

New Czech Books 2021



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Introduction

Dear readers,

2021 was the second year to be affected by the pandemic, which again prevented Czech writers from participating in a number of international events, although it didn't get in the way of their creative activities. As a result, this publication features many interesting books from a variety of genres.

In 2022, the Czech Literary Centre will focus on supporting the creative efforts of writers, but also those who translate their work. You will have the opportunity to meet them at the traditional book fairs in Leipzig, Bologna, London and Frankfurt as well as various European literary festivals.

For some time now, Czech literature for children and young adults – especially for infants and schoolchildren – has been enjoying great success abroad. Tereza Šedivá's *Mole in a Black and White Hole* plays with colour to show young readers the difference between the darkness and the colourful diversity of the world. The English edition of the book was shortlisted for the 2021 British Book Production and Design Awards. The lavish publication *A City for Everyone* by Osamu Okamura, David Böhm and Jiří Franta, which focuses on architecture and urban planning, received the prestigious Bologna Ragazzi Award.

In the fiction category, sociocritical novels and short stories have made their presence felt in the Czech Republic. These include Elsa Aids' engrossing social novella *Preparations for Everything* as well as *Buds* by Hana D. Lehečková, which examines the theme of child abuse. In recent years, prose with a focus on environmental issues has come to the fore; for example, Stanislav Biler's *Destruction*. As in many previous years, the Czech fiction scene has been dominated by female writers, and you will find eight of them in our overview.

My team and I are confident that we can introduce you to some inspirational literature!

Martin Krafl

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

CzechLit – Czech Literary Centre

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

CzechLit:

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

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Fiction

Hana D. Lehečková

BUDS

The talented writer has transformed a traumatic experience into superb prose on a consistently neglected and explosive subject.

Františka is eleven years old and it's a few years since the fall of the Iron Curtain. Now there is the freedom to follow her dreams. Františka finds a path to her dream of being an actress opening up through a drama club – and, of course, through Mírek, who's in charge of it. He's the only one who can prepare her for auditions. Get all he can out of her, practice perfect self-denial so she can be all she can be...

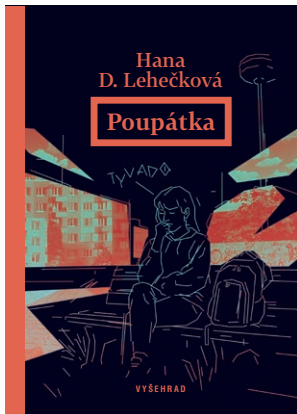
Hana D. Lehečková's *Buds* is set in the strange, predatory and naive period of the post-communist years, when the energy of society mingled with a lack of awareness of the pitfalls in the liberal view of relationships and intimacy. The atmosphere of the

period contributes to the dynamics of the story, whose subject is the sexual abuse of children. Lehečková has managed to convincingly capture the straightforward world of a still childish way of thinking, a world that comes across as almost brash and rude – but only until we realize how much more chilling the insidious manipulation by an adult is; what a powerful influence can be wielded by the leader of a drama club mostly attended by girls. Girls who are too old to be under their parents' constant supervision but too immature to see through the psychological tricks of a sexual predator. After all, when he's smart, funny, well-read and adored by the girls' parents... Who would believe them?

"Lehečková is the kind of talent that is rare in contemporary Czech literature."
—H7O

"Lehečková describes goings-on in a children's drama club through the naive eyes of an eleven-year-old girl, and yet it sends shivers down the spine of the adult reader – all the more so because the writer makes no secret of her own experiences with a similar predator."

—*iLiteratura*



Poupátka
Vyšehrad, 2021, 368 pp



Photo: Tereza Lehečková

Hana D. Lehečková (1990) graduated in Theory and Criticism from the Theatre Faculty of Prague's Academy of Performing Arts. She made her debut as a writer in 2012 when she won a drama competition at the Švanda Theatre, which went on to stage her play *V(y)chod* (Entrance/Exit). Apart from her work for the theatre, she mainly writes for radio. Her serial *Vesmírné putování komety Julie* (The Cosmic Voyages of Julie the Comet) was broadcast by Czech Radio. She made her book debut in 2018 with the children's book *Co se děje v Poďpostelí* (What's Going On In Underthebed?). For her psychotic novella *Svatá hlava* (Sacred Head, 2019) she received the 2020 Jiří Orten Award. She works as a literary editor.

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English, French, German and Spanish sample translations available

Kateřina Rudčenková

AMÁLIE'S INERTIA

With an air of experimental casualness, the protagonist works through her traumas: she doesn't have kids, or even a long-term partner to be the father of her children. A novel that breaks down the taboo of "non-motherhood" in a not entirely predictable way.

Amálie is a Prague intellectual who is full of energy; she loves the mountains, she's learning Japanese...and yet her life seems to have fossilized into a strange immobility. At an age when her peers are starting a family at the last minute, she is still drifting from one failed relationship to the next and – with the help of psychotherapy, getaways and psychotropic substances – trying to resolve the

longstanding issues she has with her all-too-present mother and dead father. However, as she observes the world and herself through the porthole of "inert" moments, it is not without a keen sense of irony and self-reflection, which imbues this story about the end of youth, set in Prague and Japan, with an almost unbearable lightness.



"This amazing book is a wonderful follow-up to the author's previous poetic work."

—*Krajské listy*

"The inertia of the novella's main character, Amálie, seems to permeate the ever thicker aspic of life. After a promising youthful start, her life grinds to a halt in a kind of premature resignation, a lonely life. The poet Kateřina Rudčenková thus becomes the spokesperson for a generation that enjoyed the fact it didn't have to for so long that it eventually found out it no longer could."

—*Lidové noviny*

Amálieina nehybnost
Knižní klub, 2021, 160 pp



Photo: Dominik Mačas

Kateřina Rudčenková (1976) is a poet, prose writer and playwright. Her poetry debut *Ludwig* (1999) and her second collection *Není nutné, abyste mě navštěvoval* (There Is No Need for You to Visit Me, 2001) have established her as one of the most distinctive voices in contemporary Czech poetry. In 2014, she won the prestigious Magnesia Litera Award for her collection *Chůze po dunách* (Walking on Dunes, 2013). She has also published a collection of interlinked short stories, *Noci, Noci* (Nights, Nights, 2004). Her plays have been translated and staged in various countries, including the United Kingdom as part of the Royal Court Theatre's international residency project. Selections of her poetry have been published in Austria, Serbia, Greece, and the United Kingdom.

AWARDS:
The 2021 Reflex Literary Award

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English, French, German and Spanish sample translations available

Petr Stančík

PRAVOMIL OR THE DEAFENING SILENCE OF JUSTICE

This novel is a narrative carnival that dresses up the bare facts of a real-life character's story with unexpected elements and expertly strikes a balance between descriptively historical and ironic storytelling.

In his new book, Petr Stančík looks at the life and work of Pravomil Raichl (1921–2002), a heroic resistance fighter against both Nazism and Communism and failed assassin of the Stalinist prosecutor Karel Vaš. However, he does so in his own unique way: he takes reality as his starting point, but where memory grows vague, he unleashes the full force of his imagination on the text. His flights of fancy blend entertainment with instruction, adventure and play with initiation and understanding. Major historical events extending

from the First Czechoslovak Republic to the 1990s serve as a general backdrop for Raichl's nuanced account of the everyday in all its profundity and magic. Stančík waxes lyrical about the latest model of tank or plane as well as good food, even better drink and all manner of amorous entanglements on the part of the hero. He plots out his imaginatively developed portrait in detail against the horizon of the volatile 20th century. And not only against the horizon: resistance and the struggle against communist totalitarianism are built up vertically into general, traditional, even eternal qualities such as responsibility and truthfulness towards oneself, others and the world. So what starts out as a bit of postmodern fun ultimately proves to be a noetic novel: a book of knowledge.

