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The Ancestry of Objects  
by Tatiana Ryckman

A young woman contemplates the end of her life as she’s known it as tragedy after tragedy accumulates around her, threaded with her relationship to desire, consent, and control.

The new meaninglessness of days makes the hours roll out like cruel waves, languid and unconcerned. We are panicked by the disappearance of obligations that had for so long sufficed for purpose. And beyond the duress, admonishment for it. What right do we have to our inconsolableness? The house is inherited, paid for. We could live for a few months, if we could live under the unbearable crush of time. We are not destitute, just precarious. Concerned not with how to lift ourself from the bottom of this pit, but how much farther still is the fall? What sort of future exists for someone who has become obsolete?

Told with the lyrical persistence of a Greek chorus, The Ancestry of Objects unravels the story of the unnamed narrator’s affair with David: married, graying, and in whose malcontent she sees her need for change. Religion, the mystery of her absent mother, and the ghosts of her grandparents haunt her meetings with him. Memories start, stop, and loop back in on themselves to form the web of her identity and her voice—something she’s looked for her whole life. Nothing can fill the voids of time and loss; not God, not memory, not family, and certainly not love. At once intensely sensory and urgently erotic, The Ancestry of Objects parses the multiplicity of selves who become a part of us as we push to survive. This is Ryckman – a master of the obsessive, desirous, complex exhaustion of human relationships in peak form.

"Readers of lyrical, genre-bending fiction will be spellbound”

― Publishers Weekly

"Darkly fascinating, impeccably observed, and written with razor-sharp prose, Tatiana Ryckman’s Ancestry of Objects is a story about total and desperate devotion, and how easily we betray ourselves in order to not feel alone. There is such a tenderness in Ryckman’s prose, I never wanted the story to end.”

― Cristina Rodriguez, Deep Vellum Books

“Ryckman writes with cool, tightly packed precision on the futile ways people try to fill the emptiness and absence of life with objects and religion and desperate acts... A hypnotizing, bleak account of the ways people trap themselves in their own minds.”

― Kirkus Reviews

Tatiana Ryckman is the author of I Don’t Think of You (Until I Do) (Future Tense), and two chapbooks of prose; and the editor of Austin-based publisher Awst Press. She has been a writer in residence at Yaddo, Arthub, and 100W. Her work has appeared in Tin House, Lit Hub, Paper Darts, Barrelhouse, The Rumpus, and other publications. Tatiana can be found on airplanes or at tatianaryckman.com.
The Nightgown & Other Poems
by Taisia Kitaiskaia

Ripe with mythic awareness and dark, fairytale-turned-feminist humor, Taisia Kitaiskaia’s debut poetry collection catalogs magical beasts, language, and the mysteries of our world with wide, witchy eyes.

“This is a story about my nightgown, who is riding The elevator. Your attentions to my nightgown have not Gone unnoticed, but beware, she has a canid’s loyalty And jaws. Just yesterday she sat up on her hind legs To frighten me. My malice rises daily, it will drench The nightgown with black bile. Lovers bring flowers To my nightgown and she is naïve, she believes everything. She is plain as a pail, perhaps she has a secret dowry. It is hard to imagine someone kissing the nightgown, But the impossible starves on. Meanwhile I strive In the corner over my formulas. My regions are aflame, I’ve had to remove the PARABOLA with tweezers, Place it on a saucer. The nightgown gobbled it instantly. She is a monster, she should be locked up. She is fat With PARABOLA. She winces as she walks. Her mood Consume this house, spit it out as a TV programme Called “My Troubles.” I rarely see the nightgown anymore, But still her anger rams into me with a thousand sturgeons. The nightgown is the last of me, she was also my first.

Taisia Kitaiskaia was born in Russia and raised in America. She is the author of Ask Baba Yaga: Otherworldly Advice for Everyday Troubles and its follow-up, Poetic Remedies for Troubled Times from Ask Baba Yaga, as well as Literary Witches: A Celebration of Magical Women Writers, a collaboration with artist Katy Horan and an NPR Best Book of 2017. She has received fellowships from Yaddo and the James A. Michener Center for Writers. She lives in Austin, Texas.

The Nightgown is a mythic, mystic, and hungry collection of poems, a roiling landscape wandered over by wild swerves of language, creatures of all sorts, and mysterious beings such as The Folklore, The Hurt Opera, The Eunuch, and the titular angry Nightgown. Haunted by the magic and transformations of Slavic and Western European fairy tales, the symbolism of the Tarot, the medieval world, feminism, and a mythology all its own, The Nightgown bears an immigrant’s fascination with the alien syrup of the English language’s first stratum, that merciless Anglo-Saxon word-hoard preserving an ancient consciousness of human, beast, and earth. Funny and loud, the poems are strangely accessible in their animal awareness of mortality and urgency for contact with the unknown. The Nightgown is the debut book of poetry from renowned writer Taisia Kitaiskaia (Literary Witches: A Celebration of Magical Women Writers).

“The strangest, most memorable poems, which will itch your ear long after reading them. Taisia Kitaiskaia’s new book is something to hold close, to find a different way to be in this world. “Now I am happy to be your cactus. I have little cactus dreams...” these are poems you will remember like a map of the supernatural world that lives around us all the time, unseen. Taisia sees for us though, and with remarkable clarity! You will love this book!”

