



NATIONAL LITERARY AWARDS 2014

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HELLENIC FOUNDATION FOR CULTURE

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Greeting of

Professor Christodoulos K. Yiallourides
President, Hellenic Foundation for Culture

Culture, beyond its classical reflections, represents the intellectual and material achievements of man and is the record of the quality of life of human societies – peace as justice, progress, freedom and democracy, solidarity as mental development and the fight against structural violence, that exists in our world in the form of inequality, illiteracy, hunger and misery. The presence of the book in our lives is greatly important as it expresses our relationship with history, tradition and culture in a very broad perspective, referencing the arts, letters, literature, science, all aspects of human activity. Through this contact, familiarity with and love for the book are enhanced along with our humanitarian education, democratic behavior and our attitude toward others, our tolerance of the other, thus furthering the value system of society, the cultural development of civil society and the peaceful coexistence of peoples.

Hellenic Foundation for Culture, continuing in the present, despite the problems facing the country, its successful and fruitful twenty years of activity, highlights and communicates worldwide the Greece of intellectuals, young writers, academics, professionals, writers, arts, books, history, literature, politics – culture in its broadest sense, meaning the way of life. Through participation in European cultural life and the organisation of the Greek presence in international institutions, a dialectical approach of creative, dynamic, cross-cultural dialogue is developed, showcasing the positive presence and image of Greece around the world as a country of knowledge and the arts that is not bent by the crisis, but remains upright and shines it light.



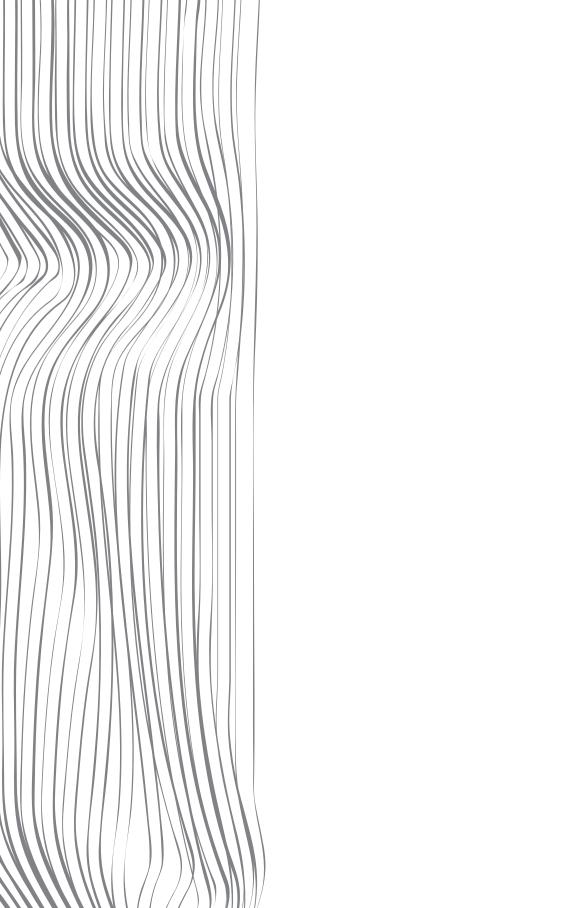
ABOUT THE NATIONAL LITERATURE AWARDS 2014

"... Like last year, the books of 2012, so in 2013 many of the novels, short stories and non-fiction books convey, each in its way, wider phenomena such as the economic, political and moral aspects of the crisis, which burst through our country in a painful way over the last five years. But, at the same time the treatment of these phenomena builds on an established literary tradition.

A previous example, which is now history but lives on literature, is the experiences of social conflict and personal pain, that occurred in Greece in the decades of the 40s, 50s and 60s: the German occupation, the Civil War that followed, the persecutions and the bloody confrontations. This past, perhaps due to the intensification of political passions in the last five years, is reflected in many ways in the current literature, in all genres, through the issues related to the reintegration of everyday life of the period 1940-60, as this period shaped the minds and lives, in public and private life, through the second half of the 20th century.

