

Gothenburg International Poetry Festival #18

MERCI POESI

KULTURRÅDET



BIBLIOTEKEN
I BORÅS



We are welcoming you to the 18th edition of the International Poetry Festival 'Merci Poesi', which is taking place from the 9th to the 11th of September.

Enjoy our festival's various performances which include contemporary poetry, music, dance, interviews, and slide shows by various artists and photographers.

Merci Poesi is Gothenburg's international poetry festival, which will be held for the 18th year in a row, in September 2022, in collaboration and support by the City of Gothenburg, Västra Götaland Region, the Swedish Arts Council and in collaboration with Gothenburg, Borås, Alingsås City Libraries and several other organizations.

The Merci Poesi Team

Director

Program

Welcome participants and guests of the 18th edition of the international poetry festival of
Merci Poesi 9th-11th September 2022

Alingsås bibliotek, Friday 9 September

18.00 Music	Karavan Ensemble (Göteborg)
18.15 Poetry	Jasim Mohamed (Uppsala)
18.30 Poetry	Mona Monaser (Malmö)
18.45 Poetry	Jean-Baptiste Para (Paris)
19.00 Music	Karavan Ensemble (Göteborg)
19.15 End	

Göteborg Stadsbibliotek, Saturday 10 September

14.00 Music	Centrifug (Göteborg)
14.15 Poetry	Jean-Baptiste Para (Paris)
14.30 Poetry	Helena Boberg (Stockholm)
14.45 Poetry	Dominic Williams (Wales)
15.00 Music	East & West (Göteborg)
15.15 Poetry	Kennet Klemts (Göteborg)
15.30 Poetry	Ingela Strandberg (Grimeton)
15.45 Poetry	Jasim Mohamed (Uppsala)
16.00 Music	Karavan Ensemble (Göteborg)
16.15 Poetry	Bitá Malakuti (Prag)
16.30 Poetry	Mona Monaser (Malmö)
16.45 Dance	(Iran-Khorasan) Maryam Saberi
16.50 Film	Spring House, Nahid Rezaei (Tehran)
17.40 Slut	

Borås Bibliotek, Sunday 11th September

14.00 Music	Karavan Ensemble (Göteborg)
14.15 Poetry	Mona Monaser (Malmö) Jasim Mohamed (Uppsala)
14.30 Poetry	Jasim Mohamed (Uppsala)
14.45 Poetry	Bitá Malakuti (Prag)
15.00 Music	Karavan Ensemble (Göteborg)
15.15 End	

Hosts: Sahar Ghorbani och Mattias Ekerhorn

Musicians, poets and artist should be present at least 1 hour before the program starts.
Personal will be present for assistance and questions at least 2 hours before.

All times are approximate!

Info@mercipoesi.se

Mercipoesi.se



Helena Boberg

Foto: Lina E. Adamo

Helena Boberg (1974) är aktuell med sin fjärde diktsamling, *Röd melankoli* (Norstedts förlag, 2022). Hennes förra bok *Konsten at med hvissa metodiska rörelser hemkalla en hädangången til lifvet* (Anti, 2020) nominerades till Sveriges Radios lyrikpris. Boberg är redaktör för poesisajten Örn och Kråkan, redaktionsmedlem i tidskriften Kritiker och verkar som översättare av dansk poesi.

Var det en böld en kvarksugga eller kristallrosor

som växte ur min kropp bisarr automat med rörliga

döva inälvor upptagna med att processa

pulserande muskelflätor mineralmassor cell-

nebulosor maniskt makulerande



Foto: Cato Lein

Kennet Klemets

Kennet Klemets bor i Göteborg. Hans senaste bok, *Det tunna skiktet mellan det ändliga och oändliga*, kom ut förra året och är den tredje och avslutande delen i en triologi som också består av *All denna öppenhet som kommer* (2011) och *På dess naturliga plats* (2018).

Ändra inget nu. Låt det vara.

Precis såhär.

Allt står stilla utom molnen.

Precis såhär.

Som rör sig snabbt, allt snabbare.

En röst frågar om jag är jag, om jag tycker om musik, om mitt liv är verkligt.
Som den gången för länge sen.
Om jag lever i mig, om jag tycker om mig själv.

Jag vill svara ja.

Jag vill säga att det flödar genom mig.
När allt rörde sig allt snabbare.

Längst därinne, att det flödar i mig.
Rött, gult, grönt.

Som att jag är öppen, att det flödar genom mig.

