for a single white rose. The case is given to a descendant of an Aquitaine noble family, the elegant and intelligent Louis Albrais, to investigate. The number of victims gradually increases: in various districts corpses are found. And who will be the last victim? The detective fears that it will be the Shah himself.

The story is narrated in a style typical of 19th century Tbilisi. Humour, imagination, an exotic mixture of facts and fiction, of tragic and comic protagonists are the main features of Abo lashagashvili's novel. The book is intended for those who like light thrillers as well as lovers of serious literature, and is full of allusions. The reader will periodically be reminded of Kipling, Hoffmann, Pushkin, Hamsun, Hugo, Chesterton, Stevenson and Borges.

"Royal Mary proves to be not only an excellently researched historical crime novel with well-placed anachronisms, but also a witty play with the reader."

/T. Spreckelsen/

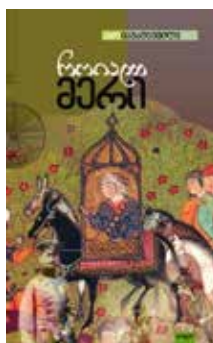


Born in 1977 in Tbilisi, after graduating from Tbilisi State University he went to Germany to study History and Philosophy. After completing his studies, Abo went backpacking through Europe, to explore and experience Europe's actual culture and perception. In the early 2000s he returned to his native city and worked at various jobs. As an enthusiastic traveler and lover of history, he found his ideal job as a mountain guide, a profession that gave him a new opportunity to study the history of his own country in depth. In fact, Tbilisi has become the young author's inspiration too: he began reviving old stories and chronicles about the capital and has drafted a cycle of novels about 19th century Tbilisi. Abo lashagashvili was awarded the Best Novel Prize for his first novel at the prestigious SABA Literary Award 2015.

Abo lashagashvili in translation / lashagashvili's novel *Royal Mary* has been published in Germany (edition. fotoTAPETA 2018).



The Ruby of Al-Tabard
Number of pages: 172 / Novel
Published in: 2020 /
Nekeri Publishing
Rights, contact: Abo lashagashvili
dondima@hotmail.com



Royal Mary
Number of pages: 188 / Novel
Published in: 2014 /
Diogene Publishers
Rights, contact: Abo lashagashvili
dondima@hotmail.com

BEKA ADAMASHVILI



Born in 1990 in Tbilisi, Beka Adamashvili is a young promising author, blogger and advertising copywriter. He graduated from Caucasus University, faculty of journalism and social science. He made his literary debut in 2009 with short stories published on electronic platforms and with time his name became popular among young readers. In 2014 Adamashvili made his debut with the novel *Bestseller* which eventually became a local bestseller. He is the winner of the literary contest Legend of the Fall 2013 for short story *XXVIII: Full Stop* and Laureate of the European Union Prize for Literature 2019 (EUPL). Apart from writing he works as a creative director for popular advertising company Leavingstone which is a respected brand in Europe. Critics claim that Adamashvili is one of the most creative minded writers of contemporary Georgian literature.

Beka Adamashvili in translation / Adamashvili's rights have been sold in: Germany (Volland & Quist, 2020, 2017); UK (Dedalus, 2021); Poland (Widnokrąg, 2021); Greece (Vakxikon Publications, 2022).

SOMEONE DIES IN THIS NOVEL

On day Mr. Memento Mori realizes that he is a character with the superpower of traveling into the books and decides to strike against the evil writers who sentence their characters to death. Mr. Mori persuades Romeo and Juliet that suicide is not a solution and in their adulthood they will remember these days with laughter. He goes to The Magic Mountain with a huge supply of penicillin. In reverse Mr. Mori pushes Professor Moriarty at Reichenbach Falls and kills him in order to save many other characters. But everything turns upside down when Mr. Mori discovers that in the book where he is the character the author decides to kill someone. He has no information about the victim so Mr. Mori gathers all the characters and with the help of H. G. Wells's time-machine starts a journey to different epochs.

Great sense of humor and deep knowledge of world literature combined with marketing and advertising skills makes Adamashvili's prose hilarious and entertaining. He very often uses allusions from classic literature and sometimes even shifts the famous characters into his works.

"A brilliant reading pleasure." /I. Gutschke, Neues Deutschland/

"A book could hardly be more literary. A literature festival for lovers of printed pages – a fun game with literature and its facets." /Binea, Literatwo/

BESTSELLER

Pierre Saunaige is an unpopular French writer. Only twelve men attended the presentation of his latest novel. He decides that the only way to become popular is to commit suicide and Pierre takes that PR step and goes to hell. But hell is not the place we think it is. Writers have their own hell, a so-called Literary Hell where every writer is tortured the same way they used to torture their readers: where Jack Kerouac can't stop walking and Samuel Beckett is left endlessly waiting for someone.

So Dante Alighieri welcomes Pierre to hell where the BBC (Big Brother's Channel) is controlled by George Orwell, William Shakespeare runs the hotel Hothello and Antoine de Saint-Exupéry is the celebrity in the suiciders' anonymous club. And everything you see is Literature.

"It's really a book for people who know how rich the reading worlds of the great are, and that all the distractions of modern technology will never come close, not even the million-plus films that distract audiences from thinking and re-thinking their dreams." /R. Julke, Leipziger Internet Zeitung/



Someone Dies in this Novel
Number of pages: 200 / Novel
Published in: 2018 /
Sulakauri Publishing
Rights: Sulakauri Publishing
Contact: Maka Shulaia
m.shulaia@sulakauri.ge



Bestseller
Number of pages: 164 / Novel
Published in: 2014 /
Sulakauri Publishing
Rights: Sulakauri Publishing
Contact: Maka Shulaia
m.shulaia@sulakauri.ge

"Aka Morchiladze deserves to be read not merely as an example of a Georgian novelist but as a world class novelist in his own right."

/T. I. Burton, critic/

AKA

MORCHILADZE

CUPID AT THE KREMLIN WALL

The Soviet Union, late 1930's, a retired secret policeman (aka chekist) Mr. Retinger is arrested in Tbilisi and no one knows if he is imprisoned, sent to Siberia, Spain or somewhere else. His wife, a well-known revolutionist and suffragist Musya Eristavi has no other option but to travel directly to Kremlin, Moscow. She sends a telegram to her old friend Joseph Stalin, informing him that she's on her way to rescue her innocent husband. In his early years Stalin was hiding at Musya's place and now the kindness must be paid back. The three-day journey in an isolated train of the isolated Soviet Union is chaotic, full of fear, stress and unexpected relations. Musya is surrounded by agents and we only know that she will definitely reach the Kremlin but from there her fate is unknown.

Cupid at the Kremlin Wall, which is the first book of the forthcoming Cupid Trilogy is a perfect illustration of struggle of a rebellious soul during the Soviet time where even hoping for justice was hopeless. As Morchiladze writes "it's not about the Kremlin, it's about love. One will find out if she loves herself, her husband or Stalin."

"Great Novel. A Testament." /Indigo Magazine/

SANTA ESPERANZA

Santa Esperanza can be read in any order as a book has an unusual format for a novel. Santa Esperanza is a multi-cultural country stretched on small islands lost somewhere in the middle of the Black Sea. The islands are inhabited by the Georgians, the Genoese (descendants of the Black Sea settlers), the Turks and the British. This literary crackerjack transports the reader into a world that is sometimes ironically droll, sometimes slightly melancholy but always fascinating – the imaginary Santa Esperanza Islands. From countless fragments – love stories, messages in bottles, fairy tales, myths and sagas, ancient chronicles, emails and newspaper articles – a gaily coloured cosmos emerges. Santa Esperanza is a melting pot of very varied peoples: in the course of history Georgians, Genoese, Ottomans and finally the British have left their mark on the three wondrous islands. Those who remained there have evolved their own traditions, laws and customs in order to cunningly defy the constant stream of conquerors who seek to overrun their beloved patch of earth.

Imaginative, funny, sad and absurd – countless mosaic pieces combine to form a wonderful epic that describes what happens in every age and every place when old systems of dominion fall and social structures crumble.

"The tragic, crazy, brightly colored chronicle of a fantasy archipelago." /S. Zekri, critic/

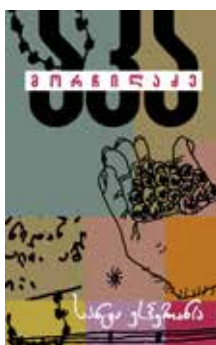


Born in 1966 in Tbilisi, Aka Morchiladze (Giorgi Akhvlediani) is arguably the biggest name in contemporary Georgian literature. His debut novel *Journey to Karabakh* (1992) led to his success. He was immediately named as a brilliant storyteller by critics and the media and since then he keeps that status. Morchiladze also was an extremely popular sport-columnist in the 1990's. In the early 2000's he also was a TV host of the program *Unknown Georgia*. Morchiladze's works which count more than 20 novels are narrated by the 19th century Georgian nobleman and 90's urban junkie slang as well as by academics and old, sweet village people. His novels are easily adaptable into feature movies and stage plays.

Aka Morchiladze in translation / Rights on Morchiladze's novels have been sold in several countries, among them: UK: (MTA Publications, 2022); Germany (Weidle Verlag, 2018; Mitteldeutscher Verlag, 2021, 2020, 2019, 2018); Ukraine (Calvaria Publishing, 2018); Croatia (Hena.com, 2018); Italy (Del Vecchio Editore, 2016); Serbia (Dereta, 2016); Mexico (Instituto Tlaxcalteca de la Cultura, 2015); Bulgaria (Arka Publishing, 2015); Egypt (Al Kotob Khan, 2017, 2015); USA (Dalkey Archive Press, 2014, 2012); Sweden (Publishing House 2244, 2013); Azerbaijan (Alatoran, 2013); Switzerland (Pendo, 2006).



Cupid at the Kremlin Wall
Number of pages: 332 / Novel
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Rights: Sulakauri Publishing
Contact: Maka Shulaia
m.shulaia@sulakauri.ge



Santa Esperanza
Number of pages: 768 / Novel
Published in: 2017 / Sulakauri Publishing
Rights: Sulakauri Publishing
Contact: Maka Shulaia
m.shulaia@sulakauri.ge

THE SHADOW ON THE ROAD

The writer is describing the Soviet period in Georgia, beginning with the Stalin's times and ending with the 1990s. He surveys the period in a very interesting way, decade by decade, examining the changes that occurred. The reader is given a vivid picture of a whole epoch, with its past lived in the shadows and with many unknown stories and events "that went on beyond the shadows."

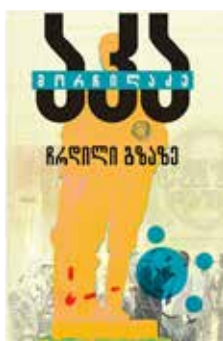
"A feuilleton text that picks up on profound and complex topics in a seemingly easy way." /Th. Völkner, Hamburger Lokalradio/

JOURNEY TO KARABAKH

Morchiladze's first and best-known novel has been a best-seller ever since it first appeared. This is an indication of the narrative's continuing relevance, especially in its treatment of the emotional condition of an entire generation and the absurdity of the conflicts in the Caucasus. A book about the tricky business of finding and defining liberty. The novel, which resembles a road movie, was made into a film in 2004.

The book is narrated by a young Georgian man Gio, who accompanies his friend to the Karabakh conflict zone on a dangerous quest to procure cheap drugs. He is taken prisoner first by the Azeris and afterwards by the Armenians. But does the protagonist strive to really escape from his captivity? Experiencing constant pressure at home, from his family and relatives, the former prisoner of the Georgian social order does not regret coming to the strange place, in the middle of a war, surrounded by armed forces. Since the end of the Georgian civil war, para-military groups ceaselessly roamed the streets of Tbilisi. For Gio there is nothing left to go back to.

"A fascinating account of the interplay between freedom and captivity – material, political, cultural, and social – of a young man desperate for an authentic experience that is not mediated by social or cultural convention, nor cushioned by his father's money." /Tweed's Magazine/



The Shadow on the Road
Number of pages: 216 / Non-Fiction
Published in: 2014 /
Sulakauri Publishing
Rights: Sulakauri Publishing
Contact: Maka Shulaia
m.shulaia@sulakauri.ge



Journey to Karabakh
Number of pages: 188 / Novel
Published in: 1992 /
Sulakauri Publishing
Rights: Sulakauri Publishing
Contact: Maka Shulaia
m.shulaia@sulakauri.ge

ERLOM AKHVLEDIANI

MOSQUITO IN THE CITY

Mosquito in the City encompasses a mega-period – with its deep and serious existential problems, with the integration of modern and post-modern conceptions and views, at the boundaries of genre in its new type of narration. Erlom Akhvlediani writes a great deal about writing.

Main heroes of the novel are a mosquito which originates from Colchis's lowlands and, like every true Colchian, has blue eyes and a writer. The writer sits, just like a child, by the window and watches the world with wonderment. From time to time he notices certain things: a child in a human being, poetry in the world, micro-organism in the macro-world, a whole mega-world in a particle, eternity in an instant, and this joy of discovery runs through the book, right to the end.

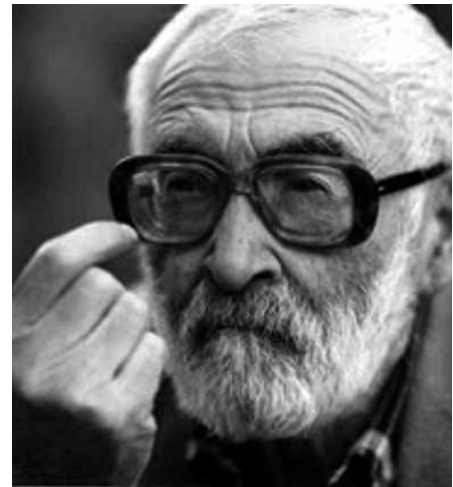
Erlom Akhvlediani wants us to shrink in size, to feel our smallness, so that we can grow up. Because the insignificant bite of a mosquito can change the world, making it take a radical turn, turning it upside down. This mosquito, so unattractive and tiny, and yet so important, the persistence or the paradox of the world, the incarnation of its unknowable, super-logical truth, still has to be killed by the writer. Why? Because, infected by the virus of love, arisen from the dead, transformed and empowered by a new outlook, he has to continue writing the book of the world.

"Exhilarating and at the same time paradoxical." /P. Handke, German Nobel Prize Winner/

VANO AND NIKO AND OTHER STORIES

A selection of spare, parable-like tales, the book certainly leaves space for the reader to join the dots. The book is divided into three main sections. Each section is different but they share a minimalist style entirely free of contextual and cultural details. They are all carefully constructed and often amusing. The tales featuring Vano and Niko are simple and vignette-like, limited to symbolic essentials: Trees, houses, streets, sun, rain. Vano is generally presented as gentle, kind and deferential; Niko is more impulsive and quick to anger.

Over the course of the stories a struggle plays out between the two sides of human nature, but the relationship between Vano and Niko shifts from antagonistic to warm depending on the story. Vano and Niko resembles a catalogue of all the relationships that are possible between people. It is a parable that demonstrates that not only humans but all living beings are engaged in the search for the other. Today *Vano and Niko* has cult status and the book is famous throughout Georgia, even forming part of the philosophy curriculum.



Erlom Akhvlediani (1933-2012) is a well-known Georgian writer and scriptwriter. He graduated from Tbilisi State University in the faculty of history in 1957 and passed higher educational courses at the All-Union State Institute of Cinematography in Moscow. During 1962-1999 he wrote the scenarios for nineteen acclaimed films and starred in four movies. From 1965 to 1992 he was a member of the Scenario Committee of Georgian Film Studio. Akhvlediani played a major part in Georgian intellectual life as a writer of film scripts. But along with his extremely successful career in screenwriting he authored three novels and numerous short stories, which already are regarded as Georgian Classic. Erlom Akhvlediani received several literary prizes, SABA Literary Award 2011 for the Best Novel among them.

Erlom Akhvlediani in translation / Akhvlediani's works have been translated into English, German, Russian, Armenian, Czech, Hungarian and Arabic and have been published in several countries, among them, in France (*Le Serpent à plumes*, 2017); Turkey (*Dedalus*, 2014); USA (*Dalkey Archive Press*, 2014); Germany (*Suhrkamp*, 2000; *Edition Kappa*, 2000); Netherlands (*Uitgeverij Voetnoot*, 2006, 2003).



Mosquito in the City
Number of pages: 236 / Novel
Published in: 2010 /
Publishing House Siesta
Rights: Publishing House Siesta
Contact: Ketevan Kiguradze
bookssiesta@gmail.com
Full translation available in French
and sample translations available
in English.



Vano and Niko and Other Stories
Number of pages: 167 /
Short story Collection
Published in: 2005 /
Link Publishing
Contact: Ketevan Kiguradze
bookssiesta@gmail.com
Full translation available in
English and sample translation
available in German.

DIANA ANPHIMIADI



Born in 1982 in Tbilisi, Diana Anphimiadi is a poet, author of culinary prose and children's books, publicist, translator and teacher. Currently she is a doctoral student at the Linguistic Institute of Tbilisi State University. Anphimiadi is the author of a number of scholarly articles and publications and is the holder of Ilia Chavchavadze scholarship for young researchers. Her poetry has received prestigious awards in Georgia, including first prize TSERO 2008 and the SABA Literary Award 2009 for the Best First Collection. German translation of her book *Prediction with Jam* won special prize Prix Culinaire in silver within the Prix Prato 2018.

Diana Anphimiadi in translation / Rights on Diana Anphimiadi's books have been sold in several countries, among them: UK (The Poetry Translation Centre, 2018); Austria (Wieser Verlag, 2020, 2018, 2017; Drava Verlag, 2018); Anphimiadi's poems are included in the anthologies in UK (Bloodaxe Books, 2021; The Poetry Translation Centre, 2018; Francis Boutle Publishers, 2016); Germany (Größenwahn Verlag, 2018; Pop Verlag, 2015).

PREDICTION WITH JAM

Prediction with Jam revolves around taste, memory and literature, autobiographical aspects, historical prose, the culinary preoccupations of masterpieces of world literature, social or political themes, stories that deeply effect ordinary human beings. In short, everything in this book – precise recipes, recipes for reading and memorising the book, children's cooking or children's books, memoirs, travelling, linguistic digressions, oral stories, literature from Georgia and the rest of the world, gastronomic fantasies that occur in well-known books, well-known gastronomes or writes...

"Her textual components are carefully measured, used in the right order and seasoned, just like cooking ingredients. Her main idea is clear and compelling: cooking is not only a basic requirement for food intake and thus for survival, it is also not only a matter of skill and ability, but it is intertwined with countless cultural and social phenomena. Cooking points from the kitchen into the world and from the hot stove top to the beating heart." /Th. Völkner, critic/

PERSONAL CULINARY

"Culinary Prose or Literature Culinary? When I was thinking of the title for my new book, a thousand literary terms came into my mind and finally, I rejected them all, because this is a book about personal culinary", says the author and offers to her reader a book of personal memories, events and people remembered through tastes, smells, colours and senses. The reader can meet with some real personalities, literature characters and well-known people, who only passed briefly in the author's life but have left an odd taste for a long time.

All these memories and events are lended with culinary and with each recipe is unfolded either into a personal story of the author, or a story of her generation, or a story from yesterday's Georgia. Through the culinary the author, with her extraordinary humor and writing style, brings a perfect smell and taste which might be familiar not only for Georgians but for everybody because after all this is a book about life, humans and love recipes.



Prediction with Jam
Number of pages: 141 /
Culinary Prose
Published in: 2016 /
Books in Batumi Publishing
Rights, contact:
Diana Anphimiadi
diana@saba.com.ge
Full translation available in German.



Personal Culinary
Number of pages: 152 /
Culinary prose
Published in: 2012 /
Sulakauri Publishing
Rights: Sulakauri Publishing
Contact: Maka Shulaia
m.shulaia@sulakauri.ge
Sample translation available in English
and full translation available in German.

"An unadorned and highly talented rendition of the tragic events that befell Georgia in the 1930s." /T. Chiladze, writer/

CHABUA AMIREJIBI

DATA TUTASHKHIA

Chabua Amiredjibi's *magnum opus* and an undisputed classic of Georgian literature, it has been published up to 30 countries.

The novel tells the story of an outlaw Data Tutashkhia at the time of the Tsars. It combines thriller elements with Dostoyevskian themes of personal fate and national identity. Above all, though, it defends the right to personal freedom and critical expression in the face of a repressive political system. The story is told by Count Segedy, a retired Russian-Hungarian chief of the Caucasian gendarme, interspersed with accounts from other people who have come across the outlaw Tutashkhia, who leads the Tsarist police a merry dance for years. It so happens that the gendarme chief, Mushni Zarandia is Data's cousin – outwardly his spitting image but at the same time his life-long opponent.

It is a tale of two cousins, both almost identically blessed with the same physical and intellectual traits, but travelling two morally different paths. While Data drops out of society in his youth – he shoots a Russian officer in a duel and escapes punishment by fleeing into the mountains, Mushni rises rapidly through the ranks of officialdom.

