

**GEORGIAN
NATIONAL
BOOK
CENTER**



Georgian Writers



Beka Adamashvili

Born in 1990, is a young promising author. In 2007 he entered Caucasus University, where studied journalism and social sciences. Already in his childhood some of his short stories were published in different newspapers and periodicals. His story, titled Raindrop was included in a Chemistry schoolbook. From 2009 to 2013 Beka was permanently publishing satirical-humorous posts in his own blog (www.doin.ge), reflecting the social issues taking place in different areas of everyday life. His blog was very popular, especially among young people. As a blogger he has won several competitions. In 2013 Beka Adamashvili participated in literary contest for students 'Legend of the Fall' and his short story XXVIII: Full Stop took the first prize. In 2014 he published his debut book Bestseller, which is a '*satiric-parodic-detective-fantasy-humorous-quest-and-what-we have-missed*' genre novel about the literature hell, where both, the famous and unknown writers are tormented in the same way as their books "torment" the readers. Bestseller, which is a parody of literary clichés, immediately became popular among the Georgian audience and was shortlisted as the best novel for literary award SABA and Tsinandali Award.

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BESTSELLER - Voland Quist Verlag 2017

BESTSELLER is a novel about breaking off the literary clichés, ignoring or laughing at them. This book is an absolute hell for writers and a paradise for readers. Pierre Saunaige is an unpopular French writer. Only twelve men attended the presentation of his latest novel. Pierre decides that the only way to become popular is to commit suicide and so he carries out his PR intent and goes to hell. But hell is not the place we think it is. Writers have their own hell, so-called Literature Hell where every writer is tortured the same way they used to torture readers, for example: Jack Kerouac can't stop walking and Samuel Beckett endlessly waits for somebody. So Dante Alighieri warmly welcomes newcomer Pierre to writers' hell, where BBC (Big Brother's Channel) is controlled by George Orwell, William Shakespeare runs the hotel Hothello and Antoine de Saint-Exupéry is the celebrity in self-murderers anonymous club. Curious things happen in Literature Hell. And while Pierre tries to investigate everything along with Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, one of his fans on earth tries to solve the cipher code which Pierre left to her in a signed copy of his latest novel. "Although, the story features many writers and titles, reader is not required for any deep literary knowledge to grasp the meaning everything. To be honest, even I have never read some of those titles, like Ulysses by James Joyce. Hmm, I wonder if Joyce himself has ever read Ulysses?! I don't think so" - Beka Adamashvili

LITERARY PRIZES AND AWARDS

- Winner of the literary contest Legend of the Fall 2013 for short story: "XXVIII: Full Stop"



Rati Amaglobeli

Born 1977 is a Georgian poet. Rati Amaglobeli studied Philosophy at the Tbilisi State University. Since 1994, his poetry has been periodically published in Georgian and Foreign literary editions. His debut poetry collection *Verb* was released in 2000 and became an instant success through the country. Rati is famous for his live performances, which made him a real star of contemporary poetry in Georgia, and a welcomed guest at various international literary festivals. In 2005-2010, Amaglobeli was the host of literary program 'The History of Voices' at Georgian Public Broadcasting Radio. Later he worked as the editor of the popular journal 'Hot Chocolate' and since 2011, he is the president of Georgian Pen-Centre. Rati Amaglobeli regularly delivers weekly public lectures about poetry in the 'Book House' and often suggests to his readers experimental poetry variation, namely, he has cooperated with producers and musicians and has created some successful synthesis projects of his poetry and electronic music. Despite his young age, the author's poetry would seem to run counter to present tendencies. His work is characterized with oriental elements such as musicality and the quest for love, belief and spirituality. He invariably rhymes in his poetry and eagerly plays with the rules of the sonnet and other forms of verses. Nor does he shy from using archaic words perfectly harmonized with some very contemporary issues. Nowadays Rati Amaglobeli is regarded as one of the most exuberant authors at the Georgian podium of poets. Amaglobeli's poems have been published in several countries among them: *Anthology of Georgian poets* - Arc Publication 2016, UK; *Anthology of Georgian Poetry through the ages* - Pop Verlag, 2015, Germany.

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- *Poems*, Palitra L Publishing, 2011
- *The Circle*, Siesta Publishing House, 2006
- *If*, Saari Publishing, 2003
- *Verb*, Publishing House Azri, 2000

LITERARY PRIZES AND AWARDS

- Literary award SABA 2006 in category the best poetry for "The Circle"



Diana Anphimiadi

Born in 1982 is a poet, publicist, linguist and translator. Currently she is a doctoral student at the Linguistic Institute of Tbilisi State University. Anphimiadi is the author of a number of scholarly articles and publications and is the holder of Ilia Chavchavadze scholarship for young researchers. Diana Anphimiadi has published four collections of poetry and two culinary non-fictions. Her literary works were nominated for several prestigious awards and gained two top literary prizes of the country.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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- Personal Culinary, Bakur Sulakauri Publishing, 2012
- Trajectory of the Short-Sighted, Publishing House Saunje, 2012
- Resumé of Mythology, Publishing House Saunje, 2009
- Chocolate, Siesta Publishing House, 2008

SONNTAG DER BELEUCHTETEN FENSTER - Wieser Verlag 2017

Das Rot des Granatapfels und das Orange der Zitrusfrucht leuchten aus diesem Buch so wie die Vanille duftet und der bittere Geschmack von Zwiebeln in der Kehle kratzt: Ungemein sinnlich und exotisch gewährt die Autorin im lockeren Plauderton Einblick in ihr Küchen-Universum, das irgendwo zwischen Griechenland, dem Kaukasus und dem Orient liegt. Genauer gesagt: in Georgien, wo man weiß, wie man aus Einfachem Großartiges machen kann, wo einander Abend- und Morgenland begegnen und wo man versteht zu genießen, ob am Familientisch oder an der Festtafel. Die mit leichter Hand und subtilem Witz erzählten Küchen-Geschichten richten sich an lesende Gourmets ebenso wie an kochende Literaturfreunde, begleitet man doch Diana Anphimiadi von ihren Kindheitserinnerungen über die Studienzeit bis zu ihrem Leben als Ehefrau und junge Mutter. Die studierte Sprachwissenschaftlerin schreibt Gedichte – und kocht mit Leidenschaft. In diesem Buch reist sie nebenbei auch in die Küchen von Lyrikerinnen, studiert die kulinarische Enzyklopädie von Alexandre Dumas und entziffert die handschriftlichen Notizen ihrer Großmutter. Diese kulinarische Biographie aus Georgien bittet die Leser zu Tisch – und mit einer Vielzahl von Rezepten und kulinarischen Tipps auch zu den Kochtöpfen!

LITERARY PRIZES AND AWARDS

- Literary award SABA 2009 in category the best debut for "Chocolate"
- Literary Competition TSERO (CRANE) 2008 for her Poetry



Luka Bakanidze

Born in 1982, is a journalist, poet and promising writer. Luka Bakanidze published his first literary works in the journal Literaturuli Palitra and instantly gained readers' interest. The young author mainly attracts attention with his authentic writing style and extraordinary topics. Along with prose Bakanidze has authored an interesting poetry collection, which was published in 2010 by Caucasian House. In 2014 Publishing House Palitra L offered to Georgian audience Luka Bakanidze's debut Novel *The Third Bank*, which instantly became popular not only among the wide circle of readers but gained critics' interest as well and was nominated as the best debut book of the year at literary award SABA.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- *The Third Shore*, Palitra L Publishing, 2014
- *My God, Wanderer*, Caucasian House Publishing, 2010

THE THIRD SHORE - Klak Verlag 2017

The Third Shore depicts a mystical place, too far and too close at the same time, where the community of either rejected or self-claimed dregs of society perform the desperate living. In the place where impurity, cruelty and sin has become the main values, the life beyond the bank is forgotten, so the characters have new names and do whatever their destructive instincts tell them – sex, drugs and rock 'n' roll. The protagonist of the story, outcast Jio, makes a living from playing on harmonica in a subway together with his friend, guitarist Alexander. The subway is their home and shelter, where one day they meet a tattoo artist Nea and her boyfriend Markus, who joins their company with a flute in a guitar case, to grab his piece of adventure in a wild anarchy, until AIDS takes his life. The novel has all the features to surprise the modern experienced reader with its depth, dynamism and the live story. But the most influential is the author's genuine skill of storytelling, its sincerity and the novelty of the subject. The book was shortlisted for the Literary Award SABA in 2015 in the category *The Best Novel of the Year*.



Aka Morchiladze

Born in 1966 in Tbilisi, is arguably the most outstanding and widely recognised talented writer of contemporary Georgian literary fiction. He has worked as a sports journalist on a sports daily newspaper and in 2000 took part in the famous Literature Express around Europe. Since 1998, the Sulakauri Publishing House has published Aka Morchiladze's twenty novels and three books of short stories. In 2005-2006 he was an author and presenter of one of the most interesting TV programmes to date on literature. Several films and plays have been based on his works. Currently, he lives and works in London, UK. Morchiladze has won numerous literary prizes in Georgia. Morchiladze's works have been published in several countries among them to: Germany, Italy, Serbia, Mexico, Bulgaria, Macedonia, Egypt, Albania, USA, Sweden, Azerbaijan, Switzerland.

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- Shadow on the Road, Bakur Sulakauri Publishing, 2014
- The Shy Emerald, Bakur Sulakauri Publishing, 2013
- Georgian Notebooks, Bakur Sulakauri Publishing, 2013
- Obolé, Bakur Sulakauri Publishing, 2011
- Mameluk, Bakur Sulakauri Publishing, 2009
- The Secret Keeper's Belt, Bakur Sulakauri Publishing, 2008
- Once in Georgia, Saga Publishing House, 2008
- Of Old Hearts and a Sword, Bakur Sulakauri Publishing, 2007
- Maid in Tiflis Bakur Sulakauri, Publishing, 2007
- The Paper Bullet, Bakur Sulakauri Publishing, 2006, 2011
- Venera's Dream, Bakur Sulakauri Publishing, 2005
- Mr. Deaxley's Silent Box, Bakur Sulakauri Publishing, 2005
- Santa Esperanza, Bakur Sulakauri Publishing, 2004, 2008
- A Whale on Madatov Island, Bakur Sulakauri Publishing, 2004
- Down with the Corn Republic, Bakur Sulakauri Publishing, 2003, 2011
- The Wretched of the Desert, Bakur Sulakauri Publishing, 2003
- The book, Bakur Sulakauri Publishing, 2003, 2011
- The Other, Bakur Sulakauri Publishing, 2002, 2011
- Your Adventure, Bakur Sulakauri Publishing, 2002
- Disappearance on Madatov Island, Bakur Sulakauri Publishing, 2001
- Playing Patience in August, Bakur Sulakauri Publishing, 2001, 2011
- Witches of Christmas Eve, Bakur Sulakauri Publishing, 2001, 2011
- Flight over Madatov Island and Back, Bakur Sulakauri Publishing, 1998, 2004, 2011
- Dogs of Paliashvili Street, Bakur Sulakauri Publishing, 1995, 2002, 2011
- Journey to Karabakh, Bakur Sulakauri Publishing, 1992

LITERARY PRIZES AND AWARDS

- Literary award SABA 2012 in category the best novel for Obolé
- IliUni literary prize 2010 for the best novel of the year for Mameluk
- Literary award SABA 2008 in category the best novel for Maid in Tiflis
- Literary award SABA 2006 in category the best novel for Venera's Dream
- Literary award SABA 2005 in category the best novel for Santa Esperanza
- Literary award SABA 2003 in category the best novel for Your Adventure

OBOLE - Mitteldeutscher Verlag - 2017

Irakli, a playwright, is living an ordinary urban life in Tbilisi when one day he receives a phone call from his small home town near the wild Swanetian mountains: his old house there is in danger of collapsing and the roof must be repaired as a matter of urgency. It is a long time since he has visited the region where as a child he spent the summers with his grandfather, the pharmacist, and read the dense handwriting in the notebooks of his great-grandfather, Timote. Timote was the self-appointed chronicler of the town and in particular of the towering Muri fortress opposite Irakli's house whose lords had been his ancestors. During the few days that Irakli, the city-dweller, spends in his grandfather's house he is overwhelmed by memories, by the chequered history and the stories of the place. Those who have remained there do their best to draw him into the magic of the past. During his inspection of the damaged roof he discovers in the attic the long-forgotten Obolé – an old, beautifully worked flintlock gun that had been a gift from the king of Imereti to the then lord of Muri. No one knows when the gun was last fired. Irakli's uncle had christened it Obolé (orphan); he treasured it and looked after it. In peacetime and when there were no children in the house it hung on the carpet-covered wall of the parlour; once, without firing a shot, it had even saved the life of its earlier owner. Although firearms are more usually associated with masculinity, to Irakli Obolé is like a beautiful woman. Obolé comes from a time when weapons were like women, when dignity and honour and stories of such things still mattered. These stories soon have such a hold over Irakli that the picturesque past merges imperceptibly with the present. But when the leading part is played by a gun, one cannot but wonder when the shot will be fired.

SANTA ESPERANZA - Mitteldeutscher Verlag - 2017

Santa Esperanza – ein Schmelztiegel der unterschiedlichsten Völker im Schwarzen Meer: Georgier, Genueser, Osmanen und schließlich die Briten haben im Laufe der Geschichte die drei wundersamen Inseln heimgesucht. Wer geblieben ist, hat eigene Traditionen, Gesetze und Bräuche erdacht, um auf dem geliebten Fleck Erde mit List und Ironie dem stetigen Strom der Eroberer zu trotzen. Nun schreibt man das Jahr 2002, und der Abzug der Briten steht unmittelbar bevor. Aber was dann? Kann man die schwächliche alte Agatia, die letzte Nachfahrin des Herrschergeschlechts der Artchiliani – die einmal den Titel »Verwalter der Ferne, des Wassers und des Himmels« trugen – dazu bewegen, wieder den Thron zu besteigen? Darf ein Genuesen-Sprössling leidenschaftliche Liebesbriefe an seine georgische Angebetete mit den kirschfarbenen Augen schicken, ohne dass eine Familienfehde zu befürchten ist?

JOURNEY TO KARABAKH - Weidle Verlag - 2018

"Journey to Karabakh" is one of the best-selling books in Georgia, given the fact that three feature films were made based on the novel. The book neither tells the story of a conflict between Azerbaijan and Armenia, nor represents a travel diary; it is narrated by a young Georgian man named George who accompanies his friend to Karabakh on a dangerous quest to procure cheap drugs. He is taken prisoner first by Azeris and afterwards by Armenians. But does the protagonist strive to really escape from his captivity? Experiencing constant pressure at home, from his family and relatives, the former prisoner of Georgian social order does not regret coming to the strange place, in the middle of a war, surrounded by armed forces. Since the end of the Georgian civil war para-military groups have ceaselessly roamed the streets of Tbilisi. For George there is nothing left to go back to, except his father who is on the brink of becoming a drunkard, and a pregnant girlfriend, who is rejected by his family due to her humble background. What is freedom, after all? Can it be perceived as a process, as a feeling? Or maybe as neither? Throughout the novel the question of freedom and captivity is the main concern of the young man, who is, finally, able to escape.

MAMLUK - Weidle Verlag - 2018

A short novel set in Georgia, which impressively describes the transition from communism through a remarkable friendship between two men, Beso, a young Georgian and Islam, a Muslim Khan. The Soviet Union is demolished. The entire system, and the lives of people stuck in it, is destroyed. However, Beso leads an ordinary life in a small provincial town, has a job and is married. Islam Sulthanov is the last Khan of a tiny country in the Far East. When his country was occupied by the Soviet Union in the 1930s, he was exiled to Siberia. After travelling, he settles down in a small provincial town, where he meets Beso. They soon become friends. Islam returns to reclaim his country. After a while Beso learns about Islam's death and receives his will, in which Islam has named Beso as his sole heir. Islam requests that Beso carries on his mission. So, Beso suddenly leaves his office and family and sets off to get "his country" back. Beso, just as Mameluke goes away to get someone else's homeland back, hopes one day he'll regain his own country.



Shalva Bakuradze

Born in 1973 in Sokhumi (Abkhazia, Georgia) and graduated from Tbilisi State University's philology faculty, specialising in English language. He has been publishing since the 1990s. His poetry has been translated into German, English, Russian, Slovak and other languages. At the moment he is working as a geoscopic artist in a studio.