—CA Conrad, author of While Standing in Line for Death

“Under Taisia Kitaiskaia’s Nightgown is the body of a fairytale with a belly like a kettle brewing something ancient and futuristic, tender and feral. Each poem is an amulet, charmed and broken and glistening. Each poem glows like the fullest moon. Reading Kitaiskaia is like reading spells off rare parchment. She might be the poet who is missing from every fairytale you’ve ever read.”

—Sabrina Orah Mark, author of Wild Milk
Dispatches from the Republic of Letters: 50 Years of the Neustadt International Prize for Literature

Edited by Daniel Simon

Celebrating the prize that has honored international literature’s top players, from Gabriel García Márquez to Edwidge Danticat, a groundbreaking collection of Neustadt Laureate acceptance speeches and literary evocations of the muse.

“Like the prize itself, this volume is a tribute and a testament to literature, and a reward for readers.”

— Publishers Weekly, starred review

“For the last fifty years, The Neustadt Prize has been one of the most prestigious literary prizes in the world, second only to the Nobel. Poets, novelists, and playwrights from Gabriel García Márquez and Orhan Pamuk to Czeslaw Milosz and Dubravka Ugrešić are listed among the ranks of laureates. Now, in honor of the fiftieth anniversary, Dispatches from the Republic of Letters gathers the acceptance speeches of these twenty-five pioneering writers into one volume, edited and with an introduction by World Literature Today editor-in-chief Daniel Simon.”

— Kirkus Reviews

Daniel Simon serves as World Literature Today’s assistant director and editor in chief. He teaches for the Department of English at the University of Oklahoma. In addition, he is a poet, translator, and member of the Academy of American poets; his poetry collections have been translated into multiple languages.

“Like the prize itself, this volume is a tribute and a testament to literature, and a reward for readers.”

— Publishers Weekly, starred review

“The centrifugal pull of great literature, as embodied by the work of these twenty-five writers, draws us into a fuller realization of our humanity.”

— Daniel Simon, editor-in-chief of World Literature Today

We should invest all our energies in supporting people who are prepared to invest in literature, not in literature as a way to sustain literacy but as a vital, essential creative activity, people who will preserve the intellectual, the artistic, the spiritual capital. I couldn’t have dreamed that one day a student theater in Norman, Oklahoma, would be putting on the first-ever staging of my story, written thirty-three years ago. Literary continuity, therefore, does exist, and the fact that it describes an unexpected geographical trajectory only heightens the excitement.

— Dubravka Ugrešić, October 28, 2016
Red Ants
by Pergentino José

This vibrant collection of short stories, the first literary translation from Sierra Zapotec, meshes magical realism with the every-day reality of indigenous life in Mexico.

Yezari tried to stop herself from changing, she dug her feet into the leafy ground, but as she did so claws appeared and she felt hair, a thick pelt, sprouting from her back. She hurried on and, coming to a strawberry tree, decided to climb it. She cried out for help, certain that somebody, in some far-off place, was observing her transformation. The more she tried to scream, the more the screams turned to a feline mewing and yowling: nkui nkau, nkui nkau. She felt giddy and before she knew it had let go of the branch, was falling— she fell a short way, struck the next branch down, and dug her claws in to save herself. The feline noises she produced, her entreaties, eventually provoked the rest of the forest animals to join in. And so she knew that there was no way of fleeing from her daughter.

Pergentino José was born in 1981 in a Zapotec village in the Pacific highlands of Oaxaca. He has published poetry and prose in both Zapotec and Spanish and is a member of the Sistema Nacional de Creadores de Arte, the Mexican government's prestigious fellowship program for artists and writers. Red Ants is his first book in English, and the first literary translation into English from the Sierra Zapotec.

Thomas Bunstead is a writer and translator based in East Sussex, England. He has translated some of the leading Spanish-language writers working today, including Agustín Fernández Mallo, Enrique Vila-Matas and Juan Villoro, and his own writing has appeared in publications such as kill author, Paris Review Daily, Ready Steady Book and the TLS. In 2015 he co-edited a Mexico feature for Words Without Borders and he is currently an editor at the translation journal In Other Words.

"José is a rising star in Mexican literature, and this collection of short fiction, which examines indigenous life in the U.S.'s southern neighbor through the lens of a contemporary magic realism, should only further his acclaim. Veteran Spanish translator Bunstead... takes José's clean, punchy lines and makes them sing and stick with you."

—John Mayer, Publishers Weekly

"A set of short stories in which the peculiarity and the fantasy of Zapotec popular legends are brought to life by the imaginative and powerful pen of a great author in the making – what is perhaps a true breath of fresh and original air that does our national literature much good."

—Mónica Maristain, SinEmbargo

"These stories are situated within an imaginary (of Pergentino José's making) that is consistent from one story to the next...but it is an imaginary that is not reflected in the rest of Mexican literature. This collection is poised to become a new and encouraging contribution."

—Alantl Molina, Marvin Magazine

A literary triumph by a member of the Mexico20 (the list that boasts Valeria Luiselli and Carlos Velasquez, among others), Red Ants is the first ever literary translation from the Sierra Zapotec. This vibrant collection of short stories by one of Mexico's most promising young authors updates magical realism for the 21st century. Red Ants paints a candid picture of indigenous Mexican life - an essential counterpoint to cultural products of the colonial gaze. José's fantastical stories tackle themes of family, love, and independence in his signature style: unapologetically personal, coolly emotional, and always surprising.
At the Lucky Hand, aka the Sixty-Nine Drawers
by Goran Petrović

An award-winning Serbian novel that explores what it means to read and be a reader—ultimately acting as a love letter to the power of literature.