"Pravomil is a book that reads like a dream, because it is written with the utmost verve and gusto on every page."

—*Lidové noviny*

"Petr Stančík's new novel will probably make historians wince, but those who take it as literature are in for a rip-roaring read."

—*Aktuálně*



Pravomil aneb Ohlušující promlčení
Druhé město, 2021, 400 pp

Photo: David Konečný
(Moravská zemská knihovna v Brně — České literární centrum) (CC BY-NC-ND 4.0)



Petr Stančík (1968) entered the world of literature under the pseudonym Odillo Stradický ze Strdic; since 2007 he has been publishing under his real name. His work for adult readers includes the tale of the first Czech superhero *Pérák* (The Spring Man, 2008) and the gastronomic/pornographic/philosophical thriller *Mlýn na mumie* (Mummy Mill, 2014), for which he was awarded the 2015 Magnesia Litera Award. His books for children include the juvenile horror story *Mrkev ho vcucla pod zem* (A Carrot Sucked Him Underground, 2013) and a series of tales about Chrujda the badger. He also wrote the historical monograph *Kaple Božího Těla a Krve a Bratrstvo obruče s kladivem* (The Chapel of the Body and Blood of Christ and the Brotherhood of the Hoop and Hammer, 2015) about the defunct Temple of Solomon in the centre of Prague's Old Town.

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English, French and German sample translations
available

Elsa Aids PREPARATIONS FOR EVERYTHING

The minimalist story of a search for the causes of an existential crisis which expands in front of the reader into a parable about the crisis facing society and civilization.

It all begins with the feeling, expressed casually and quite inadvertently, that the narrator's path in life has stopped making sense to him. We follow the twists and turns in the life of a person who is not out to reform society but at the same time is incapable of fitting into modern corporate society and discovering a meaningful way of existing within it. He is not even sure whether he lost that meaning himself

or someone stole it from him, and whether his apathy is a road that might lead somewhere. This novella by an author who has so far published three poetry collections does not drift into general reflections; instead, the sense of crisis is examined through the story itself, which has the kind of momentum and energy and also distinctive style that few works of contemporary Czech prose can lay claim to.



Přípravy na všechno
Fra, 2020, 96 pp

"Preparations for everything is a work devoid of literary pretensions and is unusually harsh in terms of its language and world view."

—*Český rozhlas, Vltava*

"[The novella] happily stirs the stagnant waters in which most books are designed to be devoured quickly without posing any questions or making you think."

—*Aktuálně*



Photo: Zone

Elsa Aids (1981) is a magazine editor, journalist and proofreader. In addition to essays and reviews, he has also published three poetry collections: *Trojčedíný prst* (The Trinitarian Finger, 2011), *Nenávist* (Hatred, 2014) and *Knihy omezení* (The Book of Limitations, 2017). His prose debut *Přípravy na všechno* (Preparations for everything, 2020) was chosen for the eighth Susanna Roth Award for beginner translators of Czech literature. He writes under a pseudonym.

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Spanish sample translation available

Zuzana Říhová THROUGH PINS OR NEEDLES

Strange accidents and terrifying incidents in the Czech countryside. A village novel one wants to read in the safe embrace of the city.

Husband and wife Bohumil and Bohumila, together with their mentally disabled son, move from Prague to a small village in the borderlands to work out their marital crisis. In the searing summer heat, they try to fit in among the locals; at first, they blame minor misunderstandings on their strangeness and lack of capacity to understand the social codes of the village. The sense of danger grows, though, as the lies, small and big, the “accidents”, and the scary incidents

all start piling up. Then, one night, Bohumil and Bohumila come home to find the house empty: their son is gone. The series of uncanny events culminates on the third day after the boy’s disappearance when all the villagers gather outside the couple’s cottage in festive costumes. Did the local country bumpkins’ bizarre game turn into some perverse, modern folklore ritual? Are the lives of Bohumil and Bohumila in danger? And what has happened to their son?



Cestou špendlíků nebo jehel
Argo, 2021, 248 pp

“Zuzana Říhová’s writing is merciless; her words and sentences are as sharp as knives and razor blades that cut into the reader’s body.”

—*Aktuálně*

“Thanks to its highly metaphorical language, this dark, bewitching, almost apocalyptic narrative about the desire to start over somewhere else, framed by the story of Red Riding Hood, makes for an exceptional read.”

—*iLiteratura*

Photo: Miloš Urban



Zuzana Říhová (1981) studied Czech Language and Literature and Comparative Literature at Charles University in Prague. She has been working at the Institute of Czech Literature of the Czech Academy of Sciences since 2007 and was Head of Czech Studies at the University of Oxford from 2014 to 2017. She has a lifelong interest in Czech avant-garde literature and, apart from *Cestou špendlíků nebo jehel* (Through Pins or Needles, 2021), she has also published a collection of poetry, *Pustím si tě do domu* (I’ll Let You in My House, 2016), and a novella, *Evička* (Little Eve, 2018).

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English sample translation available

Stanislav Biler

DESTRUCTION

This existential and environmental novel offers hope that life can have meaning even amid the debris, and that death is not the biggest problem we face on Earth.

The novel *Destruction* follows the fortunes of a teacher who has fled from the city to the countryside to escape the complexity of the world. He wants to find peace, order and certainty, to become part of life in a community where every person has their place and every question its answer, where the truth is clear and beyond doubt. Initially, this nameless protagonist in a nameless village finds himself in a seemingly ideal situation: he gets a house to live in and a steady job as a primary-school teacher. All that remains is to find a wife and merge into the order of the traditional world. The fact that he can't escape from the world hits him in the classroom when he is unable to answer any of the

children's questions with certainty. He has no idea what he should teach them about a world he doesn't understand himself. He has no idea how to give them certainty when he himself is torn apart by constant anxiety. And the state of the village does nothing to put his mind at ease. Instead of tranquil countryside, he discovers a world in disarray. Instead of life, he finds death; instead of pristine nature, a withered forest, dead fields and dried-up wells. While the hero observes an environmental disaster of unknown origin, almost everyone around him looks the other way and gives evasive answers to straightforward questions. They pretend nothing is happening, and if something *is* happening, they claim nothing can be done about it.

"In his second novel, the Brno-based sociologist writes about a world where the climate crisis and the pandemic call into question everything we've taken for granted but which society is unable to respond to in any way."

—*Voxpot*



Destrukce
Druhé město, 2021, 292 pp



Photo: Author's archive

Stanislav Biler (1982) is a sociologist, writer, script editor and journalist. He has written for a number of Czech newspapers and magazines. He has worked at Czech Television, in the Ombudsman's office and as a factory worker in Oldham, Greater Manchester. In 2011 he co-founded the (originally sarcastic) political movement Žít Brno (To Live Brno). He has written the books *Nejlepší kandidát* (The Best Candidate, 2017) and *111 míst v Brně, která musíte vidět* (111 Places in Brno You Must See, 2020). In his free time, he enjoys walking through the wilderness.

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Bianca Bellová

THESE FRAGMENTS

With its style of narration, this collection of remarkable short stories bears comparison with the masters of the genre, even within an international context.

In this collection of short stories, Bianca Bellová, winner of the 2017 EU Prize for Literature, demonstrates her mastery of the form. The common thread running through the collection is the cycle of life – from childhood in a single-parent family, through puberty and first relationships, to the productive years and finally to old age. The title refers to the fragments or snippets of lives which this short-story

collection captures in the individual stages of an ordinary person's life – within them, banality can abruptly shift into a moment that is fatal, decisive and crucial. With their characteristically minor-key, melancholic tone, combined with a complete rejection of linguistic ornamentation, these short stories are also shaped by a specific, at times dark, humour.

