



Göteborg International
Poetry Festival #20

MERCI POESI

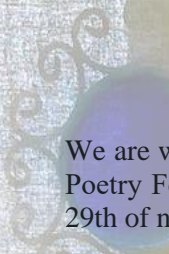


Stadsbiblioteket Göteborg 30e november kl 14:00
Kulturhuset Bergsjön 1e december kl 14:00



KULTURRÅDET





We are welcoming you to the 20th edition of the International Poetry Festival 'Merci Poesi', which is taking place from the 29th of november to the 1st of december.

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

This poetry festival will take place in the city libraries of Gothenburg. It is arranged in collaboration and support by the City of Gothenburg, Västra Götaland Region, the Swedish Arts Council and in collaboration with Gothenburg City Libraries and several other organisations.

Göteborg Stadsbiblioteket, November 30, 14:00
Bergsjöns kulturhus, December 01 14.00 (persiska)

Participating poets:

- ***Artur Kamaroŭski, Belarus***
- ***Frej Haar, Sweden, Malmö***
- ***Hanna Rajs, Sweden, Stockholm***
- ***Iraj Alinejad, Sweden, Göteborg***
- ***Magnus William-Olsson, Sweden, Stockholm***
- ***Nioosha Shams, Sweden, Stockholm***
- ***Sanam Anbarin, Germany***
- ***Sofía Karámpali Farhat, France***
- ***Somaia Ramish, Netherlands***

Program MERCI POESI 2024

Welcome participants and guests of the 20th edition of the international poetry festival of "Merci Poesi"

Göteborg Stadsbibliotek, Saturday 30 november

- 14.00 Music Bidad Ensemble
- 14.15 Poetry Sofia Karámpali Farhat, France
- 14.30 Poetry Frej Haar, Sweden, Malmö
- 14.45 Poetry Hanna Rajs, Sweden, Stockholm
- 15.00 Poetry Artur Kamaroŭski, Belarus
- 16.00 Poetry Sanam Anbarin, Germany
- 15.15 Dance Ramona
- 15.30 Poetry Magnus William-Olsson, Sweden, Stockholm
- 15.45 Poetry Nioosha Shams, Sweden, Stockholm
- 16.15 Poetry Iraj Alinejad, Sweden, Göteborg
- 16.30 Poetry Somaia Ramish, Netherlands
- 16.45 Music Daff Ensemble
- 17.00 Music DANIEL DE KAY med BAND
- 17.15 Slut

• *Hosts: Sahar Ghorbani, Mattias Ekerhorn*

Kulturhuset Bergsjön, Sunday 1 december

- 14.00 Music Bidad Ensemble
- 14.10 Poetry Sanam Anbarin, Germany
- 14.25 Poetry Iraj Alinejad, Göteborg
- 14.40 Poetry Romina Hoshmand, Göteborg
- 15.05 Poetry Somaia Ramish, Netherlands
- 15.20 Dance Ramona
- 15.25 Music Bidad Ensemble
- 15.40 Slut

• OBS.All times are aproximate!

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

- OBS.All times are aproximate!
- Info@mercipoesi.se
- www.mercipoesi.se



Foto: Wada Kimmel

Artur Kamaroŭski

Artur Kamaroŭski, born in 1991 in Mir, Belarus. Poet, performer, artist, translator, editor and curator. Member of group of artists "Krasnyi Borshchevik". Editor of an website about modern Belarusian poetry taubinpoetry.com

An author of the poetry collections “Water Begins to Live” (2020, the book was awarded with the Maksim Bahdanovič award as the best poetry Debut), “Corpus Vile” (2023), “I’m the very forbidden flag” (2023).

Translate from Polish, Ukrainian and Swedish.

L.