These themes are certainly not the only dominant lines of literary production in 2013, but remain visible lines, while the mythologising, romanticisation and memoir writing have ceased adequately to reflect the society in which they were produced. The disruption, disorder and degradation return in a theoretical framework and are validated in the literature as phenomena that indicate the range of existence within the environment, the citizen vis-a-vis the state but existing without the bare necessities and seeking to doctor up the gaps with ideals. The disruption, as shown by the kinds of prose that make up the 2013 picture, unfolds as a general condition not only in books that use a heretical technique or focus on the internal, mental life of individuals, but also in those books that employ a conventional realism and have their sights set on a supposedly "objective" narrative, which is based on evidence and records of anthropology and history. "

Extract from the Committee's considerations



GRAND LITERARY PRIZE FOR LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

Katerina Anghelaki-Rooke



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Katerina Anghelaki - Rooke was born in Athens in 1939. She studied in Athens (English Literature) and in southern France and Switzerland (University of Geneva). She is a graduate of the School of Translators and Interpreters (English, French, Russian).

She was first published in *New Era* in 1956. Her articles and essays on Greek poetry and her translations of poetry have been published in many magazines and newspapers in Greece and abroad.

Her works have been translated into more than ten languages and her poems are found in many anthologies worldwide.

She has translated Shakespeare, Mayakovsky, Pushkin and Sylvia Plath, among others. She has received many awards, among which the Prix Hensch of the City of Geneva, the Kostas Ouranis Prize, the Academy of Athens Prize in 2000 and in 2012 the National Poetry Prize for her poetry collection *The Anorexia of Existence*.

PRIZE FOR THE NOVEL





Dimitris Nollas THE TRIP TO GREECE *Ikaros Publishing*

The novel The trip to Greece is the first part of a trilogy, which begins in the early sixties with what is meant to be a business trip from Germany to Greece but that becomes a journey of self-discovery. The trilogy is titled Hard times, and it covers seventy years of Modern Greek history from 1943. a landmark year marking the beginning of the Civil War slaughter, and continues with the Marbles in the Middle set in the heart of the economic bubble at the end of the last century. The third part of the trilogy will take us up to the present time. Some of the characters come and go from one book to another, the same way our friends, acquaintances and relatives do as long as they are still alive.

Dimitris Nollas' family came from Vovousa in the Pindos Mountains and he was born in 1940 in Adriani. Drama. He wandered far and wide, without ever being able to cut the tie to his birthplace, where he always returned no matter how far away he was and how happy he thought he was. He began to write and publish short pieces in his early 30s, focusing on the maelstrom modern man is caught in, a theme he has yet to stray from and which has at its centre the absurdity of our lives and how we live with this absurdity. Like betrayal and how it is experienced by the betrayed, who are unable to understand why they are abandoned and hurting. feeling like they will die from the pain. These are recurrent themes in his writinas.

PRIZE FOR SHORT FICTION





Kostas Mavroudis

THE IMMORTALITY OF DOGS

Polis Publishers

Stories of people - stories that take place in Athens and in the provinces, in the cities of Europe, in pages of novels and on film. Stories of dogs who "hang around with silent gravity" and inject themselves Loan of Time (Kedros Publishers, in official processions, follow parades, weave through events. The immortality of dogs is their ignorance of death and time, as opposed to ephemeral humans. Argos always perks up his ears when he hears Ulysses, Bendico wanders the pages of The Leopard next to Don Fabrizio, Boatswain is memorialized in "Epitaph for a Dog" by Byron; seventeen dogs welcome Plastiras at an election rally, a boxer destroys the writing of a book, a life project, and Leo

Kostas Mavroudis, with a thoughtful and poetic eye, at times ironic and self-ironic, captures events and gestures and brings out the subtleties. The seventy short stories condense time, resist simplifications and reveal with imagination and reason the undefined and the unexpected and "affirm that life is heartening."