“Bianca Bellová builds some of these short stories around more or less absurd trifles. She plants them like seedlings in the middle of a flower bed so that she can thoroughly loosen the soil around them, giving them room to visibly grow.”

—*Aktuálně*

“Within these stories there is a continually recurring dichotomy between the living and the dying, curiosity and apathy, health and disease. The book is filled with sexual tension but also with a depressing inactivity. The seasons roll by and people continue to experience the same cyclical problems.”

—*iLiteratura*



Tyhle fragmenty
Host, 2021, 197 pp

Photo: Jan Trnka



Bianca Bellová (1970) was born in Prague, where she lives halfway between the Balkan and British parts of her family. She is a translator and interpreter. Her first novel *Sentimentální román* (A Sentimental Novel) was published in 2009. This was followed by the books *Mrtvý muž* (Dead Man, 2011) and *Celý den se nic nestane* (Nothing Happens All Day, 2013). The novel *Jezero* (The Lake, 2016) has won several literary awards, including the EU Prize for Literature, and publication rights have been sold to twenty-one countries. Her latest book is *Tyhle fragmenty* (These Fragments, 2021).

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English sample translation available

Simona Bohatá

LUCKY BENY

The grimy, crumbling world of workers' settlements, pubs and salvage yards in 1980s Czechoslovakia, and the lively assortment of bizarre characters who inhabit it.

Young Beny leaves home to escape a violent father and finds refuge at a scrapyard run by someone they call the Fabrikant. Together with an invalid called Hany, a drifter called Julča and his brother Vítan, they form an odd kind of family in which everyone has their secrets and dark sides, as well as that Hrabalesque “pearl of the deep”. Beny needs to get out of

military service, make some money, find a job and a place to live, but most of all he needs time to devote to his one passion: photography. During the “real socialism” of the early 1980s, what might seem childishly simple today was a shady, if not downright illegal adventure – especially if you were barely twenty and didn't take anything too seriously.



Klikář Beny
Host, 2021, 368 pp

“This novel about a salvage worker with a passion for photography is a compelling examination of the everyday bleakness of Normalization.”

— *Czech Television*



Photo: Agáta Bohatá

Simona Bohatá (1965) spent her adolescence in Prague's Žižkov district, which had a great influence on her, as did the Prague music and theatre scene of the 1980s. After graduating from a secondary school specializing in economics, she started her first job and at the same time was accepted into the Jaroslav Ježek Conservatory, where she studied lyrics and scriptwriting. She has worked in various places – from a travel agency to the National Library and a number of private companies. She described her childhood and adolescence with tongue-in-cheek in the book *Máňa a my druzí* (*Máňa and the Rest of Us*, 2017). The novel *Klikář Beny* (*Lucky Beny*, 2021) loosely follows on from the successful *Všichni sou trapný* (*Everybody Sucks*, 2019).

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English sample translation available

Pavla Horáková

THE HEART OF EUROPE

A history of the Czech lands and Austria through the engaging story of two women.

Pavla Horáková's new novel is a fascinating dialogue between two narrators separated by more than a hundred years. Anežka, a teacher, is trying to find some direction in her chaotic life and the chaotic era in which she lives. At the same time, she is going through the handwritten memoirs of Kateřina, an eccentric, self-assured woman whose lack of a formal education is more than made up for by her natural

wit and powers of perception. The two women are drawn to Vienna by its strange combination of worldliness and provincialism, its hectic present co-existing with nostalgia for times gone by. Vienna in 1912 – a proud imperial capital at the height of its glory – and modern Vienna in 2020, which we get to know through Anežka, who sets out to explore it in Kateřina's footsteps.



Srdce Evropy
Argo, 2021, 400 pp

“The concept of two voices separated by a century engaging in an imaginary dialogue with each other is in itself very stimulating. As a result, the writer is able to find parallels between two worlds which at first sight seem very distant, not only on a personal level (points of convergence in the lives of Anežka and Kateřina), but also on a socio-political and cultural one.”

—Deník N



Photo: Jan Křifikava

Pavla Horáková (1974) is a Prague-based writer, Czech Radio presenter and literary translator. She has translated more than twenty books from English and Serbian (including novels by Kurt Vonnegut, Saul Bellow and Iain Banks) and has received two translation awards. In 2018 she published the novel *Teorie podivnosti* (The Theory of Strangeness), for which she was awarded the Magnesia Litera Award. The rights to *Teorie podivnosti* have been sold to eleven countries so far.

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English sample translation available

Lidmila Kábrtová

WAITING FOR THE TRIGGER

A novel in eight stories about bad decisions, misunderstandings and hope.

Zuzana travels to the seaside to blot out a terrifying dream. Jitka is ashamed of her flabby belly and doesn't want to be compared to anyone else. Hana finds her grandmother during a chance trip by car. Pavel has found peace working in the forest and doesn't want to mess things up again. Iveta dresses the dead and conceals her snake tattoo. And Libor just takes photographs... They belong to one another, in a way they

are all one family, and yet they are like ships that pass in the night. The short-story novel *Waiting for the Trigger* is a chronicle of this distance between them, spanning a period of seventy years. In a concentrated form, the book examines how seemingly unimportant decisions by one person can affect the lives of others and an innocuous incident can impinge on someone apparently unconnected with it.



Čekání na spoušť
Host, 2021, 199 pp

“Kábrtová has come up with a very powerful story which unfolds from the 1950s up to the present day. She captures the atmosphere of the Normalization years brilliantly.”

—*Aktuálně*

Photo: Lenka Faltejsková



Lidmila Kábrtová (1971) graduated in journalism from the Faculty of Social Sciences of Charles University in Prague, and later also in marketing communication from the Tomáš Baťa University in Zlín. She focused on journalism for several years before moving on to public relations, an area she has now worked in for more than twenty years. She is the author of a radio play for children, *Šedivák* (Grey), whose script won a prize in a Czech Radio competition. Her first book to be published was the experimental prose *Koho vypijou lišky* (Whom Foxes Drink Up, 2013). In 2018 she published the short-story collection *Místa ve tmě* (Places in the Dark), which was awarded the main prize by the Czech Literary Fund Foundation.

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English sample translation available

Dita Táborská

BLACK TONGUES

A story set in Taiwan about the search for truth and one's place in history.

A Taiwanese man called Bao strives to keep a firm hold over every aspect of his life. He has a wonderful career, children at prestigious schools, and he doesn't even seem to be troubled by his dysfunctional relationship with his ex-wife, Sedrika. In Taiwan the main thing is not to lose face – no matter what. However, all that suddenly changes when Sedrika falls ill with an incurable disease and their son, David, decides to meet his uncle Tao, who Bao has apparently fallen out with over an inheritance. From that moment on, the layers of unspoken

family grievances and lies gradually begin to peel away, fundamentally altering the lives of all those around Bao. Nothing is as it seems and nothing turns out the way the protagonists in the novel would have wanted. In the character of Bao and the story of his family, we see a reflection of the fate of a sorely tried country and ancestral traumas reaching far back into the past. The novel *Black Tongues* shows the fragility of our ideas about values such as truth, duty, honour and love, as well as how difficult it is to express ourselves outwardly in a genuine and honest manner.



Černé jazyky
Host, 2021, 279 pp

“Dita Táborská has done a superb job of handling the story and characters, but also the Taiwanese setting and the depiction of an Eastern mentality that embraces community over individuality and places the traditional, religiously reinforced framework of collective action above direct personal experience.”

