



SLOVENIA

GUEST OF HONOUR AT
FRANKFURTER BUCHMESSE 2023

HONEYCOMB OF WORDS

THURSDAY, 15th of June 2023

11.00–12.00, Protestant Academy (Evangelische Akademie), Frankfurt

GUEST OF HONOUR AT THE FRANKFURT BOOK FAIR 2023: SLOVENIA - HONEYCOMB OF WORDS
Press Conference

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Chair: Torsten Casimir

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Honeycomb of words

Slovenia is a diverse country in the heart of Europe. Three major ecosystems meet in its territory: the Pannonian Plain, the Alps and the Mediterranean Sea, making it one of the most biologically diverse European countries in terms of the number of animal and plant species per square kilometre. Bees play a very important role in maintaining this diversity: without their pollination skills, our colourful world would turn into a dreary desert.

Slovenia also lies at the crossroads of four European language groups. Slovenian is a Slavic language and the Romance, Germanic and Finno-Ugric language groups meet at its borders. Over the centuries, playwrights, poets, writers, journalists, teachers, priests and, above all, those who write and speak Slovenian have shaped their language into a dynamic means of communication at this unique European crossroads of languages and cultures. Even though relatively few people speak Slovenian, it can be used to write love sonnets, detective stories and novels, or to discuss quantum mechanics and psychoanalysis.

Because of the small number of Slovenian speakers and its transit location, Slovenian intellectuals and writers have traditionally been multilingual, and many of them also wrote in at least one foreign language. That's where our enthusiasm for the title *Honeycombs of Words* comes from. Just as small bees fly immeasurably long distances out into the world and return home with a drop of nectar and a grain of pollen, so too did various cultural, artistic and intellectual influences pollinate Slovenian language and culture with numerous translations. In addition, there were the contributions of authors who came from elsewhere to live in Slovenia. These influences have shaped the authors writing in the Slovenian language into a diverse, but at the same time unique, dynamic and original literary microcosm. This has resulted in a culture that reflects European diversity which is also unique and original. It is an independent cell that knows it owes its existence and development to being part of the honeycomb of humanity.

Slovenia appears small and marginal, just as bees appear small and marginal at first glance. But in both cases appearances are deceptive. The world is big, beautiful and colourful, thanks for the most part to marginal creatures and cultures.

Information on Slovenian Book Production and Literary Landscape

1. The Slovenian literary landscape during the last 30 years.

The aim of this section is to accurately present the main trends in Slovenian book production in previous decades, from fiction to the School of Psychoanalysis in Ljubljana. This section also includes foreign authors who live in Slovenia but do not write in Slovenian, as well as Slovenian authors who live abroad and/or write in a foreign language. We would like to focus in particular on Alma M. Karlin, who represents a unique bridge between German and Slovenian culture and whose lifestyle has overturned many prejudices of her era.

2. Slovenian book authors worldwide.

The most translated Slovenian authors from all literary genres will present themselves in numerous panels, round-table discussions and literary readings. The Slovenian presence in Frankfurt will inevitably engage in reflection on European and global problems. We are expecting contributions from renowned philosophers in the form of individual contributions or round tables. Many Slovenian fiction writers whose works are available in German will engage in dialogue with their German contemporaries. We will pay special attention to children's books and announce Slovenia's presence as the guest of honour in Bologna 2024. We will also prepare an exhibition of illustrations by the best contemporary Slovenian illustrators.

3. Small publishing markets in Europe.

We will explore the questions of what distinguishes small markets from large ones and where their innovation and breakthrough come from with others publishers also working in small book markets in numerous round tables, lectures and panels. The central questions leading our discussions are twofold: how can a brand emerge from a small book culture and what paths do authors have to take if they want to be successful internationally? We are interested in exploring how authors and publishers can achieve these two goals. Of particular important in this section are the topics of multilingualism and multiculturalism that are typical features of small markets, paying special attention to authors who write in several languages. The focus here is on non-fiction.

4. The importance of deep reading in the Screen Age

Because this is the most international section, we will organise a number of debates on the positive consequences of book reading in the Screen Age and on new innovative approaches to promote book reading.

The programme at the Frankfurt Book Fair 2023

Slovenia will present itself in Frankfurt as a modern, culturally developed, politically dynamic and tourism-friendly country with a rich literary culture. The latter has a long and important tradition in Slovenia, which is also demonstrated by the fact that two important Slovenian literary personalities are depicted on the "national" euro coins: Primož Trubar, a 16th century priest and author of the first book in Slovenian, and France Prešeren, an excellent poet, guardian of the Slovenian language as well as a critic of Slovenian provincialism and the leading Slovenian figure of the 19th century. Due to the political situation of Austria/Austria-Hungary and Yugoslavia (especially the second socialist Yugoslavia), the best and most talented Slovenian intellectuals engaged in literature or culture rather than politics for most of Slovenia's history. As Slovenia developed economically, socially, technologically, politically and culturally, which reached one of its peaks with independence and integration into the EU, literature finally lost its role as a safe haven for ambitious young people.