The poems of his latest collection arise from a reading and study of old Georgian poetry and hymnographic texts. Shalva Bakuradze is obsessed with his ideas about how old Georgian texts were read, pronounced and sung, where the accents were placed, what the intonation was, etc. He writes his own poems and then declaims them with this intonation.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Hymns of the Sacred Resurrection, Saunje Publishing, 2013
- A Letter to Nino, Merani Publishing, 2003
- Good People, Merani Publishing, 2000



Dato Barbakadze

Born in 1966 is a Georgian poet, writer, essayist and translator. He pursued his post-graduate studies in the Department of Sociology (1992-94), but left a standard academic career to lead independent projects in Georgian and German literature. He has followed a non-traditional academic path for the past twenty years. In 1991, he founded a literary video-magazine Dato Barbakadze's Magazine, which for two years was regularly performed at the Tbilisi State University. From 1991 to 2001, he taught courses in logic, the history of philosophy, aesthetics and introductory philosophy courses in several universities in Tbilisi. From 2002 to 2005, he lived in Germany and earned for living as a freelance writer, thereby studying philosophy, sociology and ancient history at the University of Münster. After returning to Tbilisi in 2005 Dato Barbakadze launched the project '20th Century Austrian Poetry', serving both as an editor and contributor. He is member of several international literary unions and societies, namely he has been a member of the European Writers' Union - "Kogge" since 2007. He has published more than twenty books (poetry, prose, essays and translations). His books are published in German-speaking countries; some are translated into English and French, as well as in languages of post-Soviet countries.

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- In Defence of Memory, Mertsskuli Publishing, 2013
- Die Leidenschaft der Märtyrer. SuKulTur, Berlin 2012,
- Wesentliche Züge und zwölf andere Gedichte. Mischwesen, Neubiberg 2010,
- Short Prose 1990-2010, Mertsskuli Publishing, 2010
- Ars Poetica, Tbilisi, 2010
- Die Poetik der folgenden Sekunde. Poesie und Prosa. Drava, Klagenfurt 2008
- Poems 1984-2004, Mertsskuli Publishing, 2008
- Das Dreieck der Kraniche. Gedichte. Pop, Ludwigsburg 2007
- The Songs of Lake Embankment, Saari Publishing, 2004
- Essential Steps, Mertsskuli Publishing, 2001
- Achilles' Second Heel, Mertsskuli Publishing, 2000
- Negation of the Summary, Mertsskuli Publishing, 1999)
- A Roofbuilder, Mertsskuli Publishing, 1995
- One Minute or One Life Before the Journey, Mertsskuli, 1994
- Putting the Question, Mertsskuli Publishing, 1994
- Longing for Logic, Mertsskuli Publishing, 1993
- Mutation, Tbilisi, 1993
- Condolences to Fall, Alternative Center for Art Publishing, 1991

DIE UNMÖGLICHKEIT DES WORTES - Pop Verlag 2016

Dichter sollten in den Untergrund gehen, sie sollten darauf verzichten, dass der Leser ihnen folgt, und damit auch auf Anerkennung und Popularität, d. h. auf alles, was ihre Surrogate leichter als sie, zusammen mit ihnen und durch sie erreichen. (Genauer wäre es freilich, zu sagen, dass nun keiner mehr irgendetwas erreicht, sondern nur eine x-beliebige Auswahl und funktionale Platzierung, wie das Geschäft eben läuft, vollzogen worden ist. Ein derartiges Bestreben stünde nicht nur den irrationalen Ursprüngen der Kulturordnung, sondern auch generell der Schönheit der Kulturexistenz gegenüber.) In dürftigen Zeiten verringert sich die Zahl der tatsächlichen LeserInnen gleichermaßen wie die Zahl der Dichtenden. Dementsprechend wird auch die Zahl der Leser, die den poetischen Text und sein Surrogat auseinanderhalten können, niedriger (gut möglich, dass es solche Leser noch weniger gibt als Dichter...). Dem Leser soll die Möglichkeit gegeben werden, die Poesie wiederzuerkennen und wiederzubekommen. Dies mag ihm der Dichter dadurch ermöglichen, dass er den Leser verlässt, ihm den Rücken zukehrt – (oder er kehrt den Rücken nur dem eigenen Sentiment, Egoismus und Narzissmus zu). Nur auf diesem Weg kann er den wahren Leser aus der Hölle befreien, dem Dichter als Falle zu dienen. Wenn die Zeit reif ist, wird der wahre Leser den Dichter finden und ihn zurückgewinnen, denn er verliert nicht die Poesie, sondern im Gegenteil: er spürt ihren Herzschlag heftiger denn je.



Mari Bekauri

Born in 1990 belongs to a wave of young Georgian authors who are bringing new life to the established literary scene. Mariam Bekauri graduated from Tbilisi State University with a specialization in psychology. She has actively appeared in the literary arena in 2009 when her short story Sisters was published. Following this, she was published in various literary publications. At the competition Autumn Legend 2009 her short story The Laundry Blues was esteemed by the Tbilisi City Hall committee, since then she has received several Georgian well known literary prizes. In 2012, the short story Sisters was included into the anthology of 'Contemporary Georgian Fiction' published in the U.S. by Dalkey Archive Press. In 2009, 2010, 2012 Mari's short stories appeared in famous Modern Prose Anthology '15 Best Short Stories' published annually by Bakur Sulakauri Publishing in Tbilisi. Her debut short story collection Electrogeneration was published in 2012 followed by three novels which instantly gained the interest of the Georgian audience.

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- Anna's Moment, Bakur Sulakauri Publishing 2017
- South District, Bakur Sulakauri Publishing, 2015
- The Other Side, Bakur Sulakauri Publishing, 2013
- Electrogeneration, Bakur Sulakauri Publishing, 2012
- Grandma, Ray and America, Bakur Sulakauri Publishing, 2012

ANNA'S MOMENT

32-years old writer Anna Nakashidze suddenly loses her personal memory. It seems that the reason of amnesia was abalienation. During the treatment Anna starts talking about dead children and everyone thinks that she was the victim of sexual abuse in her early ages. Meanwhile the court accuses the psychotherapist in illegal experiment and before clearing anything Anna disappears. At the same time terrorists attack the leading TV broadcaster in UK. Media finds Ana Nakashidze guilty in this terrorism which has no victim but is done only to attract eyes. Suddenly Anna starts talk about four-year-long struggle to communicate with UK broadcaster to stream the video where the crime of Russian officers is visible. They now live in UK and the state can sentence them to court. Short after this event teenager hacker uploads the video on Youtube and millions of viewers sparcks the strike. People want to know the truth. But only one English therapist understands what is really happening.

LITERARY PRIZES AND AWARDS

- Winner of literary competition Fresh Grass 2011 for the short story As the Squares of Hopscotch
- Literary award TSERO (CRANE) 2010 for the best short story Childhood as it is in Reality
- Jury's Favourite at Literary competition Autumn Legend 2010 for the short story The Walls
- Tbilisi City Hall Committee's Favourite at Literary competition Autumn Legend 2009 for the short story The Laundry Blues



Salome Benidze

Born in 1986 in Kutaisi, Georgia is a contemporary young author, already well-established in the Georgian literary scene. Salome Benidze studied journalism, public relations and political science at Tbilisi State University, Vilnius University and Alexander Technological Institution of Thessaloniki. Georgian readers are well acquainted with her poetry, prose and translations. In 2012, Salome Benidze received literary award SABA for the best debut of the year, which brought her nationwide recognition. Throughout her career, she has been nominated for various important awards. Her works are published in printed and online media regularly. In 2013, 2014 and 2015 her stories *The Lovers of my Lover*, *The Survivor* and *Lidia* were included in the popular anthology '15 Best Short Stories' published annually by Bakur Sulakauri Publishing. She is the winner of many contests as a blogger and translator, she has translated David Beckham's *My Side* and Shirin Ebadi's widely acclaimed *The Golden Cage*. In 2015 Salome Benidze translated *Unique Item* by one of her favorite writers Milorad Pavić, the novel was published in the framework of the highly anticipated project *Pavić in Georgian*, launched by Intelekti Publishing. Salome Benidze has worked in various governmental and non-governmental agencies, currently she works as a public relations specialist and is actively engaged in civil activities to defend women's rights.

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- *The City on the Water*, Books in Batumi Publishing, 2015
- *The Story of the Sleepless*, Intelekti Publishing, 2013
- *An Explanatory Note*, Intelekti Publishing, 2011

THE CITY ON THE WATER - Aviva Verlag 2017

The City on the Water is a collection of short stories that are mysteriously woven through the city and seven women, residing therein. The stories of the collection, which at the first sight are not connected to each other, create a labyrinth of love, struggle, passion and secrets. The main heroines of Salome Benidze' prose are brave, independent, strong women, who fall in love, make decisions and dare to be responsible for their own lives. *The City on the Water* exposes incredible characters of girls gifted with supernatural powers, girls, who fight for the life they want to achieve. They do not always win, but they prove that happiness is still possible to earn. Each of the main characters has a unique gift. They use magic powers in everyday life. These women have their own world, happiness and tragedies. Despite their extraordinary lifestyles and skills, protagonists have problems like any other woman in the world. The issues of gender equality, gender based violence and freedom of choice are widely discussed in the stories. The characters live together with the nature and the water that surrounds the whole city is the main source of their power. *The city on the Water* is a touching story of a journey that leads the person to her own self. This is a book about the new beginning, pain, oblivion and great happiness, where all the human fears and hopes are gathered.

LITERARY PRIZES AND AWARDS

- Tsinandali award 2016 in category the best prose collection for *The City on the Water*
- Literary award SABA 2012 in category the best debut for *An Explanatory Note*



Levan Berdzenishvili

Born in 1953 in the black sea coastal city of Batumi is the author of numerous research books and essays on Antique Comedies, Modern Cultural Analysis and Latin Language. At first Berdzenishvili studied at the Polytechnic University of Georgia but after two years he dropped his studies and entered Tbilisi State University, Department of Classical Philology which he graduated in 1977. After earning his PHD, with a dissertation about Aristophanes, he worked as a Librarian at the State University's Latin Library. For years he was teaching Antique Literature at State University. In 1984–87 Levan Berdzenishvili was sent to a prison camp as a political prisoner for 'Anti-soviet agitation and propaganda'. In 1996 he became active in politics and led several social campaigns. In 2009 -2011 he was working in the United States of America, delivering lectures at different Universities. Levan Berdzenishvili is full professor at GIPA (Georgian Institute of Public Affairs) and associate professor at CSB (Caucasus School of Business). Since 2012 he is the member of Georgian Parliament and lives in Tbilisi with his family.

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- Absolute Darkness, Bakur Sulakauri Publishing, 2010, 2012

ABSOLUTE DARKNESS

Absolute Darkness holds a rare place between being a historical work and a novel. It is based entirely on true events, but brings stories together which could only be found in fiction. Spending several years in a prison camp, he came to know people that he would never have met elsewhere: people from across 15 countries of the USSR - leading writers, professors, scientists, teachers: all great people of wisdom, different in nationality but all sharing the same absurd fate. Each chapter holds someone's name as a title: names of people that were imprisoned with him. Developing deep friendships, spending nights in political, philosophical and artistic discussion, these people were thrown in jail as a means of suppression. But an "enlightened" person knows how to make his time interesting. This is a story about how the Soviet system kept its best minds in the dark. But how did illuminated minds made this darkness holy?!



Lasha Bugadze

Born in 1977, is the author of numerous novels and plays which have been performed in Georgia as well as in many European cities over the last ten years. He cooperates with the Royal Court Theatre of London and actively participates in international projects, one of these projects was Literature Express Europe 2000. Bugadze focuses his critical and ironic attention on relationships between the generations, and he describes situations in which people fall victim to their prejudices, fixed ideas or stereotypes. His works have been translated into English, German and Sweden languages. The author has received numerous literary awards and the first prize of the BBC International Radio Playwriting Competition 2011 for The Navigator is among them. Bugadze is a writer and presenter of literary programmes broadcast on radio and TV by the Georgian public broadcaster. Wellknown as an opera-lover and a talented cartoonist, he lives and works in Tbilisi.

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- 22PP, Bakur Sulakauri Publishing, 2014
- Lucrecia515, Bakur Sulakauri Publishing, 2013
- The President Has Come to See You, Bakur Sulakauri Publishing, 2013
- The Navigator, Bakur Sulakauri Publishing, 2011
- The Head, Bakur Sulakauri Publishing, 2010
- The Literature Express, Bakur Sulakauri Publishing, 2009
- The Caricaturist, Bakur Sulakauri Publishing, 2008
- The Golden Era, Bakur Sulakauri Publishing, 2006
- The Third Floor, Publishing Arete, 2006
- The Last Bell, Bakur Sulakauri Publishing, 2004

LITERARY PRIZES AND AWARDS

- Literary award SABA 2012 in category the best play for The Navigator
- International BBC Playwright Competition 2011, the 1st prize for The Navigator
- Theatrical award DURUJI 2011 in category the best contemporary Georgian play for The Mothball
- Literary award SABA 2009 in category the best play for The Mothball
- Literary award SABA 2007 in category the best novel for The Golden Era
- Russian theatrical award TRIUMPH 2007 for the Author of the Year
- The bookshop chain PARNASSUS prize the bestseller 2006 for The Golden Era
- The bookshop chain PARNASSUS prize The bestseller 2005 for The Last Bell
- Literary award SABA 2004 in category the best play for Nugzar and Mephisto

DER LITERATUREXPRESS - Frankfurter Verlagsanstalt 2016

Was passiert, wenn man hundert mittelmäßig begabte Autoren aus ganz Europa in einem Zug quer durch den Kontinent schickt?

Zaza, Autor eines einzigen, wenig erfolgreichen Erzählbandes, bekommt ein überraschendes Angebot: In einem Zug zusammen mit 99 weiteren Autoren soll er Städte wie Lissabon, Madrid, Paris, Brüssel, Frankfurt, Moskau, Warschau und Berlin besuchen. Warum gerade er für diese abenteuerliche Lesereise ausgewählt wurde, ist Zaza schleierhaft. Als kurz darauf der Kaukasuskrieg ausbricht, seine Freundin Elene sich von ihm trennt und er erfährt, dass der hochneurotische Lyriker Zwiad der zweite georgische Autor an Bord sein wird, ahnt er: Diese Reise wird sein Leben auf den Kopf stellen.

Im Literaturexpress erwartet ihn eine denkbar ausgefallene Schicksalsgemeinschaft: Da ist die wohlbeleibte Kroatin Danuta mit einer Schwäche für knackige Männerhintern, der Bulgare Borisow, dessen Veröffentlichung im New Yorker eine Mischung aus Erstaunen, Bewunderung und Neid hervorruft, der Student Iliko, der amourösen Abenteuer, Hotelbademänteln und Einwegpantoffeln hinterherjagt, der polnische Übersetzer Maciek und dessen Frau, die schöne Helena - in die sich Zaza unsterblich verliebt ...

»Der Literaturexpress« ist eine herrliche Satire über den internationalen Literaturbetrieb, eine Liebesgeschichte voller Komplikationen, ein rasanter, paneuropäischer Roadtrip. Dank Nino Haratischwilis brillanter Übersetzung gibt es mit Lasha Bugadze eine der wichtigsten neuen Stimmen der georgischen Gegenwartsliteratur zu entdecken, reich an Sprachwitz, Selbstironie und feiner Beobachtungsgabe.

LUCRECIA 515 - Frankfurter Verlagsanstalt 2017

'There is no sex in the Soviet Union' became a popular slogan in the USSR after a young woman said it during the US-USSR TV bridge show. Sex was a 'closed' issue, deeply tabooed at the time, and this inertia continued well into the post-Soviet period. The protagonist of the novel Lucrecia515 is Sandro. He is 37, married and something of a Don Juan. He keeps a conscientious record of his sexual adventures, ranking women according to their looks, peculiarities, nationality and the impression they make on him. He also has an unconventional strategy for making new conquests, repeatedly managing to sneak away from his wife into the company of a wide range of women. But things stop running smoothly when someone hacks into his email and social media accounts. He is a type of a modernized Georgian, a married Don Juan, putting a lot of effort and enthusiasm into making up for the 'sexless period'. Very similar to Leporello and Don Giovanni, Sandro also keeps a list of women complete with their socio-psychological indications, such as 'has marriage in mind', 'fatally stubborn', 'living in the past', 'beyond reach for various reasons', 'easy to get', etc. Sandro has a quarter-share in a factory making sauce. He is married, has one child and can play Chopin's Etude No.3, which he does when he senses that his looks and social status have failed to impress the 'object of his interest' (as he sometimes calls the women he courts). His looks, though, are not those of a classic Don Juan: Sandro is more of a 'civilized Georgian'; he's not slim, but makes himself look slim if he needs to (for instance, when his photo is taken, he inhales deeply and presses his belly back).

'The writer's subtext constantly reminds us that we are dealing with light-hearted relationships and, therefore, with a light-hearted approach to style. But problems are dealt with in such depth that the novel ends by giving us a lot of food for thought and by resolving many of these problems, something that is entirely new in Georgian literature.'