"Don Quixote in the style of Dostoyevsky. This historical, philosophical, political, satirical crime novel, this colourful panorama of stories, people, conversations, landscapes cannot really be compared with anything." /nurgutebuecher.de/

"An unadorned and highly talented rendition of the tragic events that befell Georgia in the 1930s." /T. Chiladze, writer/

GORA MBORGALI

Gora Mborgali is a semi-autographical novel in which the author tells a story of his alter-ego. Iagor Kargareli aka Gora Mborgali branded "the enemy of the people" and the Soviet regime sent him in Gulag. During his imprisonment Gora attempts several escapes: Wishing to be free and being unstoppable is the only way to feel alive.

The novel was published in up to 15 languages upon its publication. Later, author's son, cinematographer Kutsna Amirejibi directed a documentary movie based on the novel. The movie tells a story of Chabua Amiredjibi's struggle during the Soviet era.



Chabua Amirejibi (1921-2013) is an iconic Georgian writer, born in Tbilisi in a noble family. Amiredjibi's parents and close relatives became victims of Stalin's terror in 1937. In April 1944, he was arrested and sentenced to twenty-five years in the Gulag in Siberia. In fact he returned to Georgia in 1960 after 16 years in detention, three prison escapes, and two death sentences. In his homeland he began his literary career in his late 30s and quickly attracted attention with his first volumes of stories. Amiredjibi's most famous novel, *Data Tutashkhia*, was first published in 1973, gaining sensational success and the fame for the writer. 2010 Chabua Amirejibi was ordained as a Georgian Orthodox monk under the name of David.

Chabua Amirejibi in translation / Amirejibi's works have been published in many countries, among them: Azerbaijan (Teas Press, 2019); Germany (Alfred Kröner Verlag, 2018); Lithuania (Lietuvos rašytojų sąjungos KAUNO skyrius, 2018); Switzerland (L'Age d'Homme, 2012); Denmark (Gyldendal, 2004); Spain (Plaza & Janes editors, 1985); Ukraine (Folio Publishing, 2018; Edition Language, 1984); Hungary (Európa Könyvkiado, 1985); Russia (Drofa, 1993; Raduga Publishers, 1985; Izvestia 1979); Czech Republic (Odeon, 1982); Sweden (Wahlström & Widstrand, 1982); Finland (Tammi, 1980).



Data Tutashkhia
Number of pages: 612 / Novel
Republished in: 2019 /
Sakartvelos Matsne
Rights, contact: Kutsna Amirejibi
kutsna@yahoo.com
Full translation available in French,
German and Russian. Sample translation available in English.



Gora Mborgali
Number of pages: 650 / Novel
Republished in: 2019 /
Sakartvelos Matsne
Rights, contact: Kutsna Amirejibi
kutsna@yahoo.com
Full translation available in Russian.

ZAIRA ARSENISHVILI

REQUIEM



Zaira Arsenishvili (1933-2015) was born in Telavi. She worked as a music teacher from 1957 to 1971, playing in Tbilisi's opera and ballet theatre orchestra. From 1972 she was a film drama writer in the writers' collective of the Georgian Film studio, and from 1975 she was an editor in a second creative collective. She was the author of scripts for the films *When the Almonds Blossomed* (1972), *A Brawl in a Town of Gourmets* (1975), *Several Interviews on Personal Questions* (1978), *Today it Was a Sleepless Night* (1983), *Mayhem* (1986), *A Waltz on the Pechora* (1992), as well as the script for the film version of Ilia Chavchavadze's novella *Is He Human?! (1979)*. A film series *Happiness* (2009) was based on a story by her. Zaira Arsenishvili is an author of four books and won several literary prizes and awards, among them: Georgian State Prize 1998, Georgian Council of Ministers' Prize 1984.

Requiem is the first novel by Zaira Arsenishvili. The terrible Stalinist repressions of the 1930s were by then almost twenty-five years in the past. The so-called 'Thaw' had begun. A young violinist in the Tbilisi Opera and Ballet Theatre tries to get an idea of the life of a senior fellow musician a quarter of a century earlier, during the Great Terror. By listening to eye-witnesses, he builds a picture of the atmosphere they breathed, of the hopes that kept them going, of the plans they had, how they loved, and how they hated...

Life seems to have changed, the sound of an approaching car in the silence of the night, a herald of inevitable perdition, no longer terrifies anyone... even though people are still haunted by the shadow of that terrible fear. The author asks us whether human nature itself has changed.

OH, LIFE...

The background of the novel is the arrival of the Bolsheviks in Georgia and the repression which came with it. In 1921, after the exile of the Georgian government to France, the Red Army invaded the country which lost its independence, while the population was persecuted with the worst peaks in 1924, the early 1930s and 1937. These periods of persecution organized by the new Soviet power could be treated as a separate subject. But in this novel they are just background preparing the foreground where feelings and a heart-breaking story, are analysed with deep insight. The novel is built mainly around Eva's story. She met her love Gio in dramatic circumstances. They got married. But, unfortunately, Gio was mysteriously murdered. The killing was done by Spiridon, young man passionately in love with Eva. He went as far as commit a murder for her and now she becomes his obsession. Finally, before committing suicide he lets Eva know the truth about Gio's death.

Zaira Arsenishvili's art is able to transcend a terrible reality and rise to a higher level of insight into the human soul and heart. A multitude of images and stories are set in different periods of time surge from normality into a Dostoyevskian psychological abyss, and then return to their starting point. In the interval, the human psyche has been explored thoroughly and deeply, and human suffering described in a breath-taking way.

"The book is organized like a jazz composition, which has to be organized out of casual improvisations, from blind alleys that arise from the themes themselves, in all sorts of variations."/> /I. Tavelidze, writer/



Requiem
Number of pages: 570 / Novel
Published in: 2021 /
Sulakauri Publishing
Rights: Sulakauri Publishing
Contact: Maka Shulaia
m.shulaia@sulakauri.ge



Oh, Life...
Number of pages: 660 / Novel
Republished in: 2019 /
Sulakauri Publishing
Rights: Zurab Arsenishvili
Contact: Sophie Arsenishvili
sophioarsenishvili@yahoo.com
Full Translation available in German.

TEMUR BABLUANI

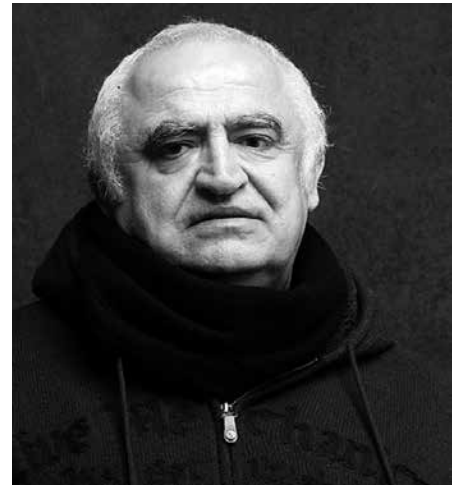
THE SUN, THE MOON AND THE WHEAT FIELD

This first novel by Temur Babluani is about tricks of fortune. Jude is accused of having killed five people. He escapes from the prison several times and also changes his name several times in order to flee from justice. His conscience is so traumatised by fears that he spends more than 10 years in a psychiatric clinic. Finally, at the advanced age, he nevertheless commits a crime, as he again encounters the person, who served as the reason for blaming him for the murders. The crooked fortune forgives him for this crime and even makes him rich.

This thick novel about adventures, crimes, or swindling is full of stories and is distinguished with a rich and impressive gallery of characters and the dizzying style of narration. And what is most important, in this text, the author manages to describe several spaces, which are absolutely different from each other, in several eras that are also absolutely different: Tbilisi of the 1960s and 1970s with all of its ethnic diversity, Russian provinces, places of penal servitude in Siberia and Central Asia, and Tundra and Taiga.

Despite the murky stories, the book is nevertheless about love. It is a story of the sorrows and pains of a boy from Tbilisi. It is love – love for Manushaka, thinking about her, waiting for her, and aspiring towards her that help the protagonist to survive the ordeal of the 30 years and his age and disfigured life can by no means deprive these of charm and attractiveness.

"One of the most impressive novels I've ever read about Soviet and Post-Soviet Georgia. Full with humor, sadness hurt and adventures." /D. Turashvili, writer, TV journalist/



Born in 1948 in the mountainous Svanetian village of Chaguri, Temur Babluani is an acclaimed Georgian film director, script writer, and actor. 1979 he graduated from Tbilisi State Theater Institute, having been tutored by Tengiz Abuladze. During his career, Babluani acted in numerous Georgian feature and short films. He is best known for his film *The Sun of the Sleepless* (1992), which was awarded the Silver Bear at Berlinale for an outstanding artistic contribution. 2013 Babluani started working on his first novel *The Sun, The Moon and the Wheat Field*, which was finalized in the beginning of 2017.

Temur Babluani in translation / Babluani's rights have been sold in: France (Les éditions Grasset, 2022); Azerbaijan (Qanun publishing, 2020).



Number of pages: 496 / Novel
Published in: 2018 /
Sulakauri Publishing
Rights: Sulakauri Publishing
Contact: Maka Shulaia
m.shulaia@sulakauri.ge
Sample translation available in
German and French.

LUKA BAKANIDZE



Born in 1982 in Tbilisi, Luka Bakanidze is an author and a journalist. He published his first literary works in the journal *Literaturuli Palitra* and instantly gained readers' interest. The young author mainly attracts attention with his authentic writing style and extraordinary topics. In 2014 he offered to Georgian audience his debut novel *The Third Shore*, which instantly became popular not only among the wide circle of readers but gained critics' interest as well and was nominated as the best debut book of the year at SABA Literary Award 2017.

Luka Bakanidze in translation / Bakanidze's novel *The Third Shore* has been published in Germany (Klak Verlag, 2018).

WHERE ART THOU, LAZARUS...

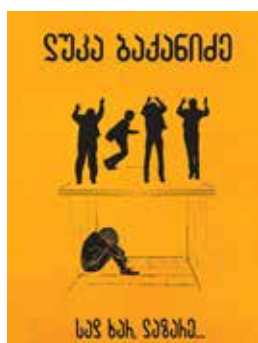
The word is dangerous. It can transform an ordinary shy youth into a male-factor. The word is a burden. It is as heavy as the body of a child that has not been born yet... The word is the best building material in the hands of a good writer. It is with the word that they create interesting prose that is precisely like Luka Bakanidze's prosaic collection of works *Where art thou, Lazarus...* that comprises realistic, emotional, and impressive stories written about relations between youths and the world and youths and societies. The collection has the name of a story that tells us how the state and society can transform an ordinary youth into a monster, if he is a rugged individual. And when a lot of other things happen to you, of which you are guilty or not guilty, you start searching for Lazarus. You call him: "Where art thou, Lazarus! Rise from the dead or I'll be screwed up" as we can read in Luka Bakanidze's story.

"Luka Bakanidze is a writer, whom very many youths must meet, speak and share their opinions with." /M. Tsiramua, author, psychologist/

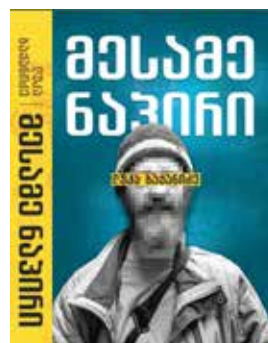
THE THIRD SHORE

The Third Shore depicts a mystical place, too far and too close at the same time, where the community of either rejected or self-claimed dregs of society perform the desperate living. In the place where impurity, cruelty and sin has become the main values, the life beyond the bank is forgotten, so the characters have new names and do whatever their destructive instincts tell them – sex, drugs and rock 'n' roll. The protagonist of the story, outcast Jio, makes a living from playing an harmonica in a subway together with his friend, guitarist Alexander. The subway is their home and shelter, where one day they meet a tattoo artist Nea and her boyfriend Markus, who joins their company with a flute in a guitar case, to grab his piece of adventure in a wild anarchy, until AIDS takes his life.

The novel has all the features to surprise the modern experienced reader with its depth, dynamism and the live story. But the most influential is the author's genuine skill of storytelling, its sincerity and the novelty of the subject.



Where art thou, Lazarus...
Number of pages: 144 / Short story Collection
Where art thou, Lazarus...
Published in: 2018 /
Palitra L Publishing
Rights: Palitra L Publishing
Contact: Tinatin Asatiani
t.asatiani@palitra.ge



The Third Shore
Number of pages: 312 / Novel
Published in: 2014 /
Palitra L Publishing
Rights: Palitra L Publishing
Contact: Tinatin Asatiani
t.asatiani@palitra.ge

"Berdzenishvili pulls off both a feat of fractured storytelling and a beautiful excavation of a recent, haunting past."

/Publishers Weekly/

LEVAN BERDZENISHVILI

HOLY GLOOM

Holy Gloom is perhaps the only book about the Soviet camps which it is impossible to read without laughing. This is due to the talent of the narrator and his natural Georgian cheerfulness.

Based on true events, a thrilling marriage of reportage and fiction, *Holy Gloom* brings together the stories of a group of citizens from the Soviet Union who find themselves in an extraordinary, absurd condition.

As a political dissident, Berdzenishvili lands in jail, serving a sentence on trumped up charges of activism and agitation. But rather than being the hell he expected, jail allows him access to a wide array of intellectuals, professionals, citizens of all walks of life, many of whom, he freely admits, he would not have had the chance to meet if he had not been in jail.

Here he bears witness to those lives. Each chapter carries a single person's name and focuses on a single story. Collectively, however, these portraits create a multifaceted and vast picture of life in the Soviet Union and during its demise. A nation seeks to suppress its brightest citizens, to keep them locked away in the dark. But in that darkness, unbeknown to the jailor, bonds stronger than walls were forming.

"A tribute to humanity." /C. Zetzsche/



Born in 1953 in the black sea coastal city of Batumi, Levan Berdzenishvili is the author of numerous research books and essays on Ancient Comedies, Modern Cultural Analysis and Latin Language. After earning his PHD, with a dissertation about Aristophanes, he worked as a Librarian at the State University's Latin Library. He also translates ancient literature. Levan Berdzenishvili used to be a member of the Georgian parliament and the founder of the Republican Institute of Georgia. Berdzenishvili has been the general director of the National Parliamentary Library of Georgia for many years, and is often invited to give public lectures, which are attended by thousands at universities in Europe and America and broadcasted on radio and television. He is also well known for being a Soviet dissident: He spent several years in a camp in Mordovia near the Volga, and was one of the last political prisoners of the USSR who was convicted for anti-Soviet propaganda – in his case for founding the Republican Party of Georgia.

Levan Berdzenishvili in translation / Rights on Berdzenishvili's novel have been sold to several countries, among them: France (Noir sur Blanc, 2022); USA (Europa Editions, 2019); Hungary (Europa, 2019); Germany (Mitteldeutscher Verlag, 2018); Italy (Edizion E/O, 2018); Russia (NLO, 2016).



Number of pages: 268 /

Documentary prose

Published in: 2010 /

Sulakauri Publishing

Rights: Literary Agency Galina

Dursthoff

Contact: www.dursthoff.de

Full translation available in English and German. Sample translation available in French.

LASHA BUGADZE

"Bugadze has a talent for humorously described scenes and a sense of absurd." /Tagesspiegel/

THE LITTLE COUNTRY



Born in 1977 in Tbilisi, Lasha Bugadze is the author of numerous novels and plays which have been performed in many European cities. Bugadze focuses his critical and ironic attention on relationships between the generations, and describes situations in which people fall victim to their prejudices, fixed ideas or stereotypes. He won the Russia and Caucasus Region category of the BBC International Radio Playwriting Competition in 2007 and one of the two top prizes in 2011 for his play *The Navigator*. In 2018 Bugadze won SABA Literary Award for *The Little Country*. Bugadze is a writer and presenter of literary programs broadcast on TV and radio. He is also a gifted cartoonist.

Lasha Bugadze in translation / Rights on Bugadze's novels have been sold in several countries, among them: Greece (Vakxikon Publications, 2021); Azerbaijan (Qanun Publishing, 2019); Germany (Frankfurter Verlagsanstalt, 2018, 2017, 2016); USA (Dalkey Archive Press, 2014, 2013, 2012); France (Éditions L'Espace d'un instant, 2015); Egypt (Al Kotob Khan, 2015); Mexico (Instituto Tlaxcalteca de la Cultura, 2015); USA (Dalkey Archive Press, 2014); Sweden (Tranan, 2013); Netherlands (Flemish-Dutch House deBuren, 2011).

Based on a true story, the novel is narrated by the author-protagonist, whose short story was demanded to be banned by the parliament in 2002 and who was almost excommunicated by the Orthodox Church of Georgia. At the turn of the new century the country is headed by the aging Eduard Shevardnadze, the former Foreign Minister of the USSR and now the President of independent Georgia. The author-protagonist publishes a story in a literary magazine of modest circulation. The satirical story is about the legendary queen Tamar of the 13th century, or rather about her unfortunate marriage to Yuri, the Russian prince, who demonstrated inappropriate habits at their wedding night, absolutely unfit for a royal descendant. Several months later, some MPs demanded that the author should be punished, insisting on introduction of censorship. In their opinion, the young author had insulted the national history and stained the name of the most revered queen. Politicians and media got actively involved in the scandal, using it to manipulate the public opinion, applying various methods at their disposal.

Ultimately, the novel is about fear and anarchy, about search for new identity and phobia of losing the old one, politics and politicians, revolution and the war between Georgia and Russia, religion that is used as a propaganda tool to manipulate the society in the post-Soviet countries, about the confrontation between the Western and the Soviet values. Above all, the novel deals with love, ethical principles and the freedom of expression.

THE LITERATURE EXPRESS

A literary association has invited unknown and mediocre writers of various nationalities to a seminar. The narrative of the novel follows the train as it travels through Europe. The novel describes the self-absorption of the authors and their inability to communicate with each other. They are portrayed as inward-looking and disinterested in their fellow travelers' works. The novel speculates on the subject of literature and unsuccessful writing.

The main character of the story is a Georgian author. At the heart of the novel is a love story between him and his Polish translator's wife. However, their romance is as unsuccessful as the protagonist's attempts at literary success. At the end of the fascinating journey through Europe, we discover that all the authors participating in the seminar are writing their new books about the Literature Express. *The Literature Express* is about literature and writers, but also subtly reflects the tragedy of a Georgian man who cannot integrate into the European society because of his mentality.

"The Turbulent Novel." /Neue Zürcher Zeitung/



The Little Country
Number of pages: 501 / Novel
Published in: 2017 /
Sulakauri Publishing
Rights: Sulakauri Publishing
Contact: Maka Shulaia
m.shulaia@sulakauri.ge
Full translation available in
German and sample translation
available in English.



The Literature Express
Number of pages: 318 / Novel
Published in: 2009 / Sulakauri
Publishing
Rights: Sulakauri Publishing
Contact: Maka Shulaia
m.shulaia@sulakauri.ge
Full translation available
in English and German.

"I had long been afraid that Berlin could become too cosy.
Zaza Burchuladze prevents this." /B. Bjerg, critic/

ZAZA

BURCHULADZE

TOURIST'S BREAKFAST

An author has fled with his wife and child to Germany. His passport is his only possession, storytelling – his only means of identification. "In today's world," the author writes, "everybody's going somewhere. Some because they can, others because they have to." *Tourist's Breakfast* is about both groups: refugees and tourists. Mixing autobiographical prose and documentary realism, Burchuladze walks the reader through his version of Berlin, a claustrophobic space that triggers memories of the narrator's past life in Georgia and the Soviet and post-Soviet history of his native land. Sometimes examining such phenomena as, for example, a Georgian funeral and requiem, sometimes telling us his own adventures, sometimes casually giving us simple line portraits of actual people. Real non-Georgian characters appear, so as to provide the author with certain associations, and then immediately disappear.

As a whole, just like a book which is full of details, a series of pictures. And also of characters. Zaza Burchuladze draws his surroundings, objects, people, sometimes with good humour, sometimes with sarcasm, but, which is important, there is always an unexpected effect, one always feels the forces of metaphor.

On the one hand, this is a book of personal experience and reflections, but at the same time it offers us a text with is socially acute. Observing the strange locals and battling the ghosts of the past, reader and narrator move step by step and word by word through the city, ultimately staking a powerful claim to belonging and identity.

"Every line speaks of loss but also of a longing to find something new." /N. Haratischwili, writer/



Born in 1973 in Tbilisi, Zaza Burchuladze is a contemporary writer, dramatist and translator. He graduated from the Georgian State Academy of Fine Arts and began writing at the age of 24. Over the last ten years he published a number of novels. He was awarded with the Tsinandali Prize for Literature, as well as a Literary Award by the Ilia State University. His translations into Georgian include works by Fyodor Dostoyevski, Daniil Kharms and Vladimir Sorokin. He has worked for Radio Free Europe and held lectures at Caucasus School of Media. He was a resident at the Literary Colloquium in Berlin in 2011 and 2013, as well as at the Heinrich Böll House. Zaza Burchuladze successfully starred in a Georgian feature movie *Jaqs Refugees* in 2008. Currently he is a writer in residence at PEN Germany. Today he lives and works in Berlin.