I grew up near lake Ohrid
lake Ohrid grew up in my heart
and people splash in it like big fish

from time to time I think
that my country doesn't want me
that my country doesn't take me
for a daughter for a citizen

I thank it
and watch the distance grow between
us
like a lump in the throat

and my heart tears apart in big drops
for there's no place
I'm tied to
like a guard dog

when people ask me where I'm from
I say North Macedonia (and don't
believe it myself)

if there were no borders
I would lie at the edge of woods
reading Stefan Zweig about
yesterday
and pat my passport in my pocket
softly

I'd think about those close to me
it means
I'd think about home

where
during the conflict
more than twenty years ago
in Skopje mall
my mom told me
(the way they say it to lovers in the
morning

touching the shoulder skin with
lashes)
not to speak Albanian
(she thought something might happen
to us)

I think something may happen to us
and pat my passport in my pocket
softly

T.

my friend said:
if you're so happy
make a wish and it'll come true

we were hitchhiking to Kutaisi
in spring
I remember
I made a wish and it came true
indeed

maybe my wish was a home
close to friends, family and books
close to the sea, a river or a lake

the only thing I feel is chaos
where my body
is something that people don't choose
by themselves
body as chaos

body
from the inside of which I'm
watching old Tbilisi
increasing the distance
it must calm me down

what wish did I make?

(from a documentary cycle "When
people ask me where i am from")



Foto: Cathrine Marie Nergaard

Frej Haar

Frej Haar är född 1996 utanför Köpenhamn och bor i Malmö. Hen är utbildad inom kulturvård och är verksam som skribent och översättare. År 2017 blev hen svensk och europeisk mästare i poetry slam. Bindepraktika är hens debut.



Nattfjärilar dras hitåt.
Fjärilar dras hit mot Fisteln som aldrig stänger

Fibulan ersattes av knappar, stål
ett vadben knäcktes för att kanske sedan läka

Hålet vinden brisen värmen
från ett hål som stänger

*

tid och arbete
lägger sig i fingrar ved

under alla kjolar (strata)
under alla kjolar (ved)

Ur boken Bindepraktika





Foto: Måtta Thisner

Hanna Rajs

Hanna Rajs, född 1991, debuterade 2018 med *Armarna* som hyllades av kritikerna och nominerades till Borås Tidnings Debutantpris. Hennes första bok på Albert Bonniers Förlag var diktsamlingen *Under månen* (2020). 2022 utkom hennes första roman, *Där var du, större än bokstäverna som bildar ditt namn – Cristinaboken*. Våren 2024 återvänder hon till dikten med samlingen *Samma, mamma*.

DINA

dina gula blommor fönstret dina
handkräm från oliva dina
fötter böjda som i lida
dina stela torra läppar dina
tunna blåmärkta ben lila
dina
ögonlock och fransar
stängda som om vila dina
lungor fulla slitna dina
naglar har dom slutat växa
dina
kalla kalla dina
sakna alla dina
sår och slangar riva dina
ögon var så fina har dom
tappat färgen
dina läppar måste fuktas dina
händer smörjas dina
tårar torkas sånger
sjungas dina
andetag som sinar
dina
kolor böcker kort från dina
nära kära vid din sida dina
barn dina
föräldrar dina
rasande ruiner
dina sladdar och mobiler dina
kex och apelsiner
dina ögon övergivna
dina ljus släckta fria dina

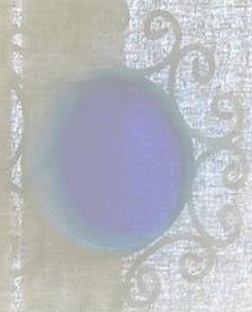





Foto: Asif Taleash

Iraj Alinejad

Iraj Alinejad is a graduate of Persian Literature who began writing poetry at the age of 11. His talent quickly garnered attention, and by the age of 16, he was selected as a distinguished poet at the National Youth Poetry Festival in Iran. Iraj's poetry predominantly follows the classical Ghazal form, known for its deep, multi-layered meanings. Unfortunately, the intrinsic essence of his work often becomes lost when translated into other languages.

