

  
**Lirikonfest XXI<sup>st</sup>**

**from 2002 to 2021**

LIRIKONFEST VELENJE / [www.lirikonfest-velenje.si](http://www.lirikonfest-velenje.si)

  
**Lirikonfest XXI<sup>st</sup>**

*Since 2002, a traditional **literary meeting in Velenje**, with international participation  
Poetry retreat / **Festival of lyrical and travelogue sensibility** / Lirikonfest climate:  
pre-festival: February – March / **mid-festival: June** / post-festival: **September** - December*

## **International literary meeting in Velenje - LIRIKONFEST**

1

**Lirikonfest Velenje** is a traditional year-round festival of 21<sup>st</sup> century lyrical arts – its main program being an **international literary meeting in Velenje** (in June or September) – which has been organized by **Velenje Literary Foundation Establishment** and **Velenika** literary association, in cooperation with foreign and Slovenian partners since 2002 (for the first five years, it was known as “Herberstein’s meeting of Slovenian authors with international participation”). **Ivo Stropnik**, an author, is the foundation’s initiator, as well as a program and organizational head of the festival.

**Lirikonfest Velenje** (“poetry retreat”, “festival of lyrical and travelogue sensibility”) has been embedded in the presentation and popularization of 21<sup>st</sup> century fine literature, its authors, translators, international intermediaries of Slovenian literature and language to other nations, organizers, editors and other experts in Slovenian, European and World literature for two and a half decades. It establishes and broadens **international literary collaboration**, especially with **original and translated 21<sup>st</sup> century poetry** and with a contemplation about the cognitive, cohesive and critical role of literature in European society and beyond.

**Lirikonfest's literary roundtables** are designed in terms of essays and debates regarding the **contemporary European literary themes**.

\* \* \*

**Lirikonfest Velenje** combines literary projects going back several years (established in Velenje between 2002 and 2022), and its main festival program each year consists of a live presentation of **21 Slovenian/European and other authors, translators, international intermediaries and other experts on contemporary European/World fine literature.**

**The year-round program of Lirikonfest Velenje** contains 21 productions, which are (through original and translated periodical publications in international anthology **Rp. Lirikon21**, at festival readings, literary roundtables, residential creative stays and other events) presented to around one hundred foreign and domestic authors, translators, international intermediaries and other 21<sup>st</sup> century fine literature experts each year.

Established as well as establishing European authors, translators, expert interpreters, editors, philosophers, aesthetes, international literary intermediaries and other experts and followers of original and translated fiction (especially 21<sup>st</sup> century poetry; since 2017 an original Slovenian travelogue has been included) are invited to **participate at Lirikonfest.**

**Lirikonfest's events** are open to public and they include a reading culture development program with literary subscriptions **I'm Devouring Books** (for adults and older youth) and **Chocolate with a Book** (for children and younger youth) and **Winged Turtle Tales** (selected Slovenian travelogues).

**Lirikonfest Velenje** envelopes basically all circles from which Slovenian literature spreads among the readers: it introduces the youngest to children literature; it enables younger authors to get their voices heard; it introduces the latest works of established Slovenian and foreign authors; it opens expert roundtables debates on the contemporary themes in Slovenian and European literature; it includes its own literary-periodical and fictional book production; it spreads the reading culture; it offers an assortment of literary events and demonstrates an **international literary collaboration** in Slovenian space and occasionally joins tours or presentations abroad.



# *Lirikonfest XXI<sup>st</sup>*



## **Poetic Slovenia Academy / Velenjica – the Goblet of Immortality**

**Poetic Slovenia Academy** has been a traditional literary-artistic event in Velenje since 2007 (beginning in 2006, on March 21<sup>st</sup> - World Poetry Day, and since 2008 included in the Lirikonfest program) with a gala all-Slovenian literary award ceremony. **Velenjica- the Goblet of Immortality** is a literary award for **10 years of outstanding adult poetry opus of a Slovenian author**, who has had an important impact on 21<sup>st</sup> century fine literature.

The **Velenjica – the Goblet of Immortality** should not be awarded to the same author twice (exception being a fresh outstanding poetry opus in a new decade). Thus far, the award has been received by the following distinguished Slovenian poets: 2006\* – **Andrej Medved**, 2007 – **Milan Vincetič**, 2008 – **Milan Dekleva**, 2009 – **Vinko Möderndorfer**, 2010 – **Boris A. Novak**, 2011 – **Milan Jesih**, 2012 – **Peter Kolšek**, 2013 – **Zoran Pevec**, 2014 – **Esad Babačić**, 2015 – **Maja Vidmar**, 2016 – **Peter Semolič**, 2017 – **Tone Škrjanec**, 2018 – **Iztok Osojnik**, 2019 – **Uroš Zupan**, 2020 – **Lidija Dimkowska**, 2021 – **Miklavž Komelj** ...