Zaza Burchuladze in translation / Burchuladze's rights have been sold to: Germany (Tropen Verlag, 2022; Blumenbar, 2017, 2015); Italy (Ibis Publishing, 2019; Meridiano Zero, 2014); Macedonia (Antolog Books Dooel, 2015); USA (Dalkey Archive Press, 2013, 2012); Poland (Clarusculo, 2011); Moldova (Cartier, 2011); Switzerland (L'Age d'homme, 2013); Sweden (Tranan, 2013); Russia (Ad Marginem, 2015, 2011, 2008).



Number of pages: 158 / Non-fiction novel

Published in: 2015 / Sulakauri Publishing

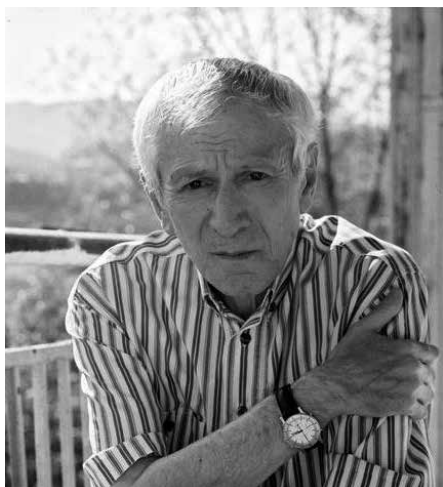
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Contact: Inka Ihmels

ihmels@aufbau-verlag.de

Full translation available in German and
sample translation available in English.

OTAR CHILADZE



Otar Chiladze (1933-2009) was a Georgian writer who played a prominent role in the resurrection of the Georgian prose in the post-Stalin era. His novels characteristically fuse Sumerian and Hellenic mythology with the predicaments of a modern Georgian intellectual. He gained popularity with his series of lengthy, atmospheric novels, such as *A Man Was Going Down the Road*, *Everyone That Findeth Me*, *Avelum* and others. Otar Chiladze who became a Georgian classic author during his lifetime was awarded some Highest State Prizes of Georgia and in 1998 was nominated for the Nobel Prize along with five other writers. Otar Chiladze received SABA Literary Award 2004 in category the Best Novel for *The Basket*, Ilia Chavchavadze State Prize 1997 for Artistic Work.

Otar Chiladze in translation / Rights on Chiladze's books have been sold to several countries among them: Germany (Matthes & Seitz Berlin, 2018, 2014; Volk und Welt, 1998, 1988, 1983); Turkey (Aylak Adam Kultur Sanat Yayincilik, 2015); Armenia (Antares, 2015); UK (Garnett Press, 2013, 2012); France (Albin Michel, 1994); Estonia (Eesti Raamat, 1992, 1986, 1984); Lithuania (Vaga, 1986); Hungary (Magveto, 1983); Czechoslovakia (Odeon, 1984); Ukraine (Jovten, 1977; Radianskii pismenik, 1968); Luxembourg (Luxemburger Wort, 1973).

A MAN WAS GOING DOWN THE ROAD

The novel begins with the Greek legend of Jason and the Golden Fleece and the consequences for the obscure kingdom of Colchis after the Greek Jason comes and abducts Medea. But it is also an allegory of the treachery and destruction that ensued when Russia, and then the Soviets, annexed Georgia, as well as Chiladze's interpretation of life as a version of the ancient Anatolian story of Gilgamesh, and a study of Georgian life, domestic and political, in which women and children pay the price for the hero's quests, obsessions and doubts. The reader needs to explain the myth, and Otar Chiladze takes this mission seriously to explain the myth of the Argonauts and the author does it successfully. According to BBC World Service's Writer in Residence Blog, the novel is written as a series of streams of consciousness from different characters, but at the same time could be read as a series of confessionals. It gives a multidimensional view of modern Georgia with all its problems, labyrinths and cul-de-sacs...

"It's a bitter and honest novel which is relevant to all post-Soviet states searching for a new identity." /BBC World Service/

AVELUM

The novel depicts a love affair between a Western girl and a Soviet writer. It is a story of a Georgian writer whose private 'empire of love' collapses with the 'empire of evil'. The story is a tragedy of an idealist who damages every woman he cares for, and, in the end, himself. *Avelum* is Otar Chiladze's fifth novel. It was published in 1995 and was the first work of Chiladze when he was free of Soviet censorship and living in an independent nation.

In *Avelum*, the author does not limit himself to the 1990s alone. Moreover, the bulk of the novel describes the Soviet era. Otar Chiladze creates an image of a Soviet era intellectual, which is full of flesh and blood and is, at the same time, generalised, and studies it as well as the 'Empire of Love' built by *Avelum* to confront the Soviet empire. He regards creating the 'Empire of Love' and imagining to be the emperor in the empire as the most radical manifestation of freedom. *Avelum* is a very contradictory book as regards its content, form, and language. On the one hand, it has retained much of the unique style characteristic of Georgian classic writers and at the same time, the passion of creating a new language.

"The novel is captivating in its unusual mixture of myth and reality, more precisely in the psychological expression of the characters, its philosophical depth and great metaphors, recalling the magical realism of Latin American authors." /Ch. Links, critic/



A Man Was Going Down the Road
Number of pages: 590 / Novel
Republished in: 2018 /
Arete Publishing
Rights, contact: Tamar Chiladze
tchiladze@yahoo.com
Full translation available
in English and German.



Avelum
Number of pages: 470 / Novel
Republished in: 2018 /
Arete Publishing
Rights, contact: Tamar Chiladze
tchiladze@yahoo.com
Full translation available
in English and German

TAMAZ CHILADZE

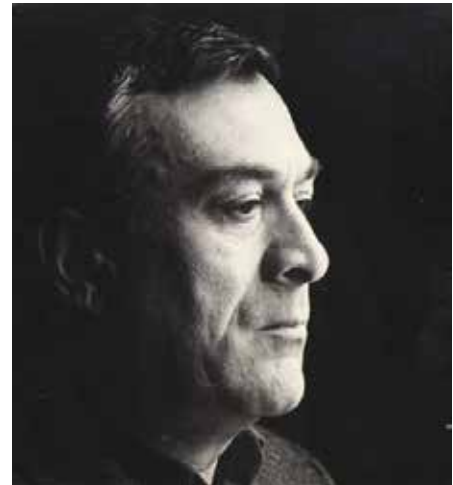
THE BRUEGEL MOON

The Bruegel Moon is one of Tamaz Chiladze's most acclaimed novels, presenting work that blends the genres of post-modernism, magical realism, and science fiction. The novel is about an individual's solitude, which is particularly acutely felt in the modern world of unprecedented technological advancements. Its main character is a psychotherapist, hitherto successful, whose wife, as the novel opens, is leaving him for a better life: any kind of life seems to be better away from him. Realising that her marriage is little more than 'fact or reality born of habit,' she tells him: "We were doctor and patient rather than husband and wife." As she prepares to leave, he tries hard to maintain his dignity, but this is soon mixed with defensiveness, poor attempts at humor, indignation, and accusations of infidelity, which appear to be true. Like many left behind in the break-up of a marriage, he becomes lost in a world of fantasy, doubt, and desperate attempts to regain his life.

The story's greatest tension comes when the author asks whether psychotherapist should be giving psychiatric advice, or receiving it.

In the course of Tamaz Chiladze's surprising novel very different characters appear: doctors, embassy employees, state security officers, lunatics and dissidents locked in the Soviet psychiatric institutions...

"The result is a work as complex as the human psyche and as powerful as the heart." /L. Farmer, critic/



Tamaz Chiladze (1931-2018) is Georgian writer, playwright and poet. After graduating in 1954 from Tbilisi State University, he published his first volume of poetry. From 1991 on, he gave a course of lectures in dramaturgy at Georgia's Theatre and Cinema Institute. During the years 1997-2008 he was chief editor of the magazine *Mnatobi*. His plays have been successfully staged at theatres, both across Georgia and abroad, and often by celebrated producers. In 1996 the radio broadcasting corporation of Western Germany awarded him first prize for the play *The Quartet of Paradise*. In 1999 he was nominated for the title of the International Personality of 1999-2000 by the Cambridge International Centre of Biography.

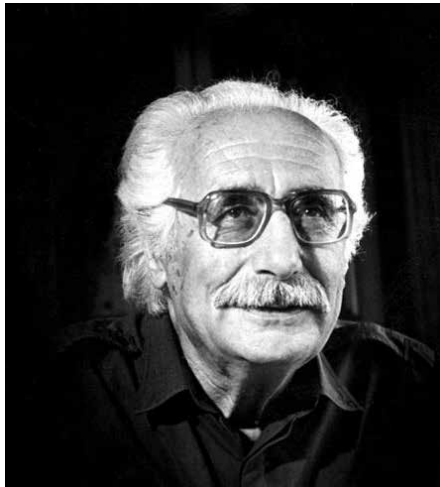
Tamaz Chiladze in translation / Rights on Chiladze's books have been sold to several countries, among them: Albania (Fan Noli, 2016); USA (Dalkey Archive Press, 2014).



Number of pages: 156 / Novel
Published in: 2008 / Pegas Publishing
Rights: Intelekti Publishing
Contact: Gvantsa Jobava
intelektipublishingrights@gmail.com
Full translation available in English.

OTAR CHKHEIDZE

FOG



Otar Chkheidze (1920-2007) was a Georgian writer, whose father and uncles fell a victim to the tragic events of 1924 in Georgia caused by communist regime. The family was raided and evicted from homeland. He published his first short story in 1940 in the magazine *Our Generation*. His novel of 1974, *Sog*, was the basis for Giorgi Shengelaia's film *Travels of Young Musician* (1985). He was awarded the SABA Literary Award in 2005 and the Ilia Chavchavadze Award in 2006.

Fog has a narrative power and the powerful imagery comparable with Mikheil Javakhishvili's *Jago's Refugees*, which it virtually continues. The novel's plot is built on a journey (in this respect it echoes such classic texts as *Alms-Gathering*, *Don Quixote*, *A Traveller's Letters* etc).

Nikusha Chachanidze, a young composer, comes to Kartli to collect folk songs; He comes prepared with a plan of the villages and families he has to stay with. The teacher Qanchaveli has given him letters to take to prominent families who might help him, but has also warned him that the times are dangerous. Leko Tatasheli offers him unexpected, unforeseen guidance. This man is an extraordinary, impressive image of an undeterred patriot who recognizes Nikusha as a mysterious hero and tries to convince others of this.

"In this novel the Bolsheviks are seen as bringers of a new order, a constant danger to the country when, in the grip of an unjust idea, they get their hands on power and violence reigns. This applies to the times that have come and is prophetic of the future, too. The novel gives an impressive portrayal of people waiting for a hero. Everyone is waiting and this interrupted motif of the search for a hero is taken up again." /M. Jaliashvili, literary critic/



Number of Pages: 424 / Novel
Published in: 2006 / Chveni Mtserloba
Rights, contact: Rostom Chkheidze
chvenimtserloba@gmail.com
Sample translation available in English.

"Gela Chkvanava is the Georgian Hemingway, he tells directly and unfiltered about everyday life in and after the Abkhaz war." /R. Gratzfeld, TraLaLit/

UNFINISHED STORY

Unfinished things include old love affairs, unsaid words, omitted actions and the literally unfinished lives that the protagonists desperately seek to recapture in their memories and in their lives. It is the psychogram of a society at war: the fighters in the stories are not professional soldiers but civilians who go to war for reasons of desperation, curiosity, boredom, friendship or family ties. These half-soldiers, half-civilians fight close to the places where they live and visit their relatives in the evening or at weekends. The war is described without sentimentality and at the level of 'micro-events.' There are no 'goodies' and 'baddies,' no 'enemy' who must be conquered.

Chkvanava shows how people change during and after the war and how the old social rules cease to apply. The action takes place in the space between the old and the anticipated new that has yet to become reality. This enables Chkvanava to transcend description of the local conflict and explore the process of change in the post-Soviet world as a whole. He also provides a very moving description of how the numerous links between Abkhazia's many different ethnic groups – Georgians, Abkhazians, Armenians, Russians and Greeks – have survived the war despite the political circumstances, which are referred to only tangentially and in passing.

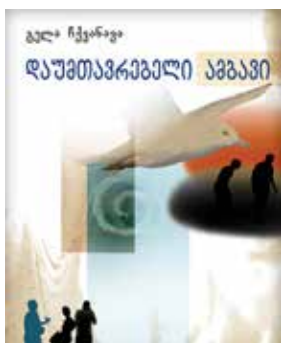
"Here the heroic is de-heroized, and that is what makes this contemporary Georgian literature so special and hopeful: it stands up to hostile images and demands a civilized, free society." /M. Pschera, Neues Deutschland/

GELA CHKVANAVA



Born in 1967 in Sokhumi, Gela Chkvanava after finishing school, was recruited into the army and assigned to an anti-missile unit in Leningrad (now St. Petersburg). After military service Gela Chkvanava returned to Sokhumi and studied philology at Sokhumi University. The armed conflict broke out in Abkhazia when he was still a student. Everything he wrote before the war was abandoned in Sokhumi and destroyed when his house was burnt down. To distract himself from the war, and to gain experience in creative writing, he began work on several stories set in peacetime. His Debut book titled *Local Colours* won the author SABA Literary Award 2005. This refugee author claims that he has two sacred words: Sokhumi and Dzidzaria (the latter being the colorful street he once lived in), the main inspiration of all of his works, that resound with his authentic and sincere literary voice.

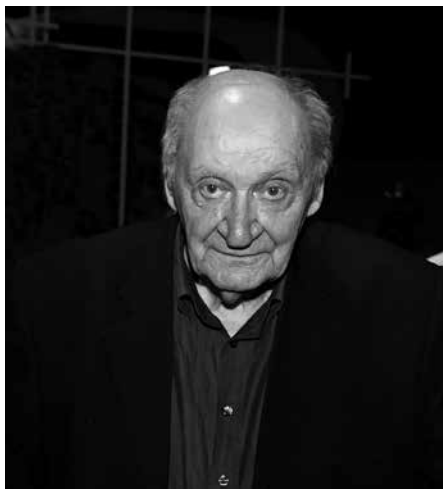
Gela Chkvanava in translation / Chkvanava's novel has been published in Germany (Volland & Quist, 2018).



Number of pages: 280 / Novel
Published in: 2008 /
Diogene Publishers
Rights: Gela Chkvanava
Contact: info@writershouse.ge

GURAM DOCHANASHVILI

THE FIRST ROBE



Guram Dochanashvili (1939-2021) was a Georgian prose writer, a historian by profession, whose literary works have been popular since the 1970s. He was an active participant in archaeological excavations and played in the university orchestra. From 1962 to 1975, Guram Dochanashvili worked in the Archaeological Department of History at the I. Javakhishvili Archaeology and Ethnography Institute. He was head of the prose department of the journal *Mnatobi* and headed the prose section of the Academy of Sciences. Since 1985 he has been the main editor at the Georgian Film studio. Guram Dochanashvili is one of the most popular writers in Georgia and his novels and short stories have become modern Georgian classic.

Guram Dochanashvili in translation / Rights on Dochanashvili's novel *The First Robe* have been sold to Carl Hanser Verlag, 2018; Dochanashvili's short stories have been published in many countries, among them: Mexico (Instituto Tlaxcalteca de la Cultura, 2015); USA (Dalkey Archive Press, 2014, 2012); Sweden (Tranan, 2013); Germany (Friedrich-Schiller Universität, Jena, 2001, 2000; Suhrkamp, 2000; Volk und Welt, 1984); Russia (Moscow, 1987; Izvestia, 1987; Sovetski pisatel', 1984); Water(po)loo in: Estonia (Perioodika, 1986).

A young man Domenico, a seeker of adventure, is very much affected by a secret contained in the tale of a refugee: it is about the rest of the world, which he does not know: he leaves his parents' home and goes to seek his fate. Gradually, as he contacts many different people, he understands what friendship, love, goodness, evil and freedom are. Domenico is not yet 18 years old. So his 'Odyssey' begins, a prolonged and very hazardous path in life towards selfknowledge. The traveler, passing through hell of the city Kamora, comes to Kanudos, a free city which shepherds and tillers of the soil have founded. Five rebels have created this dreamlike Kanudos for any person, a place where everyone is equal, everyone is for the others, and everyone is free. This is Domenico's second homeland. Despite of this the traveler goes back to his high village after wandering the world and failing to find anything better than his own village, built on a mountain peak.

The novel's popularity in Georgia is well attested by the fact that the first night club opened in Tbilisi during the Soviet period was called *Kanudos*, and it was always the favourite place for young people to gather. It is hard to find anyone who has read *The First Robe* only once. The reason probably is the wisdom so simply but brilliantly offered in the novel, and the vivid, memorable characters and interesting development of the plot: as a whole, the work arouses an amazing desire in the reader for a shared experience, a shared wandering, a shared learning.

"A beautiful fable about love and friendship, about life and identity, and above all an invitation to a feast of the imagination."/N. Haratischwili, writer/



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Republished in: 2019 / Meridiani Publishing
Rights: Natela Sepiashvili,
Ketevan Dochanashvili
Contact: Temur Mosidze
tmosidze@napr.gov.ge
Full translation available in German and
sample translation available in English.

TEONA DOLENJASHVILI

A BIRD WON'T FLY OUT

"Does this city look like mine? Probably not, as the wars and ruins of different cities create different sculptures out of death"... – thinks to herself the main character of the novel, Nata, while walking the streets of Aleppo. At the age of six, she had escaped from burning Sokhumi, and, years after she is in Syria on a job mission as a photo reporter from one of the publishing houses in Paris.

The author points Nata's camera to the people whom the war has turned into living ghosts: Isida – who is operated on without anesthesia; Abula who has been turned into a chemical weapon into the government's hands; Maryam who is being prepared to become a Jihad bride; Rihman who is planning to restore Palmira destroyed by the terrorists... Alongside the stories of these persons we get to know Nata, we learn how she left Sokhumi, how she crossed Tchuberi, we learn about her sick little sister, their defeated father and their unbreakable mother; people who froze to death on their way, and who, hoping to be found and buried by their families one day, had tied their names on their hands... The author tells these stories of empathy on one hand, and of deception on the other, through a six years old girl's narrative, and this childish manner of storytelling is so convincing that the stories become even more heartbreaking.

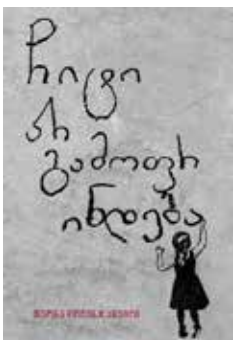
A lot has been written about the horrors of war. We all know theoretically that there is no winner in the war but, unfortunately, this knowledge seems to disappear from the memory of the humankind like the war diaries of the main character of the novel, little Isida: "Turns out, I was writing with a white chalk on a white wall, so everything was condemned to be erased and disappear without a trace from the very beginning"...

"Whatever fate lies in store for this book, it will in any case remain a significant work and will without doubt resist the passage of time, and this young author from a small country, despite many obstacles and linguistic barriers, is becoming part of European literature and culture."/ W. Minela, critic/



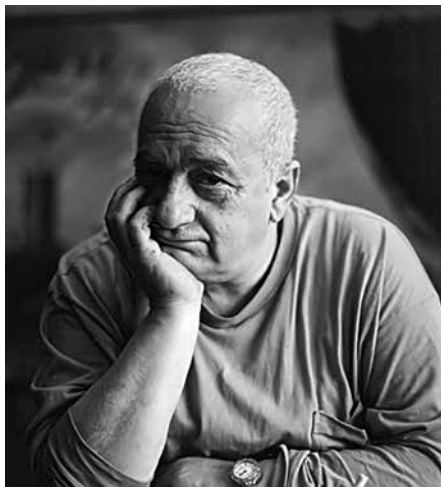
Born in 1977, Teona Dolenjashvili graduated from Journalism and Filmmaking Department of the Tbilisi State University. For several years she worked at Georgian Television as a feature broadcasting director and author. Her first book, the short story collection *January River*, was published in 2005 and the following year was awarded the SABA Literary Award for the Best Debut of the Year. Apart from writing, Dolenjashvili has worked for various private and State establishments as a Society Communications Manager. She has participated in various literature projects including Goethe Institute, joint literary events with German, Lithuanian, Ukrainian and Azeri colleagues. In 2009 Teona Dolenjashvili was again awarded SABA Literary Award.

Teona Dolenjashvili in translation / Dolenjashvili's short stories are translated into German, English, Italian, Spanish, Turkish, Russian, Ukrainian, Lithuanian, Slovak and Azeri languages and published in: Germany (Klak Verlag, 2019); Italy (Edizioni Centro Culturale Studi Storici, 2015); Mexico (Instituto Tlaxcalteca de la Cultura, 2015); USA (Dalkey Archive Press, 2014).