To date, Iraj has composed nearly 400 Ghazals. Despite his extensive body of work, he has chosen not to publish a book. Nevertheless, his poems are well-known across three countries: Tajikistan, Afghanistan, and Iran.



When autumn came, the color changed everywhere
I miss you, the place of heart and stone has changed

I had come to dance at the invitation of the sun
The wind came and it rained and the song changed

I fought and won until there was no love
I fell in love and the rules of war changed

O moon, what did you see on this way with me?
Your behavior with me, mile to mile has changed

Do you know what happened to you, love in this city?
A new religion came and the culture changed

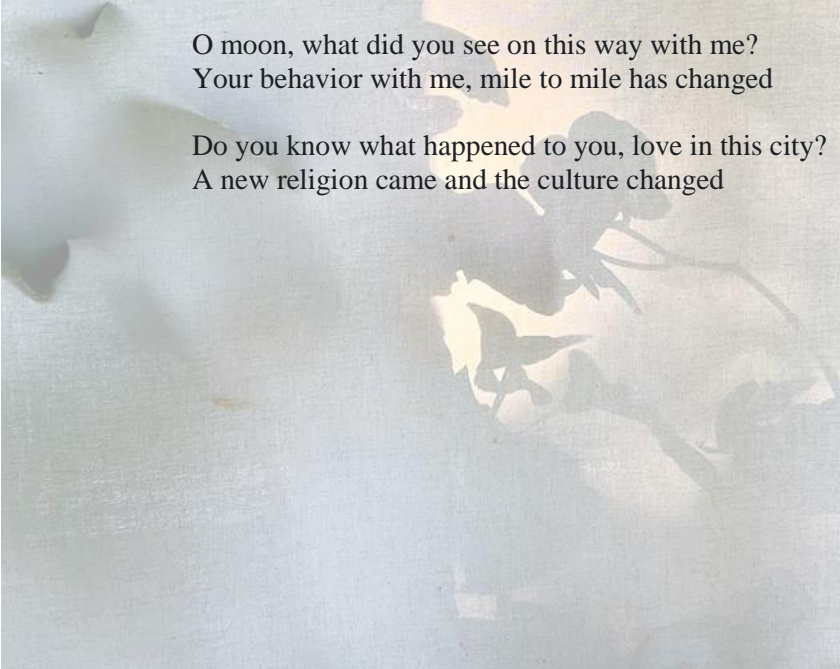




Foto: Sara Mac Key

Magnus William-Olsson

Magnus William-Olsson (född 1960) debuterade på åttiotalet och är förutom poet även verksam som litteraturkritiker, essäist och översättare av såväl klassisk som modern poesi (bl.a. Sapfo, Pia Tafdrup, Antonio Gamoneda, Konstantinos Kavafis, Gloria Gervitz och Alejandra Pizarnik). Han har även samarbetat med många konstnärer och tonsättare. Han har varit redaktör för Åttioal och Bonniers Litterära Magasin, och grundade Fria Seminariet i Litterär Kritik. William-Olsson var redaktör för W & W Internationell Poesi. 90- och 00-talen ägnade han bland annat åt arabisk poesi, ett arbete som kulminerade i den stora svenska poesifestivalen i Damaskus 2008 som han producerade tillsammans med poeten Jasim Mohamed. 2016 startade han Kritikklubbet i syfte att undersöka kritikens framtid i det nya medielandskapet och inom ramen för detta arbete poesikritiksajten Örnen och Kråkan. Hans verk finns översatta till ett tjugotal språk, bland dem arabiska, engelska, grekiska, Italienska, kinsesiska, persiska, spanska och tyska. 2019 fick han Svenska Akademiens kritikerpris liksom Tegnérpriset för sin kritik och poesi. Bland andra litterära utmärkelser han mottagit kan nämnas Karl Vennbergs pris 2005, Bellmanpriset 2010 och Gunnar Ekelöf priset 2011.