- the dog of an elderly priest -

dogs share realities and truths,

feelings, confessions and important

follows along with the liturgy.

Fellow travelers, people and

moments.

Kostas Mavroudis was born in Tinos in 1948 and studied law in Athens. He has published the poetry collections: Two Reasons (1973), Poetry (Tram, 1978) The 1989, 1990) Visiting an Elder with Dementia (Kedros Publishers, 2001), Four Seasons (Kedros Publishers, 2010, 2012).

Besides poetry he has written prose characterized by succinct observations as well as travel books: With a Return Ticket (Hestia Publishers, 1983, 2nd ed., Plethron Books, 1999), The Curtains of Garibaldi (Nefeli Publishing, 2000), and Shorthand (Kedros Publishers, 2006). His book Life with Enemies (Delphini Publishing, 1998, Melani Publications, 2008) is a compilation of articles and comments that he occasionally published in newspapers and magazines. Since 1978 he publishes the literary magazine The Tree.

PRIZE FOR POFTRY





Panos Kyparissis THE VALUABLES Melani Publications

The Valuables consists of three parts: The Gate as an entrance and birth, the Courtyard representing life, and Silence representing death, following the archetypal form of beginning, middle and end as an inevitable, natural imperative. The content of the book is simply life and everything this implies: struggles, anxieties, goals, relationships, intentions, expectations that more or less remain unfulfilled according to the limitations of the individual in the long-suffering body of history.

Thoughts and assessments through lyric writing, where the character of man is tested, the light and the dark that permeate him, as he strives quietly for self-awareness amid the bustle of the marketplace.

Panos Kyparissis was born in Oxya, loannina. He studied mathematics and literature in Athens and drama at the Art Theatre – Karolos Koun. He has worked as an actor and director in theater, television and cinema as well as a high school teacher of literature and mathematics for a decade. For eight years he taught acting at the drama schools Veaki, New Greek Theatre – Giorgos Armenis, and Delos – Dimitra Hatoupi. He writes poetry, essays and translates plays.

His works have been translated into English, French, Italian, German, Spanish, Bulgarian and Czech. He works with most literary journals and has participated in numerous anthologies.

PRIZE FOR CRITICAL ESSAY





Vaso Alexandraki

THE GAME OF DESIRE AND WRITING IN THE NOVEL OF MRS. ERSI, BY N.G. PENTZIKIS Armos Books

The work of N.G. Pentzikis is considered "an attempt at mythology and mythological explanation of the mundane." The Novel of Mrs. Ersi is written from a certain desire, the desire for a hero, a hero for a certain Ersi. It is an expression of paramount desire, the agony of the Fall and banishment, and this desire leads to an adventure in frustration and loss of identity. Faced with this loss, writing becomes an answer to the agony, a game, an unrestrained and unrestricted flow that is a release from the particular, an escape from the real world, a tangible test of existence. Moreover, in the sphere of the symbolic and the imaginary, writing becomes a signifier of existence. The Novel of Mrs. Ersi is analysed as a novel about writing, writing that reveals its feminine side and its potential for transformation, reshaping and expression of the many facets of existence, and which performs a para-mythic, palliative operation on reality.

Vaso Alexandraki (born in 1961 in Trikala), Thessaly, studied at the University of Athens, in the Department of Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies, and in the Department of Comparative Literature of the University of Paris III (Nouvelle Sorbonne) and the Division of the Art of the Text (Science du texte), University of Paris VII. She is a Ph.D from the University of Athens.

She has published articles in the journals I Read, Indiction, Themes in Literature, Modern Education, and Literary Approaches and she edited the tribute to N.G. Pentzikis in I Read. She has translated from the French Alain Nadeau's novel The Archaeology of Zero (Alexandria Publications, 2000). Armos Books issued The Game of Desire and Writing in The Novel of Mrs. Ersi, by N.G. Pentzikis and her collection of short stories Dance Classes. Vaso Alexandraki works as a teacher in secondary education.

