

A MISZJE BEMUTATJA:



**PesText International  
Literary and Cultural Festival**

# PROGRAMME GUIDE



**Every event at PesText is free to attend!**

## GREETINGS

What do bridges mean for us?

They are a self-evident symbol of connections. They link different regions, countries, languages and cultures. Throughout our history, mankind has always invested enormous energy in building bridges. These huge, steel-wrought structures are sometimes celebrated not only as the crowning achievement of engineering, but as the triumph of man over nature.

I must admit, for this reason, I was not so enthusiastic about the idea of making 'bridges' the next theme-word for the PesText International Literary and Cultural Festival as well as the writing competition. It's almost too easy, I thought. And we prefer more difficult, complex solutions. We are all about meaningful conversations, real questions and taking the risk of the unknown.

And then I remembered Pétervárad, the castle of Petúr bán from *Bánk bán*. That is where I saw a bombed-out bridge for the first, and hopefully the last time in my life. In the Danube. Maybe 'bridge' is not so simple as a symbol, after all. Today, it's not very easy to act as a bridge. It's challenging to make different people, writers and artists come together.

However, PesText strives to be an open forum, and our aim is to get to know each other, which is not possible without meetings, without coming face to face with others. We would like to present world literature to our own people, but at the same time, also present ourselves to world literature. This is why we invited several exciting foreign authors to Hungary again.

Let's meet in the autumn, and, mark your calendars, next spring at the foot of the Elizabeth Bridge!

**Árpád Kollár,**

director of the Festival

director of MISZJE

(Hungarian Association for the Protection and Management of Literary Copyright)

PesText is organized by MISZJE, with the cooperation of the Petőfi Cultural Agency. Our main sponsor is the Foundation for Hungarian Culture (Magyar Kultúráért Alapítvány).



## **News and contact for PesText:**

<https://pestextfestival.hu>

<https://www.facebook.com/pestext.festival>

<https://www.instagram.com/pestext.festival>

## **News and contact for MISZJE:**

<https://miszje.hu>

<https://www.facebook.com/miszje.hu>



# DEÁK17 GALLERY FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH ART

1052 Deák Ferenc utca 17.

**12 SEPTEMBER 2024**

## **5 PM - 7 PM SAME TIME, SAME PLACE - ILLUSTRATION OF CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPEAN CHILDREN'S BOOKS**

The Deák17 Gallery for Children and Youth Art hosts this exhibition presenting contemporary illustrative works as part of the PesText Festival. This unique selection offers insights into the world of children's book illustrations by Hungarian, Transylvanian, Romanian and Slovak contemporary artists.

Opening ceremony: 12 September 2024, 5 PM, Thursday

The exhibition is open from 13 September until 26 October 2024.

Opening ceremony programme:

After the official ceremony, the attendees will take part in a roundtable conversation hosted by the curator and featuring several experts (Sára Bak, Noémi László, Andrea Lovász, Annabella Orosz).

**The exhibition will be opened by Emese Révész.**

**Curator: Nikoletta Szekeres.**

Music: Rozina Minka Pátkai.

**27-28 SEPTEMBER 2024**

**27 September 2024 10 AM - 2 PM**

**28 September 2024 9 AM - 1 PM**

## **WORKSHOP: BENJAMIN CHAUD**

Topic: The subject or theme should be around illustration, to build a narrative image, how to express yourself graphically by struggling with experimenting new techniques (improvisation, painting, collages).

This event is free, but we ask you to register via [regisztracio@miszje.hu](mailto:regisztracio@miszje.hu) by 25 September 2024.

The event is limited to 12 attendees. The two workshops are not interlinked, so you may register for both days.

This event will be held in English. This is an intermediate level course, intended for those with some level of experience in illustrations.

We will provide the tools needed for the workshop tasks.

# BUDAPEST ART BRIDGE BAB GALLERY

1053 Kossuth Lajos utca 10.

20 SEPTEMBER 2024

6 PM - 7:30 PM

## CONVERSATION: DOINA RUȘTI WITH KINGA ERŐS

Doina Ruști is a Romanian author, winner of several prestigious literary awards. Her works have been translated into many languages (English, German, Spanish, Italian, Greek, Macedonian, Hungarian). Her novel, *The Ghost in the Mill* was first published in 2008 by Polirom in Bucharest, and was honoured as the best novel by the Romanian Writer's Union Prose Award. It has since been reprinted in 2018 and 2024. The autobiographical novel can also be read as a parable of communism, where silence, coercion and its acceptance and complicity are part of everyday life. This is the first time the novel is available in Hungarian, so this event is also a book launch for Orpheusz, the publisher.

The translator, Enikő Szenkovics will also take part in the conversation.