Eros

Tre små sånger efter Antonio Machado

Vad vill du att jag ska berätta ...
Hör här, nåt jag tycker om:
De älskandes sånger
är bara melodi ...
Men orden då? Struntar de i!
Ur ord föds i kärlek blott ånger.

*

Vem önskar sig bitter kärlek?
Bikupa för galla
och vilda liljor.

*

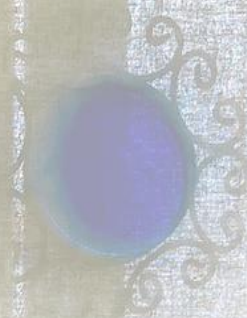
Drömde en själ av sten.
Att kärleken var en kniv
som slipades vass mot den.



Foto: Louise Helmfrid

Nioosha Shams

Hon skriver en lycklig, hungrig poesi som bejakar kärleken och ljuset, sinnligheten och berusningen. Staden är full av kroppar och hetta, här finns en törst som inte går att släcka. Men två biografier vetter mot katastrofen – en som bommas för och sätts i brand och en dit diktjaget återvänder gång på gång, oundvikligen förbunden med hettan och skriken från den andra. Nioosha Shams, född 1996, har tidigare gett ut ungdomsboken Om det regnar i Ahvaz. Teshne – törstig på persiska – är Shams första poesibok och även den första på Nirstedt/litteratur.



"en sak har jag lärt mig,

att gå utöver för en annan
då får man känna en värme så stor

att känna en kärlek så stor
då får man äntligen träda in

att träda över en gräns
då får man lämna plats åt mer

att lämna sin älskade ifred
då får man dricka ett glas, då får man det"

Ur boken Teshne




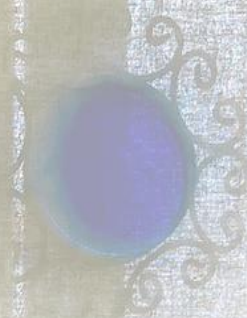


Foto: Maria Bashir

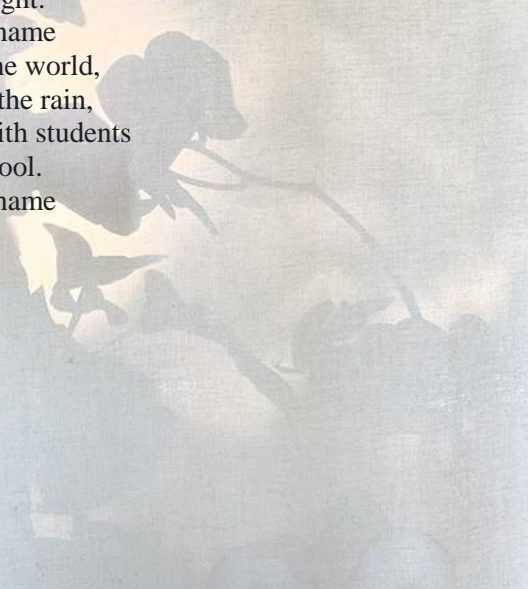
Sanam Anbarin

Sanam Anbarin is a poet of Afghan origin who has gained attention for her evocative and bold poetry, which explores themes of love, identity, and the struggles of women in conservative societies. Her work often intertwines personal emotions with broader social commentary, and she has published three collection of poetry, namely: *I Was Writing About You*, *Let me be myself*, *Spring in the middle of Fall*, all dedicated to struggle of Afghan women. Her collections reflect on intimacy, love, and the resilience of women. In her poetry, she emphasizes personal freedom, rejecting societal constraints, especially regarding how women express themselves and their desires.

Living in the diaspora, Mrs Anbarin is a member of Afghan Pen Association, her poems resonate with many Afghan women who have faced restrictions on their expression within Afghanistan. Her work is part of a broader movement of Afghan women poets who, particularly in the West, are able to write openly about sensitive subjects like love and societal critique.