Number of pages: 320 / Novel
Published in: 2020 / Intelekti Publishing
Rights: Intelekti Publishing
Contact: Gvantsa Jobava
intelekipublishingrights@gmail.com

REZO GABRIADZE



Rezo Gabriadze (1936-2021) born in Kutaisi, was a writer, screenwriter, stage director, painter, sculptor and puppeteer. He has written over 35 screenplays. At some point Rezo Gabriadze, frustrated by the lack of intellectual freedom in the Soviet Union, turned to puppet theatre as a hitherto overlooked way to tell his dramatic stories: in 1981 he founded the Marionette Theatre based in Tbilisi. Gabriadze has also worked abroad, where he has staged numerous productions. The theatre company has toured the world extensively including N.Y.'s Lincoln Centre Festival, the Edinburgh Festival, San Sebastian Festival, Spain, Toronto World Stage Festival, Theatre de la Ville, Paris, the Barbican Centre, London, etc. As a painter, he has contributed to numerous exhibitions and his works are kept in museums and private collections. Over 50 books have been illustrated with his graphic works. Rezo Gabriadze counts among his many international awards Commander of the Order of Arts and Letters of the French Republic.

Rezo Gabriadze in translation / Gabriadze's works have been published in many countries, among them: Germany (Sieveking, 2018); USA (Dalkey Archive Press, 2013); Mexico (Instituto Tlaxcalteca de la Cultura, 2015).

"I love Georgia. That country has given me many a happy day. I remember my friends – Rezo Gabriadze, who in my view is one of the best artists in the world." /Tonino Guerra, screenwriter/

KUTAISI IS THE CITY

The novel's main characters are a German prisoner, Otto Schulz and a small boy, Varlam. The book tells the story of Varlam, when he became ten years old. Varlam's mother was a violinist, but all that they know about Varlam's father is his postal address: 12\A\89423\6793 (i.e. the GULag). The few other indicators are his surname, first name and short biography.

Kutaisi is a City is brought to life by impressions and dreams of childhood, but the writer brings them to life against his own will, as he settles accounts with the past, or frees himself from it. If we look at it in this way, we may understand why the young Varlam puts up with injustice, mockery, violence and cruelty as if they were normal, why he struggles with them only in his feverish illusions and even then shows not the slightest aggression.

Anyone who knows Gabriadze's work, knows that plot is secondary for him – Rezo Gabriadze is an artist of situations. In describing the period after World War II, the author seasons the very grim social background, the cruel, tense relationships between people, with almost entirely unmotivated kindness. Kutaisi as Rezo Gabriadze sees it is a city where the weak suffer violence, but this violent force doesn't suffocate you; it is portrayed with black humour and with details that only Rezo Gabriadze is capable of supplying. It arouses not so much sympathy as a melancholy smile.

A light perception of grim existence, grim reality, and the light way in which it is portrayed is one of the novel's chief artistic merits. Everything is in the lightness of touch.

"When reading Kutaisi is a City many hitherto unconscious associations are aroused. Here it is not only Rezo Gabriadze's characters, scenarios and performances that you are reminded of, but also, for example, Woody Allen, with the simultaneously refined and eccentric humour of his prose, or the film Sky over Berlin, where angels befriend and rescue human beings, and stroll through Berlin, smoking cigarettes, just like Rezo Gabriadze's wartime Kutaisi." /P. Javakhishvili, literary critic, Radio Liberty/



Number of pages: 100 / Novel
Published in: 2002 /
Sani Publishers
Rights: Leo Gabriadze
Contact: Natia Tsiklauri
gabriadzetheatre@yahoo.com
Sample translation available
in German.

DAVIT GABUNIA

FALLING APART

"To Blanche, my cat, who is watching me", this is the dedication that Davit Gabunia has put in his first novel. Open the page, and the text's epigraph is the first thing you see: "I'm a fountain of blood in the shape of a" ... Here the epigraph, which is a quotation from a Björk song, breaks off. It breaks off because the song is about a girl, while the author is starting by describing the fountain of a boy's blood and the beautiful forms of his dead body. This prologue demonstrates that a murder is going to occur in the book, but there is no gun hanging anywhere on Gabunia's wall; instead he shows us the corpse straight away, which we inspect and then this inspection takes on an entirely different form. At this point it is impossible not to be reminded of Hitchcock's *The Rear Window*.

From the start, the author is playing with the reader, creating an intertextual work and he gradually turns his cat's harmless voyeurism into a dangerous voyeurism that destroys the individual. *Falling Apart* tells an intimate story of a young Georgian family; the husband, Zura is unemployed, taking care of 2 children, the wife, Tina having a routine job, their life seems to be ordinary from outside. The Summer of 2012 turns out to be crucial – Zura becomes obsessed with a new neighbour's (a 21-year-old gay man) private life, observing and taking pictures of his secret sexual encounters with an older politician; while Tina plunges into a passionate affair with her younger colleague. Both storylines reach the climax when Zura becomes a witness of a murder and Tina is abandoned by her lover. There are several narrators in the novel and the shifts of the perspectives, different voices present the isolated worlds of the characters, from their own viewpoints they fail to notice the growing danger which threatens to ruin their lives.

"Exiting like a Hitchcock." /ZDF "Heute Journal"/

"The way Gabunia describes being in love, the despair and the futurelessness of this love, that is great." /General-Anzeiger/



Born in 1982 in Poti, Davit Gabunia is twice the winner of the Independent Theatre Award Duruji (2013-14) for The Best New Georgian Play of the Year; winner of the SABA Literary Award 2014 for the Best Drama. His plays have been produced at Royal District Theatre, Rustaveli National Theatre, Poti, Batumi Theatres etc. Gabunia's translations include plays by Shakespeare, Strindberg, Ibsen and number of contemporary British, Swedish and German playwrights. His debut novel *Falling Apart* appeared 2017 and turned into a national best-seller in Georgia.

Davit Gabunia in translation / Rights on Gabunia's novel have been sold in: Germany (Rowohlt Verlag, 2018 - German title: *Farben der Nacht*).



Number of pages: 132 / Novel

Published in: 2017 /

Books in Batumi Publishing

Rights, contact: Davit Gabunia

dgabunia@yahoo.com

Full translation available in German.

Sample translation available in English.

NAIRA GELASHVILI

I AM THAT ONE



Born in 1947, Naira Gelashvili is a Georgian writer, germanist, literary critic and civil society activist. She began her literary activities with translations of German philosophy and poetry and gained popularity among readers for non-conformist prose, which eventually provoked a negative reaction from the Soviet authorities. Despite this, Naira Gelashvili has written a number of novels and short stories and has won several literary awards, including Literary Award LITERA 2018, SABA Literary Award in 2013 and in 2010; the Ilia Chavchavadze Prize for Artistic Work (2008); Prize of Austrian Ministry of Culture 1999 for translations of R. M. Rilke's works. The range of Naira Gelashvili's literary writings encompasses novels, stories, essays, poetry and children's prose, as well as children's songs and musical tales. 1994 the author founded and still heads the cultural-educational NGO Caucasian House Centre for Cultural Relations, which plays a significant role in the peaceful cooperation of different cultures and religions among the people of Caucasus.

Naira Gelashvili in translation / Rights on Gelashvili's novels have been sold to many countries, among them: Germany (Verbrecher Verlag, 2018, 2017; Edition Braus, 2008; Suhrkamp, 2000); Turkey (Benceajans Basın Yayın Dağıtım Eğitim Bilişim, 2017); Czechoslovakia (Lidove Nakladatelství, 1986).

A novel with features of epic, drama and tragedy spanned through the story is a synthesis of prose and poetry. The story starts with an epigraph from Georgian medieval epic poem *The Knight in the Panther's Skin* and confrontation of the old and new worlds is underlined from the beginning. This is story of love between a 12 years old girl and much elder man, a story where the main character of 20th century Tbilisi falls in love just like a heroine of 12th epos, but a 'spirit of time', which gradually changes and empties everything from real feelings plays its role and gathers all the world against her: mother, family, school and even mandatory subject of literature, where she is forced to study the epic poem, even this hymn of love seems an old pile of empty words that becomes weapon against her love.

This is one part of storytelling, the second and more real part starts with an old woman who tries to find a man whom she loved in her 12th years so unconditionally that this love almost led her to a suicide.

"A cleverly constructed and very touching story about love." /B. Meixner, Buchmarkt/

"I Am that One is a wonderful poetic novel about the longings and unreasonableness of first love. [...] As is customary in Georgia, lovers of all ages should also give this great novel to each other in Germany." /Die Vorleser/

I AM SETTING OF FOR MADRID

"My deepest thanks, Simon, my deepest thanks, for bearing me in mind... Of course I understand, at a time when we have most work, what two weeks' leave means... after all this is not my hopeless, truly hopeless situation that makes me bother you... however, since you have been so gracious, I do have one request to make of you: I don't want our colleagues to know where I am going." This is how the book about Sandro Licheli begins: Licheli is going on an official mission, but nobody actually knows where to.

Naira Gelashvili's book *I'm Setting of for Madrid* is a lightly narrated, colourful story, humorous in tone about the beauties of Madrid, the passionate Carmencitas and fiery toreadors, melodious serenades and sun-lit streets, and the life of the hero who wanders these streets: in actual fact, it is not at all light and amusing. This is a story of the alienation of a man from society, of his inner tragedy, of the incompatibility of dreams and reality, of travelling somewhere and getting lost, of a desire to find spiritual freedom.

"The 1982 novella is a timeless, multi-layered ode to the imagination, a critique of both the regime and the modern working world." /M. Schrader, St. Hauck, Börsenblatt/



I am That One
Number of pages: 126 / Novel
Republished in: 2020 /
Aloni Publishing
Rights: Aloni Publishing
Contact: Anna Margvelashvili
alonipublishing@gmail.com
Full translation available
in German.



I am Setting of for Madrid
Number of pages: 96 / Novel
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Rights: Aloni Publishing
Contact: Anna Margvelashvili
alonipublishing@gmail.com

SHOTA IATASHVILI

THE BEGINNER (MAXIMAL NOVEL)

The protagonist of the novel, the poet Nicolas, suddenly realises that for more than half a century of his life he was writing poems and studying poetic aesthetics without a profound reflection about how the world is arranged. This terrifying realisation sharply changes Nicolas' lifestyle. He starts accelerated studies of the fundamentals of all sciences at the same time – mathematics, physics, chemistry, biology, astronomy, palaeontology, and so forth. Nicolas gradually becomes obsessed with the idea of being entirely cognisant of the universe. However, he does not follow any methodology, but is chaotic and endlessly moves from one subject to another. In addition to the metaphoric imagery that heaps up in his conscience in this process, reading scientific texts on tangible issues constantly gives rise, in his mind, to associations with stories of the past, reminding him of sharp moments in his past life. All this not only sharply changes Nicola's conscience, but also transforms his life. Each important phase of changes is considered in individual parts of the novel, symbolically marked with the names of the life cycle of cells.

"The Beginner is an important and artistically successful example of the resurrection of a genre, the 'didactic novel', which has been neglected over past decades." /D. Kartvelishvili, writer/

GRAVITATION

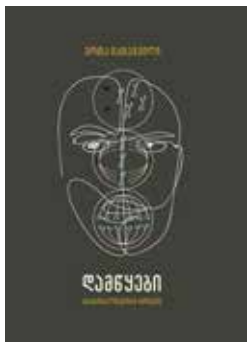
Gravitation is a selection of Shota Iatashvili's stories. It includes the best stories from the collection *Backlighting* (1998), *The Flower of Flowers and the Engineer* (2000), *Photo Fathers* (2005) and texts written afterwards. The book opens with an extensive story *The Sick City* written in 1992: in this story describes, as a parable, Tbilisi's civil war events of 1991-2, which ended in the overthrow of President Zviad Gamsakhurdia. This book contains several stories which are autobiographical. Among them is *Memento Vitae*, which the author makes very effective by montage effects: he sticks together with great craft short clips of various periods and various moods. *How We Chased Death out of the House* and *My Chess Novella* are also autobiographical.

On the whole, the book, which contains more than twenty stories written over the space of twenty years, is distinguished by its stylistic variety, by its broad range of moods, from the tragic to the ironic and to light humour, but the forms of narration are sometimes constructed according to classical structural rules, and sometimes strive for deconstructuralisation and the non-linear.



Born in 1966 in Tbilisi, Shota Iatashvili is a famous poet, fiction writer, translator and art critic. He made his debut as a poet in 1993 with *The Wings of Death*, since then has published significant number of poetry collections, four works of prose and a book of literary criticism, which won the SABA Literary Award as the Best Criticism of the Year. Simultaneously Iatashvili has worked on literary translations and introduced to Georgian readers Styles of Radical Will by Susan Sontag and an anthology of American poets into Georgian. Shota Iatashvili worked as an editor at the Republic Centre of Literary Critics. He was an editor-in-chief of the newspaper *Alternative* issued by the Cultural Center – Caucasian House and later became the editor of the publishing house Caucasian House. Currently, he is an editor-in-chief of the journal *Akhali Saunje*. Shota Iatashvili is a recipient of several poetry awards and is participant of numerous international literary festivals.

Shota Iatashvili in translation / Iatashvili's works have been published in several countries, among them: Greece (Vakxikon Publications, 2021); UK (Comma Press, 2018; Arc Publications, 2016); Germany (Edition Virgines, 2018; Corvinus Presse, 2015; Pop Verlag, 2015); Ukraine (Krok, 2016); Russia (OGI, 2014); Netherlands (Poëzie Centrum, 2010); Azerbaijan (Alatoran, 2022; Mütercim, 2009).



The Beginner
Number of pages: 500 / Novel
Published in: 2020 /
Palitra L Publishing
Rights: Palitra L Publishing
Contact: Tinatin Asatiani
t.asatiani@palitra.ge



Gravitation
Number of pages: 320 /
Short story Collection
Published in: 2012 /
Palitra L Publishing
Rights, contact: Shota Iatashvili
iatashvili@gmail.com

KOTE JANDIERI



Born in 1958 in Tbilisi, Kote Jandieri is a Georgian script and short-story writer. Soon after graduation Jandieri published his first short stories and started his career as a screenwriter. Since then Kote Jandieri has written numerous scripts for documentary and fiction films which have won popularity with Georgian and international audiences: they include *Orpheus's Death* (1996), *Love in a Vineyard* (2000), *The Cradle of Wine* (2011) and a TV series *Hot Dog*, which he co-authored with Nugzar Shatidze. The series was broadcast on TV Imedi in 2008-2009 and has become one of the most acclaimed projects in Georgian TV history. Jandieri also has produced two short story collections. His prose works have won a number of literary prizes in Georgia. Some of his works are included in school textbooks of Georgian Language and Literature.

Kote Jandieri in translation / Jandieri's works have been published in many countries, among them: Germany (Ciconia.ciconia, 2019; Klak Verlag, 2018; Suhrkamp, 2012); Mexico (Instituto Tlaxcalteca de la Cultura, 2015); Azerbaijan (ADK Publishing, 2015); Sweden (Tranan, 2013); USA (Dalkey Archive Press, 2012); Russia (Gamma Press, 2012).

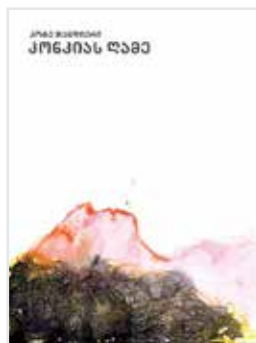
CINDERELLA'S NIGHT

The collection of short stories *Cinderella's Night* by Kote Jandieri over three decades offers readers a wide range of topics as well as the impressive richness of the author's authentic language.

Among his short stories we can in particular highlight a longer story, or short novel *Globalisation*. It is a story about an ordinary man who witnesses epochal events throughout Georgia's history. The whole story is narrated by a disabled peasant farmer from the region of Kakhetia. The story of the events which befall his family acts as a mirror to the troubled history of twentieth and twenty-first century Georgia. The inhabitants of the small village experience every turmoil of the entire country. They live through the period of the Russian Revolution when Georgia was a part of the Russian Empire. There followed the short-lived period of Georgian independence between 1917 and 1921, the subsequent civil war, Stalin's purges, the Second World War, Soviet communism, the collapse of the Soviet Union and then the armed conflicts in Abkhazia and Ossetia and the aftermath. Some people are flexible enough to adapt to the new capitalist system and the requirements of globalisation, such as the entrepreneurial peasant woman who opens a coffee shop, but many are lost and confused. Living in freedom appears too complicated and uncomfortable for many people. Orthodox Christianity which had been so much repressed under the Soviet Union, suddenly also became intolerant of any other beliefs.

The Kakhetian peasant-narrator tells his sad story with humour and in the characteristic regional dialect. The tragic story of his sister who became a Jehovah's Witness is just one of many stories of those who have had to endure similar persecution, right up to the present day.

"A masterpiece of Georgian short prose! and at the same time an imaginatively narrated crash course in Georgian culture and history and a parable about globalisation." /J.Becken, Historian, author/



Number of pages: 324 /
Short story Collection
Published in: 2009 /
Diogene Publishers
Rights: Diogene Publishers
Contact: Tinatin Petriashvili
adm@diogene.ge

OTAR JIRKVALISHVILI

LAZARUS

Otar Jirkvalishvili's collection of stories *Lazarus* is a book based on parodies of intellectual prose, on linguistic games and on a system of post-modern quotations. The stories are characterized by a powerful linguistic dynamism and expressiveness. Mostly, these are extremely politically incorrect, a deliberate attack on those areas of consciousness which seem to us to be best protected.

The collection's first story *Lazarus* tells us about Lazarus who, as the Gospel says, Jesus Christ raised from the dead. The author describes Lazarus's life and his second death after his resurrection. The main thread of the text is that Lazarus has doubts about whether he had really died.

The surrealist story *A Candy* is a bitter satire on fanaticism and, at the same time, an elaborately constructed text whose reflexions, in which philosophical, religious, medical or journalistic styles of language follow each other, consequently with ironic rhetoric and with an absence of any sharply defined plot line, and so on.

There are five other stories in the collection, and they completely complement or continue one another stylistically. The characters sometimes are conventions of each other, more significant allusions, reminiscences and interpolations, which determine the flow and semantics of the narrative. The amplitude of the extreme feelings is unexpected and always changeable, which sends us on a journey into the author's conscious and unconscious mind, something fragmentary and eclectic. What is relevant to this collection is the metaphor of a double angel.

"Baudrillard says that a man who is playing the part of a madman to perfection is himself mad. I think that Otar Jirkvalishvili, who produces ideally perfect parodies of intellectual prose, is at the same time a parody writer and an intellectual writer."/> /L. Doreuli, critic/



Born in 1981 in Oni, Otar Jirkvalishvili lived until the 1990s with his parents and his sister in Tskhinvali, and then, because of the war, was forced to move to Tbilisi. He is a licensed lawyer, specialising in criminal justice. He is a national and international chess master. In 1998 he won the third prize in the world Olympiad for young players. In 2000 he became Tbilisi chess champion. He began writing in 2006. Ever since 2009 his stories, poems and critical essays have appeared in various literary publications. He has published three books: *Lazarus* (2017); *The Bed* (Poems, 2015); *A Candy* (Stories, 2014). In 2010 his first story *The Scorpion* won the Nikoloz Baratashvili Museum Competition's Minor Prize. Jirkvalishvili won SABA Literary Award 2016 for the Best E-book of the Year for his collection of short stories *Lazarus*.



Number of pages: 184 /
Short story Collection
Published in: 2017 /
Palitra L Publishing
Rights, contact: Otar Jirkvalishvili
otar_jirkvalishvili@yahoo.com
Full translation available in German.

ZURA JISHKARIANI



Born in 1985, Bio-robot Zura Jishkariani aka Dilla, multimedia artist, writer and a self-proclaimed mayor of Sokhumi was officially manufactured and distributed as a single demo version 1985 in Sokhumi. After the war in Abkhazia he was living in ghettos under the refugee status. In the early 2000's he gave up studying sociology in university and launched punk rock band EVA. Later he founded a local art-guild *Eurasian Laboratory*, a union of young poets, musicians and performers. 2007 he started his most successful music project *Kung-Fu Junkie* which was disbanded after 10 years. 2014 Jishkariani created the first ever Georgian chat-bot *Cyber-Galaktion* which is a linguistic simulation of the most prominent Georgian poet Galaktion Tabidze. 2016 he founded the company ZEG which works on creating of interactive tombstones. Currently he works on his second novel and dreams about Mars colonization.

Zura Jishkariani in translation / Jishkariani's poems have been included in the Anthology of *Modern Georgian Poetry* in Germany (Größenwahn Verlag, 2018).