## **International Pretnar Award – honorary title »ambassador of poetry, Slovenian literature and language«**

The **International Pretnar Award** is the central Slovenian acknowledgment by a honorary title of »ambassador of poetry, Slovenian literature and language«, presented at the international literary meeting in Velenje since 2004. The initiator of the award is Ivo Stropnik, who used to be a student of professor Tone Pretnar for whom the award is named. The award is presented to the individuals (only exceptionally to pairs or groups of people) for their years' worth or one-time significant contributions to international networking or establishing the Slovenian literature and language abroad. It celebrates

the deserving cultural intermediaries (without discriminating between foreign and domestic citizens) who - in the spirit of Tone Pretnar (1945 – 1992) - are making an effort to introduce the poetry, Slovenian fine literature, Slovenian language and Slovenian authors to the world.

Thus far, the **International Pretnar Award** has been presented to the following literary intermediaries: 2004 – **Ludwig Hartinger** (Austria), 2005 – **František Benhart†** (Czech Republic), 2006 – **Gančo Savov** (Bulgaria), 2007 – **Božena Tokarz** and **Emil Tokarz** (Poland), 2008 – **Kari Klemelä** (Finland), 2009 – **Matjaž Kmecl** (Slovenia) and **Andrej Rozman** (Slovenia), 2010 – **Nadežda Starikova** (Russia), 2011 – **Peter Scherber** (Germany/Austria), 2012 – **Evgen Bavčar** (Slovenia/France) and **Orsolya Gallos** (Hungary), 2013 – **Nikollë Berishaj** (Albania), 2014 – **Zdravko Kecman†** (Bosnia and Hercegovina/Republika Srpska), 2015 – **Karol Chmel** (Slovakia), 2016 – **Zvonko Kovač** (Croatia), 2017 – **Joanna Pomorska** (Poland), 2018 – **Peter Kuhar** (Slovenia/Czech Republic) and **Lenka Kuhar Daňhelová** (Czech Republic), 2019 – **Metka Lokar** (Slovenia/China), 2020 – **Miran Hladnik** (Slovenia), 2021 - **Aleš Šteger** (Slovenia) ...

## **Rp. Lirikon21**

**Rp. Lirikon21** (ISSN 1855-0207) has been designed and published by the **Velenje Literary Foundation Establishment** since 2005 (in **2007**, renamed and separate from the original Poetikon journal). It is a specialized Lirikonfest's matters journal/festival anthology of original and translated 21<sup>st</sup> century poetry and is mainly geared towards popularizing contemporary poetry – through publications in original languages, selected Slovenian translations and selected translations of contemporary Slovenian poetry into other languages. It occasionally includes poetry and poetic plays for children, youths and adults; it is open to literary essays and critical reflections (on the themes of Lirikonfest literary roundtables) and (since 2017) also to short literary travelogues; it presents and documents the Lirikonfest events, awards and acknowledgments. – **Rp. Lirikon21** has been growing as a Lirikonfest Velenje festival anthology since the IX./X. edition (2013/2014).

## **Lirikon(fest)'s tastings of lyrical and travelogue sensibility (Lirikonfest's 1/21s, 1/22s ...)**

**Velenje Literary Foundation, Lirikonfest Velenje and Rp. Lirikon21** occasionally organize **Lirikonfest's tastings of lyrical and travelogue sensibility**. Selected Slovenian and translated poetry and other 21<sup>st</sup> century lyrical arts, and since 2017 also short literary travelogues, are presented in a published/festival form. Poetic readings

are held in Velenje and elsewhere across Slovenia, and through international partnerships and collaborations, occasionally also on literary tours and festivals abroad.

### **Lirikon's Gold-Piece (coin)**

The international festival literary acknowledgment **Lirikon's Gold-Piece** has been awarded by **Velenje Literary Foundation, Rp. Lirikon21 and Lirikonfest Velenje** since 2006/2007. It celebrates **the outstanding journal translations of 21<sup>st</sup> century poetry** into Slovenian or from Slovenian to other languages (mostly through selected publications in the Rp. Lirikon21 festival anthology).