PRIZE FOR BIOGRAPHY AND TRAVEL LITERATURE

George B. Dertilis

THREADS, TESTIMONIALS, FICTION

Polis Publishers

Threads, Testimonials, Fiction contains seventy-seven short capsule texts, typically three to four pages apiece. Most are, in a way, autobiographical and associative. Each one brought me, as I was writing it, waves of associations, experiences and emotions, thus linking the present with the past. The narrative comes and goes in a family history spanning five generations. This "micro-history" traces the paths taken by several characteristic branches of the family from the countryside of Mani and of Crete into provincial towns and the capital, from public service to wealth or poverty. These paths scatter members of the extended family across all social classes -farmers, laborers, middle class and upper class. And depending on social class and occupation. some members of the family find themselves in high posts, politics and power, whereas others remain invisible, and yet are no less interestina.

The narrative makes constant reference to the country's history in the last 200 years. This was inevitable for a historian –who also loves his birthplace with a somewhat naive passion, as I term





it in the lucid moments allowed me by my venerable age. Some of these historical references I added to the book at the time of writing and some from previously written material. It is my testimony to the history of my time, as I experienced it.

George Dertilis, member of the Academia Europaea and professor emeritus of the University of Athens, was born in Athens in 1939. He studied public law and economics in Athens, political theory and history in England. He taught history at the Law School of Athens, which unanimously appointed him assistant professor in 1980 and full professor in 1983 at the Department of Political Science. Appointed visiting professor at Harvard, Oxford and the European University Institute in Florence, in 2000 he was elected directeur d'études (professor) at the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales, resigned from the University of Athens and has since lived in France. Twelve books and about fifty articles have been published and translated into several languages. He was a member of the National Advisory Council on Research and the academic boards of several public and private institutions in Greece and France. He was awarded the Léaion d'Honneur of the French Republic.

PRIZE FOR DFBUT AUTHOR

Awarded jointly to:

Lefteris Kalospyros THE ONE AND ONLY FAMILY Polis Publishers

A few days before he takes his own life, the young Andreas Arithmentis, chronicler of the fall of the house of Arithmentis -a family of neurotic, stubborn writers and architects, completes a play, the only thing he will manage to complete in his shortlived literary career. It is the story of "the one and only Greek family that didn't play the stock market," as he makes sure every so often to writer of worthless, bestselling bodice rippers and of serious books that remain unpublished, Michalis' wife Martha and their 9-year old daughter Christina, a child prodigy who beats her adult competitors on TV gameshows, in which she participates with special dispensation. But Andreas does not intend to leave behind only the play. In the envelope that will be delivered to a rented mailbox. addressed to his father and his brother, he has collected short stories and pieces of unfinished writing, written by him, by his brother, but also by characters in the play. The One and Only Family is a novel about the invention of the self in the era of the internet and about family relationships in the first decades of the new century.





Lefteris Kalospyros was born in Athens in 1980. He studied history and philosophy of science at the Department of Philosophy and History of Science at the University of Athens and did his postgraduate studies in history and philosophy of science at the same university. He regularly publishes articles and reviews in Kathimerini and in the magazines I Read, The Reader, The Zone and The Books' Journal, as remind his brother Michalis, a ghost well as the journal European Journal of American Studies. For the novel The One and Only Family, which is his first book and was published by Polis Publishers 2013, he was also awarded the Best Debut Author Prize of the magazine The Reader.

PRIZE FOR DEBUT AUTHOR

Awarded jointly to:

Elefteria Kyritsi THE HANDWRITTEN CITY Mandragoras Publishing

The Handwritten City is Athens and every city, but constructed more like a city of the soul. The poems transmit the multifaceted. lurching, unrealized aspects of the city, which basically means the lives of its people. The language is a fan that opens and closes determined by and adjusted to the pace of the residents/words. The sounds of The Handwritten City mimic the city's breath through the shadows and silhouettes of those passing through the seasons, those involved in the city's life, those who empathize with and become aware of her losses. The poetic narrative seems to unfold methodically between pauses, parentheses and innuendo and create a frame that captures multiple images through which conjured forms and ideas, deleted emotions and requests are made. The peregrination of the writing is at the same time a metaphorical tour of a city marked by its history. The Handwritten City looks old as the world, but at the same time is reconstituted as new and eternal. A city with a worn exterior but that survives intact on the inside. providing space for the weaving of a utopia.





