

## ***Bank Austria Literaris 2012***

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**Press release**

## **Bank Austria Literaris**

### **The Pre-Eminent Award for Central, Eastern, and Southeastern European Literature**

*Leipzig/ Vienna – The Bank Austria Literaris was launched in 2006, is staged biannually, and carries a total prize money of 150,000 euros, which currently is the highest among literary sponsorship awards in the CEE region. It aims to present works by Eastern and Southeastern European authors to readers and audiences in the German-speaking world and direct attention to the exciting polyphony of literary voices in the region.*

*The Bank Austria Literaris is held for the fourth time this year. The award's focus on literature from Central, Eastern, and Southeastern Europe not only corresponds to the economic activities of Bank Austria who, on the strength of being a member of UniCredit Group, is the market leader in this region. What's more, this prize also complements Bank Austria's existing, wide-ranging cooperations in the realm of arts and culture. Bank Austria has closely cooperated with KulturKontakt Austria and Wieser Verlag publishing house since the foundation of the Bank Austria Literaris and has, thus, teamed up with two institutions that have also gained extensive experience and built a positive image in Eastern Europe.*

#### **The Bank Austria Literaris 2010 covers 16 Central, Eastern and Southeastern European countries**

*In Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Estonia, Croatia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, The Czech Republic, Turkey, Ukraine, and Hungary (mostly two-member) local juries nominated 42 writers. This selection was made following the careful evaluation of the books published in the respective countries in 2010 and 2011. The Vienna jury comprised the following members: Tatjana Langásková, Catrinel Pleșu, Annemarie Türk, and Lojze Wieser. The jury was chaired by György Dalos.*

*Award winners have been announced in the genres of PROSE and POETRY.*

*Furthermore, seven grant recipients have been invited to take part in KulturKontakt Austria's Writers in Residence program.*

### **The Award Winners**

*Winner of the PROSE award: **Martin Ryšavý**, Czech Republic*

*Winner of the POETRY award: **Adisa Bašić**, Bosnia and Herzegovina*

### **Grant Recipients:**

***Anastasija Afanasjewa**, Ukraine*

***Petro Jazenko**, Ukraine*

***Radoslaw Kobierski**, Poland*

***Goran Korunović**, Serbia*

***Attila Ménes**, Hungary*

***Ioana Baetica Morpurgo**, Romania*

***Lucian Dan Teodorovici**, Romania*

## **Winner of the PROSE Award: Martin Ryšavý**

### **Biography**

*Writer, screenwriter, and director Martin Ryšavý was born in 1967 in Prague/The Czech Republic. He studied biology at Charles University and subsequently screenwriting at the Academy of Performing Arts. He currently works at the Department of Direction and Dramaturgy at the Academy of Performing Arts in Prague.*

*Ryšavý has produced several ethnographical documentaries and written a number of screenplays. Quite often, one of his fictional works has been adopted into a movie and, vice versa, he has reworked his screenplays into works of fiction.*

*For his two-volume novel *Cesty na Sibiř* (2009, *Journeys to Siberia*) won him the 2009 *Magnesia Litera*, the most prestigious Czech literary award, which he received a second time*

in 2010 – for his new novel *Vrač*.

Following his 2008 Siberian novel, Martin Ryšavý's new book was again devoted to a Russian subject. His protagonist, the Russian healer named „Vrač“, is part of a mystical theater milieu where imaginary drama scenes easily turn into a philosophy of life. Here, Stalinist past and post-communist chaos are portrayed through an endless, grotesque, and tragicomic monolog. This also applies to a premiere of taboo-shattering writer Marquis de Sade.