While Slovenian book production was traditionally oriented outwards, it was still inaccessible to foreign readers: the works of Slovenian authors were rarely translated into other languages, even though Slovenian publishing houses had an open-door policy regarding translations. This began to change during the last two decades, and the trend to translate Slovenian works received a significant boost due to the preparations for the role as guest of honour in Frankfurt. Between 2019 and 2022, more than 600 translations of Slovenian works were published in all languages, which is almost three times as many as before the start of the activities surrounding the Frankfurt Fair; about a fifth of them have been translated in German-speaking countries. The great identity-forming role of the Slovenian mountains and love of nature will play a role as a theme at the Frankfurt Book Fair 2023, as will literature, philosophy and sports enthusiasm, for example, when it comes to alpinism and skiing. Different panels on the book industry will deal with reading promotion and the importance of deep reading as cognitive training in digitally volatile times. The second important topic here will be methods and ways of selling rights from small markets in a global context. In total, more than 70 authors will be guests.

The preliminary cultural programme for the Guest of Honour country at the Frankfurt Book Fair 2023

My neighbour on the cloud. A comprehensive anthology of Slovenian poetry of the 20th and 21st centuries (ed. Göritz, Šteger, Maček) will be presented at various locations in Austria and Germany during the summer of 2023.

For the first time, a bilingual anthology invites you to explore the full richness of Slovenian poetry from the beginning of the 20th century to the present. An odyssey is planned for early June with Slovenian poets, including Lucija Stupica, Miljana Cunta and Ana Pepelnik, together with the book's editors (Matthias Göritz, Amalija Maček and Aleš Šteger). The programme includes stopovers at the Literaturhaus Kiel, the Lyrikkabinett München and the Musil-Haus in Klagenfurt. An accompanying video artist will transform it into a poetic road movie entitled, An Odyssey to the Frankfurt Book Fair 2023.

Poetry machine on tour in June 2023

After the finissage at the Literaturhaus Leipzig, the Slovenian poetry automat "My neighbour on the cloud" will visit a festival at the Kunsthaus Graz. Another poetry vending machine will open at the Lyrik Kabinett in Munich on 14 June 2023 and present among other works 15 Slovenian poets in both original and translated versions.

Buzzing Slovenia: Of Bees and People, 13 June 2023 to 14 April 2024. An Exhibition at the Museum of European Cultures (Museum Europäischer Kulturen), Berlin

Green Slovenia is one of the most densely forested countries in Europe, with a rich diversity of plants growing from the Adriatic to the Alps - a true bee paradise! Due to Slovenia's initiative, the 20th May has been celebrated as World Bee Day since 2018. Did you know that Slovenia has the highest density of beekeepers in the world? Slovenian beekeeping and honey products are part of the national culture and represent living traditions, unique craftsmanship, sustainable use of resources and the harmonious coexistence of humans, animals and nature. However, persistent droughts and the use of insecticides in agriculture threaten the sustainability of nature and with it the well-being of the bees. The exhibition is accompanied by a densely packed four-week programme of events. Slovenian Cultural Days are being held in cooperation with the Embassy of the Republic of Slovenia in Berlin, the Slovenian Cultural Centre Berlin (SKICA Berlin), the Slovenian Tourist Office, the Slovenski etnografski muzej and the Čebelarski muzej Radovljica.

Days of Poetry and Wine in Ptuj, 21-26 August 2023

Days of Poetry and Wine is the largest international poetry festival, bringing together some of the best poets and artists from all over the world and the best Slovenian wines in the charming old town of Ptuj. As the festival has built up a loyal Slovenian and foreign audience base, all festival events are held in both Slovenian and English.

Bled Strategic Forum 2023, 28-29 August 2023

The 18th international conference of the Bled Strategic Forum will take place from 28 to 29 August 2023 on the theme of "Solidarity for Global Security". BSF 2023 will bring together a wide range of participants, including heads of state and government, ministers, diplomats, business people, academics and experts as well as youth and media from around the world. Participants will be provided with a platform to openly discuss, exchange views and find solutions to current regional and global challenges. In the run-up to the conference, Young BSF will take place in Ljubljana from 25 to 27 August. During the BSF there will be an exhibition of Slovenian books in translation and a special discussion on the meaning of Deep Reading.

Vilenica Festival in Lipica, 4-9 September 2023

The Vilenica International Literary Festival, a gathering of poets, prose writers, playwrights and essayists, is organised by the Slovenian Writers' Union. The festival is held annually in Lipica and in other locations in Slovenia. The focus this year is on German-language literature. Guests are Silke Scheuermann, Thomas Stangl and Ariane Koch.