The letters of your name
Scratch at my pulse,
Coursing through me,
Stealing away
The red fish of my heart
From its icy aquarium.
The letters of your name
Are the essence of life
At times, a star,
At times, a blossom
And sometimes,
The eternal melody of rivers.
The letters of your name
Hold the assurance of dawn,
A warmth to dispel
The loneliness of night.
The letters of your name
Draw me out into the world,
Fall restlessly with the rain,
And sing rhymes with students
On their way to school.
The letters of your name



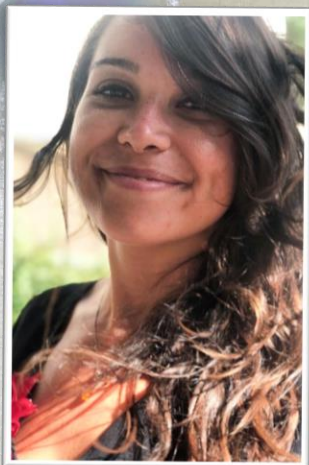


Foto: IMA

Sofía Karámpali Farhat

Born in South Lebanon in 1994 to a Greek-Lebanese family, Sofía Karámpali Farhat spent the first eighteen years of her life in Lebanon before moving to Paris. She writes mainly in French, her adopted language, in order to use poetry to tackle subjects such as war, exile, resistance and queer eroticism. She is also a geopolitical researcher specialising in the Middle East, translates novels and poetry from Arabic into French, and is developing a multidisciplinary artistic activity. *Zaatar* is her first collection, published by Bruno Doucey on 3 February 2023. Her poetry collection won the 'Prix Ganzo Espoir 2023' and the 'Prix CoPo des Lycéens 2024'.

Poems - Zaatar

Translation from French to English
by Eponine Howarth and Yara
Bazzoun (La Piccioletta Barca)

Under the bombs
I let out my first cry

resistance

by being born
I defied
death

□

I feel the urge to tell you
that the time has come
that it is time
to tear the seconds out of time
the minutes the hours to remove
the months the years
to lift the borders
of time the commas
I feel the urge to tell you
to dump all these suns
embroidered with silences
to unravel
the seconds of time
it is time to be
time to live
and to free time

□

Pomegranate trees have bloomed
in what remains of the sky
naked come and slip in
be the dawn open yourself
on my fingers
together let's deflower the sky

□

The border of my country extends
like a bow
on the upper branches
of a pomegranate tree
planted by my father
watered by my mother
a proverb says:

"whoever presents you with
a peeled pomegranate
loves you with a love purer
than the stream".

my father never said I love you
his lips sewn shut by war
he could not speak
but he peeled pomegranates
one pomegranate
a day
in September
and in each

hundreds of seeds
new dawns

Sofía Karámpali Farhat



Foto: Elaha Saleh

Somaia Ramish

Somaia Ramish is a poet, writer, and human rights advocate, known for her efforts to promote freedom of expression. She founded Baamdaad - House of Poetry in Exile, which fights against the censorship of poetry in Afghanistan, where it has been banned by the Taliban.

Her poetry, published in multiple languages including English, French, Dutch, Italian, Japanese, Russian, Urdu, and Nepali, has earned her international recognition. Ramish has received numerous literary awards and participated in prestigious global poetry festivals, becoming a significant voice in contemporary literature.

Currently pursuing a PhD in Persian Language and Literature, Ramish has published three collections of Persian poetry, along with collections in Dutch, English, and Japanese. Through her work, she continues to advocate for freedom and against censorship to give voice to the silenced.



The aroma of clay and cob
after rain
Misty perfume of mint along
the creek's edge
The heady bouquet of jasmine
every night

When it's time to flee
which one of these should I stuff
in my bundle so that in fate's crooked
road
I do not lose my country.



When I miss you
I become a handful of dust.

Plant a grape vine in me, please.
I want to inhale Herat.