Other contributors: Dávid Szenkovics cellist, while actor Bálint Turi will read excerpts from the novel.







V.E. Schwab  
Mina  
Honors  
HATT HAIG  
A 2 F  
PESTEXTEN?  
Kazuo  
Ishiguro  
Neil Gaiman  
Robok  
Guillem  
Tille Walden  
Andy Weir  
AMY HARNOW  
THE ROCK  
Lisa Small  
Bo Bluebird  
JK ROWLING  
Fredrik Hi!  
Backman  
Guillermo del Toro  
M. ISSO  
Colson  
KROENKE  
LAKE  
SWEET  
Zion  
Max Galka  
Hilary  
Lugh  
Moto  
Szasi





# CULTURAL CENTRE OF MARCZIBÁNYI SQUARE

1022 Marczibányi tér 5/A.

27 SEPTEMBER 2024

## 6 PM - 7 PM CONVERSATION: J. D. BARKER WITH MÁRTON BENEDEK

J. D. Barker is one of the most important figures in contemporary thriller and crime fiction, also dabbling in other genres, like science fiction and horror. He frequently collaborates with other writers, and his trademark is mixing rational thought and supernatural elements. His novels revolve around solving the central crime, but in the meantime, we get to know the inner workings of both the victim and the criminal, and although his writing is often said to be cinematic, one of the most exciting games to play while reading his works is the way we imagine for ourselves his strange characters.

J. D. Barker will be joined by Márton Benedek, journalist, DJ.



# HÁROM HOLLÓ

1052 Budapest, Piarista köz 1.

The main venue of the PesText Festival will once again be one of the most important cultural venues of Budapest: the Három Holló. This café and cultural centre opened its doors in 2017, on the 140th birthday of Endre Ady, and is named after a tavern that stood near the Opera House where the poet wrote many of his works and drank many a good wine. During the Festival, attendees may buy books from the webshop Jó könyvek, and also ask for an autograph from their favourite authors following the discussions.

**26 SEPTEMBER 2024**

## **5 PM – 6 PM CONVERSATION: VINCENZO LATRONICO WITH KRISZTIÁN PUSKÁR**

This is what we see on the surface: various objects of Anne and Tom, arranged in perfectly designed quasi-disorder among the trendy furniture of their Berlin apartment, rented for an astronomical price: designer clothes, laptops and other essentials of the web designer's digital lifestyle, lush plants that present well on Instagram. In *Perfection* by Vincenzo Latronico, we are afforded a glimpse into the ever more popular 'expat' lifestyle through the lens of an Italian couple living in Berlin.

On the surface: a love story, but with more scrutiny, we find that this book leans towards a socially conscious mixture of a literary diary and documentary fiction, posing both generational and global questions, and inviting us to debate its themes.

**Vincenzo Latronico will be joined by Krisztián Puskár, journalist, editor, cultural organizer and DJ.**

## **6 PM – 7 PM CONVERSATION: BENJAMIN CHAUD AND ANNA T. SZABÓ**

Benjamin Chaud is a French illustrator and author of children's books, well-known all over the world, and in Hungary he is mostly recognized for his illustrations.

*Are you afraid of the dark? The dark is more afraid of you!*, *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to School...* and *This is why I didn't finish my homework...*, all published by Pagony, showcased his penchant for funny and heart-warming pictures. His drawings are the cherry on top of *Call Paris!*, published by Open Books, featuring playful and humorous little poems translated by Anna T. Szabó.

**Benjamin Chaud will be joined by Anna T. Szabó, author, poet and translator.**



## **7 PM – 8 PM CONVERSATION: SAMANTHA SHANNON WITH CSILLA KLEINHEINCZ**

Samantha Shannon is a New York Times and Sunday Times bestselling author, born in London in 1991. She writes dystopian fiction and fantasy. Her first and still most famous series, the seven-part *The Bone Season* debuted in 2013. Her novel, *The Priory of the Orange Tree* was published by Next20 Publisher in 2024. Its prequel, *A Day of Fallen Night* will be published in November 2024 by 21. Század Publisher, so the attendees will have a chance to discover interesting tidbits about the new novel before it reaches general audiences.

**Samantha Shannon will be joined by Csilla Kleinheincz, author, editor and translator.**

## **8:30 PM – 10 PM ZINE PRESENTATION + ZSÜJA**

Zsanett Liszkai, or as she is known in artistic circles, ZSÜJA, has been an active participant in the Budapest electronic scene since the spring of 2019, and is also a sound engineer and a master's student of electronic composition at the Liszt Academy of Music. Her music is often called dark ambient noise, but she doesn't want to be bound by genre conventions. Her past releases were published by EXILES. She has performed several times at Gólya and Három Holló, several festivals including Kolorádó, OZORA and INOTA, as part of literary events, and at the Music Academy. This evening, she will be joined by a bass player and a singer, completing her new formation.