Ur Det tunna skiktet mellan det ändliga och det oändliga (Pequod Press, 2021)



Photo: Narcis Zahed

Bita Malakouti

I was born in the capital of Iran on a snowy afternoon at the beginning of winter. My name is taken from a New Wave movie before the Islamic revolution. Growing up under turbulent, war-stricken, and bloody circumstances, I found my redemption in theatre, literature, and poetry. Now in my middle age, I am still that sorrowful exile, however lucky.

In memorial of Syrian ruined houses and Klimt's masterpiece: *The Kiss*.

Kiss

The first floor:

Here lived a woman,
Who used to sew jackets for the soldiers
Out of the satin of her body
Her veins were all threads
Her bones all needles.

Second floor:

Here were all residents' children
Their names: Tooth, Sigh, Chair, Navel, Dandelion.
Receiving no caress,
A new-born baby was raining
In the bowl of his eyelids.

The last floor:

Here lived a lonely man
In a mined 4 letter word,
The Kiss.

Translator: Fereshteh Vazirinasab

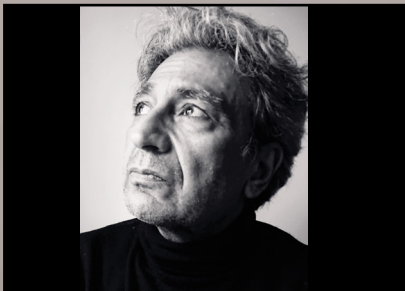


Foto: Jasim Mohamed

Jasim Mohamed

Född 1962 i staden Ur i Irak. Studier i bl a statskunskap i Belgrad, bosatt i Uppsala och Aten. Poet och översättare; debuterade 2005 med *Övningar in i ett annat språk*. Har tolkat en mängd poesi från arabiska till svenska, och svensk poesi till arabiska – däribland Bruno K Öijers *Trilogin*. Han har fått Svenska Akademiens pris för introduktion av svensk kultur utomlands och *Samfundet De Nios Vinterpris 2022*. Våren 2022 utkom med sin fjärde diktsamling, *Uppror mot ingen*.

Litteraturkritikern och författaren Gordana Spasic skriver om den boken i *Örnen & Kråkan*: ”Bra böcker kan aldrig vara likgiltiga inför världen. Till dessa hör *Uppror mot ingen*, som i sin oängslighet är det roligaste som hänt svensk poesi på mycket länge”.

Uppländska nocturner

skinande taggar
epok efter epok
förda ända till ditt skelett
gör dig levande
skinande taggar
förda till din mun
epok efter epok
gör din vägran att tala
ännu mer talande
dessa skinande taggar
vida blickar lagda in i din blick
förblindar dig
dessa skinande tistlar
är sommarnattens giftiga mærg
av dig lär jag mig försvinnandet
och av en guds död
närvaro

så jämngönt är gräset
så jämngön så lång och oböjlig
din skugga
så jämngönt och så öppet
ditt hus
så jämngönt ditt fönster mot jorden
så jämngön din bädd
så jämngön din förtvivlan
så jämngön summan av ditt liv

samma vilda gräs
samma flod, samma
vida hav, samma berg, samma moln
samma saknad
namnlösa förblir de drunknade, som om
inga årtusenden har förflutit, samma
håpnad i mig
varje gång vi möts av slump eller
på avtalad tid



Foto: Aimé Dabbadie

Mona Monasar

Mona Monasar (f.1998), poet och skribent bosatt i Malmö. Född och uppvuxen i stockholmsförorten Tensta.

Dikter ur *Modersmål*

Moders mål

Hon bänder upp min mun
gråter viskar i mitt öra
Förtär din moders mål
Svälj din tunga, gör plats för ditt modersmål
Låt det fylla dig
När du tar ditt sista andetag
spotta ut din tunga och säg orden
orden jag matat dig med från din födsel
Ge mig tillbaka vad jag sått
Ge mig tillbaka det du fått

Om morgonen

Min mamma dör varje morgon
sedan väcker vi henne
Min mamma vaknar till ett främmande språk
som hennes hjärna inte hinner översätta
Min mamma drömmer
mardrömmar varje natt
så att vi kan sova lugnt
Min mamma rev sönder
sitt pass
sitt språk
sin familj
så att vi skulle överleva här
Min mamma dör varje morgon
sedan väcker vi henne



Jean-Baptiste Para

Foto: Sophie Kandaouroff

Born in Paris in 1956, Jean-Baptiste Para is a French poet, art critic, essayist, translator and editor in chief of the French Journal Europe, which was founded in 1923. The author of five volumes of poetry, his poems have been translated into half a dozen languages. He has been awarded the Apollinaire Poetry Prize and his translations of Italian and Russian poets have also won several prizes, including the Nelly Sachs Prize. He also directs the foreign poetry section “*D’une voix l’autre*” for the literary press Cheyne and co-produced the program “*Poésie sur parole*” for France Culture from 1994 to 2004.