THE CHEWING DAWNS SUGAR FREE

"Reality collapsed some time ago, every day chaos seeps out from the cracks... The Messiah, however, is bound to die. That's my style. Only death of this kind has the power to give birth to revolutions. Meanwhile, authors may die, but heroes do not."

The Chewing Dawns Sugar Free is the first ever Georgian cyberpunk novel which is a debut work by Zura Jishkariani. Set in apocalyptic Tbilisi, Georgia, it tells a story of the Second Coming (Parousia) of the awaited Messiah. But as everything is designed in codes and algorithms, a terrible bug shifts the process of coming into the digital world. While the government tries to mobilize a group of priests and soldiers for military affairs, young junkies venture to travel into the digital world to save the Messiah. In the last twenty years the city has endured several local wars and revolutions and was nearly destroyed and built anew: a civil war, the Rose Revolution, the prison abuse scandal, street gang wars. But these haven't yet turned into history that isn't remembered because their participants are still here along with those who grew up in the non-stop chaos. On second thought, the city suffers from post-traumatic stress disorder, all against the background of scenic views and wonderfully sunny weather. If you accept that Tbilisi is a psychedelic city, you won't be surprised to hear about a pusher who uses drones to drop drugs on the roofs of the houses where his customers live.

"This is a novel and a shriek imbued with dubious hopes, or, supposedly, a voice from the ghetto, uncouth prose. I have a rough idea of what is happening in the holes of Zura's chaotic, storm-tossed, pitchblack brain... and it's attractive, very attractive."/> Z. Burchuladze, writer, critic/



Number of pages: 192 / Novel

Published in: 2017 /

Sulakauri Publishing

Rights: Sulakauri Publishing

Contact: Maka Shulaia

m.shulaia@sulakauri.ge

Sample translations available in English and French.

FOOTBALL BOOTS AND A LEATHER BOOTS

Tbilisi Dynamo Team, from a Secret Policemen's club
to a national symbol (1925-1953)

Tbilisi *Dynamo* is the only Georgian club which has won an international tournament. At the time (1981) such success was very rarely achieved by any Soviet team. Forty years passed since Tbilisi *Dynamo* had begun inflicting defeat after defeat on Europe's leading teams and won cup after cup, yet the time for rejoicing had not yet expired in the hearts of Georgian fans. The book tells us how this English sport found its place in Georgia at the beginning of the twentieth century, how the Soviet state perceived it to be a mass organization and tools of governance.

In Soviet tradition, players from various organizations were affiliated and every team had a 'protector'. Tbilisi *Dynamo* co-existed with the People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs, which in the 1920s and 1930s was run by Lavrenti Beria. The rise of this team and quite a few tragedies are connected with him.

The book describes to us a number of previously unknown stories about footballers, about the intertwining of the careers of sportsmen and secret policemen. Some footballers were interrogators who worked in the interior People's Commissariat at the same time, others became victims of mass terror. Regardless of its controversial history, Tbilisi *Dynamo* has become a symbolic depiction of Georgian nationalism: footballers have been perceived as the representatives of Georgia. In the 1950s the Communist Party first secretary used to tell them that the team's main mission was 'to represent the republic.'

Davit Jishkariani tells this story, based on many years' archival research and on personal interviews. He has talked to many families in Georgia, in Russia, Spain, even distant Mexico. He has succeeded in narrating the history of a football team in such a way as to illuminate the life story of an entire country.

"The author has researched passions of the Communist leaders of Soviet Georgia. He has asked a question why they needed a powerful football team – was this just emotional, or an internal battle of officialdom, moves that were necessary to strengthen their position in the Kremlin hierarchy?"

/I. Babunashvili, Review for leadersport.ge/



Number of pages: 144 / Non Fiction

Published in: 2021 / Poezia Press

Rights: Poezia Press

Contact: Natalia Alkhazishvili

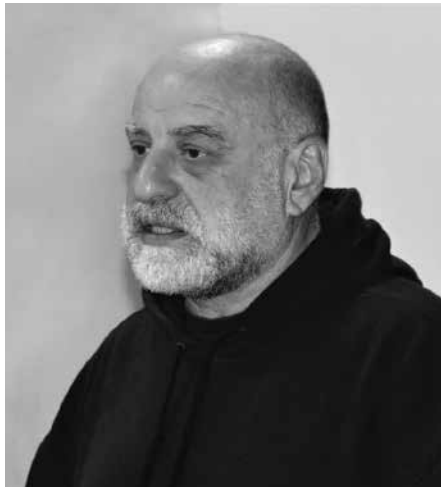
nalhazishvili@poeziapress.org

DAVID JISHKARIANI



Born in 1986, Davit Jishkariani graduated from Tbilisi Iv. Javakhishvili State University, after specialising in history. From 2008 until 2010 he took the Master's programme in Russian Studies at the same university. The title of his master's dissertation was Mass Repressions in Georgia in 1937-1938, based on Order 00447. In 2013 and 2014 he studied at Warsaw university's Centre for the Study of Eastern Europe. His research interests are the history of the Soviet Union, totalitarianism and Stalinism. He is a guest lecturer at the University of the Caucasus.

GIORGI KAKABADZE



Born in 1963, Giorgi Kakabadze is a writer, researcher and journalist. He graduated from Tbilisi State University, faculty of philology. After graduating the university he started working as an editor of literary programs at Georgian Radio Broadcast. But when the war in Abkhazia broke out, Giorgi Kakabadze went to hot spot and was reporting news and materials from frontline areas during 1992-1993. Years later he joined TV *Imedi* team as a screenwriter.

Giorgi Kakabadze in translation / Kakabadze's book has been published in Germany (Reichert Verlag, 2021).

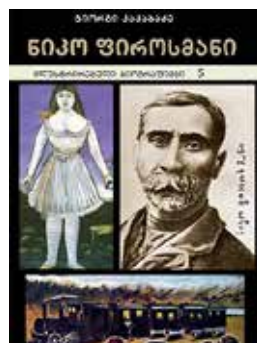
NIKO PIROSMANI IN SEARCH OF FADED INNOCENCE

Niko Pirosmani – In Search of Faded Innocence is a documentary novel about one of the most significant and on the same time mysterious individuals of Georgia – a self-educated painter Niko Pirosmani. Abundant historical and documentary materials make this book an innovative and extraordinary piece of Georgian literature. Rather than being another biography, which reinstates almost all previously ascribed misconceptions, Giorgi Kakabadze's novel is a rare attempt to collect authentic data about the great artist and then carefully shape it in the framework of a bestselling novel.

The author reveals a strong logical consistency in his narration and manages to portray Pirosmani's tough lifestyle as well as controversial and unveiled historical facts, the great artist's date of death among them.

The novel also tells of Georgia's social history, its troublesome historical timeline which became a platform for personal individualism and collective consciousness, conventional artists and avant-garde trends, invariable struggles of a personality for freedom as well as of the whole country for freedom. The author artfully varies the capacity of historical developments and offers a novel interpretation of a new epoch. The author attempts to reconsider the artist's works, which enhances the status of Pirosmani in the world of art heritage. Pirosmani no longer belongs to a group of mediocre primitivist artists, but ranks among the most advanced individualist and post-impressionist artists of the world – such as Gauguin, Van Gogh, Toulouse Lautrec, Cezanne and others.

"When I read Giorgi kakabadze's book Niko Pirosmani – In Search of Faded Innocence, I had the sentiment of truth, the truth that is so enchanting, when you look at Pirosmani's paintings." /G. Bugadze, artist/



Number of pages: 324 / Non-fiction novel
Published in: 2010 / Publishing House Pegasus
Rights, contact: Marine Tskhadaia
bookpegasus@gmail.com
Full translation available in German.

JEMAL KARCHKHADZE

ANTONIO AND DAVID

The book by the Italian traveler and merchant Bartolomeo d'Aniti, written after travelling around many countries, tells us a thousand stories, customs and habits of various peoples. These events were personally experienced, some are funny, some serious, but the amazing drama of *Antonio and David* is shocking and makes many people think things that had never entered their minds before.

This story takes place in a country known at the time as Colchis. The Argonauts once invaded this country for the Golden Fleece; today it is part of Georgia. It was here that the Italian royal court sent Bartolomeo, the narrator of this story, together with a missionary delegation, to study the possibilities for trade with Colchis. Bartolomeo makes friends with a missionary in the delegation, Antonio by name, who was once in confrontation with the Church, on account of which he had been sentenced by the Holy Inquisition to be burned at the stake. Antonio was pardoned as a result of the intervention of influential relatives and friends, but several of his friends and accomplices were burned, so that Antonio felt his pardon to be a heavy burden on his conscience throughout his life. While in Colchis, Bartolomeo and Antonio had to visit the local mountains to look for copper deposits. In the village where they were housed they noticed that people were living with a strange fear. After a short while the reason became clear, and the local inhabitants told them the story. *Antonio and David* is a most important work by Jemal Karchkhadze and one of those rare texts that stand the test of time.

"Great writers are identified above all else by their phrasing. Jemal Karchkhadze's phrasing is astonishing." /L. Bregadze, literary critic/

IGI

Igi is a Prehistoric story, taking readers to a period, when the very first artist and thinker discovers a method to create images. In the routine life of the prehistoric society is coming a moment when One of them referred as Igi starts to put the questions that no one ever had before, feeling of wonder obsesses his body and mind and tries to unfold secrets that are unnoticed for the rest. But in a closed society diverse perception of life is unacceptable. The Chief and his followers will never welcome a member with distinct way of thinking and the conflict rises between the progressive mentality and brutal forces. Igi has to follow a hard and painful way of solitude in order to gain the free will and find the essence of being. The vivid narration reveals a very strange world, where the feelings are often bizarre, and where one can find many answers to the questions still bothering the mankind.

"In his prose Jemal Karchkhadze shows us that a human being has the capacity to realise an inner truth based on achieving the highest human concept: freedom." /M. Beriashvili, philosopher



Jemal Karchkhadze (1936-1998) was a famous Georgian writer who wrote six novels, numerous short stories and essays. Karchkhadze held various posts between 1961 and 1982, before deciding to give up regular employment so as to devote himself full-time to writing. Jemal Karchkhadze's first published works were very well received by the public, but were met with harsh criticism from the Soviet critics of the time. In spite of this, the author continued to write and publish regularly. In 1977 one of his most acclaimed short stories *Igi* appeared, followed by such significant novels as *Caravan* (1984), *Antonio and David* (1987) and *Zebulon* (1988). It is worth noting that in his lifetime Jemal Karchkhadze received no award or prize. Karchkhadze was rediscovered in the 2000s by a new generation, and today his popularity continues to rise.

Jemal Karchkhadze in translation / Karchkhadze's Rights have been sold to: Norway (Solum Forlag, 2022); Germany (Leipziger Literaturverlag, 2018); Egypt (Al Khotob Khan, 2015); Sweden (Ruin, 2013).



Antonio and David
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Karchkhadze Publishing
Rights: Karchkhadze Publishing
Contact: Gia Karchkhadze
gia@karchkhadze.ge
Full translations available
in English and German.



Igi
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Contact: Gia Karchkhadze
gia@karchkhadze.ge
Full translation available
in English.

ZURAB KARUMIDZE



Born in 1957 in Tbilisi, Zurab Karumidze graduated from Tbilisi State University and was awarded a PhD in 1984. He worked for years as a research associate for the Centre of 20th Century Literary Studies at Tbilisi State University. In 1994-95 he spent a period at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee as a visiting Fulbright Scholar, studying post-modernist American meta-fiction. Zurab Karumidze has written highly acclaimed novels among them: *Caucasian Foxtrot* and *Jazzmine*, which gained instant success among Georgian readers. His book on the history of jazz music, *The Life of Jazz* won SABA Literary Award 2009. For several years he has been an international fellow of the Centre for Humanities at the Washington University in St. Louis. He has also worked for the International Foundation for Sustainable Development, and Open Society – Georgia Foundation. Currently he is a foreign policy adviser to the Government of Georgia.

Zurab Karumidze in translation / Rights on Karumidze's novel *Dagny or a Love Feast* have been sold to: Egypt (Sefsafa, 2021); Germany (Weidle Verlag, 2017); USA (Dalkey Archive Press, 2015, 2014); Turkey (Dedalus Kitap, 2014).

"Karumidze deserves much praise for writing such a profound, complex, and deeply original work of literary art." /R. Rosenthal, Tweed's Magazine/

DAGNY OR A LOVE FEAST

As the title suggests, there are two contrasting storylines unfolding in the novel: One of the Norwegian poetess and dramatist Dagny Juel (1867-1901), a beautiful and creative woman, whose errant life brings her to a totally foreign country. Dagny Juel was an inspiration to such celebrities as Edward Munch, August Strindberg, Gustav Vigeland, and was the 'Queen' of the Berlin bohemia of the 1890s.

The other story is a phantasmagoric mixture of religious mysticism and eroticism, mythic origins of arts and politics. It is a play with various cultural themes, traversing such extremes as shamanic art and Bach's art of the fugue, Gnosticism and modernist esthetics, magic and linguistics. This mix of themes and ideas is rendered in a story of a so called Agape, the 'Love Feast' a half-religious half-artistic event. The 'Topos'-place where the 'Love Feast' intersects with reality is the city of limitless feasting and wine-crazed discussion – Tbilisi. *Dagny or a Love Feast* is a novel written in English.

"The postmodern fireworks." /Tagesspiegel/

"Very strange, very unconventional, very brilliant." /Dimensionsmagazine/

CAUCASIAN FOXTROT

In 1926 an American couple are travelling through Russia and Georgia. What starts out as a business trip soon becomes much more than that when they find themselves in the historic and mountainous province of Svaneti. The journey reaches its climax when they dance a foxtrot at a feast in the region's highest mountain village.

It is a story about crossing cultural boundaries and exploring outer and inner worlds, expressed in love stories involving people of widely varying origin and culture. The central characters of the novel are vividly pictured: a young American businessman Bill Wasserstein, his wife Marion – a French aristocrat, though progressive and cosmopolitan – a Russian beauty, Nadia Dashkova, secretly working for KGB, and a flamboyant Georgian ex-prince Shakro Karmeli. They make up a love quadrangle, with all the predictable sentiments and passions.

Special focus is made on Tbilisi, the capital of Georgia, at that time – aka the Fantastic City where diverse ethnic and artistic traditions meet.

The novel provides a picture of Roaring 1920s and Modernism in America, in Russia and in Georgia. We meet artists, writers, intellectuals, KGB agents and occultists of the period: it is a re-reading of Georgian Modernism of the 1920s and the lively artistic scene in Tbilisi at that time.



Dagny or a Love Feast
Number of pages: 288 / Novel
Republished in: 2020 /
Intelekti Publishing
Rights: Intelekti Publishing
Contact: Gvantsa Jobava
intelektipublishingrights@gmail.com
Full translation available
in English and German.



Caucasian Foxtrot
Number of pages: 232 / Novel
Published in: 2011 /
Publishing House Siesta
Rights, contact: Zurab Karumidze
zurabkar@gmail.com
Sample translation available
in English and German.

"Besik Kharanauli is considered the creator of the Georgian vers libre. A critic compared his importance for Georgian poetry with that of T.S. Eliot and Ezra Pound for English poetry." /N. Hummelt, poet, translator/

BESIK KHARANAULI

EPIGRAPHS FOR FORGOTTEN DREAMS

Epigraphs for Forgotten Dreams is a philosophical novel with three protagonists: one between eight and ten years old, one between fourteen and fifteen and the author himself. The author perceives his fellow characters as others and not as aspects of his own childhood; through them he tries to recollect and feel youth's passions and aspirations. Another key character of the novel is Mother, who is the only tie binding the three characters, as she gave birth to all three and sees them as the one child born to her.

One fine day the adolescent, aiming to show his notebook of poems to a famous poet, decides to leave his native village and travel to the big city. He wants dramatic changes in his life: to be reborn, since his native village has become a cage for a teenager. He longs for some symbolic catastrophe to jolt him free from his predetermined course of life. But the city has become a real cage for actual writers, offering only inescapable loneliness and hopelessness. The author's spiritual metamorphosis occurs when one day the young boy and the adolescent both visit him and tell him that the huge wooden cross on the grave of their mother has fallen down. At this crucial point they all start to rebuild the mother's grave, looking for a sacred mythical place on a mountain peak called 'The Giants Playground.' The image of mother unites them and inspires the writer to see the universe as it is in reality, revealing the truth that a human being is born not alone, but as one being.

"In general, in the case of Besik Kharanauli's texts, nothing is ever given gratuitously: these texts demand of the reader participation, collaborative thinking." /M. Tkeshelashvili, literary critic/

THE BOOK OF AMBA BESARION

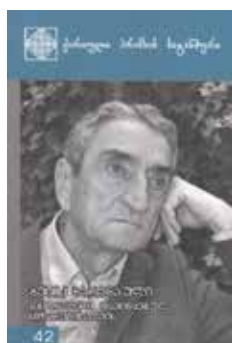
The narrative structure of this book alone is remarkable: three narrative voices embark on a journey through inner and outer landscapes – a holy jester and wandering dervish, a little old boy and his self as a serene and mature man. In the postwar period, the outcast monk emerges – the outcast monk Amba Besarion a fascinating and disturbing phenomenon for the villagers, self-sufficient, worldly-wise and worldly and remote. Little Besik tries to get close to him, to solve the riddles of Amba. He is not quite sure whether he is not turning into that outsider himself, who has a sharp eye for the of right and wrong, of luck in misfortune and vice versa.

The three voices comment, each in its own way, on the sublime and the ridiculous of human existence. *The Book of Amba Besarion* is a book for long evenings, a philosophical companion and explorer of conscience, which avoids the dry and dusty and disdains the polished answers, and always brings a smile and always knows how to conjure up a smile.

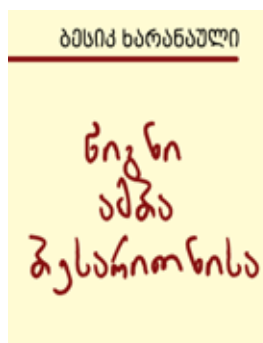


Born in 1939, Besik Kharanauli is an outstanding figure in Georgian literature. His untraditionally ironic and modernistic works were considered a novelty on the poetic scene of 20th century. Besik Kharanauli comes across as an innovator by nature, brisk, wise and eternally youthful, as someone who managed to survive Soviet pressure and has contributed to the post-Soviet era in Georgia. He has been awarded a number of prestigious Georgian literary awards. He won SABA Literary Award 2015 for the Contribution to the Development of Georgian Literature and he was nominated for the Nobel Prize for Literature by the Georgian government.

Besik Kharanauli in translation / Kharanauli's works have been published in several countries, among them: Greece (Vakxikon Publications, 2020); Germany (Dagyeli Verlag, 2020, 2018; Pop Verlag, 2015); Azerbaijan (ADK Publishing, 2015); Mexico (Instituto Tlaxcalteca de la Cultura, 2015); Turkey (Derneği Yayınları, 2015); USA (Dalkey Archive Press, 2012); France (Quidam Éditeur, 2010).



Epigraphs for Forgotten Dreams
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Contact: Gvantsa Jobava
intelektipublishingrights@gmail.com
Sample translation available in English and German.



The Book of Amba Besarion
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Published in: 2003 / Arete Publishing
Rights: Besik Kharanauli
Contact: Gvantsa Jobava
intelektipublishingrights@gmail.com
Full translation available in French and German.

ARCHIL KIKODZE



Born in 1972 in Tbilisi, Archil Kikodze started writing at the age of 21. He works for several literary and non-literary magazines. Kikodze won LITERA Literary Prize 2017 by Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection of Georgia and the Writer's House of Georgia and IliaUni Literary Prize 2017 in the category of Best Novel of the Year for *Southern Elephant*. His collected Essays (2012) and short stories *The Story of a Bird and a Man* (2013) also received SABA Literary Award. Kikodze is also a professional photographer. He has taken part in national and international photo exhibitions and has won many awards. Furthermore, he has published articles on environmental, ethnographic and social issues. He is the author of three guidebooks on science tourism. Archil Kikodze is co-author of the documentary film *Spring in Javakheti* (winner of the Niamori Festival Prize in 2004). He wrote the script for the film *Tbilisi, I Love You*. Archil Kikodze plays a leading role in the film *Blind Dates* (2013), which has won several prizes at international film festivals.

Archil Kikodze in translation / Rights on Kikodze's books have been sold to: Germany (Ullstein Buchverlage, 2019, 2018; Mitteldeutscher Verlag, 2018); Poland (Pogranicze, 2021, 2015); Bulgaria (AGATA – A – Petrovi, 2018); Azerbaijan (Qanun Publishing, 2018); USA (Dalkey Archive Press, 2012).

"Archil Kikodze takes us on a very intimate, melancholic, inspiring journey." /N. Haratishwili, writer/

A LIZARD ON A GRAVE STONE

The main subject of Archil Kikodze's latest novel, *A Lizard on a Grave Stone*, is memory. The narrator is endowed with an astounding memory and can recall things that other people try to forget. He constantly tries to recall the past with a woman he loved, by whom he has a child now aged twelve, and who repeatedly refuses to marry him. Memory is like a burden which you have to carry alone, because memory is individual, selective. The narrator refuses to forget his childhood traumas, his adolescent disillusionments, sufferings, and thus makes his own existence almost unbearable.