Zaza Burchuladze

Born in 1973 is a contemporary postmodern writer and dramatist. Until 2001, he used to publish his works under the pen-name of Gregory Zamza. His short stories have been regularly published in Georgian literary and art magazines. Zaza Burchuladze translated numerous Russian contemporary novels and classics, some of these include authors like Fyodor Dostoyevsky and Vladimir Sorokin. He worked as a freelance journalist for Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty and taught literature and contemporary art at the Caucasian Media Institute. Zaza Burchuladze' narratives often startle the audience with his experimental way of writing and the provocative themes that the author takes up and mostly are considered taboos: he writes texts about political conformity, stories about violence and brutality, addressing ideological and religious topics as well as sexuality. In Georgia, he is well known not only for his scandalous novels, but also as a very talented actor who successfully starred in a Georgian feature movie in 2008. Burchuladze's novels have been translated and published in Russia, Poland and Romania. His novel *The Inflatable Angel* won the prize of 'Best Novel of the Year' in 2011, an annual literary award held by Ilia State University. He was invited to la Nuit de la Littérature 2014 in Paris, France. In 2011, he was a participant of the Literary Colloquium in Berlin.

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- *Norma*, essays, Bakur Sulakauri Publishing, 2012
- *The Inflatable Angel*, Bakur Sulakauri Publishing, 2011
- *Conformist's Essays*, Bakur Sulakauri Publishing, 2010
- *Adibas*, Bakur Sulakauri Publishing, 2009
- *The Other Key*, Siesta Publishing House, 2008
- *Phonogram*, Siesta Publishing House, 2008
- *Instant Kafka*, Siesta Publishing House, 2005; Bakur Sulakauri Publishing, 2010
- *Mineral Jazz*, Logos Press Publishing/Merani 2003, Bakur Sulakauri Publishing, 2010
- *Gospel According to Donkey*, Logos Press Publishing, 2005
- *A Letter to Mother*, Azri Publishing, 2002

LITERARY PRIZES AND AWARDS

- IliaUni Literary prize 2011 in category the best novel for *The Inflatable Angel*
- 15 Best Stories - BSP-Bakur Sulakauri Publishing literary award 2008 for the short story *Passive Attack*
- The Tsinandali award 2003 in category the Best Novel for *Mineral Jazz*

TOURISTENFRÜHSTÜCK - Aufbau - Blumenbar 2017

Touristenfrühstück erzählt von einem Mann, einer Frau und einem Neugeborenen auf der Suche nach einem Zuhause. , Es ist zugleich die älteste Geschichte und ein Journal unserer Tage. Es ist ein Flaneurroman im schwerelosen Raum zwischen Berlin und Tbilissi, Gegenwart und Erinnerung, Geborgenheit und Fremde.

» Mit Zazas Worten begann ich meinen eigenen Boden zu ertasten, mich zu fragen, ob er denn fester ist als seiner, ob unsere beiden Brücken nicht bloß Hängebrücken wären und nicht aus Beton und Stahl, wie wir dies zuweilen anzunehmen hofften. Ob die pointierten Passagen über den Berliner Alltag oder die Erinnerungen an eine Welt, die es so nicht mehr gibt, die Tage, Wochen und Jahre durchquerend, sie alle führten zu der unweigerlichen Frage, die er sich selbst zu fragen schien und die ich mich als Leserin ebenfalls zu stellen gezwungen sah: Was bedeutet Identität, der wir uns meist so sicher sind, woraus setzt sie sich zusammen, und aus welchen Erfahrungen, Bildern, Gerüchen, Erinnerungen, Auseinandersetzungen, Verletzungen, aus welchen Worten ist sie gestrickt?« NINO HARATISCHWILI

»Ich hatte lange Angst, Berlin wird zu gemütlich. Zaza Burchuladze wird das verhindern.« BOV BJERG

»Touristenfrühstück beschreibt, wie Nostalgie in der heutigen Zeit ihre Bedeutung verlieren kann und wie dann scheinbar bedeutungslose Dinge wieder zum Kern der Nostalgie zurückführen. Die Erinnerungen und gegenwärtigen Eindrücke schwirren als polyphone Zeilen umher, klanglos, in der Hoffnung, die einst begrabene Musik zu wecken.« KHATIA BUNIATISHVILI

»Was soll man über Berlin schon Neues sagen? Alles wurde schon tausend Mal gesagt. Doch plötzlich kommt da so ein frecher Georgier daher und eröffnet einem diese unglaubliche Stadt noch einmal ganz neu.« MICHAIL SCHISCHKIN

adibas - Aufbau - Blumenbar 2015

Stell dir vor, es ist Krieg und du bist falsch angezogen.

Es gibt eine neue Realität, in der echt und gefälscht nicht mehr zu unterscheiden sind, eine Realität, in der Konzerne und Regierungen die Medien manipulieren und Menschen ihre Körper und Gefühle. Es ist die Realität 2.0, sie ist gefährlich, der Name dafür ist: adibas

Es herrscht Krieg zwischen Russland und Georgien. Die russischen Truppen haben Tiflis eingekreist. Doch die Happy Few der Neureichen-Tiflis-Hipster und Womanizer ignorieren die Nachrichten vom Krieg vor ihrer Haustür. Mit hemmungslosem Sex, den verfügbaren Betäubungsmitteln und der Musik aus dem iPod schaffen sie sich ihre eigene Realität. Der Krieg existiert für sie vor allem in Fernsehen, Radio und Internet.

Die Augen weit geschlossen, durchstreifen sie die Stadt zwischen Alltag und Ausnahmezustand. En passant entsteht so das Panorama einer Gegenwart aus Fake-Nachrichten, Fake-Brüsten, Fake-Gefühlen und einer Vergangenheit, die vielleicht authentischer war, aber deshalb auch nicht besser.

Zaza Burchuladze erzählt provokant und mit scharfem Humor von dem Gefühl, in einer endlosen Imitation gefangen zu sein, der Tiflisser Tristesse. Selbst der Krieg scheint daran kaum etwas zu ändern. Oder vielleicht doch?

» Zaza Burchuladze hat ein sehr bewegendes, hochkomisches und zugleich tieftrauriges Buch geschrieben.« Wladimir Sorokin

» In den letzten fünf Jahren hatte ich ein arges Problem damit, dass mir in Interviews immer wieder die Frage gestellt wurde, welches der jüngst von mir gelesenen Bücher mich wirklich beeindruckt hätte. So ein Buch gab es nicht. [...] Dann las ich adibas.« Aus dem Vorwort von Juri Andruchowytch



Bela Chekurishvili

Bela Chekurishvili, geboren 1974 in Gurjaani (Georgien), hat georgische Sprache und Literatur an der Universität Tbilisi studiert. Sie arbeitet als Kulturjournalistin und ist Doktorandin für Komparatistik an der Universität Tbilisi, zur Zeit studiert sie an der Universität Bonn. Autorin von drei Lyrikbänden, zuletzt 2012 »Fragen an Sisyphus«.

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- Rein bank Stories 2016
- Question to Sisyphus 2012
- Postcards 2009
- Or - Or 1998

WIR, DIE APFELBÄUME - Verlag Das Wunderhorn 2016

Wir, die Apfelbäume – wozu blühen wir überhaupt? Wie kommt Sisyphos zu seinem Stein, wie hat Salome das Tanzen gelernt? Und wenn einer sein Kreuz trägt und klagt – was sagt das Kreuz dazu? Bela Chekurishvilis Gedichte gehen vielen Fragen nach; die Fragwürdigkeit des Lebens überhaupt, seiner Einrichtungen und Übereinkünfte, ist ein zentrales Motiv ihres Schreibens.

Die 1974 geborene Dichterin und Kulturjournalistin gehört zur »Wende«-Generation in der georgischen Literatur – aufgewachsen unter dem Sowjetstern und dann hineingestellt in die plötzliche Freiheit eines Landes, das ganz neu war und zugleich ganz alt. Alt wie die Apfelbäume und der Wein. Ihre Gedichte sind getragen von einem Aufbegehren gegen die reiche Formtradition der georgischen Dichtung und doch zugleich von ihr gespeist. Aber ob sie nun zum prosanahen, skeptischen Blocksatz tendieren oder im Urvertrauen auf den Reim zu tanzen beginnen – immer sind diese Gedichte elektrisch geladen. Nach Interlinearversionen von Tengiz Khachapuridze aus dem Georgischen von Norbert Hummelt.



Gela Chkvanava

Born in 1967, in Sukhumi is a contemporary Georgian Writer. After finishing school, he was recruited into the army and assigned to an anti-missile unit in Leningrad (now St. Petersburg). After military service Gela Chkvanava returned to Sukhumi and studied philology at Sukhumi University. The armed conflict broke out in Abkhazia when he was still a student. Everything he wrote before the war was abandoned in Sukhumi and destroyed when his house was burnt down. To distract himself from the war, and to gain experience in creative writing, he began work on several stories set in peacetime. His first success was in 2002, in the Pen-Marathon literary contest organised by Diogene Publishers. Since then, Gela's works have been published in Georgia regularly. Russian translations of Chkvanava's short stories have appeared in the St. Petersburg literary magazines, such as Neva and Kreshchatiki. His Debut book titled Local Colours won the author one of the country's most sought-after literary awards, SABA 2005. Gela Chkvanava has won several literary awards and is regarded as one of the best modern Georgian writers. This refugee author claims that he has two sacred words: Sukhumi and Dzidzaria (the latter being the colourful street he once lived in), the main inspiration of all of his works, that resound with his authentic and sincere literary voice.

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- The Desert of Dead Sand, Intelekti Publishing, 2014
- Manuchar's Big Walk, Palitra L Publishing, 2012
- So, Diogene Publishing, 2010
- Sh. From Sodgari, Diogene Publishing, 2011
- Ants, Diogene Publishing, 2011
- Unfinished Story, Diogene Publishing, 2008
- Toreadors, Diogene Publishing, 2006
- Colours, Diogene Publishing, 2004

UNERLEDIGTE GESCHICHTEN - Voland und Quist 2018

„Unerledigt“ sind die alten Liebschaften, das ungesagt Gebliebene, Unterlassene, das im wörtlichen Sinne abgebrochene Leben, das die Protagonisten in ihren Erinnerungen, aber auch in ihrem Leben verzweifelt nachzuholen versuchen. Es ist das Psychogramm einer Gesellschaft im Krieg: Die Kämpfer in den Erzählungen sind keine Berufssoldaten, sondern Zivilisten, die aus Verzweiflung, Neugier, Überdruß, Freundschaft oder Verwandtschaft in den Krieg ziehen. Diese Halbsoldaten–Halbzivilisten kämpfen in der Nähe ihrer Wohnorte und gehen abends mal oder am Wochenende Verwandte besuchen. Der Krieg ist unpathetisch beschrieben und auf das „Mikrogeschehen“ reduziert. Es gibt keine „Guten“ und „Bösen“, keinen „Feind“, den es zu bezwingen gilt. Tschkwanawa zeigt, wie die Menschen sich im und nach dem Krieg verändern, wie die alten sozialen Regeln aufgelöst werden. Die Handlung findet im Zwischenraum zwischen Altem und noch nicht eingekehrtem Neuen statt. Damit gelingt es Tschkwanawa über die Beschreibung des lokalen Konflikts hinaus, dem Moment der Veränderung im gesamten postsowjetischen Raum auf die Spur zu kommen. Er zeigt auch auf außerordentlich berührende Weise, wie die zahlreichen Verbindungen der multiethnischen Bevölkerung Abchasiens - Georgier, Abchasen, Armenier, Russen und Griechen - auch nach dem Krieg, ungeachtet der politischen Verhältnisse, die nur in Nebensätzen und Andeutungen präsent sind, erhalten geblieben sind.

LITERARY PRIZES AND AWARDS

- Giorgi Shervashidze State Prize 2007
- Literary award SABA 2005 in category the best debut for The Local Colours
- III Place in the literary contest 2002 of the Literary Association KVALI
- Winner of the literary contest Pen-Marathon 2002 for the short story Memento Mori



Ana Chubinidze

Born 1990. Author, illustrator and animation film maker. She worked in several Georgian publishing houses as an illustrator and pop-up book designer. She has done various workshops for children and adults about pop-up book techniques. Member of the Book Art Center Tbilisi and Virgam Virtual Publishers since 2012. Ana Chubinidze's book and animation film project *The Pocket Man* will be the first Georgian-French co-production financed by the Georgian and French National Film Centers.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- *The Pocket Man*

THE POCKET MAN

A story about friendship, sharing, and caring about each other. It shows that even somebody who seems helpless himself can give a lot to others. Little Edgar lives in a big city, in a small box by the sidewalk. He is so tiny that nobody notices him, but he is very happy in his little world, curious about everything happening around him. He is especially fascinated by books and reading, and is happy about any written piece of paper he can find. One day a heavy rain comes and the little man saves himself by clinging to the clothes of a blind old man passing by. This is how he gets into the blind man's house – a new world full of books. A wonderful friendship starts between Edgar and the old man, and both are happy they found each other.





Nana Ekvimishvili

Born in 1978 in Tbilisi. Her first stories were published in 1999 in the magazine Arili. She is author and director of a number of film scripts. In 2013 her Georgian feature film *Long Bright Days/ In Bloom* was screened in many countries and it has won more than 30 awards at various world film festivals. *The Pear-Tree Meadow* is Nana Ekvimishvili's first novel.

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- *The Pear-Tree Meadow*, Bakur Sulakauri Publishing, 2015

THE PEAR-TREE MEADOW - Insel Verlag 2018

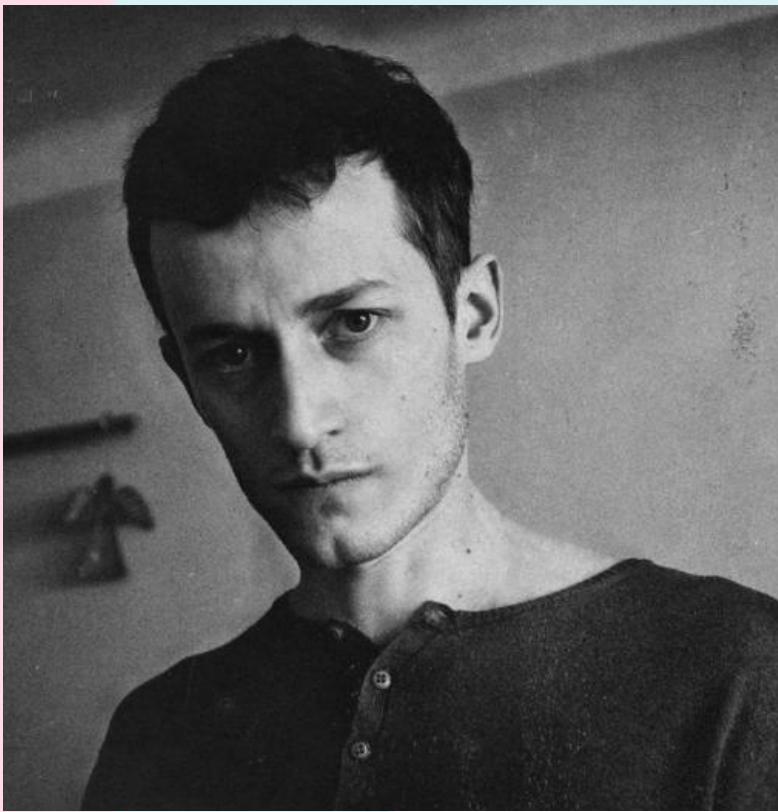
Nana focuses on the subject of disabled children abandoned by their parents. She also speaks about the fate of children who have no guardians, and lack the encouragement, development and implementation of their needs and rights, and who continue to meet on the street and beg for food and shelter. Although they are separated from the community by a barrier, they are still integral and ever-present members of the community. The novel's main heroine is the eighteen-year-old Lela, who is the centre for all the other characters – present or former boarding school pupils and teachers, people living in nearby apartments... This crowd of characters is developed at a giddy tempo. As well as describing the life of the boarders realistically, Nana Ekvimishvili tries to find something symbolic for them all. A pear-tree meadow represents them, a meadow of sin with its sinful trees, where the boarders rape one another: the meadow looks beautiful from the outside, but the moment you set foot there, your feet slowly get caught in a quagmire, and the pears that ripen there are watery and tasteless. Lela is also a rape victim, but she is raped not by a fellow boarder, but by a teacher, and all through the novel she thinks about killing him. All this is part of a horrific reality, which fate subjected the author to in her childhood. Nana Ekvimishvili grew up next to a boarding school, and was in close contact with the children that lived there; she played with them, they told her about anything that happened in the boarding school: 'I am amazed how I then calmly listened to them, or how one could co-exist with violations, when next to you such things were happening. Nobody ever believed anything these children said, and if they said that anything like that had happened to them, violence or rape, or if they had stolen cherries from the next-door garden, that made no great difference at the time, and nobody paid any attention. Now I am amazed, and I don't know what to think, I simply knew all this, people somehow accepted this background of general violence, and it didn't seem to be any great tragedy,' the author has said in an interview. It all had such an effect on her that when she was a teenager, together with her sister and a few friends, she intended to make a film about it. The fact that a novel has been written about these experiences, clearly, gives it more force.