Ensemble Modern presents Slovenian contemporary music in September and October 2023

Before the Frankfurt Book Fair focuses on this year's guest of honour, Slovenia, Ensemble Modern provides insights into the country's surprisingly diverse New Music scene at the Alte Oper Frankfurt on October 7, 2023 at 8 pm together with the conductor Lucie Leguay. The performance features "Book of Bodies" for soprano and ensemble by Vito Žuraj, based on poems by the Slovenian author Aleš Šteger. In "Q.M. (Quantum Mechanics)", Petra Stahovnik explores this very field of physics, while Nina Šenk has composed "Stump the Guesser", a score accompanying the eponymous silent film by the Canadian avant-garde filmmaker Guy Maddin and the brothers Evan and Galen Johnson Johnson. Another highlight to look forward to is the world premiere of "TEHNO" by Matej Bonin. In the "oldest" piece of the evening, dating to 2007, Vinko Globokar creates a surprising sonic cosmos, using experimental playing techniques and additional bird whistles. Ensemble modern presents the same programme in Bamberg, Maribor and Ljubljana before bringing it to Frankfurt.

28.09.2023, 7pm, Bamberg, Konzerthalle Bamberg, Hegel-Saal

01.10.2023, 7.30pm, Maribor, Dvorana Union Maribor

02.10.2023, 7.30pm, Ljubljana, Cankarjev dom Ljubljana
07.10.2023, 8pm, Frankfurt, Alte Oper

Mladen Dolar in conversation with Ruthard Stäblein on September 6th, 2023 at 8pm at the Romanfabrik: Contemporary Slovenian Philosophy in the Mirror of French: Aftermath of Derrida, Foucault and Lacan on Slavoj Žižek and Mladen Dolar.

The Slovenian philosopher and psychoanalyst Mladen Dolar and Slavoj Žižek have jointly published a book with Suhrkamp whose title speaks volumes: "What you always wanted to know about Lacan and never dared to ask Hitchcock". Next to Hegel, French psychoanalyst Jacques Lacan is Žižek's most important reference. His colleague at the University of Ljubljana and friend Mladen Dolar himself studied with Lacan in Paris and attended the seminars of Jacques Derrida as well as Michel Foucault in Paris. In the exchange with Žižek and in the separation from the neostructuralist French philosophers, Mladen Dolar has developed his own philosophy, which he will elaborate in conversation with Ruthard Stäblein, who frequented these French thinkers in Paris at the same time as Dolar.

Roman Rozina: Hundert Jahre Blindheit, September 12th, 8pm at Romanfabrik, Frankfurt

"Hundert Jahre Blindheit" (Klett-Cotta) tells of the rise and fall of a family. The massive social upheavals that characterize the eve of modernity do not stop at blind Matija and his environment. A monumental family novel from Slovenia that brings to life the European heritage of the 20th century. When a child is born into the Knap family on May 24, 1900, no one yet suspects that little Matija will remain blind for the rest of his life. And yet, as it later turns out, he is the only one who really faces the challenges that lie ahead for the family. The peasants in his family become workers. While industrialization increasingly promotes the socialist workers' struggle and the emancipation movement overturns family structures, the wars of the 20th century summon the soldiers like evil spirits. In his novel, Roman Rozina revisits before our eyes a century that we are still often blind to today.

France Prešeren and Slovenian Romanticism from 15th September to 25th November 2023 at the German Romanticism Museum (Deutsches Romantik-Museum), Frankfurt

Slovenian Romanticism, with its emphasis on folk poetry and national identity, developed under the influence of the French Revolution, German Romanticists and Italian Risorgimento. Probably the most important literary figure of his epoch is France Prešeren (1800 - 1849). A cabinet exhibition in the Romanticism Museum is dedicated to him in cooperation with the National and University Library of Slovenia, the University of Ljubljana and the Slovenian Cultural Centre in Berlin. The life and work of the poet, his literary roots and his influence on the younger generation of poets are presented on the basis of letters, translations and poetry manuscripts.

Grand Opening of the exhibition "Almas Grenzen und Marginalien – Die literarische Reise der Alma M. Karlin", introduction, opening speeches, guided tour, music, reception on September 15, 2023 at the Haus am Dom, Frankfurt/exhibition from 15th September to 23rd November, 2023

Curator Dr. Tanja Roženberger and host Gabrijela Kovačič share insights into the adventurous life of the German speaking author Alma M. Karlin, born in Celje. All by herself, she travelled the world during the 1920s. These experiences went into her extremely successful novels and articles for newspapers around the globe. Back in Celje she decided to hide a German journalist and protect him against the NS occupators. Threatened herself, she managed to flee and joined the partisans. She died poor and almost forgotten 1950. Her literature lives on. Music by the House of Culture, Celje, opening speeches by Stand Rozman, Director of the Celje Regional Museum, a member of the Ministry of Culture, Republic of Slovenia, and Dr. Lisa Straßberger, Head of Literature at Haus am Dom, Frankfurt.