Beginning a year ago, from time to time it seemed to him that when reading he met other readers inside the given text. And from time to time, only now and then but more and more vividly, he would later recall those other, mostly unknown people who had been reading the same book at the same time as he. He remembered some of the details as if he had really lived them. Lived them with all his senses. Naturally, he had never confided this to anyone. They would have thought him mad. Or at best a little unhinged. Truth be told, when he seriously considered all these extraordinary matters, he himself came to the conclusion that he was teetering dangerously on the very brink of an unsound mind. Or did it all appear to him thus from too much literature and too little life?!

Goran Petrović born in Kraljevo, Serbia in 1961, is an international bestselling author whose novels and stories have been published in two dozen languages. Petrović studied Yugoslav and Serbian literature at the University of Belgrade, and his work has been awarded numerous prizes in Serbia and abroad, including the NIN Award, Serbia’s most prominent literary prize, for At the Lucky Hand. In 2019, he received the Ivo Andrić Prize for his lifetime contribution to literature. Petrović is a member of the Serbian Literary Association, the Serbian PEN Center, and the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts. He works and lives in Belgrade.

Peter Agnone (1948–2011) was a renowned translator who studied Serbian literature and culture at the University of Pittsburgh. His translation of David Albahari’s novel Bait was nominated for the American Association of Teachers of Slavic and Eastern European Languages Book Prize. He also translated works by Goran Petrović, Vidosav Stevanović, and Mihajlo Pantić.

“Imaginative and most original and you cannot help but be impressed with all the ins and outs of the tale.”
— The Modern Novel

“Pushing the idea of a ‘community of readers’ to fantastical and fascinating extremes and bending it around a classic story of separated lovers and hopeless romantics, At the Lucky Hand is like Shadow of the Wind told through the lens of playful deconstruction. It is a book lover’s book that celebrates what we share in books, while wondering at all the ways we can love through them.”
— Josh Cook, Porter Square Books (Cambridge, MA)

“Goran Petrović proves to be a master of lyrical storytelling and dreaming.”
—Ivo Andrić
Grand Prize for Lifetime Achievement

Goran Petrović evokes the spirits of Borges, Pavić, and Calvino to conjure up a captivating love story centered on the mythical theory of “simultaneous reading,” in which readers meet other people who are reading the same book at the same time, altering lives and loves forever.

At the Lucky Hand, winner of Serbia’s highest literary award, and a beloved bestselling novel published in more than fifty editions worldwide in twenty languages, is a one-of-a-kind book-within-a-book, a magical entryway into alternate dimensions, and a glorious experiment highlighting the transcendence of reading, by one of the most internationally beloved writers of the 21st century.
Ballroom Harry
by Harry Goaz

This collection of abstract, playful photos by elusive Twin Peaks actor Harry Goaz (Deputy Andy) follows his life back into the spotlight with the return of the show in 2017.

Harry Goaz began his artistic career as a casual observer growing up in Texas and Oklahoma. His graceful nature allowed him access to some of the most exclusive enclaves of society, where he developed a refined sense for the ironic. This skillset served him well when he picked up a camera and began photographing the world around him. Ultimately, he outgrew the rice fields of Texas and found his way to Los Angeles where a chance meeting and his graceful nature landed him the role he is so well known for on the television series Twin Peaks. This iconic role was followed by Twin Peaks: Fire Walk with Me, and another on Eerie Indiana before Goaz stepped back into the world of the camera where he feels most at home. It was at this juncture that Goaz connected with Director Jason Reimer and created the short film Figurehead. Ballroom Harry: Volume II is their second collaboration.

"I am totally floored... Following [Harry Goaz's] output is a small glimpse behind the curtain of a fascinating person."

— J. Reimer, Director

Ballroom Harry: Volume II picks up Goaz's trail as he reemerges to work with David Lynch on Twin Peaks: The Return and reclaim the life of a working actor. This first collection follows Goaz's journey back to the role of Deputy Andy and a reassessment of his relationship with the character. Much like Goaz's apprehension to do a "normal" interview, he has little interest in taking straight-on shots of the glamorous scenes within which he finds himself. Instead, Goaz tells the story slant; these photos are deceptively calm and minimalist but display hints of something electric just beyond view. These snapshots, further contextualized by the immediacy of the iPhone with which he documents, are more a mirror of the man himself than anything he might say. Inside this enigma, the viewer begins to understand why so many have taken to Harry's social media to understand his persona, all while Goaz remains happily elusive. Ballroom Harry: Volume II marks Harry Goaz not just as an actor, but as a photographer and consummate observer. This is his second collaboration with creative production group Talented Friends.

Talented Friends is a creative production group founded by director Jason Reimer and Producer Kristen Butler. This is their first publishing project with Goaz and Deep Vellum, but has all the hallmarks of their previous carefully curated collaborations.
Mrs. Murakami’s Garden
by Mario Bellatin

The latest work in English by renowned Peruvian-Mexican cult writer Mario Bellatin, a short, allegorical novel that questions truth, art, language, and the split between East and West.