'The boarding school in Ekvimishvili's novel is our society: a space full of prohibitions or stereotypes, executioners and victims, in which we all live, together with Vano our paedophile or our infantile Irakli; and a society from which escape is just a dream, the fate of only a few chosen, daring inhabitants of the boarding school, just as in Ken Kesey's novel One Flew over the Cuckoo's Nest.' G. Lomidze, literary critic

'The Pear-Tree Meadow is a novel written through the eyes of a film director. Nana Ekvimishvili describes the action and notes the dialogue, and leaves the secondary characters out of the novel's frame. I know that this novel has already appealed to many people and the reason may be because the reader, bored to the teeth with Georgian texts that are saturated with sluggishness, has been carried away by this dynamism.' Shota Iatashvili, Literary Critic, Radio Liberty

LITERARY PRIZES AND AWARDS

- Literary award SABA 2016 in category the best debut
- Iliuni Literary prize 2016 for The Best Novel
- LITERA (Prize awarded by the Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection of Georgia and by the Writer's House of Georgia) for the best debut 2016



Davit Gabunia

Born in 1982 in Poti, Georgia- is a playwright and translator. He started out as a translator from English and Swedish languages; his translations include the range of authors from J.K. Rowling to Shakespeare (works of Strindberg, Ibsen and up to 20 contemporary British and Swedish theatre plays among them). He has been awarded for the Best New Georgian plays twice with the theatre award Duruji (2013, 2014); and most important Georgian literary prize Saba for the best plays of the year in 2015. Some of his plays are translated into English, French and Russian languages. Since 2008 he is the head of literary department at Royal District Theatre, Tbilisi – the most acclaimed young Georgian theatre that has attained international success in latest years. The main themes of his works are rethinking of gender stereotypes in a transitional period; the painful deconstruction of masculinity in a patriarchal society. He is known for his dark and uncompromised sense of humor. Severance is his first novel.

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- Severance, books in Batumi 2017
- Theater Plays. Diogene Publishing, 2013
- Other People's Children. Siesta Publishing House, 2010

SEVERANCE

The novel "SEVERANCE" is the modern reality seen from the three different perspectives. The action is taking place with the turbulent political background of 2012, when there were demonstrations in the country. However, three main characters are so busy with their private lives that the environment around stays away from them, out of the focus. Life of a young husband and a wife is totally routine and ordinary: the wife works and the husband who is unemployed, takes care of the kids at home. Everything flows in the usual rhythm but one day their life changes forever. A young gay who has recently moved by neighborhood makes a husband willing to observe him. The desire of observation turns into the manic-prone and totally changes his boring life. The wife falls in love with the new coworker who is much younger than her. It seems like that the life of the husband and the wife is not in any danger because they hid everything from each other. But there comes the fatal day when the husband becomes a witness of gay neighbor's murder and the woman receives a letter from her lover saying their passionate romance should end. Both of the characters find unexpected way out of this crisis that makes their family happiness impossible. There is a third story teller in the novel who presents a mysterious old man, who is an influential official. The feelings impasses an old man and he tries to break out from his life debris like other characters of the novel.

LITERARY PRIZES AND AWARDS

1. "New Georgian Play 2012" - Winner. - Play "Aggravating Circumstances"
2. Winner of contest - "Violence Against Women" 2012. - Play "Aggravating Circumstances"
3. "Duruji Award" - The best play 2012. Batumi State - Drama Theater - "Soap Opus"
4. "Duruji Award" - The best play 2013. Valerian Gunia - State Theatre, Poti. "HOLLAND HOLLAND"
5. Literary award SABA - The best Play 2014



Naira Gelashvili

Born in 1947, is a Georgian writer, philologist and civil society activist. Gelashvili began her literary activities in 1969 with translations of German philosophy and poetry, but her own writing career dates back to 1980s, when her first works were published in various Georgian magazines. The author gained popularity among readers for non-conformist prose, which eventually provoked a negative reaction from the Soviet authorities. Despite this, Naira Gelashvili has written a number of brilliant novels and short stories and has won several literary awards, including the Ilia Chavchavadze Prize for Artistic Work (2008). The range of Naira Gelashvili's literary writings encompasses novels, stories, essays, poetry and children's prose, as well as children's songs and musical tales. In 1994 the author founded and heads the cultural-educational NGO Caucasian House Centre for Cultural Relations, which plays a significant role in the peaceful cooperation of different cultures and religions among the people of Caucasus. Gelashvili's Foreign rights have been sold to different countries, including: *I am the one* - Verbrecher Verlag 2016, Germany; 20th century Georgian short stories (editor and coauthor) - Suhrkamp 2000, Germany.

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- *This Is Me*, Caucasian House Publishing, 2012
- *Friedrich Holderlin*, Caucasian House Publishing, 2010
- *The First Two Circles and all the Others*, Caucasian House Publishing, 2009
- *Our Long Story*, Caucasian House Publishing, 2009
- *The Splinters of Mirror*, Caucasian House Publishing, 2006
- *Time, Bread and Wine*, Caucasian House Publishing, 2006
- *Akamuk's Journey*, Caucasian House Publishing, 2006
- *The Giants' Green Island and a Little Refuge Girl Nia Nia*, Caucasian House Publishing, 2006
- *Trolleybus Astarion and its Passengers*, Caucasian House Publishing, 2005
- *Serso*, Caucasian House Publishing, 2004
- *The Dotted Hut*, Caucasian House Publishing, 2004
- *About Peace of Mind, Joy, Sorrow and Consolation*, Caucasian House Publishing, 1997
- *The Moonlit Garden*, Sakartvelo Publishing, 1990
- *Mother's Room*, Publishing Merani, 1987
- *Ambers, Umbrians and Arabs*, Publishing Merani, 1983, 1987, Bakur Sulakauri Publishing, 2004, Palitra L publishing, 2013

I AM THAT ONE - verbrecher verlag 2016

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

LITERARY PRIZES AND AWARDS

- Literary award SABA 2013 in category the best novel for *I m That One*
- Literary award SABA 2010 in category the best novel for *The First Two Circles and all the Others*
- Ilia Chavchavadze State Prize 2008 for Artistic Work
- Literary prize GALA 2007 in category the best literary project for Rainer Maria Rilke (works in five volumes with commentaries).
- Prize of Austrian Ministry of Culture 1999 for translations of R. M. Rilke works



Ela Gochiashvili

Born in 1959. She graduated from Tbilisi State University's faculty of journalism. She works at the Galaktion Tabidze house-museum. She has published six books of poetry. Her poems have been translated into Russian, Lithuanian, French, Italian, Azeri, Dutch, German, Persian and Armenian, and have been included in anthologies of translated verse and other types of literary publication. Ela Gochiashvili has participated in various literary events, including Poetry Festival in Lithuania 2010, in France 2011 and at the Leipzig Book Fair 2016.

Ela Gochiashvili - Nuance is the main feature of her poetry, which requires an acute poetic ear to appreciate, as well as a great variety of intonation and a polyphonic quality. The cycle 'For me and for my Two Sisters', interesting in form and volume should probably be considered as a narrative poem, and a great elegy for a mother, or hymns on motherhood. In general, many of her poems repeat the image of mother and grandmother as one and the same poetic paradigm, where one or the other, or both can be considered as the author of the poems. This is a triple possibility for womanhood, which can be realised in a variety of forms (as grandmother, as mother and as the poem's author). Her poetic pathos is imbued with a sympathy for invisible, at first sight, simple human beings, objects or events, which are singled out in their everyday, mundane brilliant light, but which prefer silence and isolation. The collection also contains poems with a tense social intonation.

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- Let me Speak, Will You, Lega Publishing, 2010
- Blue Vitriol, Diogene Publishing, 2005
- Friday is my Day, Merani Publishing, 2003
- Fragments from Amnesia, Merani Publishing, 1996
- Have a Good Nightfall, Merani Publishing, 1989



Abo Iashaghashvili

Born in 1977, was awarded the Best Novel prize for his first novel at the prestigious literary award SABA 2015. Soon after graduating from Tbilisi State University he went to Germany to study History and Philosophy in Munich at the Ludwig Maximilian University and then in Berlin at Humboldt University. After completing his studies Abo went backpacking through Europe, to explore and experience Europe's actual culture and perception. As an enthusiastic traveler and lover of history, he found his ideal job as a mountain guide, a profession that gave him a new opportunity to study the history of his own country in depth. Before taking tourists to the mountains, Abo always guides them around Tbilisi, where many diverse cultures – Georgian, Persian, German, Armenian, Greek, Russian, Kurd, Ottoman, Jewish – have collided and co-existed over the centuries: the city has always been a revelation for foreign travelers. In fact, Tbilisi has become the young author's inspiration too: he began reviving old stories and chronicles about the capital and has drafted a cycle of novels about XIX century Tbilisi. The novels struck readers as so interesting and masterly that in 2015 both of them were nominated simultaneously in two categories, the best debut of the year and the best novel. Abo won the latter prize. Currently the author is working on a third novel from the same cycle.

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- Turkish March, Diogene Publishing, 2014

"ROYAL MARY – Ein Mord in Tiflis" - edition.fotoTapeta 2017

„Royal Mary“, der in Georgien preisgekrönte Roman Iaschaghaschwilis, spielt in einer Stadt, die ein Schmelztiegel der Kulturen war: Tiflis gegen Ende des 19. Jahrhunderts. Die Atmosphäre dieser Stadt, Bilder von Märkten, Spelunken und Palästen, exzentrische Typen, fremde Mächte, ja fast die Gerüche einer vergangenen Zeit – mit Witz und Virtuosität fängt Iaschaghaschwili all das ein, und erzählt doch von Mord und Todschatz. Und alles dreht sich um ein Pferd – und den Schah von Persien... Dabei ist der Autor bescheiden genug, auch noch auf Puschkin und Kipling und Borges zu verweisen.

LITERARY PRIZES AND AWARDS

- Literary award SABA 2015 in category the best novel for Royal Mary



Shota Iatashvili

Born in 1966 is a famous poet, fiction writer, translator and art critic. He made his debut as a poet in 1993 with *The Wings of Death*, since then has published significant number of poetry collections, four works of prose and a book of literary criticism, which won the literary award SABA as the best criticism of the year. Simultaneously Iatashvili has worked on literary translations and introduced to Georgian readers *Styles of Radical Will* by Susan Sontag and an anthology of American poets into Georgian. Currently, he is an editor-in-chief of the journal 'Akhali Saunje' and leads the rubric 'Library' at Radio Liberty. Shota Iatashvili is a recipient of several poetry awards and is participant of numerous international literary festivals, such as EST-OUEST (Die, France, 2006), Poetry International (Rotterdam, Netherlands, 2007). *ORIENT-OCCIDENT* (Romania, Curt-De Arges, 2006), the V and VI International Poetry Biennale (Moscow, Russia, 2007, 2009) and etc. Iatashvili's poems have been published in several countries among them: *Collection of Shota Iatashvili's poems Pencil in the Ground* - Krok 2016, Ukraine; *Anthology of Georgian Poetry* - Arc publication 2016, UK; *Anthology of Georgian Poetry: Aus der Ferne* - Corvinus Presse 2015, Germany; *Anthology of Georgian Poetry through the ages: Ich aber will dem Kaukasos zu...* - Pop Verlag 2015, Germany; *Anthology of Georgian Poetry - Ogi* 2014, Russia; *Contemporary poetry from Georgia (Hedendaagse poezie uit Georgia)* - Poezie Centrum, Gent, Geruisloos geraas 2010, Netherlands; *The Café in Vere Park* (poems, a long poem, a play, an essay, an interview) - Mutercim 2009, Azerbaidjan.

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- *The Bitterness of Poetic Experiences*, Intelekti Publishing, 2015
- *Gravitation*, Palitra L Publishing, 2012
- *Tidying Up*, Publishing House Saunje, 2010
- *The Scar*, Publishing House Pegasi, 2010
- *While It's Time* (2006), *Until It's Time*, Siesta Publishing House, 2006
- *Photo-Fathers*, Bakur Sulakauri Publishing, 2005
- *A Pencil in the Sky*, Caucasian House Publishing, 2004
- *Verses*, Publishing House Georgian Book, 2002
- *The Petrol Flowers*, Caucasian House Publishing, 2000
- *The Flower of All Flowers and an Engineer*, Caucasian House Publishing, 2000
- *Counter-Ajour*, Merani Publishing, 1998
- *Chewing Gum*, Publishing House Georgian Book, 1994 ,
- *The Wings of Death*, Krialosani Publishing, 1993

LITERARY PRIZES AND AWARDS

- Literary award SABA 2011 in category the best criticism for *Cleaning Up*
- International Award "Kievskie Lavri" 2009
- Literary award SABA 2007 in category the best poetry collection for *Until its Time*



Kote Jandieri

Born in 1958 in Tbilisi is a Georgian script and short story writer. In 1980 Jandieri graduated from Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, Department of Geography and Geology. Soon after graduation a promising young author published his first short stories and started his career as a screenwriter. Since then Kote Jandieri has authored numerous scripts for documentary and fiction movies that gained popularity through Georgian and international audiences, including Orpheus Death (1996) Love in Vineyard (2000) The Cradle of Wine (2011) and TV series Hot Dog; which he co-authored with Nugzar Shataidze. The Series aired on TV IMEDI in 2008-2009 has become one of the most acclaimed projects in Georgian TV history. Jandieri also has authored two short story collections. His prose works have won a number of literary prizes in Georgia. He has also been awarded various scholarships, including one from the Open Society Georgia Foundation and the Euro-Asia Foundation. His story Family Chronicle was included in the book 'The Best 10 Georgian Short Stories', while another story Globalization won the Bakur Sulakauri Publishing Prize for the Best Short Story of the Year. In 2010 his novella Cartridge from Different Caliber was included in the Anthology of Georgian Prose published in Germany. Jandieri's short stories have been published in many countries among them: Globalization (collection of short stories by Kote Jandieri) - ADK Publishing 2015, Azerbaijan; Georgian Fiction: Literatura Georgiana - Instituto Tlaxcalteca de la Cultura 2015, Mexico; Georgian short stories: Georgien berättar: Goris fästning - Tranan 2013, Sweden; Contemporary Georgian Fiction - Dalkey Archive Press 2012, USA; Georgian short stories from 20th century: Georgische Erzählungen des 20. Jahrhunderts - Suhrkamp 2000, Germany.

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- Globalization, Palitra L Publishing, 2010
- Cinderella's Night, Diogene Publishers, 2009
- Georgian National Ballet, (Editor), Published in Istanbul, 1996
- From the Life of Bad Guys, Merani Publishing, 1995

LITERARY PRIZES AND AWARDS

- Literary award SABA 2010 in category the best short story collection for Cinderella's Night
- The Writers' Union prize in category the best prosaic work of 1992



Basa Janikashvili

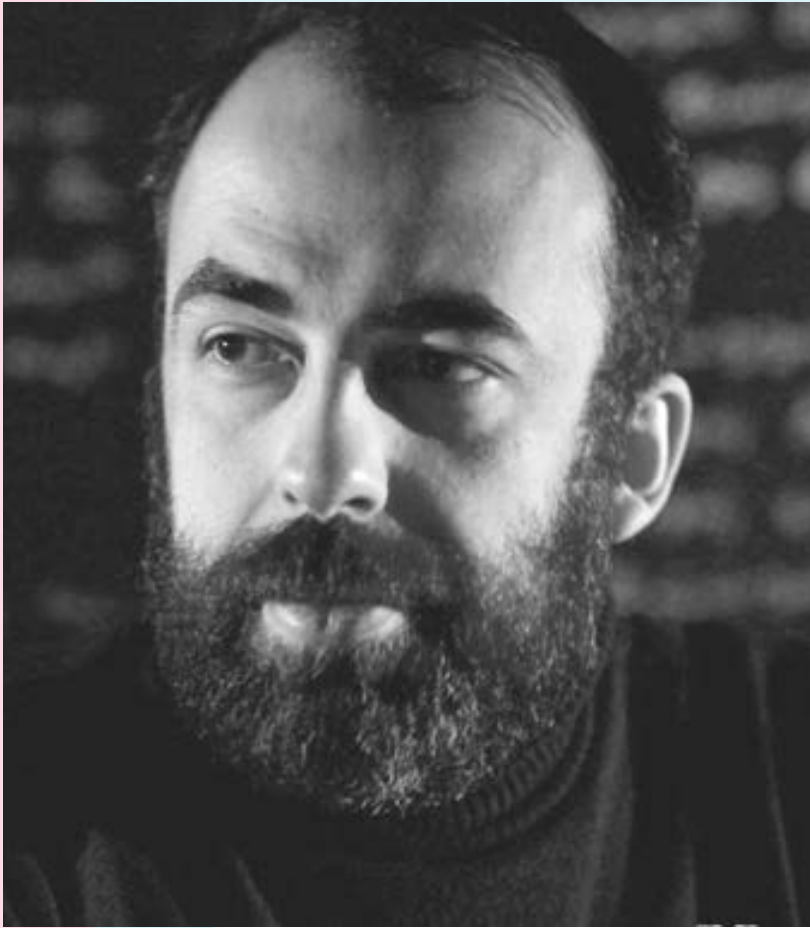
Born in 1974, is a famous playwright, prose writer and one of Georgia's most successful television and radio producers. In 1998 his first collection of short stories and plays *A Mosquito* was published. Since then, he has written numerous plays that have been regularly performed at theatres in Georgia. Some have also been staged in Great Britain, France, Germany and Russia. In 2004 he founded a Radio Station "Ucnobi" and till present is the Head of its Broadcasting Council. In 2006, he was awarded the SABA literary prize for the best play of the year. In 2009, he won the Russia and Caucasus Region category of the BBC International Radio Playwriting Competition. 2014 was also successful for the author, bringing him an award from the international playwright's competition 'Talk About Boundaries'. In 2015 his winning play *Angry Bird* was performed in the Nuremberg State Theatre. In 2016 the play was also staged in Paris's Arnold Theatre and in the same year, it was played at Rustaveli National Theatre. Till today Basa Janikashvili continues active writing career and several of his important works, including 3 novels and 4 collections of plays, were published by leading Georgian Publishing houses. Janikashvili's novels and plays have been translated and published in Austria, Italy, Germany and Ukraine: *Absurdistan Sovieticus* have been published in an anthology of modern Georgian literature *Georgische Gegenwartsliteratur - Reichert Verlag* 2010, Germany; *Absurdistan Sovietico* - Palombi Editore 2014, Italy; *Shoot'em Up* - Pr-Prime Company 2016, Ukraine; Collection of modern Georgian plays *Zwischen Orient und Okzident - Theater der Zeit* 2015, Germany; *Angry Bird* 2016 - Pr-Prime Company 2016, Ukraine.