"Hinter den neun Bergen. Slowenische Märchen" from mid-September 2023 until January 21, 2024 at Struwwelpeter Museum, Frankfurt

The exhibition presents fairy tale illustrations from Slovenia. The Slovenian writer Anja Stefan adapted and translated the fairy tales for the book "Behind the Nine Mountains". Ančka Gošnik-Godec and Zvonko Coh created imaginative, colourful visual worlds for it.

Workshop with Liza Linde: translation from Mojca Kumerdej: Unter die Oberfläche, 28th of September 2023 from 6pm to 8pm at Stadtbücherei Frankfurt Zentralbibliothek

Liza Linde translated some of the short stories compiled in this book in which the Slovenian author reveals the hidden thoughts of the protagonists. Liza Linde, born 1989 in Reutlingen, Germany, translates essays, lyrics and novels and she admires the richness of Slovenian short stories. Together with the audience Liza Linde translates a part of the book.

Zentralbibliothek, Lesecafé | with Weltlesebühne e.V. | The project is co-financed by Deutscher Übersetzerfonds e. V. und BDÜ Hessen as well as by the Republic of Slovenia and the European Union under the European Regional Development Fund and the Slovenian Book Agency JAK

"Hello! Who's there? Slovenian and German Mobile Phone History(ies)" from 17th September 2023 to Spring 2024 at the Museum for Communication (Museum für Kommunikation), Frankfurt

When mobile phones were still very new and people didn't know the location of the caller, they answered a call on their mobile phones with the words "Hello! Where are you? [Halo! Kje si?]" In our exhibition we answer the call with the words, "Hello! Who is this?" Using objects from collections from German and Slovenian museums as well as specific history of mobile phone usage, visitors will learn more about the technical milestones of mobile technology and the development of Slovenian and German mobile phone culture - from the turbulent beginnings of mobile communication in different political systems to its shared global development, both in the present and in the future.

Maruša Sagadin at the SCHIRN Kunsthalle Frankfurt from 21st September 2023 to 14th January 2024

Who builds what, where, and for whom? Maruša Sagadin (b. 1978) examines the social aspects of a building through the lens of architectural history. Her artistic work operates at the interface between private and public spaces and combines elements of architecture, sculpture, and painting. Sagadin employs humour and exaggeration in both her language of form and use of colour to reveal the mechanisms of inclusion and exclusion and to break with established codes of art observation. Her works draw on elements of pop and subculture as well as applied art in a playful and subversive manner. In the interplay between gender, language and sculpture, they subvert existing norms and address sculpture as a form of making visible. On the occasion of Slovenia's role as guest of honour at the Frankfurt Book Fair 2023, the artist is presenting new works in the rotunda of the Schirn Kunsthalle Frankfurt that reflect the specific nature of the semi-public space. CURATOR: Marie Oucherif

Veš, poet, svoj dolg! / You know your fault poet!: Retrospective of Slovenian cinema at the DFF - Deutsches Filminstitut & Filmmuseum in cooperation with Slovenska kinoteka (Slovenian Cinematheque) from October 3rd to 29th, 2023.

This year's retrospective on Slovenia as a film country focuses on works that explore film as an independent poetic art form. In the history of Slovenian film, which is primarily characterized by film adaptations of works from the Slovenian literary canon, film as visual poetry first had to establish its own place. The film series will present works by directors such as France Štiglic, Boštjan Hladnik, Matjaž Klopčič, Jan Cvitkovič, Igor Šterk, Janez Burger, Vlado Škafar, Matjaž Ivanišin, Ema Kugler, Špela Čadež, Dušan Kastelic and Karpo Godina, to whom an evening of short films is dedicated.

The retrospective, which opens with the first Slovenian feature-length film *V kraljestvu Zlatoroga* (In The Realm of Goldenhorn) by Janko Ravnik with live musical accompaniment by composer, conductor and pianist Andrej Goričar, includes 10 feature films and 18 short films by 19 directors. In addition, Ernst Lubitsch's *Als ich tot war* (When I Was Dead, 1916), a film that was considered lost until its discovery by the Slovenian Kinemathek in 1994 and for which composer Urban Koder wrote the music, will be shown in a special screening.