Iaromira Vasyugan Swamp

Forgive me if I whisper sad things in your ear
When I hear the sound of my footsteps in my bones

A silence saved me from the word
Another silence will save the word

And the wind will be my dwelling
*

I've seen the stars swim and I've seen the hare's lovely loins
I've learned in going from river to river
That nothing was truly far away
I've long turned a ring upon my finger
I've learned that thought was different in the cold

And the wind will be my dwelling
*

It could snow in the whole expanse of my veins
Patience was in me like the bread on the table
My thumbs fashioned faces of clay
With my left hand I knew how to aerate the milk
There was in my eyes a bit of amber
A bit of the green of our swamps

And the wind will be my dwelling
*

We were the same as rivers
In the excesses of the spring

The day the horses cried
I stored away deprivation

And the wind will be my dwelling
*

You who close your eyes
As if you were about to sing
Do you feel this tiny heart
In which light persists
Like a wounded bee?
The peat bogs are an archive of the earth
Beneath our feet – centuries of pollen
In the sky – the cranes' farewell

And the wind will be my dwelling
(...)

Translation: Alexander Dickow



Ingela Strandberg

Foto: Sara Mac Key

Ingela Strandberg lives in Grimeton in Halland, Sweden. She has written numerous poetry collections, novels and also music for the album, *Låt dom aldrig ta dig*. She has published works in both english and french. In french there is the novel *Le Royaume des Bois Délans' Agone editions*. In english there is the work *Dreamt About Sam Shepard Last Night, Marrick Press*. She was the winner of both the Karlfeldt and the Fröding awards this year.

The Dog

Today I saw from a distance
the tattooed man fetch the nights mail

With sunshine he opened
the buds of the Angels' Blush
in the chaotic garden

In each corner a rolled-up
measuring-tape of Time
We lie in each of them
and each on our own

A few narrow arcsecond separate
me and the tattooed man
But about that he knows nothing yet
We shared a dog

It's called the tenderness of nothingness

From *'I Dreamt About Sam Shepard Last Night'*,

Marrick Press

Translation: Göran Malmqvist



Photo: Dai Eastwood

Dominic Williams

Dominic Williams is a poet, a performer and creative mentor. Dominic is one half of the improvised spoken-word and movement act, *Your Strangest Friend*, with contemporary dancer Stina Nilsson and part of the FYD collective, an international group of contemporary artists from Serbia, Sweden, Croatia and Wales. He is also the literary coordinator for the Swedish organisation Kultivera based in Tranås. In 2016 he collaborated on a poetry performance piece with Jonas Bengt Svensson and has worked with American film-maker Georg Koszulinski with film and poetry. Dominic is a poetry editor and has cooperated with poets translating work from Bengali, Turkish, Serbian and Swedish. Dominic also lectures at the Institute of Education and Humanities at the University of Wales Trinity Saint David. He has taught creative writing at other institutions in Ireland and Sweden. His latest publications are *Pen & Paper: Punks in Print, an illustrated lyric essay* (Kultivera Productions, 2021) and *En galen man på tåget*, a collection of his poetry translated into Swedish (Magnus grehn förlag, 2022). In summer 2022 a vinyl album will be released which includes some of Dominic's poetry accompanied by a three-piece punk band. The project, *Unbearable Error*, also features poetry from other contributors in Spanish, Serbian and Swedish.

Empty Chairs

The cobbled streets of the old town
tired her mind
she had circled the palace
so many times
carrying coachloads of tourists.

The single ember of a failed marriage
had levered her into words
And documents
International acclaim for systems
and procedures

Total Quality Assurances
the Japanese philosophy of sharing
a love of giving
Aros am Hireath
she sighed
the ache of
absence of absence
in happiness

One day she will be
the low tide lapping
around the legs of two empty chairs
placed deliberately before
two full glasses of wine on a small table



Nahid Rezaie

Photo: Bianca Lyon

Nahid Rezaei, born in 1963 in Tehran is an Iranian director and producer. She studied cinematography at Paris VIII University and now lives In Tehran.

Since her return, she has been working as a documentary film maker and producer in several films and co-operated with other filmmakers.

She was the director of Iranian Documentary Filmmakers' association in 2004.

"Documentary Film Week" is an event she held in 2005 at the Documentary Filmmakers Association entitled "From Cinematograph to Digital Cinema".

Also in 2010 she held a conference on "The Manifestation of Everyday Life in Documentary Cinema" in collaboration with Association of the documentary filmmakers.