—*Lidové noviny*

“The novel reads extremely well and – more importantly – the characters and the events they experience are believable.”

—*Czech Television*



Photo: Author's archive

Dita Táborská (1981) graduated from the Faculty of Arts at Charles University in Prague. She has worked as a freelancer for Czech Television and Czech Radio as well as in the political and press division of the Israeli embassy, and in 2009 she joined the Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs. From 2009 to 2012 she worked at the Czech embassy in Ulaanbaatar, and since 2018 she has been with the Czech Economic and Cultural Office in Taipei. In 2017 she published her first novel, *Malinka*, which deals with the subject of a child being adopted into a family. This was followed by the book *Běsa* (2018), which shares a temporal and thematic framework with *Malinka*. In 2021 she wrote her third novel, *Černé jazyky* (Black Tongues) which was inspired by her time in Taiwan. She is married and has three sons.

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Poetry

Milan Ohnisko

OLD POP

A collection of refreshing, playful and gently ironic lyric poems which combine a wry smile at the absurdity of life with melancholic meditations on human fate, desires and the evanescence of dreams.

The collection *Old Pop* creatively develops the legacy of postmodern poetry, though without the need for radical gestures aimed at dismantling the canonical texts and the so-called great narratives. It “merely” reveals the mechanisms of a “great narrative” of literature, which has not always been great in the sense of admirable. That is why the poet makes it clear that he doesn’t take poetry deadly seriously, but rather views it much more as a game – an enjoyable play on words, ideas, images, fragments of literary traditions and allusions to historical styles.

In this collection, poetry appears to be a message from the old world, though it does not invite us to escape from the modern world, but rather seeks to enrich and enliven the world we inhabit through a liberating use of the imagination and musing over the patina of archaic words. The distinctive atmosphere of the collection is also due to the poet’s ability to sketch out a fragment of a story within a concise piece of text which has the potential to be expanded into a short story or even a novel. The fates of the bizarre characters created by Ohnisko in this way are, however, only roughly outlined, leaving the reader to flesh them out using their own imagination.

“Ohnisko’s new book provides a special form of pleasure: it hovers precisely between what we earnestly seek out in poetry and what it manages to do to us insidiously without even being asked. [...] It will make us smile – either knowingly or nervously or even in guilty recognition: the poet takes delight in exposing the innards of our little lives to the light; he has always done so, and on this occasion he is just a little more capricious.”

—A2



Starej pop
Druhé město, 2021, 92 pp



Photo: Veronika Králík

Milan Ohnisko (1965) is a poet, publishing and magazine editor and cultural commentator who was a dissident and signatory of Charter 77 during Normalization. In 1981 he left high school early and he also failed to complete his studies in librarianship, after which he was employed in various ancillary jobs. After the Velvet Revolution in 1989, he established his own publishing firm and bookshop in Brno. For a number of years he worked as a publishing editor. He now lives in Prague and is deputy editor-in-chief of the literary fortnightly journal *Tvar*. He published his first poems in the 1980s in samizdat editions. He has written several collections of poetry. A comprehensive collection of his poetry from the period 1985–2012 was brought out by the Czech publishing house Barrister & Principal under the title *Oh!*

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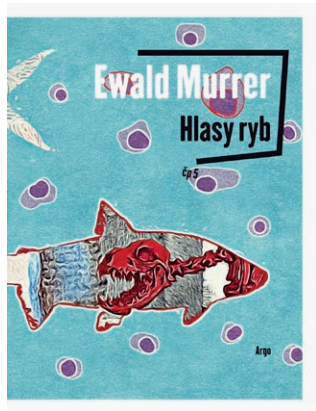
Ewald Murrer

THE VOICES OF FISH

The humour of pseudonymous poet Ewald Murrer converges with an unsentimental melancholy in a poetically timeless fantasy world.

When Ewald Murrer was awarded the 2020 Magnesia Litera Award, the jury justified its decision by stating that in his poetry “imagination and an interest in mystery converge with an absurd, at times even naturalistic hyperbole”, and that in this regard the poet was following on from the poetic of “a melancholic and bizarre reverie which had captivated readers back in the early 1990s in his book *Zápisník pana Pinkeho* (The Diary of Mr Pink)”. All of this is true of his new collection, *The Voices of Fish*; however, compared

to Murrer’s earlier work, the atmosphere here is increasingly mournful and uneasy, with a gnawing awareness of death and non-being. This creates a striking contrast to the poet’s discreet, unobtrusive, yet all the more malicious sense of humour: “Fisherman Death / is fishing in our pond. // (...) I can hear what I didn’t hear before. / The whisper of stones, the hollow sounds of overturned furrows. / The voices of fish / after the rains / calling from the puddles.”



Hlasy ryb
Argo, 2021, 115 pp



Photo: Erea Křížová

Ewald Murrer (1964) began publishing underground in the 1980s and contributed to the legendary anthology *Už na to seru, protože to mám za pár* (I don’t give a shit anymore cos I’m out soon). His work also featured in an anthology of poetry by the second underground generation, *U nás ve sklepečě* (At Home in the Cellar, 2013). He has published several poetry collections, including *Noční četba* (Night Reading, 2019), for which he was awarded the 2020 Magnesia Litera Award.

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Marcela Linhartová

REMOVE A BONE

Spiritual and personal, therapeutic and passionate, angry and subdued. The poetry collection *Remove a Bone* is a collection which can be read in many ways.

After eleven years, the poet Marcela Linhartová has brought out a new poetry collection. It describes painful minor personal tragedies, yet her poetry has a quietness about it which is more than just therapeutic in character. There is much here that is only implied through words; Linhartová always strives for economy of expression, sometimes sounding almost Old Testament in tone. Her poems transcend the individual to become more generally applicable. Are they about the plight of a dissatisfied woman in the

modern world? Or more of a dialogue with the world? The poet is not petulantly angry at the world around her. Instead, she directs her silent screams, rage and defiance into her poems. They describe states and crises, and even if they do not give absolution or advice on how to carry on, they can help just by identifying these states. This is a collection which is often expressive and relentless, but from the outset it also expresses the internal struggle between threat and intimacy.



vyjměte kost
Protimluv, 2021, 56 pp

Photo: Ondřej Mazura



Marcela Linhartová (1980) graduated from the Faculty of Education at the University of South Bohemia with a degree in Czech and art education, and formerly worked in this area at a primary school. She is now in her fifth year of teaching foreign students at a language school in České Budějovice, where she has written course materials on Czech grammar, spelling and stylistics. She enjoys creating new Czech language materials for foreigners and using them in her teaching. She is a member of a group called Kukai which holds regular meetings and to which she has contributed haiku poems. She also plays the accordion. In 2006 she published her first collection, the successful *Bylas u toho...* (You Were There...), and three years later her second collection, *Zpívat bláznům* (Singing to Fools). She lives in Mokrý near České Budějovice with her husband and two children.

Comics

Tereza Kopecká & Tomáš Kopecký

TOTAL MADNESS

A graphic novel showing there will always be a good reason to get out of the house.

Total Madness is aimed mainly, though not exclusively, at teenage readers and depicts the everyday horror of someone suffering from panic attacks. The main character is Anna, a 17-year-old high-school student regarded by those around her as “Mrs Faulty” or a “weirdo”. Eschewing dramatic plotlines, the narrative describes Anna’s return to school after a month of being unable to get out of bed and her subsequent trip with the mysterious Max. However, instead of a carefree road movie, we follow Anna’s struggle with the daily

fears and anxieties that lurk in a crowded bus, in a motorway tunnel, in public showers, in random passers-by and in hypothetical ideas taken to paranoid conclusions. Tomáš Kopecký’s illustrations convey the physical manifestations of mental fears – the moments when Anna literally sees red. Or when, from apparent calm, she suddenly descends into neurotic ramblings, losing herself in terrifying fantasies and desperately trying to regain her equilibrium and focus.