Mario Bellatin has revolutionized the state of Latin American literature with his experimental, shocking novels. With this brand-new, highly anticipated edition of Mrs. Murakami’s Garden from lauded translator Heather Cleary, readers have access to a playful modern classic that transcends reality.

Heather Cleary is a translator, writer, and one of the founding editors of the digital, bilingual Buenos Aires Review. Her translations and literary criticism have appeared in Two Lines, A Public Space, and Words Without Borders, among other publications. She is the translator of Roque Larraquy’s 2018 National Book Award-nominee Comemadre (Coffee House Press, 2018), Sergio Chejfec’s The Planets (2013) and The Dark (2014), and Girondo’s Poems to Read on a Streetcar. She holds an MA in Comparative Literature from NYU and a PhD in Latin American and Iberian Cultures from Columbia University. She currently teaches at Sarah Lawrence College.

“Mario Bellatin...[is one of the] writers without whom there’s no understanding of this entelechy that we call new Latin American literature.”
— Roberto Bolaño

“Mario Bellatin requires us to consume its contents in discrete portions, savoring each sip with a thirst that is at once as foreign as it is familiar.”
— Alex Espinoza, Los Angeles Review of Books

“If literature aims to make us less alone, we need writers like Bellatin who reflect not just a different perspective on life, but can envision something separate and apart, a periscope rising above the self.”
— Matt Bucher, Electric Literature

From the groundbreaking author of Beauty Salon, The Large Glass, Jacob the Mutant, Mario Bellatin delivers a rousing, allegorical novel following the widowed keeper of a mysterious garden. When art student Izu’s teacher asks her to visit the famous collection of Mr. Murakami, she publishes a firm rebuttal to his curation. Instead of responding with fury, the rich man pursues her hand in marriage. When we meet her in the opening pages, Mrs. Murakami is watching the demolition of her now dead husband’s most prized part of the estate: his garden. The novel that follows takes place in a strange, not-quite-real Japan of the author’s imagination. But who, in fact, holds the role of author? As Mr. Murakami’s garden is demolished, so too is the narrative’s authenticity, leaving the reader to wonder: did this book’s creator exist at all?
Faust, Part One:
A New Translation with Illustrations
by Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

This luminous, timely new translation by renowned co-translators Zsuzsanna Ozsváth and Frederick Turner, accompanied by Fowzia Karimi’s original illustrations, brings Goethe’s timeless classic to greater heights than ever before in the English language.

You can go find yourself another boy!
You think a poet’s job is to destroy
And forfeit for you that most noble right—
The human right that only nature granted!—
By which he moves all hearts, enchanted?
Conquers the elements, and by what might?
Is it not that great concord, urged forth from his breast,
That wraps the world together in one rest?
When Nature twists on her indifferent spindle
The endless thread of her unresting time,
When all things in a vexed, discordant bundle,
Buzz with no reason and no rhyme—
Who orders the chaotic flow of motion,
Giving it life and measure, rhythm and bound?
Who calls each particle to mutual dedication
In splendid concord so it may resound?
Who lets the raging storm become a passion,
Kindles to meaning evening’s crimson glow?
Who scatters the spring flowers in wild profusion
Where the beloved’s footsteps go?

The original tale of moral destruction, in a brand-new translation: Faust is a man torn between the urges of the living world and the significance of moral living. He feels nothing, he lives for nothing, and thus engages in a wager with Mephistopheles, the devil himself. Goethe’s master work shares the deep complexity of a human life, rife with pain, mistakes and dynamic complexity.

With Faust, the lushly lyrical and philosophically brilliant drama on which the poet spent almost his entire life, Goethe solidified himself as a major literary figure whose work would transcend time and space to create the modern world. Now, this brand-new, dynamic translation demands we ask of our world: who will win, humanity or Mephistopheles?

Born in 1749 in Frankfurt am Main, Germany, Goethe gained international fame and renown as a novelist, poet, philosopher, scientist, academic, and statesman, a reputation that follows his classic works still today. Deep Vellum published a selection of Goethe’s poetry, The Golden Goblet, in 2019.

Zsuzsanna Ozsváth and Frederick Turner are co-translators who have received the prestigious Milan Fust Prize for Foamy Sky: The Major Poems of Miklos Radnoti (Princeton University Press, 1992). Ozsváth is the Leah and Paul Lewis Chair of Holocaust Studies and Director of the Holocaust Studies Program at the University of Texas at Austin (also her alma mater). Turner is the Founders Professor of Arts and Humanities at the University of Texas at Austin, with a B.Litt from Oxford University.
The Tool & the Butterflies
by Dmitry Lipskerov

In this satirical, phantasmagorical novel by a star of contemporary Russian literature, Lipskerov writes about an aging man trying to find his place in modern society despite significant damage to his ego... and his “tool.”

Dmitry Lipskerov is a playwright and author whose novels have been met with international success due to their vivid, intense portrayal of Russia through both fabulism and realism. He was the winner of the Moscow Komsomol Prize and French prize Imaginales 2019, and was shortlisted for the Russian Booker Award. He co-founded two Russian literary prizes: the Debut prize for works of fiction by young Russian writers and the Neformat prize.

The Tool and the Butterflies is the first novel of his to be translated into English.