Elefteria Kyritsi was born in 1979 in Palamas, Thessaly. She studied psychology at Aristotle University of Thessaloniki and continued with postgraduate studies at the School of Developmental Psychology at Aristotle University. Then she took a degree in education from the University of Thrace. She lives in Athens and works in primary education. Her poems have been published in literary magazines and anthologies and have been translated into Spanish and German. Her book of poetry The Handwritten City was also nominated for the Giannis Varveris Prize, given by the Writers' Association.

SPECIAL AWARD FOR PROMOTION OF DIALOGUE ON SOCIALLY SENSITIVE ISSUES





Alexandros Stefanidis

THE CARESS Agra Publications

The Caress consists of twelve short Alexandros Stefanidis was born in stories, fragments from his tenyear stay, from the middle of the junta period until the early years of of Humanities of the Greek Open the new regime (1970-1980), in an orphanage in the northern suburbs in Greek Culture. The Caress is his of Athens, Although The Caress is based on real life events, the book presents them in a nostalgic light that adds a level of irony. The psyche of the main character is shaped by the lack of loving touch and his knowing touch only as violence, yet craving any kind of touch as all humans do. The absence of his father, his being sent to the orphanage, the loss of identity, the anticipation of a visit, pointless chores as a method of punishment, the emptiness of the vast room, the love of cinema, the rebellion of adolescence, the comfort of friendship, detached charity, childhood naivety and especially the traumatic relationship with his mother are some of the tiles that make up the mosaic of the book.

1962 in Piraeus, where he works and lives. He studied at the Faculty University, Department for Studies first book, which was nominated for the Best Debut Author Prize of the magazine The Reader.

PRIZE FOR CHILDREN'S LITERATURE





Sakis Serefas, with illustrations by Vasilis Papatsarouchas A ROAD TAKEN, A ROAD LEFT

Metaichmio Publications

A little street, newly born, starts its Sakis Serefas has published fiftyjourney - its life - with its dreams, questions, doubts, changes, twists, studies on cities, places and poets, surprises and somersaults. A street who sees new faces, loves. fights, separations, celebrations and great pleasures - but who also sees the sorrows of people and animals. A street who in a very moving and human way ends up diminished and puts an end to its stories. The book is like a miniature of a novel for adults and is part of the series I Read Stories 8+, which aims at fostering a love of books in children who can read fluently.

two books of poetry, prose, drama, translations and anthologies, and books for children. His theatrical works have been staged at the National Theatre, the National Theatre of Northern Greece, the Athens-Epidaurus Festival, at the Philippon-Kavala Festival, the Karolos Koun Theatre, at the Experimental Stage of Art of the Tristan Bates Theatre (London, in English translation) and elsewhere. His play Mam was awarded the Modern Greek Play Award Karolos Koun in 2007, by the Association of Greek Theatre Critics. His play Mission to Planet Earth was awarded the Prize of the Ministry of Culture for 2007. His book A Dinosaur on My Balcony was awarded the National Literary Prize for Educational Children's Books, 2008. His book A Hole in the Water was awarded the Penelope Maximus Prize in 2012 by the Circle of the Greek Children's Book. Metaichmio Publications has published his books: Am I a fool?, A Hole in the Water, A Road Taken, A Road Left, and God Himself in Person.