**The PesText Zine show is sponsored by the Visegrad Fund.**

## **27 SEPTEMBER 2024**

## **6 PM – 7 PM CONVERSATION: GUNNAR GARFORS WITH PÉTER SZÜCS**

Gunnar Garfors is a Norwegian media professional, author and world traveller. In this last profession, he achieved several world records: for example, in September 2014, he and his friends managed to visit 19 countries in just 24 hours. Now, with *Where Only Birds Fly*, published by Cser Publisher, he invites us along for the ride, to follow him to the least visited countries on Earth: Guinea, Mauritania, Libya, Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, Kiribati, Nauru, Sao Tome and Principe as well as South Yemen. What does everyday life look like in the remotest parts of the world? How do people manage in crazy dictatorships or in societies where central power is absent?

**Gunnar Garfors will be joined by Péter Szűcs, author, founder of the blog [PetersPlanet.travel](#).**

## **5 PM – 6 PM CONVERSATION: PHILIPPE BRENOT WITH ZOLTÁN JENEY**

It is almost a cliché now that comic books are not only for children, but this event may come as a surprise for the Hungarian audience, as it will be a real treat for adults – strictly for those above 18! In his comic book, *The Story of Sex: A Graphic History Through the Ages*, Philippe Brenot offers humorous suggestions on how to talk about sexuality without taboos, while also touching on important moments from the history of sex, both in France and around the world. Sexuality is as old as humanity itself, and let's face it: you would like to know what kind of erotic scenes were recorded by scribes in ancient Babylonia, right? What is the connection between Hammurapi and the word 'amour', how did our ancestors get it on in the Middle Ages, how did we finally reach sexual liberation in the 20th century?

**Philippe Brenot will be joined by Zoltán Jeney, author and translator.**

**The event is open to people over 18 years old.**



### **7 PM – 8 PM CONVERSATION: PER PETTERSON WITH ÁDÁM VAJNA**

The prose of Per Petterson is characterized by its shockingly honest depictions of divorce, family trauma and social loneliness. The often seemingly aimless movements of his recurring characters (like Arvid Jansen) force us to rethink truths which we thought self-evident. His restrained narrative voice has a meditative effect, focusing on memory and associations, sharing just as much as it feels absolutely necessary. In Petterson's works, we are afforded a view of both personal destinies and the everyday workings of Norwegian society, with every novel exploring new depths. The award-winning author has a new book coming out in September, *Ashes in My Mouth*, *Sand in My Shoes*. **Per Petterson will be joined by Ádám Vajna, poet and translator.**

### **8:30 PM – 10 PM VILLŐ**

Dóra Villő Czeizer is a Budapest-based singer-songwriter. Launched in 2021, her project 'Villő' is a collection of intimate and sensitive songs with an indie aesthetic. Her first song, *Stolen Cups* was published in the same year, with Márton Fenyvesi on mixing and mastering duties. Villő started performing in 2022, first in ruin pubs, at exhibition openings, and then in well-known venues of the Budapest scene, such as Aurora and Ellátó.

She plays the cello, classical and jazz guitar and has taken a course in Music Editing at the Sonic School. At the age of seventeen, she won a competition organized by the Ludwig Museum and the Petőfi Literary Museum in the 'Music' category with the first version of *Stolen Cups*, which she recorded on a cassette in her room.

28 SEPTEMBER 2024

**5 PM - 6 PM CONVERSATION: YRSA SIGURÐARDÓTTIR WITH ESZTER T. MOLNÁR**

One of the special guests at this year's PesText Festival will be Yrsa Sigurðardóttir: she not only won the Icelandic Crime Fiction Prize in 2011, but also works as a civil engineer and writes children's books as well. When it comes to the topic of suspense, Scandinavian crime fiction is perhaps one of the strongest buzzwords of the last decade. *Last Rituals* by Icelandic author Yrsa Sigurðardóttir has been translated to more than 30 languages. Her crime and thriller series and her horror novels are impossible to put down, thanks to their gripping plot and character-driven style. Whether you are reading the Thora series or the volumes following the investigations of Freyja and Huldar, or even the slower-paced *The Prey*, all her novels help us visit mystical Icelandic landscapes, practically dripping with cold and mysterious atmosphere. **Yrsa Sigurðardóttir will be joined by Eszter T. Molnár, author.**



## **6 PM – 7 PM CONVERSATION: FIONA MCPHILLIPS WITH RÓBERT SMID**

Internationally renowned author Fiona McPhillips is visiting Budapest for the Hungarian launch of her bestselling first novel, *When We Were Silent*. The theme of this poignant thriller is the sexual abuse of minors, and has already garnered wide-ranging attention from the public. The style of McPhillips is reminiscent of the neo-noir highs of Dennis Lehane, and it is not a coincidence that the novel was recommended by the legendary Stephen King.