One of the main themes of the book is a society which has been left deprived of values. It is an epoch when old values are losing their meaning, when there is no replacement by new values, as though the country has been left suspended in the air, a country whose children don't know where they should head for. The book's theme is Georgian, but the action takes place all over the world, beginning in Berlin and ending in a little village in the Caucasus.

SOUTHERN ELEPHANT

Southern Elephant is a novel whose action takes place in a single day. A film director who has stopped shooting films lets a friend have his apartment to meet a girlfriend, while he himself passes the time wandering the Tbilisi streets. This is a day for looking in the mirror of the past and reappraising his own life, a day in which his childhood, his love, passion, mishaps and tragedies flash past like frames from a film. Against the background of the main hero's memories recent Georgian history is replayed.

The novel has one other important character, Tbilisi, with its complex relationships, its social obligations, sometimes heavy, sometimes light, sometimes happy and sometimes tragic, but more often than not grotesque. The narrator knows his city only too well, it has brought him a great deal of pain.

The novel has one other theme: cinematography. This is a book about two young men who dreamed of becoming film directors and making films in a destroyed country, where cinematography had ceased to exist. One of them (the more talented Tazo) has never managed to fulfil his dream. The other (the narrator) has in fact become a director and made one successful film, but a tragic event happened when shooting the second film and made him permanently hate his art, so that now he films advertisements. This is a novel about moral dilemmas, about how to stay human.

"Archil Kikodze has written one of the most story-rich and complex novels about the period of upheaval." /H. Heimann, Deutschlandfunk/



A Lizard on a Grave Stone
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Contact: Maka Shulaia
m.shulaia@sulakauri.ge



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Rights: Sulakauri Publishing
Contact: Maka Shulaia
m.shulaia@sulakauri.ge
Full translation available
in German.

ANNA KORDZAIA-SAMADASHVILI

ZINKA THE HUMAN

One courtyard in Tbilisi with its usual and unique hue is in the center of the novel that depicts sharply different life journeys of several people residing in this courtyard. One of the residents of the courtyard is a crippled musician Aleks. He is a man, whose life was very rough, but at the same time, fortunes looked up and presented him with his inseparable accordion Raviata, closest friends Kotiko and Data, Tamriko, who loves him secretly, and granddaughter Zinka. The residents of the courtyard are constantly together, taking care of each other and making each other's life easier. However, each of them is nevertheless alone, facing his own fate, difficulties, and challenges.

The book reflects on the one hand, sad stories full of humour from the life in Tbilisi in the past century and on the other, the plot unfolds in such a manner that it is difficult to puzzle out what can be true and what invented. Zinka knows that "experience does not mean that you will no longer do something; experience means that you know precisely that you will survive this too." As the author said in one of her interviews, "in reality, Zinka is a fool, but she is a very good girl. The main feature of Zinka is that she was so happy at some stage that when life suddenly said "No", Zinka said "Yes!"

Anna Kordzaia-Samadashvili wanted to make a declaration of love to Tbilisi in her recent novel. She dedicated it to her mother's friends, 'beautiful girls', who remained in the 20th century.

"Zinka the Human is a tragic saga about our life. This is a narrative feast. At the same time, it is a requiem for Tbilisi and a big musical adventure, which will leave no reader indifferent." /L. Tsagareli, critic/

ME, MARGARITA

Me, Margarita is the collection of short stories, where the author possesses such dexterity of the tone and structure that the book's 22 tales feel like raunchy, visceral oral history cloaked in an array of fictional forms.

The collection begins with a long title story about generations of women looking back at personal and national history, giving birth, grieving husbands who disappeared during wartime, by turns angry or in awe of fate. The story's breadth frames the range of women's voices that follow. They live in mostly urban places, usually Tbilisi, in vague yet hard circumstances, surviving bad relationships, raising children with little support.

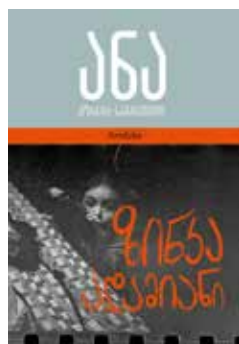
"Challenging, contemporary short stories with sharp feminist commentary." /Kirkus/

"With great skill, Kordzaia-Samadashvili brings readers into the kitchens, bedrooms, and hearts of these coarse, forthright women." /Publishers Weekly/



Born in 1968 in Tbilisi, Anna Kordzaia-Samadashvili is a writer, translator and cultural journalist. She also teaches literature and creative writing at Ilia State University in Tbilisi. She translates from German into Georgian and has in particular translated the work of Cornelia Funke and Elfriede Jelinek. She was awarded a prize by the Goethe Institute Georgia for her translation of Elfriede Jelinek's novel *Die Liebhaberinnen* (Women as Lovers). Anna Kordzaia-Samadashvili has won various Georgian literary prizes among them: SABA Literary Award 2003 in the category the Best Debut for the *Berikaoba* (with her pen name Sophio Kirvalidze) and IliaUni Literary Prize 2013 in the category the Best Novel for *Who Killed Chaika*. New York Public Library listed *Me, Margarita* in 365 Books by Woman Authors in 2017.

Anna Kordzaia-Samadashvili in translation / Rights on Kordzaia-Samadashvili's works have been sold in several countries, among them: Germany (Frankfurter Verlagsanstalt, 2020, 2018, 2013; Verlag Hans Schiler, 2018, 2016, 2014); Italy (Clandestine, 2015); USA (Dalkey Archive Press, 2014, 2012); Sweden (Tranan, 2013); Netherlands (Flemish-Dutch House deBuren, 2011); Egypt (Al Kotob Khan Publishing, 2018).



Zinka the Human
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Contact: Maka Shulaia
m.shulaia@sulakauri.ge
Full translation available in German.



Me, Margarita
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Short story Collection
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Rights: Sulakauri Publishing
Contact: Maka Shulaia
m.shulaia@sulakauri.ge
Full translation available in English and German.

BEKA KURKHULI



Born in 1974 in Tbilisi, Beka Kurkhuli studied theater art at the Shota Rustaveli Theatre and Film Institute in Tbilisi. He worked as a war reporter visiting different parts of Georgia and conflict regions in the Caucasus, including Abkhazia, South and North Ossetia. Also Ingushetia, Azerbaijan, the Pankisi Gorge and Afghanistan. His first book, entitled *Full Stop... Lost People from Lost Territories* was published in 2004 by The Caucasian House Publishing. He won SABA Literary Award 2016 in category the Best Novel for *Runaways from Paradise* and Revaz Inanishvili Literary Award One Story 2014 for *Previous Day*. His stories *Adamo*, *An Empty Ashtray*, *A Short Summer Night*, and *10,000 Words* were included in 39 Selected Short Stories (Palitra L Publishing). Beka Kurkhuli already published 13 books.

Beka Kurkhuli in translation / Kurkhuli's works have been published in: Albania (Dituria Publishing, 2021); Italy (Stilo Editrice, 2018).

RUNAWAYS FROM PARADISE

Runaways from Paradise is an artistic retrospective look at Georgia's past. The Odyssey of three friends in a deeply moving story, with a sad, sometimes tragic content, takes place against the background of this epoch, which Georgian society has still not read through or thought through to the end. The parents of these lads were peaceful children of the Soviet empire, some of them had ranks, or were permanently connected to the great empire by their fate and their lives: they were subordinate to and directed by that empire. Others, on the contrary, had forefathers who had been killed in the battle with the empire, and were silent rebels, but above all silent... And one day, the children of these parents became the most alien avengers; history reversed itself so sharply that it could leave nobody around indifferent.

This book is an epic, which keeps to all the rules of the epic genre: a long and tense adventure, countless characters, a play consisting of mathematically exact accounts of their stories, from the 1980s on, from the last days of the Soviet epoch to the most recent events, to be precise, history that has been seen and is then narrated, because the main thing in this novel is seeing, looking, these are observation points from which the author watches his times and existence and begins his narrative.

"Both the story and the narrative are in themselves full of a great conception, an idea, of content." /N. Sadghobelashvili, writer, critic/

THE CITY IN THE SNOW

The City in the Snow, a collection by Beka Kurkhuli, contains five stories. In the first one, *The Killer*, the author tells of the lives and battles of Georgian soldiers and partisans during and after the war in Abkhazia. Real stories show the impact of the war on common people – Georgians and Abkhazians, people who used to share the same land before the war and who were for centuries linked by a common homeland and by close relations. The title story – *The City in the Snow* – is about the love of a young boy and a girl, who, despite the dark cold days of the 1990s, are warmed by passion that leaves its imprint forever on their lives. The protagonist of *I Had a Dream* is a blind man. There are many blind people around us but we hardly notice them. In the story *The Evening* the author recalls his school years, the multi-ethnic Tbilisi of Soviet times and his friends. The fifth story, *Musakali*, tells the story of Georgian soldiers sent to Afghanistan on a NATO mission.

"The narrative technique can be classified as cinematic: from the first page to the last it has the constant inner tension, the excitement and the suspense of an action film as one ordeal follows another." /S. Tsulaia, literary critic/



Runaways from Paradise
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in German.



The City in the Snow
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Short story Collection
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Publishing House Siesta
Rights: Beka Kurkhuli
Contact: Gvantsa Jobava
intelektipublishingrights@gmail.com

NESTAN (NENE) KVINIKADZE

38, 44

Nestan Kvinikadze's work *38, 44* sums up the country's most recent history in an extraordinary manner. The book is charged with dramatic effects, humour, traumata, and non-discharged energy. In it, both the living and the dead are in search of their personalities. The novel describes real events. Moreover, it uses various archive materials that have been processed. They include documents of the archive of the Ministry of Interior Affairs. Still, it is a fictional, literary text.

Tbilisi at the end of the 1990s and the beginning of the 2000s. Lekso studies cinema criticism, Maia is to become a dentist. Lekso plays the 'dissident game' and Maia is face-painting deceased women, because she needs money. To overcome her fear, she makes up stories about the deceased. Maia finds herself in Lekso's game.

Two storylines unfold parallel to each other – the real line, where students study, watch films in rooms filled with tobacco fume, and study each other's bodies and sexuality, and the second, the 'dissident game', with a plan of disseminating posters, surveillance, searches, arrests...

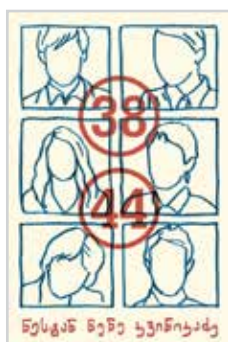
This novel completes Nestan Kvinikadze's trilogy of her teenage and post-teenage period – *The Nightingales of Esfahan* and *Techno of Jaguars*.

"38, 44 is an extraordinary compilation of the country's recent history, a book full of drama, humour, traumas and charged up with unexpended energy. Here the living and the dead find themselves."/> [hellblog/](#)



Born in 1980, Nestan Kvinikadze is a Georgian writer, scriptwriter and journalist. She graduated from the Shota Rustaveli State University of Film and Theatre (faculty of Cinema-Journalism). In 1998 she published the first volume of her short story collection *Unanimously*, at the age of 18. Since then she has written a number of film scripts and plays. Nestan Kvinikadze has also published several collections of prose, and three novels. Since 2006 she has been editor-in-chief of a monthly bilingual (Georgian-English) magazine *Focus*. She works as a producer at the daily television show of private Georgian broadcaster *Mtavari*. On that show, she works with two other well-known authors as a *Literary Triangle* to introduce new books. Nene Kvinikadze has been interested in women's issues for years. She researches Georgian women who live abroad.

Nestan Kvinikadze in translation / Kvinikadze's works have been published in Austria (Wieser Verlag, 2021); Germany (Orlanda Verlag, 2013; Theater der Zeit, 2015; Frankfurter Verlagsanstalt, 2013).



Number of pages: 150 / Novel
Published in: 2019 /
Intelekti Publishing
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Contact: Gvantsa Jobava
intelektipublishingrights@gmail.com

MAKA LDOKONEN



Born in 1970, Maka Ldokonen is a writer, a journalist, a self-taught artist, and illustrator. She takes an active part in popularizing books for the younger generation: she publishes essays publicizing books, she is a teacher of literature in the SOS children's village and runs a television programme Books for Children and Young Persons. She writes fairy tales for social projects, for autistic children, etc. Her literary debut was in 2010, and she has been a finalist or prize-winner in a number of literary competitions. She is also a member of the jury for student literary contests.

HORSETAILS FOR DILA

In her mini novel *Horsetails for Dila* Maka Ldokonen focuses on the subject of ill children and their bitter fate. Every year lots of children, affected by cancer, leave the Earth. Although we never met them, every story makes us cry and almost instantly we do our best to forget about it. Luckily, there are people who make every effort to encourage ill children. They try to find all possible ways to beautify their lives till the very last day. They believe, little details, which at the first sight seem unimportant, might be vital. For instance, donor girls and women send their hair to special centers where wigs for the children undergoing chemotherapy are made.

The novel is set in an odd, rainy town of Guidesya. After meeting its inhabitants, you get a feeling that Guidesya could be any town in the world. Some images and events in the novel such as a hippo in the streets of the after flood town, the name of the little girl Dila (Georgian word for morning), and poems of contemporary Georgian poets give the reader allusions to Tbilisi though. The novel is based on the poem, each line of which starts a new chapter. The way in which the poem is mysteriously woven through the town and lives of the main characters, is one of the novel's chief artistic merits. The main heroine is a strong, independent and loving woman who finds herself in puzzling circumstances.

The author herself illustrated the book with graphic art texts.



Number of pages: 145 / Novel
Published in: 2017 / Bakmi Publishing
Rights: Bakmi Publishing
Contact: Rusudan Mosidze
bakmipublishing@gmail.com
Sample translation available
in German.

JOYFUL MUSIC IN SORROWFUL TIMES OR THE BLUES BY THE RIVER MTKVARI

When the blues and rock music made their appearance, there was virtually no country left in the world that didn't feel their influence in one or another way. The Soviet Union was no exception: beyond the Iron Curtain the rock music had a shock-like effect. The music associated with freedom was eyed with suspicion by the authorities that relied on restrictions, but the young Soviet generation of the country was drawn to it with twofold interest, something that would later be passed down to the young people of newly independent societies.

In his book Bidzina Makashvili, a well-known rock music journalist, follows the history of the Soviet rock. He presents his eyewitness account of the development, chronologically tracing the events that promoted rock music, as well as his own experience while working for the newspaper *7 Days*. Sometimes his interests and exploits left the limits of his immediate duties, which are reflected in the book narrating about the effect the joyful music had on the otherwise sorrowful epoch, from the 1960s to the end of the 20th century.

"This book, to a certain degree, is encyclopaedic, but I consider, all the same, its chief merit to be an amazingly broad view. When the author manages to see the processes in isolation, not as if the outside world does not exist, but seeing the logical processes and putting them into their global context." / Toresa Mossy, writer, TV journalist/



Born in 1955 in Tbilisi, Bidzina Makashvili graduated the faculty of Physics from Tbilisi State University. In his early years he used to work as an engineer at the Institute of Energy. He started publishing his publications in 1982 and since then has worked as a journalist and started writing for *7 Days* magazine. Bidzina Makashvili used to hold positions of editor and editor-in-chief in different years at different journals and magazines. He used to co-own a radio-emission and write blogs for the radio *Liberty*. He has translated several books from English language. Bidzina Makashvili is widely known in Georgia, especially for his active contribution to the formation and development of Georgian Rock-music. He's known for his exquisite taste in music, especially in Rock'n Roll. Over the years, in times of Soviet Union, he has actively followed up the cultural life of Tbilisi and has dedicated numerous articles to the music and culture, when all those were put out of spotlight and very few material was available to the wider public.



Number of pages: 190 / **Non-fiction**
Published in: 2020 / **Sulakauri Publishing**
Rights: Sulakauri Publishing
Contact: Maka Shulaia
m.shulaia@sulakauri.ge
Sample translation available in English.

TAMTA MELASHVILI

"Tamta Melashvili reminds us of Agota Kristof." /M. Ebel, Tages-Anzeiger/



Born in 1979 in Ambrolauri, Tamta Melashvili is a Georgian writer, activist and researcher. Her first novel *Counting Out* was published in 2010 and was followed by an immense success. Author was recognized as A New and Exceptional Voice of Georgian contemporary literature. 2011 *Counting Out* received SABA Literary Award and 2013 received an Award of Deutscher Jugendliteraturpreis in Germany. On the basis of the novel, number of plays have been staged in Georgian, German, Swiss and Russian languages. Her other novel *To the East* was published in 2015 and in 2020 – *Blackbird Blackbird Blackberry*. She has participated number of times in the residency programs for writers. Her novels are an attempt to depict the existing reality of some of the women living in Georgia; she writes about the issues of inequality, underrating the power of women, abuse and social traumas.

Tamta Melashvili in translation / Rights on Melashvili's works have been sold to: Austria (Wieser Verlag, 2018); Macedonia (Makedonika Litera, 2021; Shkupi, 2016); Croatia (Hena Com, 2015); Russia (Samokat, 2014); Switzerland (Unionsverlag, 2012); Germany (Frankfurter Verlagsanstalt, 2013).

BLACKBIRD BLACKBIRD BLACKBERRY

Blackbird Blackbird Blackberry is a novel about a middle-aged woman, Etero, who lives in a small town, owns a petit shop and follows her quiet pace of life. Her monotonous, lifeless days are alike and seems like there is nothing to ruin this routine until one day, when her being is turned upside down. One day she faces death as she almost falls into a river while grabbing fresh blackberries. From then on, she decides to let herself do things she wouldn't dare before.

She falls in love.

The reader is able to grasp the heaviness of Etero's life from her thoughts, emotions and feelings. Rural areas are quite static and tedious which in most cases has a destructive effect on the people's lives. The protagonist is facing dilemma of how to carry on her life and the reader is the one to decide.

"The language, the plotting, the humanity, the reality, in which you do not sense an iota of doubt, the sincerity, the dynamics – it has everything that a great novel needs to have in order that your heart should not be broken by anything." /T. Bekishvili, literary critic/

COUNTING OUT

Tamta Melashvili's first book *Counting Out* was hugely praised by critics. It's a novella about two teenage girls who live in a provincial town located within a conflict zone. The war provides a sullen background to the story. There is no date or any geographical names mentioned in *Counting Out*. This is a story which can happen anytime and anywhere. War is a gloomy metaphor chosen by the author to fully show human nature. Two small girls are involved in drug trafficking to earn money for food. They share all the troubles of adults. The psychological initiation into the world of adults also coincides with a physiological one – the first menstrual bleeding. *Counting out* is a tragic story with a startle ending written without a false note.

"War seen through teenagers' eyes – just that theme is unusual in Georgian literature. But what is more noteworthy is the young woman writer's style, the tempo of her text, which seems to be made up of verbatim direct speech. The dynamic dialogues, the short chapters and the rough slang of the adolescents make the novel *Counting Out* a breath-taking work." /C. Eller, Spiegel/



Blackbird Blackbird Blackberry
Number of pages: 204 / Novel
Published in: 2020 /
Sulakauri Publishing
Rights: Sulakauri Publishing
Contact: Maka Shulaia
m.shulaia@sulakauri.ge
Sample translation available
in English.



Counting Out
Number of pages: 115 / Novel
Republished in: 2021 /
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Rights: Sulakauri Publishing
Contact: Maka Shulaia
m.shulaia@sulakauri.ge
Full translation available
in English, French and German.

KETI NIZHARADZE

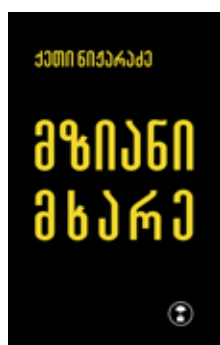
THE SUNNY SIDE

Keti Nizharadze's memorial collection *The Sunny Side* includes her first novel *Self-Portrait*. This is a text full of protest, sincerity and a tragic outlook, which endures as the unique voice, whether perspective or feeling, of a woman in contemporary Georgian literature. When it appeared *Self-Portrait* made a powerful impression on the reader, even though this writer, in the course of her short life, could not witness her own establishment in the canon of Georgian literature and can be said to have disappeared in the gap between two generations. Now the time has come for her to be re-established again in literature by new generations. Apart from *Self-Portrait*, the collection includes other stories by this author, as well as another novel, unfinished, called *The Sunny Side*.