PARADISE, PERFORMANCE, REPLIKA. SLOVENIAN PHOTOGRAPHIC ART, 7 October 2023 to 7 January 2024 at Fotografie Forum Frankfurt

The play with repetition, the staging of roles, viewing the environment: as examples of contemporary photography from Slovenia, the Fotografie Forum Frankfurt (FFF) presents three artists who explore the boundaries of photography in an experimental approach. In her series *Birds of Paradise*, Vanja Bučan (*1973) dissects traditional roles of women with humorous surrealism. Jošt Dolinšek (*1997) questions the visual perception of nature, with images, sound and installation. With the idea of replicas and illusions in his works Bojan Radovič (*1960) offers a character of narrative and fiction. The exhibition *PARADISE, PERFORMANCE, REPLIKA. SLOVENIAN PHOTOGRAPHIC ART* is curated by Celina Lunsford, Artistic Director of the FFF, together with co-curator Andrea Horvay. The show is FFF's contribution to the Guest of Honour programme of Slovenia at Frankfurt Book Fair 2023.

Maja Haderlap & Maruša Krese: Nachtfrauen & Trotz alledem, October 19th, 8pm at Romanfabrik, Frankfurt

Maja Haderlap is deeply affected by Slovenian history. Her father was a Slovenian partisan and was tortured by the Nazis. She reflected this in her first novel, "Engel des Vergessens", which won the Bachmann Prize. In her new novel, "Nachtfrauen" (Suhrkamp), Haderlap again re- and deconstructs the story of her origins. The daughter visits her old, sick mother in a village in the border region between Austria and Slovenia. The brothers want to put the mother in a nursing home. The daughter does not agree, and during her visit and conversation with the mother in a Slovenian dialect, she explores her own history and that of the women in her family. On this evening, Haderlap, together with the son of the late author Maruša Krese, will also present her last novel. Uncompromisingly, Krese tells the story of her parents, children and countries in "Trotz alledem" (S. Fischer). She writes about Slovenian partisans during World War II, about the aftermath of communism in family and society, about student protests and about her life as a mother, writer and wife.

A Weekend of Slovenian Literature on 13th and 14th October 2023 at the Villa Clementine, Wiesbaden

Wiesbaden and Ljubljana have been twinned for almost 50 years – all the more appropriate that renowned Slovenian authors will be guests at the Villa Clementine Literature House as part of Slovenia's guest role at the Frankfurt Book Fair. The programme starts on Friday with a workshop for primary school classes with Manica Musil who will be presenting her artistic work there. On Friday evening Aleš Šteger, Nataša Kramberger and Mojca Kumerdej will read from their works. Saturday evening is dedicated to poetry, when Barbara Korun and another Slovenian poet join the German poets Matthias Göritz and Monika Rinck. These three events showcase the diversity of the Slovenian literary scene.

Tweets from the past. Archaeology of Slovenia in Sounds, Symbols and the Oldest Written Testimonies at the Archaeological Museum Frankfurt from October 13, 2023 to March 17, 2024

The purpose of the planned exhibition is to present the archaeology of Slovenia exemplarily on the basis of three specific object genres:

1. archaeological objects associated with sound and music.
2. exhibits that bear emblematic symbols, or those that are symbols themselves.
3. objects bearing the earliest written testimonies.

All of these exhibits allow the public to gain a deeper insight into the world through their sounds, emblematic symbols or texts, provide the public with a deeper insight into the spirituality, life and world explanation of the people of prehistory, antiquity and the early Middle Ages. The exhibits testify to man's deep need to express of the abstract, the use of symbols, and the permanent recording of stories, vows, or informal texts. They are clear markers of the development of human creativity, which eventually led to one of its high points - the book.

Introduction to Slovenian Literature on October 15, 2023 in the Haus am Dom, Frankfurt

Right at the beginning of the Bookfair an introduction into the literature of this year's Guest of Honor: Andreas/ Andrej Leben of Graz University presents the Slovenian literary history and gives insights into the present literary scene, both in Slovenia and Austria. He is a member of the Slovenian population in Austria and experienced in cultural transfer and remembrance, translation and multilingualism. The host is Martin Maria Schwarz, hr2-kultur, featured by Kultur & Bahn e.V. and Haus am Dom, Frankfurt.

HOW(EVER) - Art Book Festival from 18th to 22nd of October 2023 at Portikus, Frankfurt

HOW(EVER) is an event that explores contemporary forms of publishing artists' books and offers a glimpse into the remarkable practices of over 200 publishers, artists*, and bookmakers to showcase a diversity of approaches to book making. In an effort to rethink the approach to artists' publications and to highlight the diversity of forms and media in this field, Portikus will present a selection of purchasable art books and zines from all continents in an on-site installation. On the occasion of Slovenia's guest of honor appearance at this year's Frankfurt Book Fair, Slovenian designer and architect Saša J. Mächtig will present a series of a K67 kiosk designed in 1966 at Portikus and use it as both a walk-in installation and display space for the curated book selection.