Naprostá šílenost
Art by Tomáš Kopecký
Paseka, 2021, 120 pp

“This unassuming, introverted graphic novel was one of the more endearing discoveries of 2021. The pathological anxiety of a teenage girl has been skillfully transformed into a delicate yet thoughtful story.”

—*iLiteratura*



Photo: Barbora Maršiček Votavová

Tereza Kopecká (1984) published her first book for children in 2019. She has a passion for storytelling and it was her long-term ambition to write a comics story inspired by real life.

Tomáš Kopecký (1982) began drawing as a child, he drew at school and he is still drawing today. He has illustrated a few games and books and is absolutely thrilled to have finally been able to illustrate a comic book.

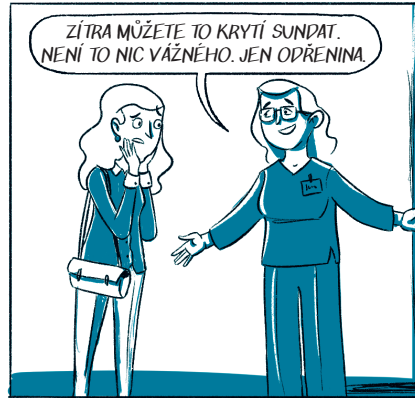
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TOTAL MADNESS

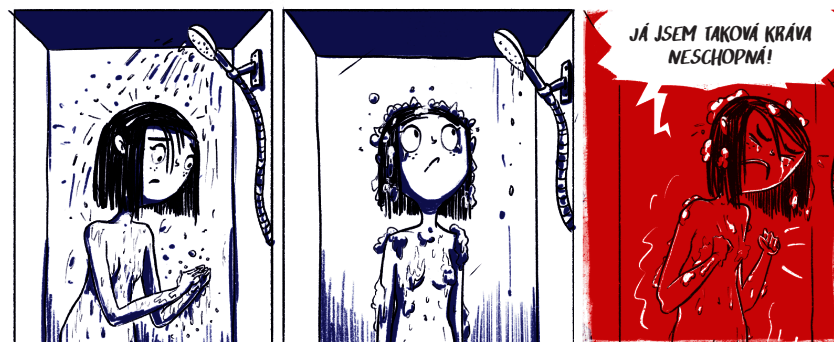
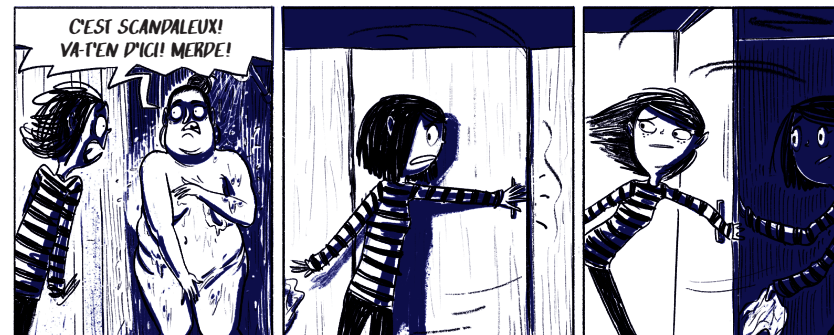


TOTAL MADNESS





TOTAL MADNESS

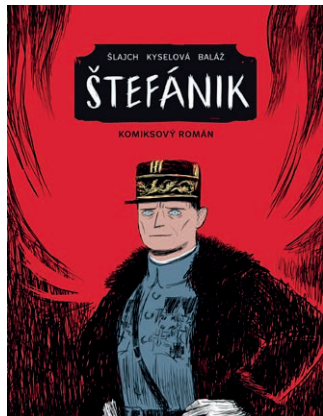


Gabriela Kyselová, Michal Baláž & Václav Šlajch ŠTEFÁNIK

A comics portrait of one of the founders of Czechoslovakia favouring playfulness and complexity over the trivialization of textbooks.

The factually based story of one of the founders of an independent Czechoslovakia – the general, aviator and passionate astronomer Milan Rastislav Štefánik – provides the basis for the eponymous graphic novel by the artist Václav Šlajch and the writers Gabriela Kyselová and Michal Baláž. However, instead of a predictable, eulogizing memorial, the reader is presented with a remarkable work about the folly of attempting such clear-cut interpretations. It is a playful and somewhat provocative graphic novel

showing that even the greatest heroes can be insufferable in many respects, and that no one who truly lived can be reduced to a glossy image on a poster. The comics version of *Štefánik* has the power to speak to readers already familiar with the figures being depicted as well as those hearing about them for the first time. Through its scope, its persuasiveness, its sophisticated composition and excellent artwork, it is able to speak to anyone who is prepared to listen.



“An outstanding book. Šlajch is a skilful artist, a master of the dynamic, inherently ‘atmospheric’ line. He takes reality as his starting point but spins it out a little in a fanciful way. In his hands, *Štefánik* is like a cross between *Hellboy* and the *Golem*.”

—iDNES

“Šlajch’s drawing style is original and assured, and its composition has the ability to surprise.”

—iLiteratura

Štefánik
Art by Václav Šlajch
Labyrinth, 2021, 200 pp

From left to right: Michal Baláž, Gabriela Kyselová, Václav Šlajch and editor Ondřej Kavalír. Photo: Sandra Sedlecká, FRAME festival

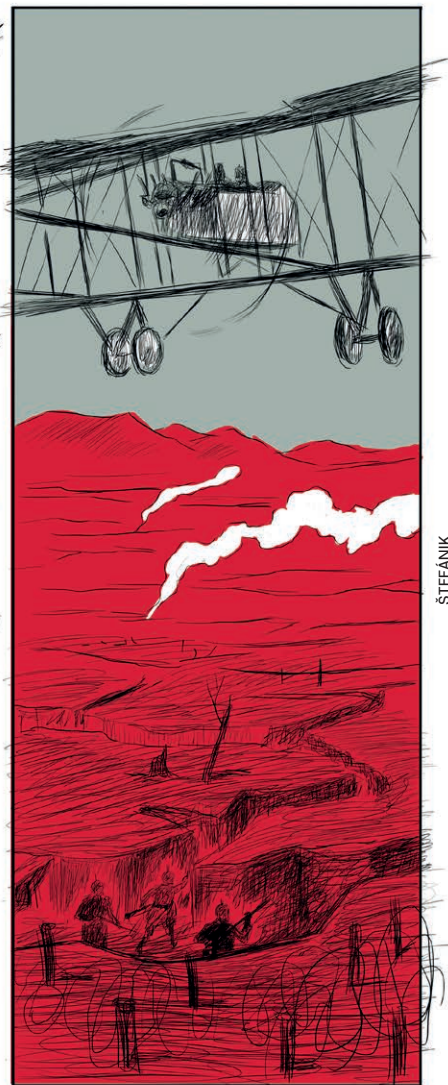
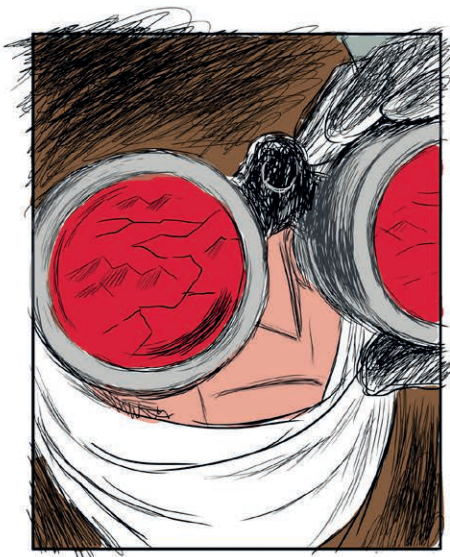


Gabriela Kyselová (1981) is a scriptwriter and artist. She has worked on several independent educational art projects, mainly for internet apps. She collaborated on the film *Cesta do nemožna* (*The Impossible Voyage*, 2019). She has recently been working on *Medikomiks*, a series of educational comic books for children about serious illnesses. She also works as a screenwriter for children’s animations at the Tobogang film company. She lives in Prague.