Reilly Costigan-Humes and Isaac Stackhouse Wheeler are a team of literary translators who met as undergraduates at Haverford College, where they studied Russian language and literature. They are the co-translators of Voroshilovgrad by Serhiy Zhadan (Deep Vellum, 2016). Their translations from Russian and Ukrainian have been published in Coldnoon, The Missing Slate, Trafika Europe, and Two Lines. They are also the recipients of the translated book of the year prize from the American Association for Ukrainian Studies.

Dmitry Lipskerov, an award-winning Russian writer compared throughout his career to Mikhail Bulgakov and Gabriel Garcia Marquez, focuses his unbridled imagination on the story of wealthy, satisfied Mr. Iratov, whose virile world is flipped upside-down. Taking a page from Gogol’s satirical story “The Nose,” wherein the protagonist loses his aforementioned facial feature, Lipskerov’s novel transposes such a loss onto a more delicate organ. The protagonist awakens one morning bereft of his tool; and the tool, which re-appears, sentient and in a small village far away, without his man. Thus begins a novel both funny and absurd, in which characters come together across disparate social strata and with differing goals to weave the fate of a universe familiar yet fantastical, a perfect satire of the madness of Russian society today. The Tool and the Butterflies, Lipskerov’s eagerly anticipated English language debut, is not just a darkly comedic exploration of post-Soviet attitudes towards gender and sexuality, but also a historically and socially grounded narrative rich in naturalistic dialogue and everyday detail, and an engaging story of family and what matters most in life, in the grandest tradition of Russian literature.

“Magic, humor, suspense, these are the ingredients of this demonic bouillabaisse that Dmitri Lipskerov has concocted according to the best recipes of magical realism.”
— Le Courrier de Russie
**FEM**

*by Magda Cârneci*

The lyrical, feminist novel that exploded onto the Romanian literary scene: a 21st-century Scheherazade recounts her life to a man from whom she is ready to part ways forever.

“Darling, don’t be scared. I have a secret: I am a kind of Scheherazade. A little, everyday Scheherazade in an ordinary neighborhood, in a provincial city; your personal Scheherazade, even if you won’t cut my head off in the morning, when I fail to keep you awake all night with extraordinary stories. You can find those on television; I know all too well how you spend your evenings: you ingest vast amounts of news programs and cop shows and soap operas and porn and documentaries and everything else... I won’t become another screen and antenna for you, I won’t tell you about airplane crashes, highway accidents, rapes, about the latest war to break out, which politician is the most corrupt, the latest rock star to kill himself, the new crop of starlets for this season, how many people died in the terrorist attack, and all the other bitter tidbits you use, one evening after the next, to drug the neural pathways in your worn-out brain. You consume too much audiovisual garbage, on top of your problems at work and the vodka and beer and wine you pour down your throat, stubbornly, aggressively, even spitefully, sprawled across the couch for hours at a time, facing a screen that pours all the terrors and horrors of the world into you.”

Magda Cârneci is a widely acclaimed writer, translator and art critic in Romania, where she has become a leading voice among the gifted group of poets who began their careers under the waning influence of Communism in Eastern Europe. She is the recipient of prizes and grants from the Fulbright Foundation, Getty Trust, European Union, and more; in 2013, she won the “Opera Omnia” career prize from the Romanian Writers’ Union. Her poems have been translated into thirteen languages and included in numerous anthologies.

Sean Cotter has translated many works of Romanian literature, including Mircea Cărtărescu’s *Blinding* (Archipelago Books, 2013) and *Wheel with a Single Spoke*, a selection from Nichita Stănescu (Archipelago Books, 2012), winner of the Best Translated Book Award for poetry. He is Professor of Literature and Translation Studies at the University of Texas at Dallas, where he is part of the Center for Translation Studies. He is currently working on a translation of Mircea Cărtărescu’s *Solenoid* for Deep Vellum Publishing in 2022.

“Hard to sum up in just a few words, FEM is a psychedelic novel about the essences of femininity. A poetic prose that left me with the impression that it would fit wonderfully into a new wave of aesthetic onericism. A novel for the cognoscenti, FEM is scandalous and provocative in equal measure.”

—Marius Mihet

“An initiatory text, a text of depths rather than postmodern surfaces, a total rather than fragmentary text, FEM puts forward a metaphysic of the senses, an intense concrete and sensorial experience, like a springboard to revelation, transforming biological conditioning, intuition, and so-called female sensuality on the road to knowledge, to a ‘different logic,’ an ‘integral logic.’”

—Adina Dinitoiu

“In this modern classic of global feminist literature, the only novel by one of Romania’s most heralded poets, a woman meanders through a cosmic retelling of her life from childhood to adulthood with visionary language and visceral detail. Styled as a long letter addressed to the man she is ready to leave, she spins captivating tales that create space in the cosmos for the female experience. Her stories invite the reader through a dreamlike thread of strange images and passing characters, from the small incidents of their lives together to the intimate narrative of her relationship to womanhood, crescendoing in a fantastical vision of love, loss, and femininity.”