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- *Angry Bird*, Publishing House Books in Batumi, 2016
- *Stories without Tittle, Naïve Monologues, Invented Interviews and One Play*, Palitra L Publishing, 2012
- *A Coat and Shoes*, EBOOKS House SABA 2012
- *Shoot 'em Up*, Bakur Sulakauri Publishing, 2010
- *Absurdistan*, Bakur Sulakauri Publishing, 2009
- *Dictatorship*, Publishing Siesta, 2009
- *Suliko*, Siesta Publishing, 2008
- *Well Before We Met*, Siesta Publishing, 2005
- *With Dreams in Cairo*, Tbilisi, 2004
- *A Mosquito*, Bakur Sulakauri Publishing, 1999

LITERARY PRIZES AND AWARDS

- Playwrights' European competition Award Talks About Boundaries 2014 for the play *Angry Bird*
- Russia and the Caucasus region category prize of the BBC International Radio Playwriting Competition 2009 for the play *Dictatorship*
- Literary award SABA 2006 in category the best play for *Well Before We Met*



Nika Jorjaneli

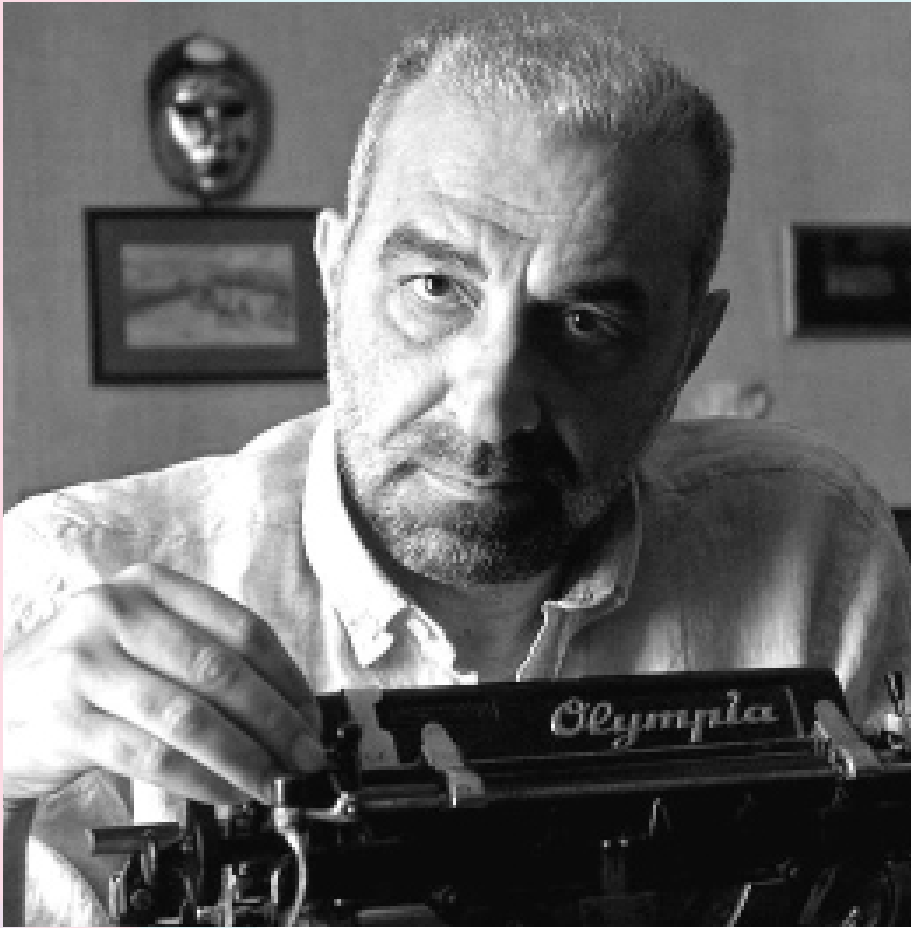
Born in 1978 is a Georgian poet and translator. In 2003 he received his Master's degree from Tbilisi State University, majoring in German Language & Literature. Nika Jorjaneli worked as a teacher of German language & literature for several years at high school in Tbilisi. He delivered classes in Georgian language at the Moscow State University of Linguistics in 2008. He has authored four compilations of poems. His various verses are included in anthologies of modern Georgian poetry and translated into English, German, French, Russian, Italian and Dutch. He participated in the International Biennale of Poets BIPVAL (Paris, France 2008). He regularly takes part in the annual International Poetry Festival "Kievskye Lavry" (Kiev, Ukraine). He won the "Commonwealth of Debuts" International Poetry Prize in Moscow in 2008. In the current year he was nominated for highly anticipated literary award SABA for the poetry collection Mexican Standoff.

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- Mexican Standoff, Publishing House Saunje, 2014
- Songs For Broken Strings, Publishing House Saunje, 2010
- Breathing in Suffocation, Publishing House Diogene, 2008
- Sensation of Velvet, Publishing House Diogene, 2003

LITERARY PRIZES AND AWARDS

- International Literary Award "Содружество дебютов" - Commonwealth of Debuts 2008



Zurab Karumidze

Born in 1957, Zurab Karumidze graduated in English from Tbilisi State University and was awarded a PhD in 1984 for a dissertation on Wit and Conceit in the Poetry of John Donne. In 1994-95 he spent a period at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee as a visiting Fulbright Scholar, studying post-modernist American meta-fiction. Two of his short stories were published in the US (*Clockwatch Review*, Bloomington, IL, 1996). His publications include a collection of short stories *Opera*, novels *The Wine-Dark Sea*; *Of Goats and Men* and *Dagny or a Love Feast*, a novel written in English, which was longlisted for the Dublin International Literary Award in 2012 and later published by Dalkey Archive Press in the US. Zurab Karumidze has also written two highly acclaimed novels: *Caucasian Foxtrot* and *Jazzmine*, which gained instant success among Georgian readers. His novella *Bashi-Achuk or Moby Dick* about prison abuses in Georgia came out in 2013. He co-edited (with James Wertsch) the book *Enough: Rose Revolution in the Republic of Georgia 2003* (Nova Science Publishers, New York, 2005). He also compiled and edited the book *In Search of Lost Space: Politics of Culture in Post-Soviet Georgia* (2010), and a collection of essays in English *Georgia's European Ways: Political and Cultural Perspectives* (2015). His book on the history of jazz music, *The Life of Jazz*, came out in 2009 and won Georgia's top Literary Award SABA. For several years he has been an international fellow of the Centre for Humanities at the Washington University in St. Louis. He has also worked for the International Foundation for Sustainable Development, and Open Society – Georgia Foundation. Currently he is a foreign policy adviser to the Government of Georgia. Karumidze's works have been translated into English and Turkish: *Dagny or a Love Feast* - Germany, Weidle Verlag 2017; USA, Dalkey Archive Press 2014; Turkey, Dedalus Kitap 2014.

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- *Jazzmine*, Azri Publishing House, 2014
- *Bashi-Achuki or Moby Dick*, Zohrabi Publishing, 2013
- *Caucasian Foxtrot*, Siesta Publishing House, 2011
- *The Life of Jazz*, Siesta Publishing House, 2009
- *Dagny or a Love Feast*, Siesta Publishing House, 2006, 2011, Dalkey Archive Press, 2014
- *Of Goats and Men*, Mediatori Publishing House 2003
- *The Wine-Dark Sea*, Azri Publishing House, 2000
- *Opera*, Bakur Sulakauri Publishing, 1998

LITERARY PRIZES AND AWARDS

- Literary award SABA 2010 in category the best criticism, essayistic and documentary prose for *The Life of Jazz*



Eka Kevanishvili

Born in 1979, is a journalist and poet. In 2002 she graduated with Master's Degree in International Journalism from Tbilisi State University. Kevanishvili is an active Journalist with 16 years of experience. At various times she worked as an investigative reporter for different Georgian newspapers, including such significant ones as 'Resonance' and 'The New Version'. She was an anchor and reporter of radio 'Green Wave'. Last 8 years she works as a reporter for radio Free Europe/ radio liberty, Tbilisi bureau. Eka kevanishvili recently authored an essay compilation Literary Profiles and has published three poetry collections. All three were nominated for the literature award SABA and the last one received the prize for the best poetry collection. She is the winner of several journalism and poetry competitions. Her poems are translated into English, Lithuanian and Russian languages.

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- Literary Profiles, Intelekti Publishing, 2014
- Selling the House, Saunje Publishing House, 2013
- Don's Stand Here, Diogene Publishing House, 2010
- Rumor, Diogene Publishing House, 2006

LITERARY PRIZES AND AWARDS

- Literary award SABA 2014 in category the best poetry collection for Selling the House
- Literary award TSERO (Crane) 2009 (II place) for her poetic works
- Literary Prize of digital library lib.ge (II place) for her poetic works



Besik Kharanauli

Born in 1939, is an outstanding figure in Georgian literature, one of the most titled contemporary poets, who has authored more than twenty poetry collections and two prose books *Epigraphs for Forgotten Dreams* and *Sixty Mounted Knights or - the Book of Hyperboles and Metaphors*. He graduated from the Philology Department of Ivane Javakhsishvili Tbilisi University. He started his literary career in 1954 and published his first collection of verses in 1968. He worked in the literary magazine 'Mnatobi' and in 1998-2002 was the director of the publishing house Nakaduli. Besik Kharanauli's, untraditional but, on the other hand, ironic and modernistic works characterized by Pshavian dialect and folk verse were considered as a novelty in the poetic scene of 20th century. Besik Kharanauli is portrayed as an innovator by nature, brisk, wise and eternally youthful, who managed to survive the Soviet pressure and contribute to post soviet Georgian Era, his works do not lose its importance and actuality even nowadays. He is the recipient of a number of prestigious Georgian literary awards. He was nominated for the Nobel Prize for Literature by the Georgian government. Kharanauli's short stories and poems have been published in German, Dutch, Italian, Czech, Hungarian, Russian, Bulgarian and French: *Anthology of Georgian Poetry through the Ages: Ich aber will dem Kaukasos zu...* - Pop Verlag 2015, Germany; *Anthology of contemporary Georgian short stories: A Man Zero* - ADK Publishing 2015, Azerbaijan; *Georgian Fiction: Literatura Georgiana* - Instituto Tlaxcalteca de la Cultura 2015, Mexico; *Contemporary Georgian Fiction* - Dalkey Archive Press 2012, USA; *The Book of Amba Besarion Le Livre d'Amba Besarion* Meudon: Quidam éd 2010, France.

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- Poems 1954 – 2005, Intelekti Publishing, 2012
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- Two Pages about the Sky and Earth, 2005
- Amba Besarion's Book, Arete Publishing, 2003
- An Afternoon Book, Nakaduli Publishing, 1991
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- Dictate, Angelina!, Merani Publishing House, 1985
- Agonic, Merani Publishing House, 1991
- The Lame Doll, Merani Publishing House, 1973

LITERARY PRIZES AND AWARDS

- Literary award SABA 2016 in category the best poetry collection
- Literary Prize LITERA 2016 in the category The best Poetry Collection of the Year
- Honorary award SABA 2015 for his Contribution to the Georgian Literature
- Literary Prize GALA 2012 in category the best table-book for the Poems 1954 – 2005
- President's Order of Eminence 2010
- Literary Award SABA 2004 in category the best poetry collection Amba Besarion's Book
- Shota Rustaveli State Prize 2002
- Ilia Chavchavadze State Award for Artistic Work
- The State Prize of Georgia 1992 for his Contribution to the Georgian Literature



Beso Khvedelidze

Born in 1972 is one of the most productive authors in Georgia. In 1996 he graduated from the Faculty of Journalism at Tbilisi State University. His first short stories appeared in literary journals in 2000 and since then he has published more than ten books including novels, short story collections and poems. Khvedelidze's short stories have been translated in ten languages. His short story collection *The Taste of Mouse* (*Der Geschmack von Asche*) was published in Germany by Leipziger Literaturverlag. He is awarded as the winner of various literary competitions: among them Literary Award SABA twice, the Literature Bridges Prize, at the International Festival (Baku, 2010) and the prize for the best short story at the October Award (Moscow, 2009). He is also a playwright and an editor at the *Literaturuli Palitra* magazine. Beso Khvedelidze is a member of Pen Centre in Georgia.

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- *Namaste*, Bakur Sulakauri Publishing 2014
- *The Red*, Publishing Saunje, 2012
- *Wild Flowers*, Plitra L Publishing, 2011
- *Tamro*, Bakur Sulakauri Publishing 2011
- *The Taste of Ashes*, Bakur Sulakauri Publishing, 2009
- *The Relay*, Siesta Publishing House, 2007
- *A Huge Market*, Palitra L Publishing, 2006
- *Duck's Tolma* (co-author Maka Mikeladze), Bakur Sulaakuri Publishing (2005)
- *Fly Slowly*, Diogene Publishing, 2004
- *The Mother of Sorrow*, Saari Publishing, 2004
- *Like Dog's Life*, Bakur Sulakauri Publishing, 2004
- *The Witchcraft*, Bakur Sulakauri Publishing, 2002
- *The Other Side of a Medal*, Merani Publishing, 2001

THE TASTE OF ASHES

The Taste of Ashes is a short story collection including works written in different time periods by Beso Khvedelidze though as the leitmotiv of the entire collection can be regarded main point of the title story. *The Taste of Mouse* is the story about the adventure of a young Polish society journalist who finds himself in the epicenter of the Abkhazian military conflict. His extraordinary story from within the conflict zone is narrated in his letters to his mother. The Polish journalist bit by bit becomes a prisoner of circumstances and is separated from his family and his country. In the end, his Georgian fellow military correspondent helps him to do so. He himself, the Georgian correspondent, tells his story in the first person. These two people experienced things at first hand, and overcame all the atrocities of the war. A destructive depression gradually destroys the Polish journalist. Although approximately nine months later, by an imaginative trick of his Georgian friend, he manages to get out from the cruel, merciless bloody arena of conflict. Human relationship and sincere friendship sits above all nationalistic phobias here. It directly reveals the absurdity of all kinds of wars, where nobody is a winner.

LITERARY PRIZES AND AWARDS

- Literary award SABA 2012 in category the best short story collection for the *The Red*
- International Festival Literature Bridges 2010 (Baku) prize for the best short story *The Taste of Mouse*
- Literary award Lit-Names 2010
- Award of Russian literary magazine October 2009 for the best short story *The Thirteenth Dot*
- Literary award TSERO (CRANE) 2007 for the best short story *The Thirteenth Dot*
- Winner of the literary contest Pen-Marathon 2004
- Literary award SABA 2003 in category the best short story collection for *The Witchcraft*



Archil Kikodze

Born in 1972 started writing at the age of 21. He works for several literary and non-literary magazines. His essays and novels are regularly published in popular magazines Literaturuli Palitra and Hot Chocolate. Kikodze won Literary Prize GALA for a book of short stories Calmly. His collected Essays (2012) and short stories The Story of a Bird and a Man (2013) later receiving SABA Award as the best prose collection of the year were both published by Siesta Publishing House. Kikodze is also a professional photographer. He has taken part in national and international photo exhibitions and has won many awards. Furthermore, he has published articles on environmental, ethnographic and social issues. He is the author of three guidebooks on science tourism, which is developing quickly in Georgia and Switzerland. Archil Kikodze is co-author of the documentary film Spring in Javakheti (winner of the Niamori Festival Prize in 2004). He wrote the script for the film Tbilisi, I Love You. Archil Kikodze plays a leading role in the film Blind Dates (2013), which has won several prizes at international film festivals.