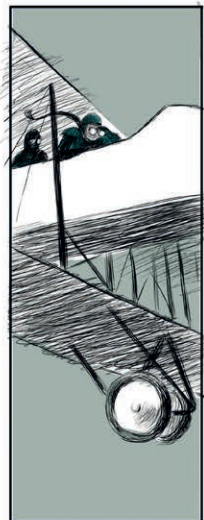
Michal Baláž (1986) is a scriptwriter, director, playwright and novelist. His first book to be published was the poetry collection *Ø* (2016). He made his debut as a screenwriter and director with the TV docudrama *True Štúr* (2015) a mix of animation and live action, and as a playwright with the staging of *Domov* (*Home*, 2018). His second book, a collection of short works of prose and miniature dramas, *Orgány a Drámy* (*Organs & Dramas*), was published in 2018. He also writes his own music and lyrics. He lives in Bratislava.

Václav Šlajch (1980) is a comics artist, educator and illustrator. He is part of the “new wave” of Czech comics known as Generation Zero, which began to make a name for itself around 2000. He has been teaching at the Ladislav Sutnar Faculty of Art and Design in Plzeň since 2015. He has contributed to comics such as *Ještě jsme ve válce* (*We Are Still at War*, 2011), *Superhrdinové z východního bloku* (*Superheroes from the Eastern Bloc*, 2015) and *Rychlé šípy a jejich úžasné nová dobrodružství* (*The Rapid Arrows and their Amazing New Adventures*, 2018). He is the winner of the 2010 Muriel Award for best short comics. He is a fan of comics by Daniel Clowes, cactuses and films by the Coen brothers.

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STEFANIK

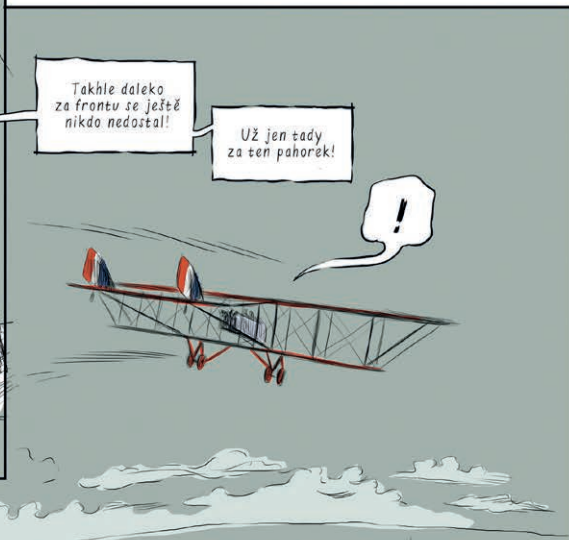


Otočme se!

Takhle daleko za frontu se ještě nikdo nedostal!

Už jen tady za ten pahorek!

!



STEFANIK



Vždyť nás sestřelil!

Nikkarin HUBERT & HUGO

This compilation of stories about two plucky father-and-son explorers takes its cue from traditional adventure comics for children.

In the first story, Nikkarin dispatches the experienced climber and travel writer Hubert and his teenage son Hugo to the Chinese mountains, where they come across a mysterious temple housing a supernatural being. The story revolves around them having to defeat this creature – an intelligent octopus – at table tennis. A similarly light-hearted approach, using humour, hyperbole and improbable scenarios, is to be found in the other stories, which take the characters to various

locations (both real and imaginary) in the Czech Republic and abroad. Despite experiencing action-packed stories worthy of Tintin or Indiana Jones, our two heroes remain endearingly down-to-earth and at times even fragile: the father, Hubert, acts like an intellectual from the 1930s, while Hugo is a quick-witted if occasionally blundering boy. Here the experienced author of comics for adults has opted for a softer, earthier and homelier style full of bright colours and rounded lines.



“Overall, the comics is a colourful hotchpotch disarming even older readers with its light-heartedness and the self-evident way in which unexpected, improbable and sometimes downright supernatural things happen.”

—*iLiteratura*

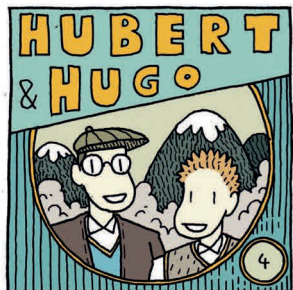
Hubert & Hugo
Labyrint, 2021, 104 pp



Photo: Marcel Skýba

Nikkarin (1987) makes his living as a comics artist and book illustrator. His artwork has accompanied a number of children's stories and he is also the author of the *Super Spellword Saga* (2019) and the comic-book series *150* (2015). He is the winner of a Muriel Award. He finds inspiration for the adventures of Hubert and Hugo in old books which he tracks down during expeditions to second-hand bookshops. In his spare time he plays computer games, builds Lego with his son or goes for walks in the forest. He enjoys drawing in cafés, listening to podcasts and drinking Coke. He lives with his family in Olomouc.

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• KRESLÍ A PÍŠE: NIKKARIN •

VÁŽENÍ DIVÁCI, VÍTÁM VÁS NA DALŠÍM ROČNÍKU JUNIORSKÉ HOROLEZECKÉ SOUTĚŽE „MESSNERŮV CEPÍN“.

TEN OPĚT POŘADATELÉ UMÍSTILI NA VRCHOLU HORY HOCHBERG A ÚKOLEM MLADÝCH HOROLEZCŮ JE HO ZÍŠKAT A DONĚST DO CÍLE.



A MÁME TU I DVA FAVORITY. JEDNÍM JE HUGO HORÁČEK Z OLOMOUCE.

AHOJ.

FAVORITKA ČÍSLO DVĚ JE VERONIKA TLACHOVÁ Z JESENÍKU.

BRÝ DEN.

HUGO, NA TU HOLKU SI DEJ POZOR!

COŽE? PROČ?

ZNÁM JEJÍHO TÁTU, INŽENÝRA TLACHA. PŘED LETY JSME BYLI VELKÝMI RIVALY A NEHRÁL VŽDYCKY FÉR.

START!

PŘIPRAVTE SE KE STARTU!



HUBERT & HUGO



SOUTĚŽÍCÍ VYRÁŽEJÍ VSTRČÍ VRCHOLU. MY SE SPOJÍME PO REKLAMĚ.

HLAVNĚ ROZVRHNOUT SÍLY A NEPŘEPÁLIT ZAČÁTEK.



CO TO MÁ ZNAMENAT? TO LANO NĚKDO NAŘÍZL!

TÁ HOLKA!

NO TA AŽ SE MI DOSTANE POD RUKU.

ŽUCH!

JAU!

ČAU!

PROMIŇ, NECHTĚLA JSEM NA TEBE SPADNOUT, ALE NĚKDO MI NAŘÍZL LANO.

JMENUJU SE VERONIKA.