### **Excerpt**

*For who really is the Marquis de Sade? The Marquis de Sade's proposition to all the encyclopaedists and other revolutionaries is: As soon as you think any one of your ideals through you come to understand that the path to its attainment ends in a bloodbath. Every hitherto unknown good also brings with it an unknown evil. Once you lift the boundaries, once you give people freedom, you also give them the freedom to commit atrocities. Every utopian vision has its dark side; yours does, too. In other words, when allowed to fulfill all my desires, I will cut down everyone that stands in my way. And when someone is under my control, I can do whatever I want with him. And what, then, is it I really want? I want to torment, kill people; I will first torment and then kill the person in question. But the biggest joke here is this: When someone seizes control over me and I become the tormented one, I am left with no other choice but to take pleasure in it. Because I have the will to live, because my feeling of self-importance forces me to live, and that's where this cunning trick comes in, the dichotomy that later came to be called sadomasochism: The person tormenting me delights in doing so, and I, too, delight in his tormenting me.*

### **Publications**

*Lesní chodci, 2001 (Die Waldgänger/The Forest Fleers)*

*Cesty na Sibiř, 2008 (Reisen nach Sibirien/Journeys to Siberia)*

*Vrač, 2010*

*Stanice Čtyřsloupový ostrov, 2011 (Station Vier-Säulen-Insel/Four Pillar Island Station)*

## **Winner of the POETRY Award: Adisa Bašić**

### **Biography**

*Born in 1979 in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina.*

*Graduated in Comparative Literature and completed post-graduate studies in Human Rights and Democracy. She works as a journalist and literary critic for the weekly Slobodna Bosna ([www.slobodna-bosna.ba](http://www.slobodna-bosna.ba)).*

*She has held a DAAD grant.*

*In her latest book of poetry, Adisa Bašić conveys the mental and emotional world of a generation marked by the war and postwar years in Bosnia. In her highly feminine language and short poetic monologs, she transforms the lives and fates of women into strong metaphors of the helplessness of an entire society.*

### **Poetry selection**

#### *Shooting Star*

*This happened in impenetrable darkness.*

*In the city.*

*Which was so dark*

*that as an evening walk*

*we went out to see electricity*

*(like an apparition,*

*gleaming,*

*a single building).*

*And we combed our hair,*

*got dressed,*

*and from the black*

*schoolyard*

*we watched it.*

*Before, in this town...*

*In this darkness...*

*One night...*

*The shooting star*

*set off, horizontally,*

*towards the mountain's dreamy thigh.*

*The shooting star stopped for a spell.*

*Our wishes have not come true.*

*Right there. Right from the darkness. From the direction  
of the shooting star.*

*They started to shoot*

*at us.*

### **Publications**

*Havine Recenice, 1999 (Hava's Sentences)*

*Traumamarket, 2004*

*Promotivni spot za moju domovinu, 2011 (The Commercial for my Homeland;)*

**Local Juries:**

<i>Bosnia and Herzegovina:</i>	<i>Hana Stojić &amp; Kristina Ljevak</i>
<i>Bulgaria:</i>	<i>Fedia Filkova &amp; Yordan Eftimov</i>
<i>Estonia:</i>	<i>Reet Kudu</i>
<i>Croatia:</i>	<i>Alida Bremer &amp; Delimir Resicki</i>
<i>Latvia:</i>	<i>Matthias Knoll</i>
<i>Lithuania:</i>	<i>Cornelius Hell</i>
<i>Poland:</i>	<i>Doreen Daume &amp; Esther Kinsky</i>
<i>Romania:</i>	<i>Corina Bernic &amp; Ovidiu Simonca</i>
<i>Russia:</i>	<i>Erich Klein &amp; Jelena Fanailowa</i>
<i>Serbia:</i>	<i>Saša Ćirić &amp; Lidija Kusovac</i>
<i>Slovakia:</i>	<i>Jana Cviková &amp; Dana Krsáková</i>
<i>Slovenia:</i>	<i>Brane Čop &amp; Lojze Wieser</i>
<i>The Czech Republic:</i>	<i>Kristina Kallert &amp; Viktor Debnar</i>
<i>Turkey:</i>	<i>Asuman Büke Kafaoglu &amp; Hande Ögut</i>
<i>Ukraine:</i>	<i>Chrystyna Nazarkewytsch &amp; Claudia Dathe</i>
<i>Hungary:</i>	<i>András Lakatos &amp; Gabor Nyerges</i>