'Spring House, a movie directed by Nahid Rezae

On a trip to lands near the Iran-Pakistan border, the filmmaker is acquainted with Bahar, who had made a part of his house into a library for the village children. The friendship continues and years later he invites her to his village in order to hold a filmmaking workshop for the children. The filmmaker took the opportunity to document their stories.



Photo: Vintage

Centrifug

Centrifug was formed back in 1982 and after a long pause, the band was resurrected again in 2017.

With newly written material, Centrifug moves between rock, pop and country, touching on topics such as racism, injustice, consumerism and unhappy love.

Their music is available on Spotify.



Photo: East & West Trio

East & West Trio

East and West Trio is a newly created ambition with trained musicians from different countries and different cultures who write their own songs. The Vocalist is Anna Astakhova, while percussion is played by Jorge Garcia and acoustic guitar by Babak Fadavi.



Photo: Bidad

Bidad

Bidad is one of the music groups from The Karavan association. They play and sing traditional and classical music from the Turkish, Persian, Azerbadjan, Kurdish and Afghan cultures.



Mitra Bakhshesh

Photo: Abdi Doroud

Mitra is an art curator, she has selected some art pictures for our slide show. Mitra is an artist and art teacher in ABF, Studieförbundet.

Artists and photographers:

1. Hosein Mokarami
2. Reza Ghaziani
3. Reza Milani
4. Abi Doroud
5. Jiwan Mir
6. Hadi Naderipour
7. Sahar Amini Tabrizi
8. Aida Najafzadeh
9. Sara Meshkinfam
10. Kimia Saadat
11. Mehdi Javdani
12. Saeed Abdolbaghi
13. Pegah Hesari
14. Fariba Fazaei
15. Farshid Parsikia
16. Mani Gholami
17. Ali Khosravi
18. Mahboobe Bakhshesh
19. Mattias Ekerhorn
20. Ali Naderi

The organizers of Merci Poesi

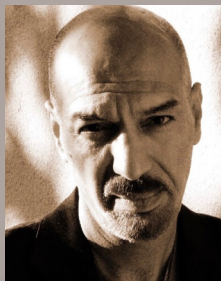


Photo: Karl Jantzen

Ali Naderi

Poet, filmmaker and visual artist that works at Sveriges Television. He has published 3 poetry collections in Persian. A selection of his poems where published in 2014 in a Swedish translation: *Väntans konturer* (Nordient Förlag). Ali Naderi is also the initiator and project leader of MerciPoesi.



Photo: Mattias Ekerhorn

Sahar Ghorbani

Aspiring writer and translator based in Sweden. She is a translator, host and project leader assistant of Merci Poesi.



Photo: Nazanin Ghorbani

Mattias Ekerhorn

Painter and literature enthusiast from Gothenburg. He is a translator, host and project leader assistant of Merci Poesi.

Project Manager

Ali Naderi

Hosts

Sahar Ghorbani Mattias Ekerhorn

Crew

Rebecca Persson

Badee Naderi

Hasti Naderi

Björn Lauritsen

Media Manager

Faraz Naderi

Video producing and Camera

Nezam Shams

Sound technician

Fariborz Karami

Still Photpgraphy

Mitra Bakhshesh

Azadeh Guadel

Studio technician

Siamak Nazari

Special thanks to

Malin Andersson

Dubravco Gerdic

Fariborz Karami

Sofia Gräsberg

Maria Hessman

Kennet Kelemets

Elisabet Karlsson

Shamsi Naimai

Rasoul Nejadmehr

Farideh Rava

Sven Rånlund

Christer Boberg

Linda Andersson

Ylva Gustavsson

Hiva Alahyari

Karavan association

With support of

Göteborgs stad,

Västra Götalandsregionen,

Statens kulturråd

In collaboration with

Stadsbiblioteket Göteborg

Alingsås kulturhus

Alingsås biblioteket

Borås kulturhus

Biblioteket i Borås

Göteborgs Litteraturhus

Karavan

Participating poets

Helena Boberg

Kennet Klemets

Bitra Malakouti

Jasim Mohamed

Mona Monasar

Jean-Baptiste Para

Ingela Strandberg

Dominic Williams

Film Workshop:

Nahid Rezaei in

‘What role does poetry play in her movie,

‘Profession: Documentarist’?’

Music:

Centrifug

East & West Trio

Bidad ensemble

The logo consists of a square with a double border. Inside the square, the words 'MER', 'CI', 'POE', and 'SI' are stacked vertically in a bold, sans-serif font.

MER
CI
POE
SI

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Instagram @MerciPoesi

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