JÁ JSEM HUGO.

S MOJÍ VÝSTROJÍ SI TAKY NĚKDO POHRÁL. VYPADÁ TO, ŽE SE TEN DOTYČNÝ CHTĚL ZBAVIT FAVORITŮ TĚHLE SOUTĚŽE.

HUBERT & HUGO

Children's and Young Adult

Tereza Šedivá

MOLE IN A BLACK AND WHITE HOLE

An imaginative, charming tale about searching for beauty and light in the world around us.

When Mole looks around his underground home, all he sees is the black-and-white world of his cold, dark hole. Mole digs and digs, dreaming of finding something colourful, but day after day, he is disappointed. One day, Mole finds a radish poking through the top of his tunnel like a chandelier. They start chatting, and as Mole listens to the descriptions of life above ground, he imagines bright clothes, red roofs, vibrant green trees, pastel flowers and the blush of the sun as it sinks through the sky. The next morning, Mole is distraught to discover that his

chandelier is gone, leaving a hole in its place. He crawls out of the hole and into the world above – and into a place more colourful than he ever dreamed possible.

Printed in vivid pantones and with an inventive die-cut hole in the cover, *Mole in a Black and White Hole* tells a charming tale about what awaits us when we seek out the light in the darkness.

The book was published simultaneously by Thames & Hudson in London.

Age: 3+



Krtkův černobílý svět
Nakladatelství 65. pole, 2021, 32 pp



Photo: Author's archive

Tereza Šedivá (1988) studied Children's Book Illustration at Cambridge School of Art. After graduating in 2015 she relocated back to her home country where she works freelance. In her work she combines various printmaking techniques as well as collage, and explores the use of textures and possibilities of colour overlays. Her latest book *Krtkův černobílý svět* (Mole in a Black and White Hole, 2021) has been translated into five languages and the English edition of the book was shortlisted for the 2021 British Book Production and Design Awards. Apart from her work on children's books she also runs illustration workshops, designs toys and stationery products, and cares for her two young children.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION:
Shortlisted for the 2021 British Book Production and Design Awards – Children's Trade 0 to 8 Years

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When he popped his head out of the hole he got a surprise.

The night was not black and white like he had thought...

The silver moon shined like a precious jewel and in the town the windows gleamed and lit up the night.

Mole gazed in awe!

MOLE IN A BLACK AND WHITE HOLE

Back in his hole, Mole found that life was not so black and white and lonely anymore.

'Now, I can have colour down here and up there,' he said happily.

He had the best of both worlds. His cosy colourful hole and this whole new world full of friends to explore.

MOLE IN A BLACK AND WHITE HOLE

Osamu Okamura, David Böhm & Jiří Franta

A CITY FOR EVERYONE

This Bologna Ragazzi Award-winning “manual of urbanism for beginners” uses images of a giant paper model of a city to show young adults how to view our cities critically and how to develop an intense relationship with our immediate surroundings.

The art of urban planning and facilitating the coexistence of city-dwellers is not an example of “social engineering” but rather a reflection of the age-old attempt to create a functioning polis. Today – when this type of settlement has come to dominate the globe – urban conservation in Central and Eastern Europe faces challenges from the historical burden of communist architecture, but also from contemporary vested interests and short-sighted attempts to patch

things up. However, the place we live in deserves a better deal. Together with two award-winning artists, architect Osamu Okamura discusses possible cures for neuralgic points in our human anthills in a clear, understandable and considered manner. Thanks to “learning through play” in the form of dozens of visual jokes, he puts the problem into the necessary context – after all, if cities are to avoid degenerating into backdrops for dystopian science fiction, a consensual approach is needed.

Age: 12+



“This astonishing book makes use of the disposable glossy magazine format and garish color photography of original installations to express the thrilling dynamism of urban design. The producers have produced a mega maquette of a paper town, and have generated assertive and informative text on questions of urban design and justice. Readers are positioned to look at the pages as designers considering a model of a city that they have been invited to rethink.”

—The 2021 Bologna Ragazzi Award jury

Město pro každého
Art by David Böhm and Jiří Franta
Labyrint, 2020, 180 pp

From left to right: Osamu Okamura, David Böhm and Jiří Franta.
Photo: Pavel Horák



Osamu Okamura (1973) is an architect, dean and lecturer at the Faculty of Art and Architecture of the Technical University in Liberec, chair of the Prague City Council Commission for Art in the Public Space, and a member of the Commission for the Development of Town Planning, Architecture and the Public Space of Prague 7 City Council Authority. As a member of the board of the Czech Architecture Foundation and with support from a Fulbright-Masaryk scholarship, he spent time in 2018 studying at the Chicago Architecture Center, where among other things he focused on programmes for children and young adults.

David Böhm (1982) is an artist and author of illustrated children's books. His collection of comic-strip tales from Africa, *Ticho hrocha* (The Silence of the Hippo, 2009) won 2nd place in the competition for the Most Beautiful Czech Books of the Year. He also had success with the publication *Hlava v hlavě* (The Head in the Head, 2013): an encyclopaedic fount of knowledge with imaginative artistic and technical explanations of the functioning of the head perched on our necks (Most Beautiful Czech Books of the Year, 2014 Magnesia Litera Award, with the poet Ondřej Buddeus). He is the author of *A jako Antarktida* (A is for Antarctica, 2019), which won, among others, the 2020 German Children's Literature Award in the non-fiction category.

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

AWARDS:
2021 Bologna Ragazzi Award – New Horizons
2021 Golden Ribbon Award – Art Section:
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A CITY FOR EVERYONE



A CITY FOR EVERYONE

Olga Stehlíková & Nikola Logosová I, HUMAN

This short encyclopaedia of people poses the question of what makes humans human.

The winner of the Albatros publishing house's competition on the theme of "The World Around Us" impressed the judges with its "sophisticated concept, stylistic maturity and topical theme of the search for identity in an ever-changing world". The author Olga Stehlíková and illustrator Nikola Logosová came up with a human "catalogue" of 62 types of ordinary people presented as a mosaic of portraits with brief texts written in the first person. The subjects introduce themselves through one specific personality trait, defining life circumstance, characteristic social role, profession or specialization, passion or interest – in short,

Age: 10+



Já, člověk
Art by Nikola Logosová
Albatros, 2021, 104 pp

whatever is most important to them. They all see themselves differently and have different ideas about life and the world, but whether we are hearing from those who have been able to realize their dreams or had fortune smile upon them (an astronaut, a nature lover, a writer, etc.) or those who have had obstacles put in their way by circumstances (a person with autism, a child in joint custody, a blind person) or by their own mistakes (a prisoner, a drug addict, a hardcore gamer), the reader comes to recognize that the essence of humanity lies in diversity and that everyone has their value and place in the world. This book gently encourages tolerance, respect and empathy.

"Not only will the reader learn the diversity of the human race, but also of the limitless ways in which we can find self-fulfilment, our extraordinary power to overcome adversity and our gift for doing good, no matter where or who we are."

—*Czech Radio, Vltava*

Olga Stehlíková. Photo: Jiří Mls



Olga Stehlíková (1977) works as a freelance writer, editor, and critic with a focus on contemporary Czech literature. In 2018 she became the winner of the first Tvárnice Prize for Czech literary critic of the year. Her debut book of poetry, *Týdny* (Weeks, 2014), won the Magnesia Litera Award. Her second collection of short poems, *Vejce / Eggs* (Couplets), was released in 2017, along with an LP with Tomas Braun's music. Her third book of poetry is *Vykřičník jak stožár* (Exclamation Mark High as a Pole, 2018). Her poems have been translated into twelve languages. She published four books for children.