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- The Story of a Bird and a Man, Siesta Publishing House, 2013
- Essays, Siesta Publishing House, 2012
- A Parcel, Palitra L Publishing, 2011
- Calmly, Saari Publishing, 2008
- Village Country, Saari Publishing, 2004
- Deer and Lemonade, Saari Publishing, 2002

LITERARY PRIZES AND AWARDS

- Literary award SABA 2014 in category the best short story collection for the Story of a Bird and a Man
- Literary prize GALA 2008 in category the best book for Calmly
- Tbilisi International Book Fair prize 2003 in category the best debut for Deer and Lemonade



Beka Kurkhuli

Born in 1974 published his first novellas in the popular newspaper Mamuli in 1991 and since then his stories appeared regularly in literary magazines. From 1999 to 2004 he worked as a war reporter for the newspaper Dilis Gazeti, visiting different parts of Georgia and conflict regions in the Caucasus, including Abkhazia, South and North Ossetia, Ingushetia, Azerbaijan and the Pankisi Gorge. His first book, entitled Full Stop... Lost People from Lost Territories was published in 2004 by The Caucasian House Publishing. In 2005 his prose collection A House Somewhere Else was shortlisted for the Literary Award SABA as the best prose of the year. His stories Adamo, An Empty Ashtray, A Short Summer Night, and 10,000 Words were included in 39 Selected Short Stories (Palitra L Publishing House). Beka Kurkhuli is a PhD holder since 2006 from the Institute of Georgian Literature.

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- Runaways from Paradise, Intelekti Publishing, 2015
- The Open Door Country, Intelekti Publishing, 2014
- Notes 1993-2011, Publishing Saunje, 2013
- The City in Snow, Siesta Publishing House, 2013
- The Tree Might Fall, The Caucasian House Publishing, The "Afra" Magazine, 2012
- Story of Two Moons, Siesta Publishing House, 2011
- The meeting afterwards, Publishing Pegasi, 2010
- A house elsewhere, Publishing House Saari, 2005
- Full Stop... Lost People from Lost Territories, The Caucasian House Publishing, 2004

LITERARY PRIZES AND AWARDS

- Literary award SABA 2016 in category the best novel for Runaways from Paradise
- Revaz Inanishvili literary award One Story 2014 for Previous Day



Ana Kordzaia - Samadashvili

Born in 1968 lives in Tbilisi and works as a writer, translator and cultural journalist. She also teaches literature and creative writing at Ilia State University in Tbilisi. Her expressive and emotional tales and short stories about men and women, love and hate, sex and disappointment are somewhat outré and sarcastic, but it is this that gives them their appeal. Ana Kordzaia has won various Georgian literary prizes. The author is also known for her successful translations from German into Georgian. She was awarded a prize for the best translation by the Goethe Institut Tbilisi. Ana Kordzaia-Samadashvili's works are translated into German, English and Swedish languages.

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- Who Killed Chaika?, Bakur Sulakauri Publishing, 2013
- Marieta's Way, Palitra L Publishing, 2012
- Children of Nightfall, Bakur Sulaakuri Publishing, 2011
- Me, Margarita, Bakur Sulaakuri Publishing, 2005
- Berikaoba, Bakur Sulakauri Publishing, 2003

ICH, MARGARITA - Hans Schiler Verlag 2014

»Wenn du hässlich bist, ein Waisenkind und man dir keinen Lohn für deine Arbeit gibt, wenn dein Kerl sich in eine andere Frau verliebt, ist das schon nicht erfreulich. Wenn du zusätzlich als Tbilisserin mit einer russisch-armenischen Mutter gestraft bist, wird es noch viel besser. Aber, wenn du eine Frau Nora zuhause hast – wen juckt dann schon das Geld und der Kerl! Dann ist alles aus.« Erzählungen und Kurzgeschichten über Männer und Frauen, Liebe und Hass, Sex und Enttäuschung – ausdrucksstark, emotional, leicht überspannt und ein wenig zynisch. Anna Kordsaia-Samadaschwili (*1968) lebt und arbeitet als Autorin, Übersetzerin und Kulturjournalistin meist in Tbilissi. Sie wurde für ihre Erzählungen und Romane mit verschiedenen georgischen Literaturpreisen, für die Übersetzung von Elfriede Jelineks »Liebhaberinnen« aus dem Deutschen ins Georgische vom Goethe-Institut Tbilissi ausgezeichnet.

WER HAT DIE TSCHAIKA GETÖTET? - Hans Schiler Verlag 2016

»Das wissen Sie nicht, stimmt's? Nein, natürlich wissen Sie das nicht. Ich sag's Ihnen. Jede Frau – ich rede von Frauen und nicht von biologischen Einheiten weiblichen Geschlechts – jede Frau möchte mit einem Mann zusammen sein. Sie will nicht dem Mann gehören, oder dass er ihr gehört, sondern mit dem Mann zusammen sein. Sie will mit dem Mann in Klubs gehen und ins Kino zu Harry Potter, mit ihm in den Urlaub fahren, in die Sauna gehen, sonst wohin, was weiß ich. Will mit dem Mann essen und sich saumäßig betrinken. Oder denken Sie, nur Männer können sich saumäßig betrinken? Nee, nee, junger Mann!« Die Polizeiermittler sind überfordert. Sie werden von den Verdächtigen, den Freunden der Ermordeten, nach Strich und Faden an der Nase herumgeführt, so wie auch der Leser. Die Freunde wissen, wer sie umbrachte, geben aber nichts preis. Warum, erschließt sich nach und nach aus den vielen Geschichten, die sich die Freunde, eine bunte, unkonventionelle, ja grelle Schar, über die Tote und sich selbst erzählen. Ein dichter und sehr raffiniert erzählter Roman. Das Kriminalelement ist ein Kniff für das äußerst spannende Enthüllen eines Panoramas ungewöhnlicher Lebensgeschichten und Figuren, ein Plädoyer für die Möglichkeit verschiedenster Lebensentwürfe und für Toleranz und Zusammenhalt.

LITERARY PRIZES AND AWARDS

- IliaUni Literary prize 2013 in category the best novel for Who Killed Chaika?
- Literary Award SABA 2003 in category the best debut for Berikaoba
- Goethe Institute Prize 1999 in category the best translation for Die Liebhaberinnen (Women as Lovers) by Elfriede Jelinek



Nestan (Nene) Kvinikadze

Born in 1980, is a Georgian writer, scriptwriter and journalist. She graduated from the Shota Rustaveli State University of Film and Theatre (faculty of Cinema-Journalism). In 1998 she published the first volume of her short story collection *Unanimously*, at the age of 18. Since then she has written a number of film scripts and plays. Nestan Kvinikadze has also published several collections of prose, and three novels. Since 2006 she has been editor-in-chief of a monthly bilingual (Georgian-English) magazine *Focus*. Her essays and articles are regularly published in the popular magazine *Anabechdi*. In 2012 an extract from her novel *Techno of Jaguars* was translated into German and included in the anthology of contemporary Georgian women authors, *Techno der Jaguare* published by Frankfurter Verlagsanstalt. The title of the anthology was that of Kvinikadze's novel. Currently she works as the producer of a daily talk show *The Other Noon* on the TV channel Rustavi 2 and also edits the Tbilisi cultural guide *Tbilisi Out*.

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- *Herself*, Nestan Kvinikadze Publishing, 2005
- *Nightingales of Isfahan*, Arete Publishing, 2004
- *Singing Fountains*, Georgian Book Publishing, 2003
- *Amargi*, Saari Publishing, 2001
- *Unanimously*, 1999

THE NIGHTINGALES OF ISFAHAN

The Nightingales of Isfahan is a post-modern text, a novelistic narrative written like a single-take film, a short story about all of Georgia: it tells us about the lives and fates of the generations. The novel's main hero is an ornithologist Astamur who looks in various towns for the nightingales of Isfahan. Episodes from childhood form the novel's Leitmotiv, so that we learn that the main hero has not been able to tell which of twin brothers is which: Parviz, who is said to have died, or Astamur, who is said to be alive. The novel is intersected by the loss of something, then making sense of it, valuing it, confessing to it and finally finding it (in reality, or on a mystic level). These are the complex and contradictory paths by which the main characters achieve self-awareness. The new generation is split up and divided. One half cannot see the necessity of poetry in the chaos of a war and a country recovering from war: it does not recognise fleeing the country as a priority. The other half has chosen as its profession the smashing of stereotypes, has sold its property and is taking away from the homeland the knowledge which they will further elsewhere: their flight instinct gives them no peace. Astamur represents the generation which has fled the country to various other lands, without looking back. They have found refuge in a parallel world, but remain hostages to the past. The couple who have emigrated to Amsterdam seem, at first sight, to have settled comfortably in a foreign land, where meetings with émigrés and sharing a foreign culture is an interesting process, without letting them abandon a native Leitmotiv, which comes sometimes from letters written by a friend, sometimes imbued through memories. The novel has love, it has dashed hopes, it has loss of faith, but the writer doesn't depress her reader: she arouses her reader, who is tired and jaded by advertisements and superficial spectacles, to see beauty. The death of the other main hero, Tata (who falls victim to an incurable illness in early youth) is portrayed without any heart-rending pathos, so that the reader perceives death as a beautiful continuation of life. In the novel, the pain of mortality is overcome by the joy of faith in immortality. The 'Caucasian Alchemists' knew the secret of life; Astamur, too, subconsciously senses a kinship with those distant ancestors. His constant 'stargazing' is proof of this. The reason he does not marry Tata is that he is afraid of the mystery being 'diluted'. The novel awakens many associations in the reader's mind. With its 'flow of consciousness', using fragmentary and quasi-mythological symbols, *The Nightingales of Isfahan* shows a tendency to becoming a neo-mythological novel. The story, narrated kaleidoscopically in two cities, is in fact a digest of Georgia's recent past.



Lia Liqokeli

Born in 1986, in a remote village of Khevsureti in high mountainous region of Georgia, with only 50 inhabitants, is a rising star of contemporary Georgian literature scene. After graduating secondary school Lia moved to capital city and entered Georgia State University of Theatre and Film, majoring in movie directing. For a short period of time she worked at Public Theatre in Dusheti. Lia started writing at the age of twenty-five and her first verses published in the journal Literaturuli Palitra, and later displayed on author's personal Facebook immediately became a literary breakthrough. Young poetess with an absolutely novel vision and style was suggesting a new trend, not framed in any well established clichés. In 2013 Publishing house Saunje brought together all her poems and published her debut book under the title Laughter of Devi's Wife (Devi is a Georgian mythological character similar to European Giant). Liqokeli's debut book was highly anticipated by Georgian audience and the following year brought to the author country's top literary award SABA. Months later, in the same 2014, Liqokeli became winner of literary contest TSERO. Lia Liqokeli participated in the Literature Festival Insomnia organized by Karchkhadze Publishing House, and her story was included in the anthology dedicated to the festival. Recently her poetry collection Laughter of Devi's Wife was published in Sweden by Publishing House Smockadoll. Several selected verses from the collection are included in Georgian anthology "Ich will dem Kaukasos zu", which will be published in Germany by Pop Verlag Publishing House by the end of 2015. Currently Lia Liqokeli works as an editor for Karchkhadze Publishing House.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Laughter of Devi's Wife, Saunje Publising House, 2013

LAUGHTER OF DEVI'S WIFE

Laughter of Devi's Wife is the debut poetry collection by Lia Liqokeli, which gained countries top literary award SABA in 2014. The verses of Lia Liqokeli, saturated with forgotten mythical images, invites her reader to magical world, telling the stories of mountains that are far away from cities, of remote villages and roads. The stories heard in deep childhood, from memories of grandfathers and grandmothers, told by the midfire, while carding the wool, or spinning thread, come up to surface and are so masterfully twisted with deep emotional background of the author and wide range of feelings that touches everyone who approaches her poems. The content of verses is enhanced with original style of the language, and structures through which the author tries to create her own world, which on the same time seems physically so far and mentally so close to us. Once, when asked what was the clue for her instant success, she said: "There are values, which are shared by everyone in the world - lets say, an axis of being a human, and when you write about all that feelings sincerely, without beautifying them, you reach closer to your reader".

LITERARY PRIZES AND AWARDS

- Literary award TSERO (CRANE) 2015 contest for short story Thief of Trees Goes Hunting
- Literary award SABA 2014 in category the best debut for Laughter of Devi's Wife
- Literary award TSERO (CRANE) 2014 contest for short story Near the Water, in the Alder Wood



Giorgi Lobzhanidze

Born in 1974 is a Georgian poet, translator and orientalist. In 1991 Giorgi Lobzhanidze entered Tbilisi State University, the faculty of oriental studies, Arabian language and literature. After graduation with honors he was engaged in pedagogical activities at the Department of Semiotic Studies of State University. In 1997, he went to Iran to work on his PhD research project in Religion and Mysticism at University of Tehran, the faculty of theology. After returning to Georgia in 1999, he again started working at Tbilisi State University. At present he is a head of Oriental department at the Centre of Cultural Relations of Georgia "Caucasian House" and a head of "Centre of Islamic Culture". In 2005, he defended a dissertation on the topic 'Jesus and Virgin Mary in Quran' and became the Doctor of Philology. Nowadays George Lobzhanidze is regarded as one of the distinguished translator of a new generation, who has not betrayed the established traditions of translating oriental literature into Georgian and has brilliantly translated such influential works of Oriental world as The Quran, Persian Fairy Tales, Gulistan by Sa'adi Shirazi, and Ghazals by Jalal ad-Din Rumi, but also it is obvious that a lot of credit must go to Lobzhanidze for introducing to Georgian readers the works of the most eminent poets of the second half of the XX century including The Water's Footsteps by Sohrab Sepehri and Another Birth by Forough Farokhzad's. George Lobzhanidze himself has authored five poetry collections, which gained much attraction of the Georgian audience and acclaim of critics. Lobzhanidze's poems have been published in Anthology of Georgian Poetry: Ich aber will dem Kaukasos zu... - Pop Verlag 2015, Germany.

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- A Teacher of Arabic, Saunje Publishing House, 2013
- Noontime Shadows, Literasi Publishing, 2012
- A Bouquet of Dandelions, Caucasian House Publishing, 2004
- Boiling Temperature, Merani Publishing, 1997
- Orphane's Kveri, Merani Publishing, 1991

LITERARY PRIZES AND AWARDS

- Literary award SABA 2011 in category the best translation for Saadi Sirazi's Gulistan
- Literary award The Book of The Year 2008 by the Islamic Republic of Iran in category the best research of Islamology for Georgian translation of Quran and commentaries.
- Literary award SABA 2008 in category the best translation for The Quran



Bondo Matsaberidze

Born in 1959, is a well-known author of children's literature in Georgia. He Graduated Maxim Gorky Literature Institute in Moscow, faculty of Poetry in 1990. After returning to homeland Bondo Matsaberidze established one of the first independent publishing houses in Georgia 'Alaverdi' and was head of the publishing till 1994. Years later he founded another publishing house - Bakmi, prioritizing in children's literature and fiction with high visual standards. Till present Matasaberidze represents the Bakmi publishing and is the head of it. Since 1995 he is the member of Writers' Union of Georgia. He has authored a poetry collection which was his debut book, published in 1989, and one collection of essays. Later Bondo Matsaberidze started writing books for children. Years of experience and copies of sold books made Bondo Matsaberidze one of the well-known and prized authors for children's literature. His tales are translated into many languages, including English, Russian, Turkish, Ukrainian, Iranian, Armenian, Lithuain and German. His book Tales of Bekna and Thekla was published in Russia by publishing house DETGIZ (2015, Saint-Petersburg); in Lithuania - Tykra Kniga 2016; in Ukraine - Astra 2016.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Stories about Tusi and Tusi, Palitra L Publishing, 2015
- Tales of Bekna and Tekla, S. Peterburg, Publishing ДЕТГИЗ, 2015
- Tales about Thekla Girl, Bakmi Publishing,
- Fatsiko, Anbani Publishing, 2012
- Tales about Bekna Boy, Bakmi Publishing, 2010
- Bedtime Stories, Bakmi Publishing 2007 Tales in Three Volumes, Bakmi Publishing, 2006
- Zado and Bado, Bakmi Publishing, 2004 Fairy Tales, Bakmi Publishing, 2003
- Fairy Tales and Fables, Bakmi Publishing, 2002
- სადაურსა სად წაიყვან : Alaverdi Publishing, 1992
- Endurance Formula, Merani Publishing, 1989

LITERARY PRIZES AND AWARDS

- Winner of Children's Book Festival 2010 organized by Youth Centre of Georgian Patriarchate in category the best collection of fairy-tales for Tales about Bekna Boy
- Literary Prize of Shio Mgvimeli 2004
- State Prize of Georgia 2003

TALES OF BEKNA AND TEKLA

The collection tells the fascinating adventures, heroic deeds and hunting stories of a boy called Bekna over a period of nine days. Bekna is a tiny boy with a brave heart, who longs to fight a giant at the very least. As a rule, every warrior off to war needs a good horse and good weapons. So he has his toy horse ready. While he and his playmates are searching for a giant, they come across a pack of wolves to fight. The wolves are after Aunt Nato's goat which has been let out to graze in a field. Thus the first day passes. Then there is a second day, a third, eventually the ninth... but not a giant is to be seen. Finally, they decide to look for a giant in fairy tales, not in the forest. Bekna draws on a lot of tales from his ancestral home, but in vain: there is no giant in fairy tales, either. Then on the ninth day, the giant comes in person to visit Bekna together his offspring and asks Bekna to spend the winter with him. So the giant and the hunter make friends...