—Daniel Cristea-Enache
Fernanda García Lao is an Argentine novelist, poet, and playwright, referred to as “the strangest writer of Argentine literature.” She was born in Mendoza, Argentina in 1966 to two left wing journalists, who in 1975 were forced to flee to Spain where they lived in exile for nearly twenty years. Fernanda received her education in Spain, studying acting, dance, music, and journalism. When she returned to Argentina in the early nineties, she was trained further as an actress, playwright, and director. She is the author of several novels, plays, and one collection of short stories. Her novels and stories have received wide acclaim and accolades, and have been translated into French, Portuguese, and Swiss. At the 2011 Guadalajara Book Fair, García Lao was named one of the “25 Best Kept Secrets of Latin American Literature.” This is her first book in English.

Will Vanderhyden is a freelance translator, with an MA in Literary Translation from the University of Rochester. He has translated the work of Carlos Labbé, Rodrigo Fresán, and Fernanda García Lao, among others. His translations have appeared in journals such as Two Lines, The Literary Review, The Scofield, and The Arkansas Internacionál. He has received fellowships from the NEA and the Lannan Foundation. His translation of The Invented Part by Rodrigo Fresán won the 2018 Best Translated Book Award.
Arriving in A Thick Fog
by Jung Young Moon

In four looping, maze-like novellas, eclectic cult favorite Jung Young Moon’s interlinked tales take the reader on a meticulous, rhythmic journey through a blend of real life, fiction, and ideas.

For me, writing fiction felt ever closer to impossible, and by that point, I was conceiving idea after idea that barely inspired fiction. I was constantly thinking up fiction that lacked plot, narrative, setting, and even characters. Even if a character did appear, he did nothing for his lack of will to do anything, continued to do nothing, and did nothing to the end. Nothing happened, therefore nothing unfolded in these pieces of fiction. It was no wonder that I had a difficult time writing fiction. I had no desire to introduce anything, not characters, not even objects. Of course, writing such fiction is impossible, but what I truly wanted to write was impossible fiction, the writing of which is impossible.

On Seven Samurai Swept Away in a River:
“Dispassionate, subversive, ambiguous, utterly cuckoo at times, Jung Young Moon has written a short masterwork of contemporary digression, a far distant cousin to Tristram Shandy (1759); but also a novel that acts as an antidote to our age of distraction because it takes real presence to follow the narrator’s mind, a mind that is looking to challenge the notions of fiction — to create fiction that one might hesitate to call fiction.”
—Splice Magazine

“The four novellas in Arriving in a Thick Fog typify renowned Korean cult writer Jung Young Moon’s emphasis not on events, but on the meticulous and convoluted paths the narrator’s minds take as they navigate through life. Through a deep, filterless gaze into the narrator’s heads, Jung shares thorough musings that manage to be both spontaneous and complex.

Arriving in a Thick Fog takes the reader on a discombobulating yet captivating stroll. Like “a person looking for a path that stretches forever in the wrong direction,” the reader traces the steps of one who is walking endlessly toward a false destination, through a maze of layered stories.

Jung Young Moon, born in 1965, is an award-winning Korean writer and translator. A graduate of Seoul National University with a degree in psychology, Jung is also an alum of the University of Iowa’s International Writing Program. In 2012, he won the Han Moo-suk Literary Award, the Dong-in Literary Award, and the Daesan Literary Award for his novel A Contrived World. He has been a resident at the University of California at Berkeley’s Center for Korean Study and the 100 West Corsicana Artists’ & Writers’ Residency in Texas, the latter of which inspired his novel Seven Samurai Swept Away in a River. Deep Vellum published his Vaseline Buddha in 2016 and Seven Samurai Swept Away in a River in 2019.

Mah Eunji and Jeffrey Karvonen are a translating team based in Yong-in, South Korea. They are the recipients of three Literature Translation Institute of Korea Translation Grants and a Daesan Cultural Foundation Grant for Translation of a Literary Work. Their translation of Jung Young Moon’s A Contrived World was published in 2016 by Dalkey Archive Press.
Raised by Wolves
by Amang

Biting poetry and bold translation theory from a Taiwanese feminist poet and her translator.

The rain today is not a rain one longs for
She showers us with mother tongues
Raw
Unencrypted
From clouds we’ve long grown weary of

The rain today
Does not regale us with sexy new phrases
That fire up our engines
The way Siri does when she does what she does
The rain today
Showers us with mother tongues
Heavy, inflated, inflamed

-From “The Rain Today”

“Playful and inventive.”
— Mother Tongue, BBC Radio

“Perhaps that is the best approach to literary translation in general, and to poetry translation in particular—to accept that what is “lost” at one point can be regained at another, even within a short poem’s limited scope. One thing is certain, though: readers of this delightfully hybrid collection can only win.”
—Asymptote Journal

Raised by Wolves collects the most acclaimed work of Taiwanese poet-filmmaker Amang. In her poems, Amang turns her razor-sharp eye to everything from her suitors (“For twenty years I’ve loved you, twenty years / So why not say yes / You want to see my nude photos ?”) to international affairs — “You’d have to win the lottery ten times over / And the U.N. hasn’t won it even once.” Keenly observational yet occasionally absurd, these poems are urgent and lucid, as Amang embraces the cruelty and beauty of life in equal measure. Raised by Wolves also presents a groundbreaking new framework for translation. Far from positing the transition between languages as an invisible and fixed process, Amang and translator Steve Bradbury let the reader in. Multiple English versions of the same Chinese poem often accompany dialogues between author and translator: the two debate as wide-ranging topics as the merits of English tenses, the role of Chinese mythology, and whether to tell the truth you have to lie a little, or a lot. Author, her poems, and translator, work in tandem, “Wanting that which was unbearable / To appear unbearable / Just as it should be.”