## **Authors & Titles**

### Bosnia and Herzegovina

Adisa Bašić

*Der Werbespot für meine Heimat  
(The Commercial for my Homeland)*

Josip Mlacic

*Menschen die Bäume gepflanzt haben  
(People Who Have Planted Trees)*

Bekim Sejranovic

*Ein schöneres Ende (A More Beautiful Ending)*

### Bulgaria

Nikolaj Bojkov

*Das Buch des Lebens (The Book of Life)*

Yanitsa Radeva

*Die Bonbonniere (The Box of Chocolates)*

Ekaterina Yossifova

*Diese Schlange (This Snake)*

### Estonia

Kristiina Ehin

*Ende der Monogamie (End of Monogamy)*

Rein Pöder

*Kauge*

### Croatia

Miloš Đurđević

*Der Sonnenstich von Umbrien und andere Gedichte  
(The Sunstroke of Umbria and other Poems)*

Aleksandra Kardum

*Ich folge dir (I Follow You)*

Nebojša Lujanović

*Die Orgel aus Waldsassen  
(The Organ from Waldsassen)*

### Latvia

Leons Briedis

*Die Handschrift des Zwielfichts (The Mark of Twilight)*

Margarita Perveņeckā

*Gaetāno Krematos. Erinnerungen an das Licht  
(Gaetāno Krematos. Memories of the Light)*

Lithuania*Herkus Kuncius**Ein Litauer in Vilnius (A Lithuanian in Vilnius)**Giedra Radvilavičiūtė**Diese Nacht werde ich an der Wand schlafen  
(Tonight I Will Sleep by the Wall)**Rimvydas Stankevičius**Die allereinfachsten Zaubersprüche. Poetische Rituale  
(The Very Simplest Magic Spells. Poetic Rituals)*Poland*Radoslaw Kobierski**Das Land Nod (The Land of Nod)**Marcin Orliński**Die Parade der Draisinen  
(The Parade of the Rail Trolleys)**Dariusz Sośnicki**Zehn Gedichte aus: Von Dingen and Menschen  
(Ten Poems from: Of Things and People)*Romania*Ioana Baetica Morpurgo**Die Immigranten (The Immigrants)**Lucian Dan Teodorovici**Bruno Matei*Russia*Anastasija Afanasjewa**Weiße Mauern (White Walls)**Sachar Prilepin**Notizen auf dem Weg aus dem Sumpf  
(Notes on the Way out of a Quagmire)**Igor Wischnewitzkij**Leningrad: Erzählung (Leningrad: A Story)*Serbia*Saša Ilić**Der Fall Kolumbiens (The Fall of Colombia)**Goran Korunović**Gastfreundschaften (Hospitalities)**Slobodan Tišma**Bernardis Zimmer (Bernardi's Room)*Slovakia

Zuzana Mojžišová

*Bon voyage*

Nóra Ružičková

*Küstenforschung (Coastal Research)*

Slovenia

Mojca Kumerdej

*Dunkle Materie (Dark Matter)*

Peter Svetina

*Langsamer Nachmittag (Slow Afternoon)*

Czech Republic

Ondřej Buddeus

*55 007 Zeichen inklusive Leerzeichen*

*(55,007 Characters Including Spaces)*

Sylva Fischerová

*Die Passage (The Passage)*

Martin Ryšavý

*Vrač*

Turkey

Mine Söğüt

*Herr Madam Arthur und alles in ihrem Leben*

*(Mister Madam Arthus and Everything in Her Life)*

Murat Uyrkulak

*Bazuka*

Ukraine

Petro Jazenko

*Lemberger Saga (Lviv Saga)*

Bohdana Matijasch

*Deine geliebten Hunde und andere Tiere*

*(Your Beloved Dogs and Other Animals)*

Olena Zakhartschenko

*Die sieben Tore (The Seven Gates)*

Hungary

Attila Ménes

*Dauerwelle kalt (Perm Cold)*



Member of  UniCredit

*Gábor T. Szántó*

*Edina Szvoren*

*Geschmack der Befreiung (The Taste of Liberation)*

*Per Du (On a First-Name Basis)*