Laibach concert on 19th October 2023 at the Jahrhunderthalle, Frankfurt

As part of the Frankfurt Book Fair 2023, the Slovenian band, Laibach, will play an exclusive concert in Germany at the Jahrhunderthalle in Frankfurt on the 19th October, 2023. The collective, 'a/political', and the Slovenian Book Agency, 'JAK', present Alamut, an original symphonic work by the retro-avant-garde group Laibach, composed in collaboration with Iranian composers and performers. Alamut is an original symphonic and multimedia spectacle based on a famous story from eleventh-century Persia. In Laibach's Alamut, ideas of radical nihilism are interwoven with the classical Persian poetry of Omar Khayyam; the sensual verses of Mahsati Ganjavi merge with minimalist orchestral colours from Iranian tradition. For the performance in Frankfurt, the RTV Slovenia Symphony Orchestra will be conducted by Iranian conductor Navid Gohari. The book of the same name by Vladimir Bartol is a bestseller in Slovenia.

Ideology Critique. Today! with Mladen Dolar, Rainer Forst, Martin Saar, Slavoj Žižek and Alenka Zupančič, moderated by Frank Ruda/20th of October at 7pm at Goethe Universität (Adorno Hörsaal VI Campus Bockenheimer)

The panel "Ideology Critique. Today!" will bring together major theorists of the Frankfurt School of Critical Theory and the Ljubljana School of Psychoanalysis and Philosophy – each presenting and speaking in their own name rather than as a school-representative – to critically discuss and test the potentials, limitations, and insights of different approaches to the critique of ideology today, in the face of a world in disarray. After a series of initial opening statements, the panel will address the contemporary crisis and present paradoxes of authority and sovereignty, it will discuss contemporary forms and ideologies of freedom and the social disorientations and perversions they (can) generate and reproduce, and it will ultimately attempt to analyze the contemporary form(s) of capitalism that we are living in and through.

"Mein Nachbar auf der Wolke" - Slovenian poetry of the 20th and 21st centuries on October 20th, 8 p.m. at Romanfabrik, Frankfurt

"Mein Nachbar auf der Wolke" (Hanser) is a comprehensive anthology of Slovenian poetry from the turn of the century to our own day. Slovenia is a small country with a great poetry. In our neighbor on the cloud, writing poetry has always been a survival strategy: from the avant-garde genius Srečko Kosovel, who prophesied the crisis of Europe already at the beginning of the 20th century, to the Catholic partisan Edvard Kocbek, to the poetry of the young poetry scene, which finds expression between techno and cross-border revolutions. For the first time, a bilingual anthology presents the entire wealth of Slovenian poetry from the beginning of the 20th century to the present. It not only traces the literary currents, but also pays tribute to the diverse linguistic minorities. With the authors: Gregor Podlogar, Stanka Hrastelj, Boris A. Novak, Milan Dekleva, Cvetka Lipuš, Brane Mozetič and Uroš Prah. The program will be led by the three editors: Ales Steger, Amalija Macek and Matthias Göritz. Reading of the German translations: Matthias Göritz. The program will be followed by DJ Gregor Podlogar.

Guest of Honour Pavilion

The slogan for the program – "Satovje besed" (Honeycomb of words) embodies the idea of connectivity, inclusivity, and the exchange of ideas, in terms of knowledge, culture, and literature.

It relates both to the cosmopolitan nature of the Slovene authors, who often went abroad and brought fresh ideas back home, as well as the geographic position of Slovenia, placed between the Alps, Mediterranean, and the Pannonia plains and at the crossroads of four European language groups - Romanic, Germanic, Finno-Ugric, and Slavic. All the above and rich historic background have shaped a distinct literary context.

The design of the pavilion derives from the messages of the slogan and aims at creating a variety of visitor experiences. A sustainable approach has been used concerning the choice of materials and the design of the elements so that they are made of or can be recycled or reused after the event.

The pavilion is spatially divided into the open space of the exhibition hall and the semi-transparent volume of the auditoriums. Auditoriums are positioned in the corners of the hall, while the open part is oriented towards the natural light and the view, thus becoming part of the experience. Upon entering, the visitor sees only part of the space, which arouses curiosity to explore the varied book landscape. During the day the naturally lit pavilion gives the impression of a vast book landscape while in the late afternoons and evenings, more intimate corners with ambient lights are created.

The path through the open part of the pavilion is defined by "Forest" bookshelves, "Open Book" elements, and "Canyon" seats. The elements are inspired by the natural Slovenian landscapes.

The "Forest" bookshelves are constructed using metal structures and recycled cardboard shelves and can be folded, reused, or recycled after the event.

The "Open Book" elements are an interactive tool for visitors to experience the works of the featured authors as well as educational digital content.

The "Canyon" seating is a custom-designed piece that creates a strong visual impression with integrated rosemary plants and allows visitors to rest, converse, experience a work of art, and read. They are placed in a composition that is inspired by the naturally flowing canyon.