"Through Keti Nizharadze's texts a woman's personal experience, an individual's rebellion against a patriarchal order, a woman's body, her erotic desires or pleasure, her unconscious, have flared up in the established traditions of Georgian literature. And the social, cultural or political forces which suppress women, control them or set boundaries for them, have been very thoroughly exposed: this is how 'a good girl' and a 'handmaiden' for parents, husbands, society or the motherland are moulded, roles for which a woman's individuality is sacrificed."/S. Asatiani, Radio Liberty/



Keti Nizharadze (1955-2000) was a prose writer and a translator from French and Russian. Her first novel, *Self-Portrait*, published in 1987, immediately attracted attention because of a sincerity that was unusual at the time and because of its perspective of a young, rebellious woman. At the age of 45 Keti Nizharadze burnt all her manuscripts and ended her life by suicide.



Number of pages: 225 / Collection of
two novels and short stories

Published in: 2021 / Melani Publishing

Rights: Melani Publishing

Contact: Nino Lezhava

melani.publishing@gmail.com

GURAM ODISHARIA

PRESIDENT'S CAT



Born in 1951 in Sokhumi, Guram Odisharia is a Georgian poet, novelist and playwright. He spent the entire wartime period in his hometown, leaving his native city only on the day Sokhumi fell. Since then he has been active in the field of conflictology and has regularly participated in Georgian-Abkhaz and Georgian-Ossetian peace talks. At various times he has been a correspondent for Abkhazian radio broadcasting, a reporter for the Abkhazian regional newspaper, a consultant to the Abkhazia Branch of Writers' Union. From 2012 to 2014, Guram Odisharia was the Minister of Culture and Monument Protection of Georgia. In this capacity, 2014, he signed a document in Berlin whereby Georgia became the Guest of Honor Country at the Frankfurter Buchmesse 2018. He currently lives in Tbilisi. Guram Odisharia won more than ten national and international literary awards.

Guram Odisharia in translation / Odisharia's works have been published in several countries, among them: Germany (Reichert Verlag, 2018, 2015); Russia (Kulturnaia Revolutsia, 2018; 2016; Sovetski pisatel', 1991); Netherlands (U2PI, 2017); Czech Republic (Jonathan Livingston, 2018, 2017); Estonia (L'harmatan, 2017); Azerbaijan (Bilik, 2017); Armenia (Antares, 2016; Uwa, 2016); Slovakia (Slovart, 2015); Ukraine (Ukrainski Pismenik, 2016; Anetta Antonenko Publishers, 2015).

President's Cat is virtually a book about one man Mikheil Bgaghba, a person who actually existed (1915-1993). With an Abkhaz father and a Georgian mother, Bgaghba enjoyed the same respect and love from both Georgians and Abkhazians. Although he was a high-ranking official during the authoritarian Soviet period, unlike his colleagues he was notable for his simplicity, gentleness and warm attitude to the people. Bgaghba brought together the warring parties and defended the rights of his fellow citizens.

The protagonist of the novel died in Abkhazia during the acute ethno-political conflict in 1992-1993. He could not bear the brutality of war and the hatred of Georgians and Abkhazians, the victims of which became his friends, relatives and neighbours. Basically this man is a kind of collective person, around whom a whole gallery of colourful personalities are gathered. The author collected stories about Mr. Bgaghba from Georgians and Abkhazians. The novel creates an impression with its humorous and warm stories about Sokhumi and Abkhazia, an impression that is half real, half mythical. This is the first trail-blazing book about Sokhumi in the 1970s and 1980s. The book also contains maps and Guram Odisharia's typical interesting graphics.

"Odisharia [pictured] employs his characteristic poetic language and humour to describe the savoury stories, exotic nature and life of the inhabitants of Abkhazia of the second half of the 20th century. The novel has been translated into the Abkhazian language as well."/The Budapest Times/

THE PASS OF THE PERSECUTED

The tragic events of recent Georgian history, witnessed by the author himself, are depicted in his literary works. After the war Guram Odisharia left Sokhumi, in a difficult passage through the Sakeni-Chuberi Pass, where people died of freezing from the cold and exhaustion. He later described these days in his work *The Pass of the Persecuted*. In this short novel the author describes episodes in the Georgian-Abkhaz armed conflict. He tells the reader how he crossed a high mountain pass together with tens of thousands of others fleeing their homes. The story is told in an emotional and brusque style; the short plots make the novel read like a film script.

"Guram Odisharia writes that in peace time only the loyal can feel love at its greatest, while the majority, unfortunately for us, need some serious troubles before they can open their eyes... and it is this 'opening of eyes,' or catharsis, to which the prose of this Sokhumi writer can be compared"... /G. Gvakharia, art critic/



President's Cat
Number of pages: 280 / Novel
Published in: 2015 / Bakmi Publishing
Rights: Guram Odisharia
Contact: Rusudan Mosidze
bakmipublishing@gmail.com
Full translation available in English and Russian.
Sample translation available in French and German.

გურამ ოდიშარია

დავნილი
უკვლევები

The Pass of the Persecuted
Number of pages: 56 /
Non-fiction
Republished in: 2021 /
Palitra L Publishing
Rights: Guram Odisharia
Contact: Tinatin Asatiani
t.asatiani@palitra.ge
Full translation available in German.

IVA PEZUASHVILI

BUNKER

Mila, who has lost her husband is planning her future without Gena. Their daughter, Zena enters the system and decides that revenge is the only purpose she shall serve. Lazare – the youngest member of the family, who has made realization of left wing ideas his lifestyle, one day is forced to give up on his principles.

The new novel of Iva Pezuashvili is a saga of Simonianis' family who have escaped Karabakh war and found a refugee in Tbilisi. The story is developed in the space of one day and a night. All the conflicts, drama and challenges pour down on the family altogether, and on top of this the demons from their past start to awake and prevent them from taking rational decisions...



Born 1990 in Tbilisi, Iva Pezuashvili is a contemporary Georgian writer and screenwriter. 2011 he graduated from the Feature Film Department of Shota Rustaveli Cinema and Theatre University. In the same year he became the winner of the AUTUMN LEGEND, the student literature competition, with his story *Alchu (Lucky Toss)*. He has been publishing his stories in periodicals since 2012. He is the author of several TV documentary films and works on the script for the film series *Tiflis* since 2014. His debut book *I Tried* was published in 2014. The author was bestowed with The Tsinandali Award for the novel *Bunker* in 2020.

Iva Pezuashvili in translation / Pezuashvili's short stories have been published in: UK (Comma Press, 2018); Germany (Wagenbach, 2018).



Number of pages: 174 / Novel
Published in: 2020 /
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LADO POCHKHUA

ENIKI BENIKI



Born in 1970, Lado Pochkhua is a Georgian artist who lives and works in New York. Pochkhua was born in Sokhumi, 1970 during the Soviet period. In 1993, he graduated from Sokhumi College of Art. During 1992-93 as a result of the military conflict in Abkhazia, the artist had to leave Sokhumi and together with other refugees he settled in Tskneti, nearby Tbilisi, the capital of Georgia. He has lived and worked in different countries such as: Georgia, Russia, Azerbaijan, Hungary and the United States. Different periods of his work were dedicated to practicing new techniques and media. The artist uses a technique of hand drawing, works in pen and ink often on a large-format. Presentation of classical images and style in new formats is a subject of his interest. Artist's works were presented at Prague Biennale IV, at the Georgia Pavilion in 2009. Pochkhua's solo exhibition was held at the Dimitri Shevardnadze National Gallery, 2013. The same year, the artist's artworks were exhibited at the Brooklyn Box Gallery. In 2014, Lado Pochkhua's works were presented at Art Dubai Fair. Project Art-Beat presented Pochkhua's works at VOLTA 12 in Basel, Switzerland, 2016 and at VOLTA NY in New York, USA, 2017.

Fleeing from a town in flames, life as an emigrant; walking down memory lane, when he author and, together with the author, the reader, too, understands that this flight is in reality never-ending. The town which has remained in the past still, in reality, lives and it only needs a jolt for it to resurrect in all its ferocity.

Eniki Beniki is Lado Pochkhua's début as a writer. An artist and also a photographer by education, he has written an artistic text based on personal memories about his escape from Sokhumi, he describes the last days of the Abkhaz war when the burning city is seen from a naval vessel, and the author is standing on deck and trying to commit to memory every nuance of the unfolding scene, so that years later, when he is very far away, he can reconstruct his city.

Such are the author's memories of Sokhumi, the city of 'peanut-topped ice cream', his memory of his mother, abandoned in the war and of fear of an unknowable future. Lado takes us back to his childhood years, then to Sokhumi, smashed by the war, and we, as readers, have a full experience of what we have been deprived of: our fortress, the music disks accumulated over the years, our paintings, our albums, 'courtyards, dogs, gates, families', the right to remember and to dream.

This is a book for anyone interested in seeing the subject of Abkhazia from yet another perspective.

"Lado, like a real artist, tells the story very poetically of his family's and his friends' tragedies against a background of conflict, and all the charm of the author's mastery lies in the fact that his experiences are for us alien and distant, but do not remain someone else's war." /N. Lomouri, historian, foreign affairs specialist/



Number of pages: 229 / **Non-fiction**
Published in: 2021 / **Indigo Publishing**
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Contact: Tamar Babuadze
 tamarbabuadze@gmail.com
 Full text available in Russian.

ZAAL SAMADASHVILI

YUNKER ERISTAVI'S FOOTBALL BOOTS

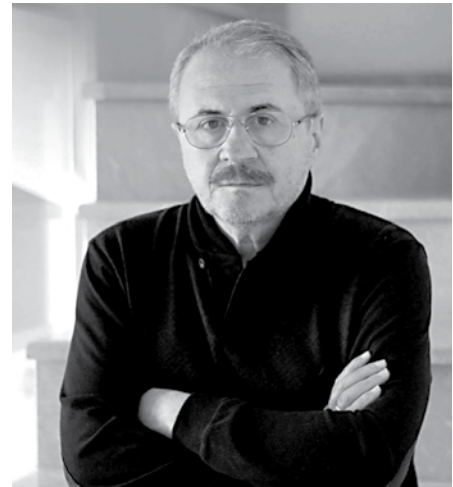
Time is the element that unifies stories and notes collected in the book by Zaal Samadashvili. However, it is not the time in an astronomical sense. It rather is the sequence perceived through the author's eyes, seen with sincerity and with an open mind. The events, characters, and the narrator himself – all seem real, without any embellishments. The author tells about them as he saw and felt them, which easily ensures the reader's empathy.

Another significant charge of the present collection is its focus on chivalry and bravery, consequently on freedom and love. The destiny of the characters determined by these thoughts, or in fact their absence, once again reminds us of the romantic nature and its attraction.

In a story which has the same title as the book, a tragic detail of Georgian history is described, a young officer's self-sacrificing battle against the Russian Red Army. Another story concerns a prisoner who is allowed to leave prison, just for a day, only so that he can explain to his children why he has to live in a cell. In this collection you will meet an artist who compares stages of development in cinematography to history, and an essay about Pierre Lachenay, the main hero of François Truffaut's *La Peau Douce*.

Zaal Samadashvili is a master of detail: in the way he reconstrues a whole city through just a few of Tbilisi's streets, and the times (which are, in actual fact, stopped), or a number of objects, gestures or hues in life, to which he adds a convincing story.

"Melancholy, firmness and magnanimity are the three strings on which Zaal Samadashvili's stories are tuned." /D. Paichadze, critic, journalist/



Born in 1953, Zaal Samadashvili graduated from Tbilisi State University's mechanics and mathematics faculty. He was elected first as a member, and then as chairman of the Tbilisi city assembly. At the same time he is the managing director of the Saakashvili Presidential Library board of management. He has received the state award, the Order of Distinction. In 2016 Zaal Samadashvili received SABA Literary Award for the Best Prose Collection of the Year for the book *Yunker Eristavi's Football Boots*. In 2007 he founded the Gala literary competition which was operated until 2012 under the auspices of the Tbilisi city assembly. He writes stories and essays.

Zaal Samadashvili in translation / Samadashvili's stories have been published in: Mexico (Instituto Ixtacalteca de la cultura, 2015), USA (Dalkey Archive Press, 2012).



Number of pages: 140 /
Short story Collection
Published in: 2015/
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intelektipublishingrights@gmail.com

IRAKLI SAMSONADZE



Born in 1961, Irakli Samsonadze is a Georgian writer and playwright. In 1983 he graduated from the Journalism Department of Tbilisi State University. He was an assistant editor of the almanac *Dramaturgy* from 1992 to 1996 and later was appointed as its editor-in-chief. In the late 1980s he worked at the Georgian Film studio. Fifteen of his plays have been staged in theatres across Georgia. The author has received various awards for his prose and drama among them: SABA Literary Award in 2013 in the category the Best Short Story Collection for *A Frightened Street* and in 2005 in the category the Best Play for *Grandmother Mariam, or The Traditional Georgian Banquet*, Georgian State Prize 2001 in the Field of Literature for *Triptych*.

Irakli Samsonadze in translation / Samsonadze's novel *The Cushion* has been translated and published in: Italy (Palombi Editore, 2015); Armenia (Antares, 2014).

"Irakli Samsonadze is a writer who makes no concessions. Everything he writes is an artistic representation of a harsh reality and leaves a long-lasting impression on us." /E. Tskhadadze, literary critic/

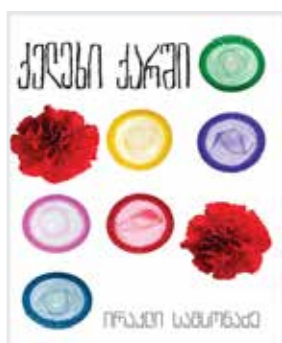
A FUNERAL WAKE IN THE WIND

The illegal businessman has got his cronies round him in a Kutaisi restaurant, to hold a wake for his phallus, which has lost its erection. At the wake feast the author creates a grotesque mood, but this mood is radically changed by the introduction of a certain character, namely Lamarie, who was a tiny little girl, homeless and silly, when every participant at the feast, except for one, an artist, had become 'a real man'. Lamarie, the vulnerable little girl presents herself utterly transformed to this gang of cronies. Somehow a great power has emerged in her. She replaces the dead phallus with the gold pen belonging to the Party official sitting at the dinner table, she uses her own fan as a shroud... All through Soviet times Party officials' pens were to everybody a weapon of terror. They decided men's fates, they signed orders for executions or deportations. But Lamarie has appeared at the time of perestroika and declares that the ink in those pens has dried up, that it is now symbolically Lenin's corpse, that he is now impotent. This is the main message which Lamarie is bringing to the mourners at the wake for dying Soviet reality. Soviet cruelty acquires a caricatured appearance at the feast, to the sound of the whore Laramie's recitative the wake for a black-marketer's sexual organ is transformed into the wake for an empire.

THE CUSHION

The novel is set in the 1990s when the poverty-stricken country provides a whole class of bureaucrats obsessed with making money with a comfortable life. The protagonist is a writer who considers himself 'a respectable member of the society of has-beens.' He cannot adjust to or accept any ideology, because he has the ideology of an individual, the faith that only love can tell him who he is destined to be with. This novel, written in one continuous flow, is distinctly important, since it narrates an honestly and impartially described story of a recent sad reality. The novel's hero, a writer, has a wife, Ketino, and a boy, while his mother lives separately. He also has a friend called Vakho, a drug addict with whom he intends to set up a business, which is to keep himself and his family going. Things are bad in the land: destitution, no electricity, recent war, aggressors and refugees. *The Cushion* concerns a people and a land suffering from the destruction of an empire. Its cruel realism is heartrending and melancholy. Every human experience in it is in focus, as if recalling a significant human experience of the recent past, and a detailed testimony of the flow of life.

"*The Cushion* is a creation out of chaos, it is the sadness of a society with both order and justice disintegrating. Irakli Samsonadze can definitely be considered one of the creators of Georgian neorealism, because he has created honest and well-focussed texts about post-Soviet Georgia." /E. Tskhadadze/



A Funeral Wake in the Wind
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intelektipublishingrights@gmail.com



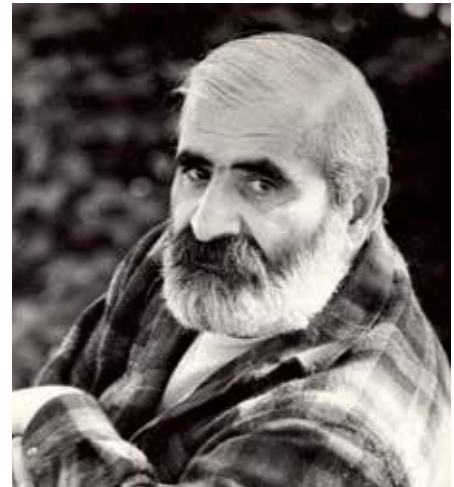
The Cushion
Number of pages: 136 / Novel
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NUGZAR SHATAIDZE

JOURNEY TO AFRICA

In the novel *Journey to Africa* a young refugee Tedo and his mother flee war and ethnic cleansing in the breakaway region Abkhazia, leaving his father behind. After arriving in the Georgian capital of Tbilisi, the young boy encounters difficulties. He feels utterly alone in an alien city, and goes off to his native village to search for his father. The village isn't far, but the journey is difficult and dangerous, full of countless painful incidents, as well as rough living conditions. The 12-year-old boy, on his journey to lost dreams, homeland and his father, is forced to put on a thousand masks and tell countless lies, and undergo many ordeals. With 27 lari and a gold ring he has stolen from his mother, the boy goes to Abkhazia, a region more frightening than any other, as remote as Africa. He's not afraid, because he has been travelling to a place where he knew harmony between his parents. And here is their block of flats – a silent, deserted, derelict building with not a pane of glass left intact. This is the return of the Prodigal Son to emptiness, to a house with no father. The 'return' is described so clearly and so realistically that it becomes for us a symbolic picture of the Abkhaz armed conflict. The sick father has married and gone away somewhere; there is no trace of him, and the last illusion is shattered. For some time his mother has belonged to someone else, and is also somewhere else, in very dubious company. All the boy has left is to return to his camp, to the lower depths from where he made a vain attempt to escape. He sniffs acetone glue so as to drown his grief with this popular, democratic drug.

"You think as you read: why is it so easy-going, healthy, earth-bound, understandable, firm, powerful, harsh? Without doubt, because of the element of language. He is free in his depictions. He doesn't seek, he finds. He perceives. He recognises."/> /I. Amirkhanashvili, literary critic/



Nugzar Shataidze (1944-2009) was a well-known Georgian writer, dramatist and script-writer. For years he was the chief prose editor at Merani Publishing and the magazine *Omega*. In 2009 the director Giorgi Ovashvili made a film *The Other Bank* based on Nugzar Shataidze's story: it was shown at international film festivals in over thirty countries and won the author the prize for Best Screenplay at the Gonfreville Film Festival (France). Cooperation between writer and director continued with the short story *The Island*, which later became an acclaimed film, *Corn Island*, directed by G. Ovashvili. The film was among nine films shortlisted for an Oscar 2015 in category the Best Foreign-Language Film. The writer's creative work is imbued with a particular pained empathy for his country and for mankind in general. There is almost no significant stage in the history of Georgia, especially that of the twentieth century, that has not received the author's attention.

Nugzar Shataidze in translation / Shataidze's short stories have been published in several countries, among them: Azerbaijan (ADK Publishing, 2015); Mexico (Instituto Tlaxcalteca de la Cultura, 2015); USA (Dalkey Archive Press, 2012).



Number of pages: 146 / Novel
Published in: 2014 /
Intelekti Publishing
Rights: Intelekti Publishing
Contact: Gvantsa Jobava
intelektipublishingrights@gmail.com
Sample translation available
in English.

ALEKO SHUGLADZE



Born in 1965 in Tbilisi, Aleko Shugladze graduated from Georgian Technical University. He also studied art at Tbilisi State University, specializing in cinema direction. From 1989 to 1993 he worked in the Georgian Film Studio as an assistant director. From 1994 to 1997 he was an artist at Margo Korabliova's Performance Theatre. From 1998 to 2001 he worked as a film director for Caucasian House, where he made up to ten documentary films against women's violence. From 2001 to 2003 he worked as a director and scriptwriter for the NGO Studio mobile – the Accent on Mobility. He began writing in 1989 and published four books: *All that we Hide* (2016); *The Man of Books* (2015); *Samsara* (2002); *Attempting to Escape* (2001). He won Mayor's Special Prize 2001 for story *Answers for a Magazine with a Small Print Run*. His novel *All that we Hide* won SABA Literary Award 2017 in the category of the Best Novel of the Year.

Aleko Shugladze in translation / Rights on Shugladze's novel have been sold to: Germany (Klak Verlag, 2018); UK (Francis Boutle Publishers, 2018).