We recommend this extraordinary work to everyone, this very promising début attempts no less than reinvigorating the thriller genre.

**Fiona McPhillips will be joined by Róbert Smid, literary historian and critic.**

## **7 PM – 8 PM SERGEJ TIMOFEJEV WITH ANNA TERÉK**

Sergej Timofejev is a poet and media artist from Latvia who writes in Russian. He has published his volumes of poetry in Latvia, Italy, Russia, Estonia, Georgia, Romania, North Macedonia. In the post-Soviet world, he was one of the first artists to engage in video poetry. He is an active member of the Riga-based Orbita poet's and artist's group, which aims to foster dialogue between different creative genres and media, encompassing text, music, videography, photography, installations and the Internet. As a regular participant in international poetry festivals, his works have been translated into English, German, Italian, Swedish, Ukrainian and other languages. *Replica* is his third poetry book, originally published in Latvia, issued in Hungary by Prae Publisher.

**Sergej Timofejev will be joined by Anna Terék, poet and translator.**

## **8:30 PM – 21:30 PM BRIDGES – AN EVENING OF V4 POETRY**

Two Hungarian and four Slavic (one Slovak, one Czech, one Polish and one from Latvia who writes in Russian) poets will perform works that they specifically composed based on the theme-word ('bridge') of this edition of the Festival, at the invitation of PeSText. The reading will also feature a unique sound-space installation and multimedia performance by the invited poets.

**Poems, texts, reading: František Hruška (CZ), Agnieszka Wolny-Hamkalo (PL), Sergej Timofejev (LV), Miroslava Ábelová (SK), Miklós Borsik (HU), Mátyás Regős (HU)**

**Soundspace installation: Sergej Timofejev (LV)**

**Multimedia: František Hruška (CZ)**

**Host, moderator: Heni Szalay**

**The event is sponsored by the Visegrad Fund.**

## **9:30 PM – 11 PM PESTEXT AFTER – OCCUPYING THE BRIDGE**

**Spend the last evening of the Festival with us at the patio of Három Holló!**



# NO MILK TODAY – SZEGED

1725 Bécsi krt. 8–16B

26 SEPTEMBER 2024

## 6 PM – 8 PM CENTRAL EUROPEAN ZOMBIE

Dreams of Czech, Slovak and Hungarian writers

The evening will feature an introduction of the poet and author Peter Šulej, editor of the journal and publishing house Vlna, whose novel, *Together* (Tiszatáj, 2024) was recently published, and the young Czech poet Jan Těsnohlídek, already cult-worshipped or hated by members of his generation.

The discussion will focus on the possibilities of Central and Eastern European literature after the fall of Communism, how young, contemporary Czech and Slovak literature forged its own path, as well as the joys and pitfalls of publishing. We will also try to answer an important question: what would Central Europe look like in a zombie movie?

**The eminent literary translator Judit Dobry will serve as the evening's interpreter. The discussion will be moderated by Roland Orcsik.**

**The event is sponsored by the Visegrad Fund.**



# PETŐFI IRODALMI MÚZEUM, BÁRTFAY ROOM

1053 Budapest, Károlyi utca 16.

4 OCTOBER 2024

## 6 PM EXHIBITION: ANETA FRANTIŠKA HOLASOVÁ

Guided opening with illustrator Aneta Františka and editor and translator Flóra Peťovská.

The Csirimojó Publisher will provide book sales at the event.

The event is sponsored by the Visegrad Fund.

The exhibition will be open to the public from the 4 - 31 October.

4 - 6 OCTOBER 2024

## 1 PM to 5 PM WORKSHOP: ANETA FRANTIŠKA HOLASOVÁ

This event is free to attend, but we ask you to register via [regisztracio@miszje.hu](mailto:regisztracio@miszje.hu) by 2 October 2024.

The event is limited to 12 attendees.

This is an intermediate level course, intended for those with some level of experience in illustrations.

We will provide the tools needed for the workshop tasks.

The event is sponsored by the Visegrad Fund.





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**MISZJE**



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és Jogkezelő Egyesület

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**The full list of our supporters and partners can be found here:**

**<https://pestextfestival.hu/partnereink>**

**PesText Festival is a partner event of the International Book Festival Budapest.**

**We reserve the right to modify the programme.**



[pesttextfestival.hu](http://pesttextfestival.hu)