Pieces of Slovene-designed furniture and equipment have been selected to accompany the custom-designed elements.

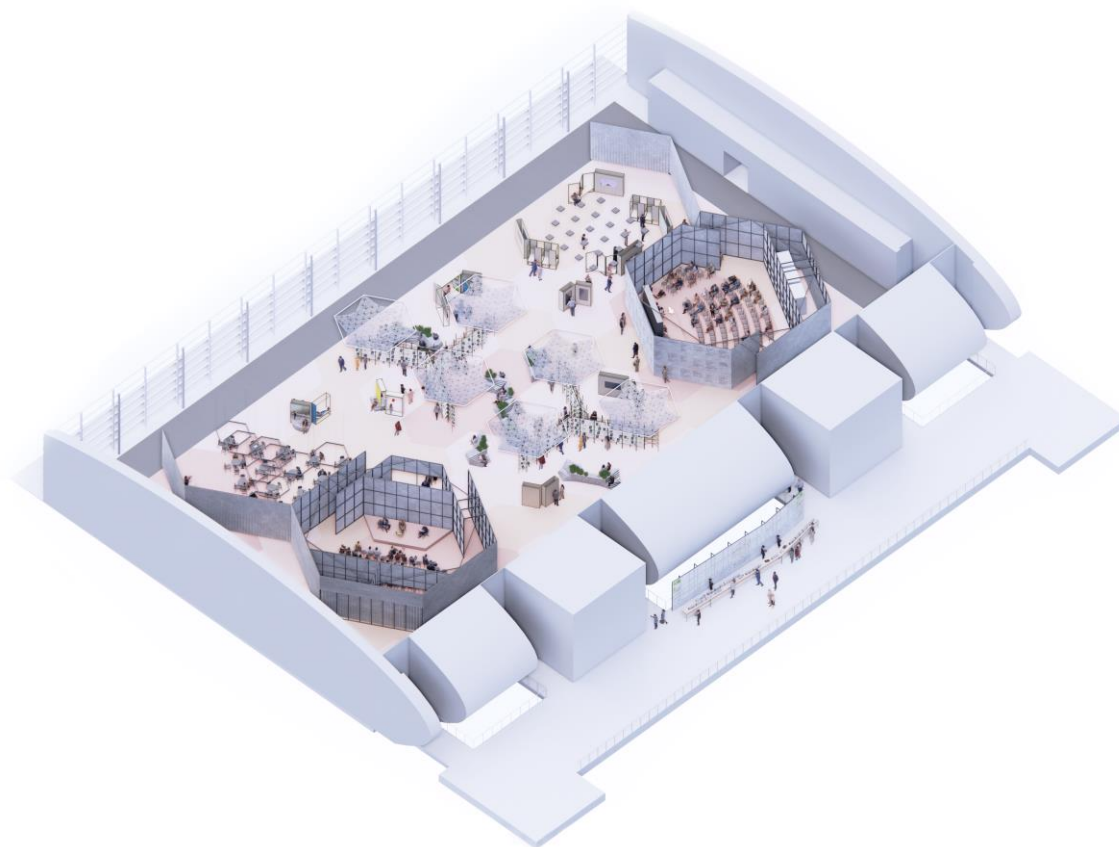
The focal point of the design is the Books on Slovenia exhibition which also features suspended artwork, to create a unique and memorable experience.

About the designers

Studio Sadar is a Ljubljana-based architectural and design practice founded in 2021 by Jure Sadar. The office is working internationally on a range of design, cultural, commercial and residential projects.

Jure Sadar studied architecture at the University of Ljubljana, where he received his master's degree. He worked at several architectural studios, including HHF in Basel, Switzerland, and Foster+Partners in London, UK, where he was involved in a number of large-scale projects in the UK, USA, and China. He founded Studio Sadar in 2021 in Ljubljana, Slovenia.

Urška Sadar is the co-author of the Guest of Honor Pavilion. She founded urskas', a design studio and a jewellery brand in 2019. Her designs are playful, exploring human scale and intended to evoke senses, often including sound and movement as an essential part of the experience. She also works on various commissioned product and interior design projects.



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List of authors traveling to Frankfurt in alphabetical order (as of 15th of June 2023)