As for the girl Tekla, she could be called the little queen of the mirror who endows everyone with dreams, determination, the beauty of a butterfly and a bee's sweet nectar. But the point of a fairy story is that a dream should become reality, and reality a dream. These two fairy stories and two heroes, Bekna and Tekla, are mirrors of the child's spiritual world, bright and pure, perceptive and palpable. This makes both heroes enchanting and sympathetic. Who has not, as a child, dreamt of being a hero, of being extraordinary, of being beautiful? The fairy stories of Bekna the boy and Tekla the girl are exceptional in their warmth, humour and simplicity, and in the author's knowledge of children's psychology.





Tamta Melashvili

Born in 1979 in Ambrolauri currently lives in Tbilisi and works as a researcher and teacher at Tbilisi State University. She is a feminist activist and has background in Gender Studies (Central European University, Budapest). Her short stories first appeared online on literary web-sites and later were included in different fiction anthologies. In 2010 was published TamtaMelashvili's debut work *Counting Out* which quickly gained success. The novel was acclaimed by the critics as the work of 'a new, highly distinctive voice' and won country's top Literary Award Saba in 2011. Following year TamtaMelashvili's work extended beyond Georgia and was nominated among the best ten in the 2012 Hotlist by Die BestenBücherausUnabhängigenVerlagen in Germany and won DeutscherJugendliteraturpreis 2013 in young adult category. *Counting Out* is translated into German, Croatian, Russian and English languages and is published in Macedonia - Shkupi 2016; Croatia - Hena.com 2015; Russia - Samokat 2014; Switzerland - Unionsverlag 2012. *A Killer's Job in Techno der Jaguare* - Neue Erzählerinnen aus Georgien in Germany, Frankfurter Verlagsanstalt 2013.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- To the East, Bakur Sulakauri Publishing, 2015.
- *Killer's Job in Techno der Jaguare: Neue Erzählerinnen aus Georgien*, Frankfurter Verlagsanstalt, 2013
- *Counting Out*, Diogene Publishing House 2010, Bakur Sulakauri Publishing, 2014

ABZÄHLEN - Unionsverlag 2013

Mittwoch, Donnerstag, Freitag – drei aufregende Tage für Ninzo und Ketewan, genannt Zknapi. Drei Tage, an denen die 13-jährigen Freundinnen nicht nur die üblichen Freuden und Leiden des Mädchenseins erleben, sondern auch erfahren, was es heißt, in einer gottverlassenen Konfliktzone zu leben, in der sonst bloß noch Kinder, Alte und Krüppel verblieben sind. Gewitzt muss man sein, sich was einfallen lassen. Sonst kommt man nirgendwohin, nicht an Kleider, nicht an Monatsbinden, nicht an Zigaretten und auch nicht an Milch für das Brüderchen. Was zu Friedenszeiten Recht und schicklich war, gilt nun schon lang nicht mehr. Krieg ist mehr als reine Männersache, und doch muss man bei aller mädchenhaften Gerissenheit manchmal ganz, ganz tapfer sein. Der jungen georgischen Erzählerin Tamta Melaschwili ist ein aufsehenerregendes Debüt von emotionaler Wucht gelungen.

LITERARY PRIZES AND AWARDS

- Deutscher Jugendliteraturpreis 2013 in category young adults for *Counting Out*
- 15 Best Short Stories 2013, BSP-Bakur Sulakauri Publishing award (2nd Place) for *That Very Day*
- Literary award SABA 2011 in category the best debut for *Counting Out*



Guram Odisharia

Born in 1951 in Sukhumi, Guram Odisharia is a Georgian poet and writer, formerly Minister of Culture and Monument Protection of Georgia. In 1975 he graduated from the Department of History and Philology of Sukhumi University. At various times he has been a correspondent for Abkhazian radio broadcasting, a reporter for the Abkhazian regional newspaper, a consultant to the Abkhazia Branch of Writers' Union, editor of the magazine Ritsa and director of the Abkhazia branch of Merani Publishing. Guram Odisharia spent the entire war-time period in Sukhumi, leaving his native city only on 27 September 1993 – the day that Sukhumi fell. Since then he has been active in the field of conflictology and has regularly participated in Georgian-Abkhaz peace talks. In 2012 he became the Minister of Culture and Monument Protection of Georgia, holding the post until 2014. He is the author of nine poetry collections, ten prose books and a number of plays, film and television scripts. He is best known for his novels *The Black Sea Ocean*, *Return to Sukhumi*, *The President's Cat*. His poetry and prose are greatly influenced by images of his native city Sukhumi and the ambience of the Black Sea coast, which often plays a leading role in his literary works. A play *The Sea Which is So Far Away* was based on the novel *Black Sea Ocean*, and it was staged by the famous Georgian director Temur Chkheidze: the play was given an award as the best play of 2014. Both the novel and the play were warmly received not only by Georgian audiences but won popularity in Abkhazian society as well. Odisharia's works have been translated into English, German, Russian, Ukrainian, Abkhaz, Turkish, Armenian and Italian and have been published in several countries among them to: Russia, *Kulturnaia Revolutsia*, 2016; Armenia, *Antares*, 2016; Slovakia, *Slovart*, 2015; Ukraine, *Anetta Antonenko Publishers*, 2015; Germany, *Reichert Verlag*, 2015.

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- Four Novels, Bakmi Publishing, 2013
- Psalms For You, Intelekti Publishing, 2013
- Transfusion of Soul, Intelekti Publishing, 2012
- 100 Poems, Intelekti Publishing, 2012
- The Cyclops Bomb, Publishing Form, 2009
- The Black Sea Ocean, Merani Publishing, 2000
- Rain is Broadcasted in Sokhumi, Publishing House Lomisi
- Return to Sokhumi, Merani Publishing, 1995
- The President's Cat, 2012 Publishing Favorite Print 2012
- Sonata about Sokhumi and You, Merani Publishing, 1994
- Key for the Sea, Alashara Sokhumi Publishing House, 1991
- A Midnight Tree, Merani Publishing, Merani Publishing, 1990
- Salamia, Alashara Sokhumi Publishing House, 1988
- Seven Pictures for a Child, Alashara Sokhumi Publishing House, 1986
- Calling for Rain, Alashara Sokhumi Publishing House, 1984
- Peace to this House, Alashara Sokhumi Publishing House, 1982

LITERARY PRIZES AND AWARDS

- State Award of Georgia
- Iliia Chavchavadze Award
- Award of the Publishing House "Lomisi"
- Award of Theatrical Society of Georgia
- Giorgi Sharvashidze Award
- Chekhov's Gold Medal
- Award of Journalists' International Association "Gold Wing"

DER PASS DER FLÜCHTLINGE - Reichert Verlag 2015

Als Ende der 1980er Jahre die Sowjetunion auseinanderfiel und sich aus den ehemaligen Sowjetrepubliken neue, unabhängige Staaten zu formen begannen, entbrannten an verschiedenen Orten bewaffnete Auseinandersetzungen, die sich um Identität, Ethnizität, Religionszugehörigkeit, politisches Machtkalkül und anderes bis dahin durch den totalitären Staatsapparat im Zaum gehaltenes Konfliktpotenzial rankten. Ganz besonders betraf dies die drei neuen Staaten südlich des Kaukasus, Armenien, Aserbaidschan und Georgien, deren multiethnische, multilinguale und multireligiöse Bevölkerungsstruktur teils im Inneren, teils im wechselseitigen Verhältnis Kriege hervorrief, die bis heute nicht friedlich beigelegt sind. Guram Odischarias Buch "Der Pass der Flüchtlinge" handelt von einer dieser Katastrophen: dem Abchasien-Krieg. Als Augenzeuge beschreibt er, fast wie in einem Tagebuch, die Ereignisse zwischen dem 24. September und dem 5. Oktober 1993, als die georgischen Regierungstruppen die Gewalt über die abchasische Hauptstadt Suchumi verloren und Soldaten wie Zivilisten ihr Heil in der Flucht suchten. In seinem Buch zeichnet der Schriftsteller, der selbst aus Abchasien stammt, die sich über eine Woche hinziehende Flucht der georgischen Bevölkerung aus Abchasien nach, die über den mehr als 2600m hohen Pass nach Swanetien führte; ein ungeheuer strapazenreicher Weg, der viele Flüchtlinge das Leben kostete, und ein Ereignis, das sich für immer in das historische Gedächtnis beider Ethnien, Georgier und Abchasen, eingepreßt hat und aus dem die gesamte Menschheit ihre Lehren ziehen sollte.



Zviad Ratiani

Born in 1971 is a poet and translator. Ratiani has been contributing to the Georgian literary printed media since 1992. He has published five poetry collections and simultaneously has intensively worked on translations of English and German poetry. Among numerous translations Zviad Ratiani has introduced to Georgian readers are such significant ones as poetic works by T.S. Eliot, E. Pound, R. Frost, M. Rilke and Paul Celan, for the last one Ratiani received the Goethe Institute Prize for the best translation of the year. In 2005 Ratiani was praised with top literary award SABA of Georgia. Ratiani's poems have been translated into English, German, French, Russian, Azerbaijani, Ukrainian, Latvian, and other languages. His poetry has been published in several anthologies among them: *Ich aber will dem Kaukasos zu...* - Pop Verlag 2015, Germany; *Aus der Ferne (Neue Georgische Lyrik)*, Corvinus Presse 2016, Germany.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- The Negative, Diogene Publishing, 2009
- The Roads and the Days, Arete Publishing, 2005
- The Pocket Air, Bakur Sulakauri Publishing, 2000
- The Whisper Tutorial, Lomisi Publishing House, 1994
- Invent Me, Lomisi Publishing House, 1993

LITERARY PRIZES AND AWARDS

- Literary prize LITERA 2016 in the category The Best Poetry Collection for Only You are Allowed
- Literary Award SABA 2010 in category the best poetry collection for The Negative
- VAZHA PSHAVELA festival prize in 2005 for the book Roads and Days
- ARILI magazine prize in 2000 for book-length poem Moving Target
- Literary prize BESTSELLER in 1999 for the poem Fathers
- Georgian Writer's Union prize in 1996 and 1998 in the category The Best Poetry Publication of the Year



Zurab Rtveliashvili

Born in 1967. Zurab Rtveliashvili belongs to the generation of post-soviet artists that have radically changed the vector of Georgian literature. He introduced a new vision with both the linguistic and conceptual experiments in his poetry. David Chikhladze, Shota Iatashvili, Irakli Charkviani, Badri Gugushvili and Karlo Kacharava are some of the poets with whom he created the new artistic reality. His experiments go beyond text. He happens to be one of the pioneers of sound-poetry and poetic live-performance in Georgia. Zurab is one of the very few artists from the 90's who have stayed loyal to the roots and principles of avant-garde. Both in articles and his poetic work, he keeps on highlighting the importance of creating a new strategy for preserving these ideals and transitioning them into contemporary art-reality. Zurab's poems have been published in various foreign anthologies including: Ich aber will dem Kaukasos zu... - Pop Verlag 2015, Germany; Labyrinth - OGI 2014, Russia; Fria ord på flykt - flex bands 2012, Sweden; Geruisloos geraas - poetry vzw 2010, Netherlands.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Dictatorship of poetry, Smockadoll Förlag (Sweden), 2016
- Anarchy, Georgia, 2006
- Apocriph, Georgia, 2001
- Irection, Georgia, 1997

DICTIONSHIP OF POETRY

In winter 2016 a Swedish publishing house Smockadoll Förlag published Zurab Rtveliashvili's collection of poems - The Dictatorship of Poetry. It includes poetry both from the times before Rtveliashvili's emigration and the newer samples that he has written while already being in Sweden. The Dictatorship of Poetry proves that despite the fact that Rtveliashvili's poetry is packed with avant-gardist aesthetic alongside the linguistic and sound-poetic experiments, he still manages to highlight and reflect on key socio-political problems without disrupting his poetic dynamic. According to Rtveliashvili's poetic belief, in today's reality we all live in the world dominated by verbal industry, which labels everything with a special code. With his poetic process the author tries to break free from these shackles and show his reader that the language goes far beyond simple alphabetical notations and grammatical norms.

LITERARY PRIZES AND AWARDS

- Winner of International Creative Symposium Voloshin's September 2012



Maia Sarishvili

Born in 1968 is one of the most prominent women writers in Georgia today. A mother of four children has studied pedagogy and currently teaches at primary school. Being this busy does not prevent her from writing poetry and surprising audience with her new sound in Georgian poetry, that displays a realistic and materialistic touch that she refashions in her spiritual search for the nature and power of woman. She has won Georgia's one of the most prestigious literary awards SABA for her poetry collection in 2008. Maya Sarishvili has authored another poetry collection *Covering Reality* (2001), as well as four radio plays for children: *Three Buckets of Snow*, *A Very Bad Man*, *A Family of Ladybirds* and *A Cat Again in Rain*. All her radio-plays were performed at Georgian Radio Broadcast and *Three buckets of Snow* was awarded as the best radio-play in 1997 at Georgian-German competition of radio-plays. Her work has appeared in *Crazy horse*, *Versal*, *Quiddity*, *Nashville Review*, *Asheville Review*, *Plume*, *Guernica* and other publications. Her poems have been translated into many languages and she has taken part in numerous international festivals, including *Poetry International* in Rotterdam (2007), *SOTZIA* in Tallinn, Estonia (2008), *Poetry Parnassus* (London, UK, 2011) and has been invited to Portugal, to the seminar of translators, where her poems were translated to Portuguese (*Casa de Mateus*, 2007). Sarishvili's poems have been published in several anthologies: *Anthology of Georgian poets* (6 poets) - Arc Publication 2016, UK; *Anthology of Georgian female poets* (10 poets) - Boutle Publishing 2016, UK; *Microscope* (collection of Maia Sarishvili's poems) - Smockadoll Förlag 2015, Sweden; *Aus der Ferne* (Anthology of Georgian poetry; 6 poets) - Corvinus Presse 2015, Germany; *Antology of Modern Georgian Poetry* - OGI 2014, Russia; *Poezie Centrum*, *Contemporary Poetry from Georgia* (*Hedendaagse poezie uit Georgia*) - 2010, Netherlands.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- *Microscope*, Publishing House Link, 2007.
- *Covering Evidence*, Publishing House Merani, 2001

LITERARY PRIZES AND AWARDS

- Literary Award SABA 2008 in category the best poetry collection for *Microscope*



Paata Shamugia

Born in 1983, in Abkhazia, Paata Shamugia currently lives in Tbilisi and is a distinguished personality in Georgian poetry. He graduated from Tbilisi State University (faculty of philology). The author became known to a wide circle of readers thanks to his book *Anti-Tqaosani* (a wordplay on the famous Georgian medieval epic poem *The Knight in Panther's Skin*). The book provoked much controversy and for several months was widely discussed in the Georgian press and TV, as it was boldly taking issue with the country's most prominent literary text. Three years later, in 2010 he published his second poetry collection *Advantage*, which immediately attracted attention, but, unlike his previous compilation, did not provoke any criticism or cause a stir. On the opposite, the book received very positive reviews from critics and readers alike. In 2011 Paata Shamugia received the SABA literary award for the best collection of poems *Akathistos*. In 2012 the art magazine *Hot Chocolate* named him *Person of the Year*. Currently he works as an editor for the magazine *Liberali* and writes reviews and critical essays. He is also editor in chief of the contemporary art portal *demo.ge*. Since 2011 Paata Shamugia has been a member and web-editor of Georgian Pen Centre. In 2014, the publishing house *Intelekti* has printed another challenging collection by him, *Schizosociety*, which won another SABA award and thus made Paata Shamugia the first contemporary poet in Georgia to win twice this prestigious award in the same category. His poetry has been translated into English, Russian, French, Turkish and German and published in the *Anthology of Georgian Poetry* through the ages: *Ich aber will dem Kaukasos zu...* - Pop Verlag 2015, Germany.