PRIZE FOR YOUNG ADULT LITERATURE





Alexandra Mitsiali I WILL SAVE YOU WHATEVER HAPPENS Papadopoulos Publishing

One dark night in March, Dimitri secretly gets on a train with wooden carriages, having one goal in mind: to save his beloved who is in danger. He will pass the border and find himself alone and exposed in a foreign country, where he will carry out a carefully laid plan. He will find an unexpected companion, someone his own age from the other side of the border, who will stand by him bravely. However, his adversaries, who traffic children and youths for any purpose, are armed and without scruples. Sonia and her friend Galia are under threat at all times. Will the longing and persistence of our hero be enough to vanguish a mafia that will stop at nothing? How deep does love have to be to succeed in overcoming such obstacles? How difficult will it be for Dimitri to find the strength to stand up to and rectify not one but many injustices and to realize his dream of a different kind of life with Sonia

Alexandra Mitsialis was born in 1967 in Corfu, where she grew up. She studied at the University of Thessaloniki and has since been working in that city as a language arts teacher. She writes literature for children and adults. She was nominated for the National Literature Prize for Children's Literature in 2009, and the prize of the literary magazine I Read in 2008 and 2010. Several of her books have been nominated for the National Literary Prize for Children's Literature (The Star House, 2009, My Name Is Niloufer, 2012, The Doll Who Traveled the World, 2014, I Promise, 2014). The Star House and The Night of the Fireflies won the prize of I Read in 2008 and 2009 respectively and I will Save You Whatever Happens won the prize of the Greek branch of IBBY in 2014.







Kostas Markopoulos and Dimitris Baslam

THE ANGRY CONCRETE MIXER

Epomenos Stathmos Books

It all started with an announcement on the radio that "all building projects are suspended indefinitely," and that everything, absolutely everything, in this country had already been built. For Kiki, the young cement mixer and her friends the trowel. the pail, the lime, the brick. the plank and the shovel this is unthinkable and causes them to panic. They have a meeting about all this and decide there is only one solution. Kiki proposes the solution: take down all the buildings. Take them down and rebuild them, that way they will have work forever. What they did not take into account was that the destruction of the country would make them encounter another side of their natures. The side of quiet, reading, art, and contact with nature. Finally they would come to understand the meaning of leisure.

Kostas Markopoulos was born in Kalamata in 1977. He studied painting at the School of Fine Arts at Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. Along with painting, he works as an illustrator and generally with images for books. In 2011 he was awarded the first prize in the illustration competition of the

Cultural Foundation of the Bank of Cyprus for the book:
I Come from the City... The same year he had an exhibition of his illustrations entitled "The Lights in Old Salamis," in Shakespeare Bookstore (Thessaloniki). He also participated in the applied arts exhibition of Dynamo Project space (Thessaloniki) with the illustration: "The Palm Sunday Carols."

Dimitris Baslam was born in December 1967 in Germany, in Aschaffenburg. He is involved with music in several ways today: musical venues of all kinds, concerts with artists of all kinds, participation as a musician on domestic recordings, orchestrations, record production, concert production, film scores and teaching at the department for traditional music in Arta. At the same time he writes stories for children and music and lyrics that have children as the starting point. The Tickler, Agisilagos, The Must Cookies, I Want to Fly and The Angry Concrete Mixer have been published.

PRIZE FOR CHILDREN'S EDUCATIONAL LITERATURE





Nancy Toubakari

A VIOLIN TELLS ITS STORY: AN EDUCATIONAL GUIDE TO FOLK INSTRUMENTS

Kaleidoscope Publications

A Violin Tells Its Story seeks to familiarize children and young people with the folk music tradition. Traditional music combines words, music and movement in an indivisible trinity. which ties song, music and dance tothe customs and rituals that mark the cycle of the seasons and the cycle of human life. The narration is original, concise and direct, full of human stories and emotions that are put across in images and sounds. The book is rich in photographs, many published for the first time, and provides in parallel to the text ample footnotes that provide valuable documentation and sources. The book is accompanied by a CD of musical excerpts.

The publication was produced in cooperation with the Friends of the Phoebos Anogeinakis Museum of Folk Instruments.