- Zoe Ashwood
- Esad Babačić
- Gabriela Babnik Outtara
- Jana Bauer
- Sara Belin
- Andrej Blatnik
- Noah Charney
- Miljana Cunta
- Milan Dekleva
- Mladen Dolar
- Evald Flisar
- Maja Gal Štromar
- Tadej Golob
- Ida Mlakar Črnič
- Žiga X Gombač
- Maja Haderlap
- Jedrt Maležič
- Stanka Hrastelj
- Drago Jančar
- Dušan Jelinčič
- Erica Johnson Debeljak
- Maja Kastelic
- Jakob Kenda
- Samira Kentrić
- Jakob Klemenčič
- Barbara Korun
- Gaja Kos
- Helena Kraljič
- Gašper Kralj
- Nataša Kramberger
- Jela Krečič
- Mojca Kumerdej
- Cvetka Lipuš
- Florjan Lipuš
- Ana Marwan
- Nina Mav Hrovat
- Miha Mazzini
- Vinko Möderndorfer
- Brane Mozetič
- Anja Mugerli
- Manica K. Musil
- Boris A. Novak
- Gregor Podlogar
- Egon Pelikan
- Ana Pepelnik
- Uroš Prah
- Lila Prap
- Roman Rozina
- Renata Salecl
- Ana Schnabl
- Zoran Smiljanić
- Peter Svetina
- Brane Senegačnik
- Veronika Simoniti
- Robert Simonišek
- Dušan Šarotar
- Mojca Širok
- Anja Štefan
- Aleš Šteger
- Agata Tomažič
- Ifigenija Simonović
- Suzana Tratnik
- Boštjan Videmšek
- Goran Vojnović
- Brane Zorman
- Alenka Zupančič
- Slavoj Žižek

Press Conference Participants

KATJA STERGAR studied comparative literature. She is the Director of the Slovenian Book Agency and has been head of international cooperation since the agency was founded in 2009. Before that, she worked as a proof reader and editor and is still active as a literary critic and reading promoter. Since 2010, she has been the agency's representative in the Traduki network, and from 2019 to 2022 she led the *Euro-European Every Story Matters* project in Slovenia and since 2019 the project: *Slovenia, Guest of Honour at the 2024 Bologna Book Fair*.

JUERGEN BOOS has been Director and CEO of the Frankfurt Book Fair GmbH since 2005. Boos trained as a publishing bookseller at Herder Verlag in the 1980s and studied marketing and organisational theory. He was a manager at Droemer Knaur, at Carl Hanser Verlag and at Springer Science and Business Media (now Springer Nature) as well as at John Wiley & Sons. Boos is president of LITPROM (Society for the Promotion of Literature from Africa, Asia and Latin America) and executive director of LitCam (Frankfurt Book Fair Literacy Campaign).

MIHA KOVAČ, Slovenian Curator of: *Slovenia - Guest of Honour at the Frankfurt Book Fair 2023*, is professor of book studies at the University of Ljubljana. Prior to his academic career, he worked as a publisher at two of the largest Slovenian publishing houses and as editor-in-chief of the Slovenian edition of National Geographic magazine. His last book in Slovenian, *Berem, da se pobe-rem* (I read to stand on my own two feet), was translated into seven languages, he wrote *Never Mind the Web: Here Comes the Book* (Chandos Publications) in English and co-authored, *Is This a Book?* with Angus Phillips (Cambridge University Press). He co-edited a special issue of First Monday, *Reading in the Post-Textual Era*, with Adriaan van der Weel, which explores the differences between reading printed editions and reading on screen.

MATTHIAS GÖRITZ, German Curator of: *Slovenia - Guest of Honour at the Frankfurt Book Fair 2023*, is a poet, translator and novelist. He has published four collections of poetry (*Loops, Pools, Tools and Spools*), four novels, including *The Short Dream of Jakob Voss* (2005), *Parker* (2018) and *The Language of the Sun* (C. H. Beck 2023), and three novellas. He teaches at Washington University in St. Louis and has translated works by John Ashbery, Rae Armantrout, Mary Jo Bang, Max Porter, Boris Pahor and Aleš Šteger, among others. Göritz has received numerous awards, including the *Hamburg Literary Prize*, the *Mara Cassens Prize*, the *Robert Gernhardt Prize*, the *William Gass Prize* and most recently the *Pretnar Prize* in 2022. Göritz's own books have been translated into numerous languages.

AMALIJA MAČEK works as a Lecturer at the Faculty of Philosophy at the University of Ljubljana, where she teaches interpreting and translating from German into Slovenian. She is an accredited conference interpreter and literary translator (including Ilse Aichinger, Marlen Haushofer, Franz Kafka, Bertolt Brecht, Peter Handke, Josef Winkler, Ulrich Peltzer, Terézia Mora). In collaboration with Erwin Köstler, she led two *Vice Versa* workshops and received the *Fabjan Hafner Prize* in 2021. Since the founding of the *Slovenian Book Agency*, she has been a member of the agency's international commission which strives to make Slovenian literature more widely known in German-speaking countries. She is programme advisor for the Frankfurt 2023 project.

JURE SADAR studied architecture at the University of Ljubljana, where he received his master's degree. He worked at several architectural studios, including HHF in Basel, Switzerland, and Foster+Partners in London, UK, where he was involved in a number of large-scale projects in the UK, USA, and China. He founded Studio Sadar in 2021 in Ljubljana, Slovenia.