Thus far, the **Lirikon's Gold-Piece** international translation award has been awarded to: 2007 – **Andrej Medved** (SI), 2008 – **Mateja Bizjak Petit** (F), 2009 – **Draga Rinkema** (NL) and **Urška Zupanec** (SI), 2010 – **Peter Kuhar** (SI/CZ), 2011 – **Tanja Petrič** (SI), 2012 – **Andrej Pleterski** (SI), 2013 – **Željko Perović** (BA/SI) and **Lenka Daňhelová** (CZ), 2014 – **Namita Subiotto** (SI), 2015 – **Daniela Kocmut** (SI/A) and **Andrej Pleterski** (SI), 2016 – **Mateja Komel Snoj** (SI), 2017 – **Katja Zakrajšek** (SI) and **Urška Zupanec** (SI), 2018 – **Maruša Mugerli Lavrenčič** (SI), 2019 – **Barbara Pregelj** (SI), 2020 – **Gabriella Gaál**, 2021 – **Dragica Fabjan Andritsakos** (SI) ...

5

### **Lirikonfest's Gold-Piece (plaque)**

The **Lirikonfest/s Gold-Piece** plaque is a biannual literary recognition award (awarded since 2008), that honors the most substantial essay on the topic of the Lirikonfest roundtable debate.

Thus far, the international essay recognition award/plaque **Lirikonfest/s Gold-Piece** has been awarded to: 2008 – **Mitja Čander** (SI) and **Meta Kušar** (SI), 2012 – **Manca Erzetič** (SI), 2016 – **Petra Koršič** (SI); it was not awarded in the biannual years of 2010, 2014, 2018 and 2020.

### **The international literary-translation residency in Velenje**

**The international literary-translation residency in Velenje**, established in 2007 and organized by Velenje Literary Foundation Establishment, is a multiyear **cultural program of international literary collaboration in Slovenian space**. Its purpose is to offer a creative stay to foreign and Slovenian authors, translators and international intermediaries of contemporary fine literature, preferentially to literary translators of 21<sup>st</sup> century Slovenian literature into other European languages. It is

meant for those, who create, translate, learn about, interpret, convey, popularize and promote contemporary fine literature and establish and spread sustainable international literary connections, organize international exchanges and tours, where Slovenian authors can participate, etc.

10 - 21-day creative/residential stays in Velenje are awarded to foreign or Slovenian literary translators, authors and international intermediaries.

The criteria for creative stays of foreign literary translators are an evaluation of a selection of the translator's work and the quality/references of the translators and their translations. The criteria for foreign and Slovenian authors alike is the excellence of their literary work; the criteria for the hosting of the of international intermediaries of Slovenian literature are the available references of their continuous (co)work in this field.

Between 2007 and 2019, the **International literary-translation residency in Velenje** has hosted: **Marko Kravos** (SI), **Andrej Medved** (SI), **Milan Vincetič** (SI), **Tone Peršak** (SI), **Milan Dekleva** (SI), **Meta Kušar** (SI), **Mateja Bizjak Petit** (SI/FR), **Draga Rinkema** (SI/NL), **Lenka Daňhelová** (CZ), **Peter Kuhar** (SI/CZ), **Matjaž Kmecl** (SI), **Admiral Mahić** (BA), **Kristina Potočňáková** (SK), **Marlena Gruda** (PL), **Tanja Petrič** (SI), **Laima Masytė** (LT), **Feliciano Sánchez Chan** (MX), **Petr Mainuš** (CZ), **Žarko Milenić** (BA), **Milo Jukić** (BA), **Goran Gluvić** (SI), **Maja Vidmar** (SI), **Erwin Köstler** (AT) ... (During the 2021 Lirikonfest, **Iztok Osojnik** has been chosen as our next guest.)

## Winged Turtle / Young Turtle/ Blue Turtle

6

The **Winged Turtle** is an all-Slovenian literary award for the best Slovenian literary travelogue, published as a book in the previous year. It has been established as part of **International Lirikonfest Velenje** program in 2017 and has proven to be a novelty in our region. Travelogue is becoming an increasingly popular literary genre, but has not achieved a proper academic recognition thus far. We would like to popularize the travelogue genre and help establishing Slovenian travelogue writers (preferably of a fine literature tone).

Thus far, the **Winged Turtle** honorary literary award for the best travelogue of the past year has been awarded to: 2017 – **Agata Tomažič** (*Zakaj potujete v take dežele*), 2018 – **Dragan Potočnik** (*Pesem za Sinin džan*), 2018 – **Aleš Šteger** (*Na kraju zapisano 6: Solovki, Rusija*), 2019 – **Jakob J. Kenda** (*Apalaška pot*), 2020 – **Petra Vladimirov** (*Evforija – 233 kilometrov Pirenejev ob poti do morja*), 2021 – **Ivo Svetina** (*Malabar*) ...