Amang was born and raised on the scenic east coast of Taiwan. She is the author of multiple volumes of verse, video documentaries and video poems. Her work has appeared in various film festivals and journals in Asia and the United States.

Steve Bradbury is a recipient of a PEN/Heim Translation Fund grant, a National Endowment for the Arts Literary Fellowship, and two Henry Luce Foundation Chinese Poetry & Translation Fellowships.
Two Half Faces
by Mustafa Stitou

The first English-language collection by Moroccan-Dutch sensation Mustafa Stitou, Two Half Faces spans the career of an adventurous, exalted poet, a master of the Dutch language and a prophet of his time.

I repeat: on leaving the bar
I heard a painter say that astronauts
often grew up without a father.

The same with prophets, I thought.
Mohammed, among others, grew up
without a father. On the way
home, it was nighttime, taking
the shortcut through the park, I heard
a squirrel say your death will be
the first real thing to happen to you.
I repeat: your death will be the first
real thing to happen to you. If that is true,

I thought, then squirrels sometimes speak
the truth. I repeat: then squirrels
sometimes speak the truth.

Mustafa Stitou was born in Tetouan, Morocco, in 1974, and grew up in Lelystad, in the Netherlands. He currently lives in Amsterdam, where he studied philosophy at the UvA. He has published four collections of poetry: Mijn vormen (My Forms, 1994), Mijn gedichten (My Poems, 1998), Varkensroze ansichten (Pig-Pink Picture Postcards, 2003), and Tempel (Temple, 2013). He is the recipient of the VSB Poetry Prize, the Jan Campert Prize, the Awater Poetry Prize, and the A. Roland Holst Award.

David Colmer is the translator of more than 60 book-length works of Dutch-language literature, including titles by Gerbrand Bakker, Dimitri Verhulst, Annie M.G. Schmidt, and Nachoem M. Wijnberg. Colmer has won many prizes for his translations, including the Vondel Prize, the IMPAC Dublin Literary Award, the Independent Foreign Fiction Prize, the NSW Premier and PEN Translation Prize for his body of work, and the Dutch Foundation for Literature oeuvre prize.

In his first English-language collection, Moroccan-Dutch poet Mustafa Stitou marks his position as one of the most important poets of his generation. Two Half Faces collects work from across Stitou’s career as he grapples with a vital narrative of cultural friction and determines his position in a changing reality. Absurdity and seriousness go hand in hand in Stitou’s work; the anecdotal combines with the irreverent and the sublime to form a vibrant tension. Stitou brilliantly parleys his relationship with his two homelands into a chronicle of identity and tension: East and West come into conflict with each other, complicate reality, and yet refuse stereotypes. This collection charts Stitou’s place as a conceptual poet of emotion and intellect who has grown from ingenue to master, one able to perfectly illuminate the frisson of overlapping cultural identities.
All the Young Soro stories began in Vancouver, British Columbia, and Soren was pleased, now that he no longer lived in that beautiful city, to return to those secret corners of his memory. There he could visit his mother and father, who was long dead. There he could make mischief in the corridors that linked his old classrooms. He found, as he told these stories, that occasionally he would go into a sort of trance, not unpleasant, but the boys would gently rock him if he went on too long or if he stopped talking altogether. Then he would say, “Ah, where were we?” and they would remind him. There were different layers to each Young Soro story, and Soren was usually aware that the stories were more like a series of locked doors than anything else. His children heard one thing, and he heard, as he talked, another. The stories often got away from him, and if that happened, he would nervously search for a way to wrap them up in a satisfying manner. But if you didn’t know the ending, it was always possible to say: “To be continued.”

“Ethan Rutherford’s stories are absolutely perfect.”
— Kevin Wilson, author of The Family Fang

A baby is born with gills. Foxes raise and then lose a human child. A man, in the final throes of his deathbed fever-dream, experiences a cross-Antarctic voyage. The stories in Farthest South, the second story collection from renowned writer Ethan Rutherford, find characters in the most unexpectedly menacing of circumstances, in which their sanity, happiness, and safety are put to the test. Formally ambitious, with an eye toward the strange, with an inimitable style all Rutherford’s own, each story is nonetheless firmly grounded by a deep, human concern: the anxiety of family connection and humanity.
Meditations on Being
by Rachel Fox

Through clear-hearted, empathetic poetry, meditation leader Rachel Fox shares her thoughts on spirituality, gender, creativity, and art.

Life cannot be without purpose.

When you look closely, you see how it is all connected; how the fabric of reality is woven together perfectly on the loom of everything.

Somehow, the pattern of the universe speaks to all of your senses. As you take it in, the truth emerges. You belong here.

A smile breaks across your lips. You realize the beauty that moves through you, within you. This meditation began the day you were born. And now we turn another page.

Through a series of lyrical recitations, Dallas-based meditation studio leader Rachel Fox channels her practice into shared confirmations of love and purpose. Meditations on Being pulls readers through life’s bittersweet journeys, one poem at a time, offering the reader a chance to pause, to reflect, and to breathe in the midst of the chaos of life.