THE CHRONIC FATIGUE SCENT

The action takes place in today's Russia, in Siberia. The main hero, Sasha Khubov, a Georgian palaeontologist goes to Irkutsk where he is to join an expedition with his Russian friend, Pavel Romanov. When Sasha goes to the town he finds that his friend Pavel is searching for his lost daughter. The plot develops in an unexpected way: Pavel takes Sasha into a cellar where he has imprisoned a man. This man is the suspect who abducted the girl, Ksenia Romanova, hid her and raped her. Now Pavel is hiding him from the Siberian police and from the furious population. Soon the suspect offers the girl's father a sort of settlement: if Pavel treats him humanely, then he will reveal to him where his daughter can be found. The criminal confesses that the reason he abducted the girl was to create a sort of test for the father. The novel's next part deals with their relationship, the arrangement between them. The father tries to renounce vengeance and to befriend the criminal. From start to finish the novel keeps up its narrative tension and avoids banal detective plotting. Aleko Shugladze preserves the humoristic story-telling style so typical of him. The novel clearly demonstrates the writer's great mastery, as if the reader follows him of his own free will wherever the author wants, and right until the last sentence we do not know the outcome for his heroes.

ALL THAT WE HIDE

The novel is autobiographical by nature. Every character is, in fact, a real person. The main protagonist, Aleko Shugladze's mother, has an incurable illness. Aleko also has a sister who has suffered from oligophrenic schizophrenia since she was a child. After their mother becomes bed-ridden, Aleko takes over the care of his sister and his life enters a difficult stage. This is a major ordeal in his life: he has to have patience and not lose his humanity. What begins is a destruction of so-called sacral clichés, in the manner of the protagonist's unconventional life, now with irony, now with sarcasm, concealed pain and a desire to escape from everything. Autobiographical space gradually loses track of the world shown in the novel. Another main character in the novel is an inspector who represents the side of Aleko's relatives and is investigating a case which concerns the mysteriously obscured relationship of the son and his mother. With the friend's help, Aleko hides his mother away in a remote village and announces that she has died. He goes through with a fake funeral in great and plausible detail, thus doing his duty by his relatives. After the 'funeral' he hides his mother even further away, in India, where he settles down with her at the foot of a holy mountain. The inspector and Aleko manage to meet only once, at the end of the novel. This happens when Aleko returns home in order to try to hide his sister, too.



The Chronic Fatigue Scent
Number of pages: 272 / Novel
Published in: 2019 /
Palitra L Publishing
Rights: Palitra L Publishing
Contact: Tinatin Asatiani



All that we Hide
Number of pages: 200 / Novel
Published in: 2016 /
Diogene Publishers
Rights: Diogene Publishers
Contact: Tinatin Petriashvili
adm@diogene.ge
Full translation available
in English and German.

LITERARY MYSTIFICATION. STORY OF MY GRANDFATHER – THE EXECUTIONER

SOLOMONASHVILI

Beso Solomonashvili's latest novel *Literary Mystification. Story of my Grandfather – the Executioner* is a profound description of the historic time past, a very triggering and crucial period for Georgia's Independence. The storyline develops in the period of 1918-1921 years and culminates with the 25th of February, 1921, when Georgia lost shortly gained Independence, which lasted for only three years and consequently was forced to join the Soviet Union. It is a story of ordinary people and rich people, of people seeking for liberation and of people craving for power.

Alongside with the historic period very intriguing and uncommon love affairs develop. Beso's characters are too humanly, some with typical Georgian mentality, others – dreamers and free souls, who become to be victims of the regime, forced to turn into something, they have no knowledge of.

Who we really are and what the system wants us to be? This could be a question lying beneath the whole story, story of losing self and liberty.

"B. Solomonashvili gives us a very vivid portrayal of the figure of an executioner, his psychological state. He poses the main question, who is an executioner – a bully, or another victim. The author has made a thorough study of this question and the epoch, after which he wrote the novel and, furthermore, we get to know the people who have been shot as well as those who are about to be shot, which provokes a great deal of interest when reading the novel." /N. Macharashvili, TV journalist/



Born in 1964 in Tbilisi, Beso Solomonashvili is a movie Director and actor. He is truly one of the distinguished contemporary Georgian authors, with his remarkable style of narrating. Beso Solomonashvili has a profound knowledge and sense of Georgian history, especially of the times of Russian-Georgian conflict, Pre-Soviet times and Soviet Union struggle. He has directed several short-films *Vernissage*, *Bloody Scenario*, *Detonator* and a feature film *Garden in the Conflict Zone*. Besides that, he has worked on Documentary and Biographical movie series – *About the First Republic*. Beso Solomonashvili keeps directing different TV shows and shooting movies, alongside with creating quality historical non-fiction books of modern Georgian Literature. Beso Solomonashvili received SABA Literary Award 2020 for the Best Novel of the Year.



Number of pages: 180 / Novel
Published in: 2019 /
Sulakauri Publishing
Rights: Sulakauri Publishing
Contact: Maka Shulaia
m.shulaia@sulakauri.ge
Sample translation available
in English.

TAMAR TANDASHVILI

MATERIKON



Born in 1973 in Tbilisi, Tamar Tandashvili holds degrees in Languages and Literature, Psychology and Conflict Studies. Tamar's doctoral dissertation in progress (Central European University, Budapest) examines social dimension and cultural practices of personhood construction among Georgian women activists. Tamar observed the unlikely historical continuum from the very last decade of soviet era to the newly democratized European-to-be state. Her blog on psychology and social milieu (one of the most-read among its kind) accurately depicts the schizophrenic contextual change and consequent ethical incongruity in post-soviet Georgian society. Tamar teaches at the Ilia State University (Tbilisi) and runs private counselling practice along with working for LGBTQ and women's organizations as psychotherapist and coach. From 2013 she is involved in promoting LGBTQ and women's rights. She is passionate about animal rights and volunteers for an informal network of activists operating as emergency animal rescue team.

Tamar Tandashvili in translation / Tandashvili's novels have been published in Austria (Residenz Verlag, 2021, 2018).

Materikon tells the story of a mid-age criminal investigator whose entire world outlook is about to alter. An ethical dilemma Medea faces at the pick of her professional career will either put an end to her family life or eradicate her self-trust. A prominent nun of undeniable spiritual merits loses the closest friend and ally to premeditated murder. Knowing that the killers cohabit with her at the cloister mother Barbara is keen on unearthing the heinous crime. Meeting of these women will challenge the established order in their respective communities leaving a profound scars on the lives of many.

Materikon is a rare example of literary take on ethnographic witness account. Survivor of sexual violence in early adolescence approached the author with the request of telling her story. The book is a result of their teamwork.

"Meanwhile what is so amazing is that Tamar Tandashvili has written a book which is very bold, in a new genre, full of humour, but written on a very painful theme." /T. Khatiashvili, critic/

"This book deals with the most well-hidden and most painful problems. If you want to see the real face of the unpunished violent Georgian 'male', read this little book. One female writer has all the same managed to raise her voice and we can hope that she will meet with more empathy." /Z. Andronikashvili, critic/



Number of pages: 166 / Novel

Published in: 2017 / Publishing House Siesta

Rights, contact: Tamar Tandashvili

ttandashvili@gmail.com

Sample translation available in English.

"Irma is an excellent master of literary style."

/G. Lobzhanidze, writer, critic, translator/

IRMA TAVELIDZE

STALIN'S SPRUCES AND OTHER TEXTS

The collection of essays – *Stalin's Spruces and Other Texts* – comprises letters about her childhood in the Soviet Union and schools and educational practices of that time, as well as notes about the traces prominent writers and books left in the life of the author. Readers will find such names as Jane Austin, Charles Dickens, Henry James, Vladimir Nabokov, and Paul Auster on the pages of her book. *Stalin's Spruces* tells the story of the residents of the town Gori in the 1990s. The events unfold in the shadow of the monument to the leader and have an unexpected happy end. The book also comprises an essay written about the art of translation. The author, who has translated many literary works from English and French, shares with readers her observations regarding the translating practice and the main objectives of translators.

It can be said that *Stalin's Spruces and Other Texts* is a book of lessons learned from life, a book about the personal truth and the reality, whose borders can be determined only by literature.

"The sense of language, taste, refined literary scent, and, what is most important, the artistic scale that encompasses a huge area starting with finest details and ending with a general panorama." /D. Gabunia, writer, critic/

THE INVENTION OF THE EAST

The stories in *The Invention of the East* consist mainly of seductively slow tales that the first-person narrator recalls from the past. Often the stories involve an *amour fou* – lives full of burning, insatiable longing. Tavelidze focuses on a particular type of person, varying the character with great literary skill: he or she is a self-centered intellectual, approaching collapse, with a strong libido, prone to transgressions and excesses, with an active imagination that replaces or absorbs the character's perception of life.

Although the stories tell of particular individuals, they are pervaded by the atmosphere of the country and the period. The narrator of the story *Gori Fortress* is a 10-year-old boy who tries to find his own way to poetry and at the same time to make sense of his vague desires and annoying duties. Gori – a city in Eastern Georgia – with its well-known fortress serves as the background for the narrator's reflections.

"Tavelidze is a master of the techniques of confusion. Imperceptibly, woman and man, seducer and seduced exchange roles; again and again the perspective changes in the course of a narrative, the present mixes with the past, reality with imagination or even with invention." /P. Kammann, Feuilletonfrankfurt/



Born in 1973 in Gori, Irma Tavelidze is a writer and translator. Since completing her degree in philology, she has lived in Tbilisi, working as a translator from English and French, she has translated the works of Michel Houellebecq, J. M. Coetzee and Paul Auster, among others. In 1999, she started her career as a writer. She received SABA Literary Award 2018 in category the Best Non-fiction for collection of essays *Stalin's Spruces and Other Texts*. 2008 she won the TSERO literary competition, a prize awarded by readers.

Irma Tavelidze in translation / Tavelidze's short stories have been translated into French, German, Swedish and other languages: Germany (edition. fotoTAPETA, 2018; edition fünf, 2018); Sweden (Tranan, 2011).



Stalin's Spruces and Other Texts
Number of pages: 126 / Non-fiction
Published in: 2017 /
Diogene Publishers
Rights: Diogene Publishers
Contact: Tinatin Petriashvili
adm@diogene.ge
Sample translation available
in German.



The Invention of the East
Number of pages: 138 /
Short story Collection
Published in: 2013 /
Diogene Publishers
Rights: Diogene Publishers
Contact: Tinatin Petriashvili
adm@diogene.ge

EKATERINE TOGONIDZE



Born in 1981, Ekaterine Togonidze graduated in journalism from Tbilisi State University. A former journalist and TV anchor Ekaterine Togonidze made her debut in 2011 and was widely acclaimed as one of the most interesting new voice in contemporary Georgian literature. Currently, Togonidze is a trainer in PR school certificate courses. Besides writing and teaching, she has video-blogs for various media channels and works as Marketing and PR manager in the Georgian-American University. Togonidze is involved in projects of social responsibility and cooperates with several NGOs protecting rights of people with disabilities. Her writing topics are defined by her work; Most of her characters are people with disabilities who are fighting for their rights. She mostly writes about women who live in a very intolerant society and often are victims of abuse. Her first short story collection *Anaesthesia* won SABA Literary Award in the category of the Best Debut of the Year.

Ekaterine Togonidze in translation / Togonidze's works have been translated into English, German, French, Czech, Russian and Abkhaz languages:
France (Vents d'ailleurs, 2022); Austria (Septime Verlag, 2021, 2018); Germany (Frankfurter Verlaganstalt, 2013).

"Ekaterine Togonidze has a niche of her own in literature: hitherto, the themes she elaborates have been virtually entirely ignored by Georgian literature." /L. Bugadze, writer, TV journalist/

HOME - YOU

An earthquake completely shatters Nia's world. The crack that appeared in her house is a sign that everything she holds dear – her family, relationships and future – is about to be destroyed. Nia is alone and that's the fate of a lonely warrior, but life gives her another chance by offering her a long-desired role in a film. Together with film shooting starts a new phase in her life, a kind of parallel reality: art as a shelter, as a way of escape. Or possibly the only way of connecting to the reality and finding her own self.

In this labyrinth the reader travels with the rhythm of Nia's quickened heartbeat and breathing, but holds onto Ariadne's thread to get back, hoping to restore the connection with the lost past and, all the way, noticing something even Nia fails to see, which is the truth of the others in her life.

ASYNCHRONY

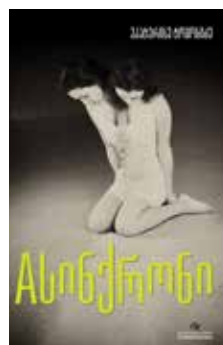
The American conjoined twins are the archetypes of the main characters: Lina and Diana, who are isolated from society by their grandmother, are being told that there is nothing for them beyond their confines. The twins are ashamed of their body and both of them endlessly question the reason they were born. But the answer remains hidden and they are even unable to decide whether they are two people or just one. Or should that be one-and-a-half?

In a parallel storyline, Professor Rostom Morchiladze is asked by the mortuary to come and identify a body. He thinks that there has been a mistake because he didn't even know that he had children – the mother of the twins died after giving birth and hadn't told him anything of her pregnancy. After their grandmother's death there is a danger of the girls dying of hunger as a result of their isolation. But soon a flood destroys their house and Lina and Diana become the unwilling 'stars' of the TV news as the only survivors of the natural catastrophe.

"Togonidze skillfully shows the fact that disabled people are virtually hidden – in the street scene they simply do not exist – that makes them the starting point of the narrative, on the one hand introspective, but on the other hand also authorial." /Faust Kultur/



Home - You
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Sulakauri Publishing
Rights: Sulakauri Publishing
Contact: Maka Shulaia
m.shulaia@sulakauri.ge



Asynchrony
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Published in: 2014 /
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Rights: Sulakauri Publishing
Contact: Maka Shulaia
m.shulaia@sulakauri.ge

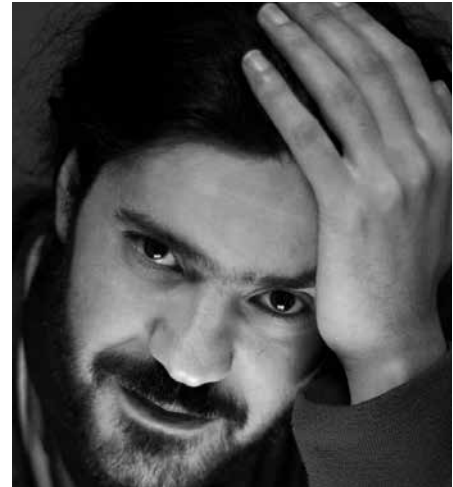
TORESA MOSSY

WAS

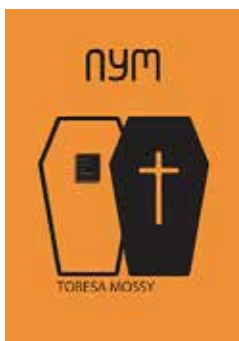
Was is the third novel by Toresa Mossy, continuing the tradition of selecting Telavi, a small town in eastern Georgia, as a setting for his novels.

The discovery of an old manuscript in an antique shop might indicate either an academic interest or something more of a detective nature. The thrilling plot involves reactionary local radio presenter, a modern family with their electronic music parties and a brotherhood of monks, bringing extremely different characters together and often causing a clash of the old and the new, the past and the present. In fact, a sting of unimaginable events follows, some of them utterly incredible.

"A detective's approach, underhand tricks, intrigues and suspense: these are actually what this novel at first sight seems to have in plenty; the background is at times so well described that when I was in Telavi yesterday I felt I was a personal witness to scenes from the novel." /A. Lordkipanidze, writer, TV show host/



Born 1984 in Telavi, Toresa Mossy is an author, screenwriter, musician and social activist. Very early, several of his stories were published in various literary publications and received a positive critical response. Ladder Studio released a comedy film *Givi* (producer Demetre (Duta) Skhirtladze) based on Toresa Mossy's script. 2014 he won SABA Literary Award in the category The Best Literary Prose Debut of the Year for the novel *The Wisdom of Fancy*. Currently he works as a host of TV program 'Literary Triangle' on TV channel *Mtavari*.



Number of pages: 316 / Novel
Published in: 2016 /
Intelekti Publishing
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Contact: Gvantsa Jobava
intelektipublishingrights@gmail.com

DATO TURASHVILI



Born in 1966 in Tbilisi, Dato Turashvili studied literature, film and art history at Tbilisi, London and Madrid Universities. He is one of the most distinguished and bestselling authors of Georgia, whose texts are translated into up to 20 languages. Most of Turashvili's books are based on true events and the author tries to analyze them in his fiction. In his student years Turashvili was the main insurgent and leader of the nonconformist student groups which later played a huge historical role in turning Georgia into an independent country. Apart from writing, he travels a lot and is an amateur mountain-climber. Currently, he is working as a TV presenter and reviews and presents new books.

Dato Turashvili in translation / Rights on Turashvili's novels have been sold to many countries, among them: France (Éditions Robert Laffont, 2022); Poland (Biblioteka Analiz Sp. Z O.O, 2022); Germany (Weidle Verlag, 2021; Verlag Klaus Wagenbach, 2014); Netherlands (Cossee Publishers, 2020, 2013); Canada (Mosaic Press, 2015); Egypt (Al Kotob Khan, 2015); Albania (Fan noli, 2015); Armenia (Antares, 2014); Greece (A. Papatotiriou & Co, 2013); Croatia (Sandorf, 2013); Italy (Palombi Editori, 2013); Turkey (Ezgi Kitabevi, 2012).

THE OTHER AMSTERDAM

In his latest novel Turashvili tells a story of how he went to the Netherlands to explore the story of his grandfather, a Soviet soldier Melenti Maskhulia who fought alongside guerrillas against the Nazi regime. After returning to his homeland, Maskhulia was announced a deserter and the Soviet government sent him to Siberia, sentencing him to ten years of imprisonment. But this is the story narrated by his daughter, while his widow thinks that the only reason Maskhulia was in the Netherlands was his lover and that he had not fought against the Nazi regime for even a day.

"He is confident and the storytelling style of Turashvili is sober and direct. The reader does not remain untouched by his story." /Literair Nederland/

FLIGHT FROM THE USSR

The novel is the ultimate bestseller in Georgia and is based on one of the most tragic events of the 1980-ies, when seven young people hijacked an airplane in an attempt to escape from the Soviet Union. It was a reckless move at that time when even to think about escape was forbidden. The Soviet government sentenced most of the seven to death.

Public reaction was split. Some people would consider the young rebels as terrorists, whilst for others they were heroes. *Flight from the USSR* allows the reader to closely follow the leading characters, and learn more about their motivations and aspirations. Jeans was a symbol of freedom at that time, as it was as rejected to wear as an idea of a free world.

The novel has been adapted for stage and is one of the most successful plays at Georgian Free Theater.

"The book is not a canonization. Turashvili describes, colors and romanticises, but he does not condemn or glorify his characters anywhere. Flight from the USSR is a beautiful novel and it deserves a large readership." /8Weekly/



The Other Amsterdam
Number of pages: 308 / Non fiction-novel
Published in: 2015 / Sulakauri Publishing
Rights: Sulakauri Publishing
Contact: Maka Shulaia
m.shulaia@sulakauri.ge
Full translation available in German.
Sample translation available in English.



Flight from the USSR
Number of pages: 168 / Novel
Published in: 2008 /
Sulakauri Publishing
Rights: Sulakauri Publishing
Contact: Maka Shulaia
m.shulaia@sulakauri.ge

RECENT TRANSLATIONS



NANA EKVIMISHVILI

The Pear Field

Translated into Spanish
Vegueta Ediciones, 2021
Spain



BESIK KHARANAULI

The Book of Amba Besarioni

Translated into German
by Julia Dengg
Dagyeli Verlag, 2021
Germany



THE BOOK OF TBILISI

Short Stories about Tbilisi

Translated into Greek
by Yorgos Goumas
Vakxikon Publications, 2021
Greece



DATO TURASHVILI

The Other Amsterdam

Translated into Dutch
by Ingrid Degraeve
Cosse Publishers, 2021
Netherlands



BEKA ADAMASHVILI

Bestseller

Translated into English
by Tamara Japaridze
Dedalus, 2021
UK



GIORGI KAKABADZE

Pirosmiani

Translated into German
by Jost Gippert
Reichert Verlag, 2021
Germany



ZURAB KARUMIDZE

Dagny or a Love Feast

Translated into Arabic language
by Abdulrahim Youssef
Sefsasa, 2021
Egypt



AKA MORCHILADZE

Love and Death in Tiflis

Translated into German
by Rachel Gratzfeld
Mitteldeutscher Verlag, 2020
Germany



DAVID KLDIASHVILI

Disaster

Translated into French
by Janri Kashia
L'Espace d'un instant, 2020
France



ANA KORDZAIA-SAMADASHVILI

Zinka the Human

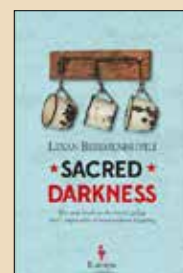
Translated into German
by Sybilla Heinze
Frankfurter Verlagsanstalt, 2020
Germany



TAMTA MELASHVILI

Counting out

Translated into Macedonian
by Lence Toseva
Makedonika Litera, 2020
Macedonia



LEVAN BERDZENISHVILI

Sacred Darkness

Translated into English
by E. Vayner, B. J. Baer
Europa Editions, 2019
USA

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