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- *Schizosociety*, Intelekti Publishing, 2014
- *Akathistos*, Siesta Publishing House, 2011
- *Advantage*, Diogene Publishing House, 2010
- *Anti - Tkaosani*, Neker Publishing, 2007

LITERARY PRIZES AND AWARDS

- Literary award SABA 2015 in category the best poetry collection for *Schizosociety*
- Literary award SABA 2012 in category the best poetry collection for *Akathistos*



Aleko Shughladze

Born in Tbilisi in 1965. He graduated from Tbilisi Polytechnic in 1987. At the same time, he was a student of the art faculty at Tbilisi State University, specialising in cinema direction. From 1989 to 1993 he worked in the Georgian Film Studio as an assistant director. From 1994 to 1997 he was an artist at Margo Korabliova's Performance Theatre. From 1998 to 2001 he worked as a film director for Caucasian House, where he made up to ten documentary films against violence. From 2001 to 2003 he worked as a director and scriptwriter for the NGO Studiomobile — the Accent on Mobility. He began writing in 1989. In 2001 his story Answers for a Magazine with a Small Print Run won the mayor's special prize. In 2015 his story The Man of Books was shortlisted in the Tsero literary competition.

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- Hiding, Diogene Publishing, 2016
- The Man of Books, Printing World, 2015
- Samsara, Bakur Sulakauri Publishing, 2002
- Attempting to Escape, Merani Publishing, 2001

HIDING

The novel is autobiographical by nature. Every character is, in fact, a real person. The main protagonist, Aleko Shughladze's mother, has an incurable illness. She becomes aware of this later, after she breaks a leg while praying and, when being examined in a clinic, a cancer specialist discovers that she is ill and informs Aleko. It turns out that a lot of people knew of her illness, but for some reason kept it hidden as long as they could from her son. Aleko also has a sister who has suffered from oligophrenic schizophrenia since she was a child. After their mother becomes bed-ridden, Aleko takes over the care of his sister and his life enters a difficult stage. This is a major ordeal in his life: he has to have patience and not lose his humanity. He should not grudge love to someone who is doomed to die. At the same time, the main protagonist recalls his life. Events from Soviet times intersect organically with today's events. Together with all the difficulties of the Communist era, national traditions and rituals enter his mind, and he has to face up to this. What begins is a destruction of so-called sacral clichés, in the manner of the protagonist's unconventional life, now with irony, now with sarcasm, concealed pain and a desire to escape from everything. Autobiographical space gradually loses track of the world shown in the novel. Another important character in the novel is an inspector who represents the side of Aleko's relatives and is investigating a case which concerns the mysteriously obscured relationship of the main hero and his mother. The relatives, who are fans of ritual, try to blame Aleko for breaking with their ancestral traditions. In fact, the inspector has managed to study the protagonist's life and, in the course of his investigation, the story of Aleko and his late father's past surfaces. Aleko works as a book distributor, and his everyday relationships with various people is another aspect of the novel. One relationship is with a girl much younger than him, whom he is in love with. Very few people stand by him to the end, and one of these is a friend who is a mountain climber, who helps Aleko realise his extraordinary decision. With the friend's help, Aleko hides his mother away in a remote village and announces that she has died. He goes through with a fake funeral in great and plausible detail, thus doing his duty by his relatives. After the 'funeral' he hides his mother even further away, in India, where he settles down with her at the foot of a holy mountain. The inspector and Aleko manage to meet only once, at the end of the novel. This happens when Aleko returns home in order to try and hide his sister, too.

LITERARY PRIZES AND AWARDS

- Mayor's Special Prize 2001 for story Answers for a Magazine with a Small Print Run



Lia Sturua

Born in 1939 is a prominent Georgian poet. She graduated from Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, the faculty of philology. Later, she continued her postgraduate studies. In 1974 she defended PhD thesis on "Artistic function of the Colour in Galaktion Tabidze's Poetry". She delivered lectures at the University and at the same time was a senior research-worker at Shota Rustaveli Institute for Georgian Literature. Since 1999 she has been a literature consultant at G. Tabidze Museum. Her first collection of poems *Trees in the City* was published in 1962, followed by other twelve books. Except poetry Lia Sturua has authored number of distinguished prose collections including: *Happy Silence*, *Stone Dropped in Milk*, *What Ate the Vine?* (a novel of perceptions). In addition she has published essays and articles and her poems are translated into German, French, English and Finnish languages. In 1997 the Norwegian television company made a film about Lia Sturua.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- *Vice Versa*, Saunje Publishing, 2014
- *What Ate the Vine*, Intelekti Publishing, 2013
- *Selection*, Diogene Publishing House, 2013
- *The Forgetting Day*, Publishing House Chveni Mtserloba, 2012
- *The Sea is closed*, Siesta Publishing House, 2009
- *100 Verses*, Intelekti Publishing, 2008
- *Stone Dropped in Milk*, Merani Publishing, 2002
- *One Hundred Sonnets and Others*, Merani Publishing, 1999
- *Happy Silence*, Merani Publishing, 1996
- *Contemplations at the Edge of the Sun*, Merani Publishing, 1989
- *Sonnets*, Merani Publishing, 1987,
- *Verses and Poems*, Sov. Georgia, 1986
- *Trees in the City*, Nakaduli Publishing, 1962

LITERARY PRIZES AND AWARDS

- Literary award SABA 2013 in category the best poetry collection for *The Forgetting Day*
- Shota Rustaveli State Prize 2000 for *One Hundred Sonnets and Others*
- Georgian State Award 1995 for her Artistic Work
- Galaktion Tabidze Award 1988



Tamar Tandashvili

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

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Snowstorm of Orange Dandelions, Siesta Publishing, 2016

Snowstorm of Orange Dandelions - Residenz Verlag 2018

Tamar's first fictional text Snowstorm of Orange Dandelions is a novel. It was published in May 2016 and has been gaining vast popularity in Georgia. The book follows psychiatrist on a journey with survivors of physical and sexual abuse. Facing cruelty inflicted by "otherwise ordinary citizens" and dealing with impaired lives of trauma victims the protagonist abandons prominent social and psychological theories of violence and turns to conventional daily ambiance of the capital of Georgia. The stories of her patients point to a culturally distinctive source for the philosophy behind disregarding human dignity and subjugating one's life course to custom-made familial roles. The foundation for this sort of societally tolerated forms of violence against women lies in the patriarchal establishment of her newly democratized homeland where rape is assisted by church-promoted and culturally embraced misogyny. Having suffered humiliation and denigration of unparalleled subjective and social scales female and male survivors of sexual assault remain linguistically and culturally mute. Due to discursive blind-spot on this particular form of violence numerous cases of sexual exploitation, humiliation and torture remain publicly nonverbalized and untold in Georgia. Tamar's novel is a literary form of ethnographic witness account. The only admissible method for salvaging the survivors' dignity in a rape culture by means of telling the truth with imagined particulars and factual authenticity. Along with its definite focus on the personhood-belittling philosophy of patriarchy long-desired social justice in "Snowstorm of Orange Dandelions" represents means to the end of human flourishing. Quest for phenomenon bigger than human prosperity is markedly superior psychological drive among the novel's characters. The text boasts distinctive multi-vocal style: one reads voices pertaining to different genders, geography, social strata and even historical epochs. In spite of idiomatic sophistication the narrative flows with ease and elegance making the story extensive but whole. The story's finale is the same unorthodox as its entire textual structure. This is the book with its feet firmly on the ground and the head looking for alternative existential universes.



Ekaterine Togonidze

Born in 1981 graduated in journalism from Tbilisi State University. She was a news programme anchor and then a morning programme presenter in Georgian Public Broadcasting and has written for several Georgian newspapers and magazines. Her first short story collection *Anaesthesia* won the Best Debut of the Year at Literary Award SABA, the most prestigious literature award in Georgia. Her novella *The other W-A-Y* has been translated into German and published in the short story collection *Techno der Jaguare*, (Frankfurter Verlagsanstalt). This novella became the basis for her script of a full-length film which won the script competition of the Georgian National Film Centre in 2013. She now writes novels and also works as marketing and PR manager in the Georgian-American University. Her short story *It's Me* was chosen by Dalkey Archive Press and published in *Best European Fiction 2015*. In 2014 she won a literary scholarship to the Literary Colloquium Berlin, where finished her novel *Asynchrony*, later nominated for the Literary Award SABA 2014 in the category the Best Novel of the Year. Ekaterine Togonidze's works are translated into German and English languages.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Listen to Me, Bakur Sulakauri Publishing, 2015
- *Asynchrony*, Bakur Sulakauri Publishing, 2014
- *Anaesthesia*, Publishing Saunje, 2011

ASYNCHRONY - Septime Verlag 2018

Siamese twins Lina and Diana die in mysterious circumstances. In this tragic story, their absent father Rostom learns of their existence first through the terrible fact of their death, then, page by page, from their poignant diary entries. Although they are conjoined, the girls are two very different individuals with well-defined and separate personalities. Easy-going, happy Lina is capable of falling in love, an optimistic and romantic soul who writes poetry in her diary and finds joy in the smallest details of her life. Diana, tougher and more down-to-earth, is less accepting of their situation, and angrier. Like most siblings they argue and envy each other; unlike most they cannot act in isolation except through this one outlet, their diaries. The two contrasting voices chronicle their extraordinary experience as two separate individuals who from the waist down share one body. Until they are teenagers, the vulnerable twins are hidden from the outside world and cared for by their grandmother, who struggles to protect them in impoverished post-Soviet Georgia, a society with little compassion for the disabled. After her death they are defenceless and fall victim to every type of ill-treatment. They are abused sexually and psychologically, and forced to work as freaks in a circus.

'Ekaterine Togonidze has a niche of her own in literature: hitherto, the themes she elaborates have been virtually entirely ignored by Georgian literature.' Lasha Bugadze, author, playwright, 2013

LITERARY PRIZES AND AWARDS

- Literary award SABA 2012 in category the best debut for *Anaesthesia*



Tea Topuria

Born in 1977 in Sukhumi, is a prize-winning writer and poet. In 1998 she graduated from the faculty of Journalism at Tbilisi State University. Since 1998 Tea Topuria has been working as a journalist in the field of Human Rights and Environmental Protection. Currently she works as a journalist for radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, Tbilisi bureau. Tea has written a collection of prose and poetry *The Mint Threshing Floor* (2007), a poetry collection *Ecocide* (2011) and a number of highly acclaimed books of short stories for children, including *The Holidays of Paradea* (2011), *Tales too Good to Sleep Through* (2011) and *One Long Day on Another Planet* (2014), a collection of stories *Two Rooms in Cairo* (2016). Nowadays Tea Topuria is regarded as one of the most talented and notable authors in Georgia, contributing to children's literature. She has been short-listed and has won many prestigious literary competitions. In 2014 and 2015 Topuria was nominated from Georgia for Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- *One Long Day on Another Planet*, Bakur Sulakauri Publishing, 2014
- *Tales too Good to Sleep through*, Diogene Publishing House, 2011
- *Ecocide*, Diogene Publishing House, 2011
- *The Holidays of Paradea*, Diogene Publishing House, 2011
- *The Mint Threshing Floor*, Diogene Publishing House, 2007

LITERARY PRIZES AND AWARDS

- Literary Competition TSERO 2014, jury prize.
- Literary prize GALA 2012 in category the best children's book for *Tales too Good to Sleep through*
- Literary prize (III Place) Golden Feather 2008 in children's literature for *VarazVache*



Dato Turashvili

Born in 1966 in Tbilisi, Georgia. After graduating from Tbilisi No. 57 secondary school, he studied literature, film and art history at Tbilisi, London and Madrid Universities. The Author also studied film dramaturgy at Screenplay Atelier of Erlom Akhvediani. Apart from screenplays, he writes novels, short stories and plays as well as translates both prose and poetry from Russian, Spanish and English. His debut prose collection was first published in 1991. His novel *Flight from the USSR (The Jeans Generation)* is a number-one bestseller in Georgia. He has taken part in mountain climbing expeditions in the Caucasus, Andes and Himalayan mountains. His short stories have been published internationally in literary magazines. Dato Turashvili's works are translated into German, English, Italian, Croatian, Spanish, Korean, Basque, Russian and Armenian languages.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Other Amsterdam, Bakur Sulakauri Publishing, 2015
- The King of the Woods, Bakur Sulakauri Publishing, 2013
- Once upon a time, Bakur Sulakauri Publishing, 2012
- While Waiting for Dodo, Publishing House Iberia, 2012
- If I were a footballer, Publishing House Iberia, 2011, Artanuji Publishing, 2015
- American Tales, Bakur Sulakauri Publishing, 2010/2015
- The Thirteenth, Siesta Publishing House, 2011
- Flight from USSR, Bakur Sulakauri Publishing, 2008, 2015
- Gurji Khatun, Palitra L Publishing, 2007
- Black Sneakers, Siesta Publishing House, 2006
- Tibet is not Far, Bakur Sulakauri Publishing, 2001/2005
- A night of a Sunk City, Publishing House Iberia, 2003
- Kathmandu, Bakur Sulakauri Publishing, 2000

WESTFLUG - Verlag Klaus Wagenbach 2014

This novel is based on one of the most tragic events in 1980s Soviet Georgia. Seven young people hijacked an airplane in an attempt to escape the Soviet Union. This was an exceptional event: at that time even the thought of escape was criminal. The Soviet government sentenced most of the protagonists to death. Public opinion was split. Some considered them to be just ordinary terrorists. Others argued that living under the Soviet regime was so unbearable that the hijacking of the plane was justified. *Flight from the USSR* lets the reader closely follow the leading characters, and learn more about their motives and aspirations. The novel has been adapted to the stage, and is one of the most successful productions of the "Georgian Free Theatre".

LITERARY PRIZES AND AWARDS

- Literary award SABA 2008 in category the best play for *Black Sneakers*
- Literary award SABA 2003 in category the best play for *Two Islands in the Black Sea*



Tsothe Tskhvediani

Born in 1993 in Kutaisi, Georgia is one of the most talented and promising authors in Georgian literature. In 2011 he entered Tbilisi State University and studied Humanities at department of History. Main subject of his researches is the anarchist movements of the 20th century Caucasus region. In 2012 Tsothe himself joined the eco-anarchist movement and took part in several strikes which were the expression of solidarity for the people who live and work in Georgia's industrial towns. He very often visited these places and had personally interviewed the local population. This experience was reflected in his short stories. His debut short story *Underground*, which was published in 2013 in magazine *Literary Palette (Palitra)* and immediately gained popularity, describes lives and hopes of miners working in Tkibuli, a small town in west Georgia. Generally, the subject of young author's stories are different: birdwatching and psychedelic music, politics and philosophy, and sometimes mythology too. In 2015 was published his first short story collection *The Town and the Saints* by Bakur Sulakauri Publishing. The collection is a compilation of the stories that narrate about lives and problems of the people living in the abandoned and forgotten areas, very often the towns themselves are the characters of the stories. The psych-geographical view of the reality is one of the main reasons why Tskhvediani's stories are very touching and interesting. As the author remarked John Steinbeck, Jack London, Andrei Platonov and Georgian "Narodnik" writers hugely influenced his works. His story *The Golden Town* was selected for the annual Georgian Prose Anthology "15 Best Short Stories", announced as the best short story of 2014 and received the BSP (Bakur Sulakauri Publishing) award. The story was also selected for the annual anthology *BEST EUROPEAN FICTION* which is published by Dalkey Archive Press in USA.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- *The Town and the Saints*, Bakur Sulakauri Publishing, 2014

LITERARY PRIZES AND AWARDS

- 15 Best Short Stoires 2014, BSP-Bakur Sulakauri Publishing literary award for *The Golden Town*

MAYAKOVSKY THEATER

Tuta lives in a small town Baghdati with the population of only 5000 people. He thinks that it's not a town but a ghetto from where you need to escape, because one day you'll become tired of struggling for independence and freedom in such a tiny and isolated area. Because public interests always overpower Tuta's personal ones, he fails every time he tries to escape; so he contemplates suicide; but he can't find strength to do it. Half-dead and half-alive, Tuta goes beyond control and becomes an unbearable problem even for his closest people. His brother tries to help him committing suicide and plans to make everything seem artistic, romantic and glaring. As the last straw he starts fighting against clerical institution claiming the only theatre in town is theirs. Like an attempted terrorist he invades hospital and takes homeless and mental health patients as hostages. Tuta knows that nobody cares about these people and he does it to make government notice every detail happens under so-called democratic processes.

THE TOWN AND THE SAINTS

Tsotne Tskhvediani's debut short story collection *The Town and The Saints* deals with Georgians' everyday lives in rural province towns. Like everyone else, these characters are waiting to get jobs, dream about fame and try to escape the difficulties around them. But their only prospects are a depressing dreariness and despair. They cannot take a wider view of their lives. They hope for a better future but that hope is never realized. It is hard to say whether it is love or hate, sadness or happiness, life or death that dominates the desolation which pervades the town. Each story and its characters are deeply moving, so that every reader will be affected and will be able to analyse the way life develops in abandoned and forgotten towns. *The Golden Town*, one of the stories from the collection won BSP award as the best story of 2014 and the same year was selected for annual anthology *BEST EUROPEAN FICTION* published by Dalkey Archive Press in USA.

'In principle I would make this book required reading for members of parliament, for ministers and governors, and see that they read it. Whereas political meetings attended by thousands of people and television programmes have been unable to change anything, a 'Molotov cocktail' hurled with such good aim by a writer may be more effective.'

Shota Iatashvili, poet, literary critic, Radio Liberty

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