Nancy Toubakari was born in Athens and works as a music teacher in private education. She has worked with educational research and teacher training as well as with music education and the creation of educational programs and materials. This is her second literary effort, preceded in 2006 by The Liondas: A Song in the Sounds, Songs, and Music of Aged Professional Musicians, published by the Friends of the Musical Folklore Archive Melpo Merlier and Music Corner.

PRIZE FOR TRANSLATION OF A GREEK LITERARY WORK INTO A FOREIGN LANGUAGE





Birgit Hildebrand

SOMETHING WILL HAPPEN, YOU'LL SEE, Christos Ikonomou Polis Publishers

Translation by Birgit Hildebrand WARTE NUR, ES PASSIERT SCHON WAS: ERZÄHLUNGEN AUS DEM HEUTIGEN GRIECHENLAND, München: Ch. Beck Verlag 2013

For years Greece has been mired in an economic depression. Things were not always like this; people know that they could be better off. The stories of Christos Ikonomou play out in Piraeus, around the large harbour. They give a vivid impression of the current atmosphere of the country, through the lives of people who are struggling with various existential challenges and are trying somehow to overcome them, even if it is simply by waiting. Ikonomou knows the life of his compatriots, knows their world, the streets and docks. where they make their homes, these corners of Athens, which look gray but have their own beauty. His characters live in tenements and work in the port. In snapshots we see these people, see their dignity and share their fears: the pensioners camped out in front of the social security office, the workers who are waiting in vain for their weekly wage, the man who feels the need to defend himself and protest, but who

overwhelmed by misfortune can't think what to write on his poster, and so finally demonstrates with an empty sign. Written from an inner necessity, in a lovely syncopated rhythm of omissions without superfluous judgment, this work has a peculiar force. Christos Ikonomou was awarded the National Prize for Short Fiction, 2011, for the original book.

Birgit Hildebrand was born in Regensburg in 1944 and currently lives and works in Berlin. She studied Literature at the universities of Tübingen and Munich and worked for many years in the German Department at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. Since 1989, she has worked as a literary translator of Modern Greek literature for various wellknown German publishers. She mainly translates prose authors (Mimika Kranaki, Sotiris Dimitriou. Christos Ikonomou. Pavlos Matesis. Amanda Michalopoulou, Nikos Panagiotopoulos, Soti Triantafyllou, Alki Zei, et al.), and occasionally poetry and drama (Dimitris Dimitriadis). She also participates in workshops on translation and has led seminars on the teaching of literary translation. In 2001 she was awarded the German - Greek Translation Prize at the International Frankfurt Fair for the translation of the novel of Pavlos Matesis. The Mother Dog.



NATIONAL LITERARY AWARDS 2014

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NARRATIVES OF GREECE / FRANKFURT BOOK FAIR 2015 THE GREEK STAND: E 131, Hall 5.1

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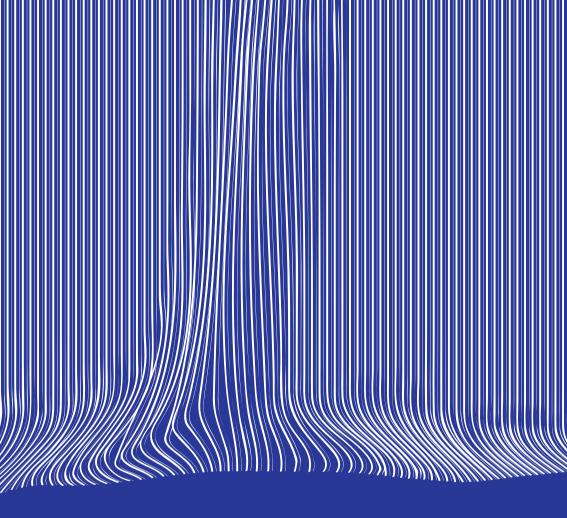
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FRANKFURT BOOK FAIR 2015 GREEK STAND E 131 / HALL 5.1



HELLENIC FOUNDATION FOR CULTURE



HELLENIC REPUBLIC MINISTRY OF CULTURE