Nikola Logosová (1992) studied illustration and graphic design at the Academy of Arts, Architecture and Design in Prague. She illustrates books for children and adults as well as magazines and newspapers and she also designs posters. She has garnered numerous awards for her work: e.g. a Golden Ribbon for illustration for the book *Pozor, doktor!* (Watch Out, Doctor About!) by Petr Svobodný, the Most Beautiful Czech Book of the Year for her book *New York zine* (2017), and Window Display of the Year 2020 for her art installation in the Hůlkárna shop window in Brno. She was voted Illustrator of the Year 2019 at the annual Czech Grand Design awards.

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I, HUMAN



I, HUMAN

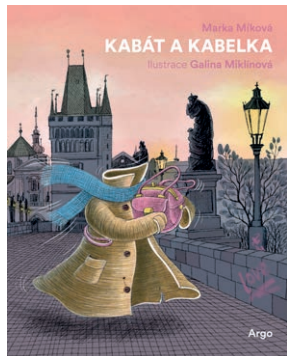
Marka Míková & Galina Miklínová COAT AND HANDBAG

This playful children's tale with unusual characters – a coat and a handbag – wandering around Prague during the coronavirus pandemic will captivate the reader with its profound message of human solidarity.

The personifications of a coat and a handbag meet one day on a bus and together experience chance encounters with people and animals during a coronavirus winter in Prague. Marka Míková enriches their deeds with a warm emotional glow, and the story builds towards the promise of a happy ending for both characters – the coat and the handbag – as well as the charming new friends they make in the city, such as a fisherman, a homeless man, a couple of curious senior citizens and a young couple expecting a baby. They all overcome their sorrows

in a city where cinemas, theatres and restaurants are closed. Readers will be blown away by the atmosphere of the “time of coronavirus”, where deserted pubs, boats on the Vltava river and the atmosphere of the Lesser Quarter and the Old Town with their famous churches, buildings and libraries all have their place. As always, Galina Miklínová's illustrations focus on amusing details, presenting specific images of Prague's hidden corners, offering young readers a fresh perspective on these places.

Age: 6+



Kabát a kabelka
Art by Galina Miklínová
Argo, 2021, 80 pp

“Galina Miklínová has brilliantly captured the atmosphere of the story in her pen and wash drawings. It was also her imagery which unforgettably brought socks to life some years ago when she illustrated Pavel Šrut's *Lichožrouti*.”

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



Marka Míková (left) and Galina Miklínová. Photo: Jan Křifikava

Marka Míková (1959) is a writer, theatre director, musician and co-organizer of the project *Loutky v nemocnici* (Puppets in Hospital). She graduated in puppetry from the Academy of Performing Arts in Prague, specializing in directing and dramaturgy. She is the author of nearly twenty books and has been nominated for a Magnesia Litera Award four times. Her story *Škvíry* (Cracks, 2014) was awarded a Golden Ribbon for Tereza Ščerbová's illustrations.

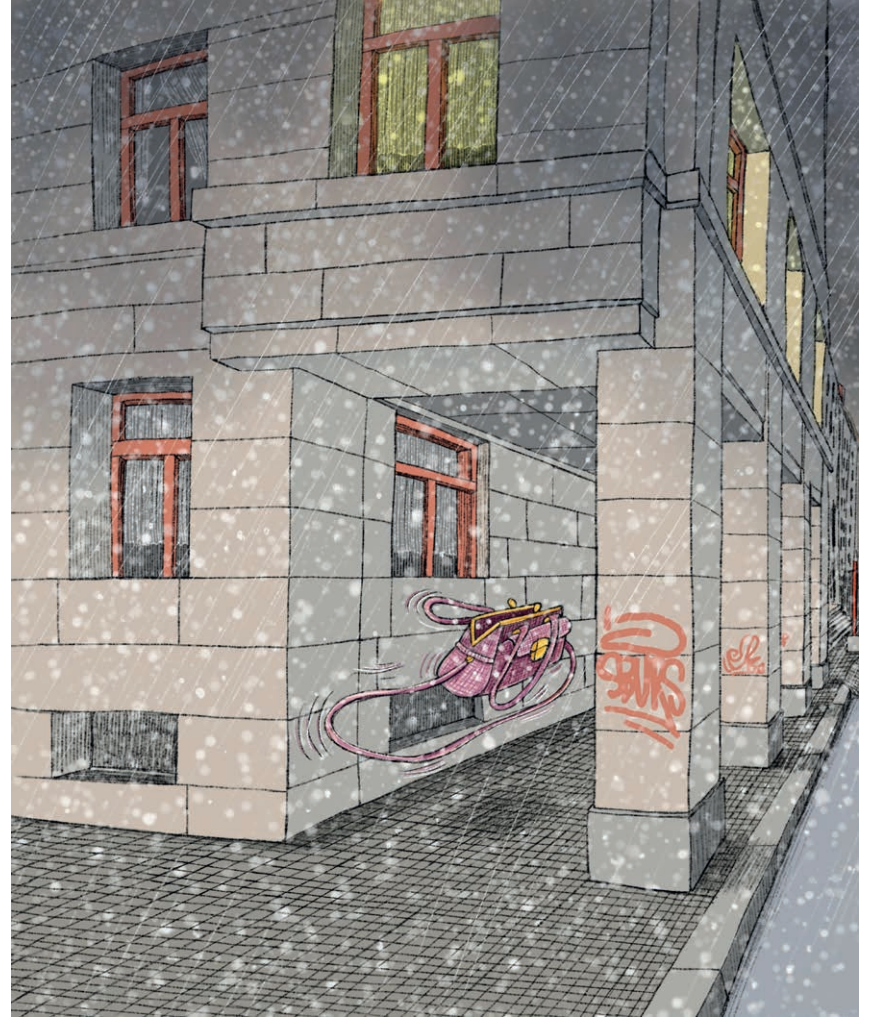
Galina Miklínová (1970) is an illustrator and artist and a director and screenwriter of animated films. She and Pavel Šrut have been long-term collaborators. The books they have created together include *Pavouček Pája* (Pája the Spider, 2001), *Veliký tůdle* (The Big “No Way!”, 2003), *Příšerky a příšeři* (Little Monsters, 2005) and the three-part series *Lichožrouti* (Oddsockeaters, 2008–2013). She has illustrated books by Eva Papoušková, Alena Mornštajnová and Petr Stančík, among others, and garnered numerous awards for her work, both in the Czech Republic and abroad.

RIGHTS:
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www.argo.cz

English, French and German sample
translations available



COAT AND HANDBAG



COAT AND HANDBAG

Grants for publishing Czech literature abroad

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

BOOKS

Publishers can apply for funding for:

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

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

EXCERPTS

Publishers, agents and translators can apply for funding for:

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

MAGAZINES

Magazines can apply for funding for:

- translation costs (up to 50% of the total cost of publishing) of an issue where at least 50% of the total content is dedicated to original Czech literature

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

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

PAYMENT CONDITIONS

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

APPLICATION DEADLINES

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

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

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



MINISTRY OF CULTURE
CZECH REPUBLIC

Travel grants

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

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

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

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

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

PAYMENT CONDITIONS

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

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

APPLICATION DEADLINES FOR 2022 AND 2023:

- 31st May 2022 (for the period from 1st September 2022 to 15th December 2022)
- 31st October 2022 (for the period from 1st January 2023 to 31st August 2023)

Residencies for translators and Czech studies specialists

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

THE RESIDENT RECEIVES

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

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

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

REQUIREMENTS FOR APPLICANTS

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

The Moravian Library

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

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MINISTRY OF CULTURE
CZECH REPUBLIC



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