Rachel Fox has been a poet for as long as she can remember. Born a Southern woman, she speaks with a soft voice guided by grace. Life has given her the kindness of a big, beautiful family, and the joy of true love. Dallas, TX has become the home of her heart’s work, and her meditation studio.

A Pedestrian's Recent History of Dallas
by Zac Crain

This photo series by D Magazine senior editor explores the geography of a city from a human, street-level perspective.

Crain’s photos, taken on phones and during lunch breaks, show Dallas from a human perspective. In a city bound by car owners and wide roads, Zac Crain engages the pedestrian point of view with his infallible eye. No corner goes unexplored as Crain captures a familiar place in a deeply original new way.

Zac Crain is senior editor of D Magazine. He has written about the explosion in West, Texas; legendary country singer Charley Pride; Tony Dorsett’s struggle with life after football; and imaginary meetings with a mosquito and a Pegasus. He lives in Dallas.
I See You Big German
by Zac Crain

A lyric essay that follows Dallas Mavericks star player Nowitzki's 21-year career, charting the highs and lows of his career through the lens of a recent cultural history of Dallas.

Zac Crain is senior editor of D Magazine. He has written about the explosion in West, Texas; legendary country singer Charley Pride; Tony Dorsett's struggle with life after football; and imaginary meetings with a mosquito and a Pegasus. He lives in Dallas.

The Dallas Mavericks were born six years after I was, two years after you were, and I don’t remember a time when I wasn’t a fan and I don’t really remember ever choosing to be one. I just was.

In the 1990’s, Dallas was a basketball wasteland. Along came Dirk Nowitzki, a towering Würzburg, Germany native. In the years thereafter, Nowitzki would spend his entire 21-season NBA career with the Dallas Mavericks, the longest tenure of any one player with one team in the league’s history, and lead them to their first and only NBA championship, while being named a 14-time All-Star, a 12-time All-NBA Team member, and the first European player to receive the NBA’s Most Valuable Player Award.

Zac Crain, award-winning journalist for D Magazine who moved to Dallas the same year that Nowitzki began his career in the city, memorializes Nowitzki’s career through a lyric essay reminiscent of Hanif Abdurraqib's Go Ahead in the Rain that mixes the author's story with the basketball legend’s, charting the highs and lows of the Mavs' all-time statistical leader's career. By paying homage to Dallas' star basketball player, author Zac Crain connects the Mavs' success with the growth of the city itself, and what the sport means to Dallas' now basketball-obsessed citizens.
Recent Releases

Above Us the Milky Way
by Fowzia Karimi

A Grave is Given Supper
by Mike Soto

Jean-Luc Persecuted
by C. F. Ramuz
Translated by Olivia Baes

Girls Lost
by Jessica Schiefauer
Translated by Saskia Vogel

Deep Vellum is a literary arts center and publishing house with the mission to bring the world into conversation through literature by publishing underrepresented, marginalized, and vital literary voices, while building a more vibrant literary community in Dallas and beyond.

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"Karimi’s inventive, allegorical debut renders a family’s wartime emigration through a polyphonic mix of voices and genres along with evocative color illustrations and photographs... Fans of Lost Children Archive will love this."

—John Maher, Publishers Weekly

"A Grave is Given Supper... Mike Soto’s debut is a surreal exploration of the Mexican drug war written in free verse... While many poems traverse... dreamlike terrain, they’re also sometimes grounded in reality. This is where the book is most gripping and provocative."

—Tim Diovanni, Dallas Morning News

"Jean-Luc Persecuted tells a story as relevant today as it was over one hundred years ago... Ramuz genuinely portrays a heart-wrenching demise that fully envelops the reader."

—Beth Mowbray, Nerd Daily

"A powerful novel about gender, sexuality and power relations that will have you turn page after page without even realizing it. Thanks to Saskia Vogel, the poetic and empathetic voice of this novel has found its way into the English version."

—Book of the Week, 24 Stories
Texas: The Great Theft
Carmen Boullosa
Translated from the Spanish by Samantha Schnee
$15.95, Trade Paper

The Journey
Sergio Pitol
Translated from the Spanish by George Henson
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Ilja Leonard Pfeijffer
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Serhiy Zhadan
Translated from the Ukrainian by Reilly Costigan-Humes & Isaac Wheeler
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Fouad Laroui
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Translated from the Spanish by Peter Bush
$14.95, Trade Paper

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Ananda Devi
Translated from the French by Jeffrey Zuckerman
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Anne Garréta
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Maria Gabriela Llansol
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Goethe
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Yanick Lahens
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Honey, I Killed the Cats
Dorota Maslowska
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$14.95, Trade Paper
Based in Austin, Texas, A Strange Object has an award-winning catalog dedicated to surprising, heartbreaking debuts willing to take risks and buck form.

Phoneme connects people and ideas through books in translation, and has been promoting cross-cultural understanding since 2004. Their award-winning list includes poetry, comics, as well as short- and long-form fiction.

La Reunion is an imprint of Deep Vellum Publishing devoted to telling the untold stories of Texas. Started in 2019, this imprint showcases nonfiction, fiction, and poetry by and about Texans.
CONTACT

Will Evans, Executive Director & Publisher
will@deepvllum.org

Sara Balabanlilar, Marketing & Sales
sara@deepvllum.org

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