Bullets
targeted his heart
but all he could think of
was the kohl around
his lover's eyes
cascading in his absence
on her fate.



I was not yet born
when Mother wrapped our country
into her bundle and abandoned her
own self
so that my naval would not be tied
to the rope of war...

But
our nightly meals became
the hourly news of war.
Our cells recognized their own exile
in our suffering, pain and wounds.

We hadn't really gone anywhere.
At age nine I comprehended
the absurdity of geography.

At fourteen I untied mother's bundle.
Its aroma enfolded me,
returned me
to my forefathers.

Now, my country is not just news of
war;
it is madness of geography
coursing through my veins.

It's a two-edged blade:
Death and Death.

Translated by Sholeh Wolpé



MUSIK KARAVAN BIDAD

Karavan är en musikförening som gör olika aktiviteter i Göteborg med musik, dans och konst. De har intressegrupper för vidareut- veckling inom dans, körsång med mera som repar tillsammans och gör olika uppträdan- den. De välkomnar alla kulturutövare och kulturintresserade att engagera sig.

En av musikgrupperna från Karavan är gruppen Bidad som sjunger traditionell musik från den Turkiska, Azerbadjanska, Kurdiska och Afghanska kulturerna.



Foto: Sepideh Behzadi

DANSFÖRESTÄLLNING

Romina Houshmand

Romina Houshmand is an Iranian artist with over 20 years of experience in choreography and dance performance. Beyond her activism, Romina's passion for Iranian tradition, art, and culture shines through, bringing heartfelt expression to every performance.

DANIEL DE KAY



MED BAND




Daniel de Kay - indierock på djupet om livets toppar och dalar

Daniel Knapasjö:	Sång & Gitarr
Babak Fadavi:	Gitarr
Erik Arlinger:	Bass
Johan Bjornfoot:	Percussion



SLIDE SHOW

"Alongside the festival, a digital exhibition of slide from the works of photographers and artists will be held at the Gothenburg City Library. These pieces have been curated by Saeed Abdabaghi and Ali Naderi"



The organizers of Merci Poesi

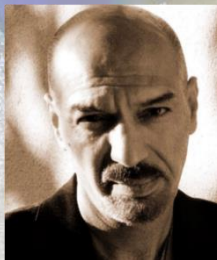


Foto: Kari Jantzen

Ali Naderi

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



Foto: Mattias Ekerhorn

Sahar Ghorbani

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



Foto: Nazanin Ghorbani

Mattias Ekerhorn

Aspiring painter and poet from Gothenburg. He is a translator, host and project leader assistant of Merci Poesi.

Project Manager

- Ali Naderi

Hosts

- Sahar Ghorbani
- Mattias Ekerhorn

Crew

- Rebecca Persson
- Badee Naderi
- Hasti Naderi
- Björn Lauritsen

Grafik

- Zhakfar Hosaini

Poster

- Ali Naderi

Media Manager

- Faraz Naderi

Slide Show

- Ali Naderi / Saeid Abdolbaghi

Video producing

- Nezam Shams
- Fateh Shams

Sound technician

- Fariborz Karami

Still Photpgraphy

- Azadeh Guadel

Studio technician

- Siamak Nazari

Special thanks to

- Malin Andersson
- Jennie Wangel
- Sven Rånlund
- Kennet Kelemets
- Frideh Rava
- Christer Boberg
- Carl Skatt
- Sven Rånlund
- Dubravco Gerdic
- Fariborz Karami
- Sofia Gräsberg
- Olav Fumarlo
- Iraj Alinejad
- Kennet Kelemets
- Elisabet Karlsson
- Shamsi Naimai

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- Göteborgs stad,
- Statens kulturråd

In collaboration with

- Stadsbiblioteket Göteborg
- Kulturhuset Bergsjön
- Alingsås biblioteket
- Borås kulturhus
- Karavan association



Artur Kamarouški
Foto: Vlada Khmel



Frej Haar
Foto: Cathrine Marie Norgaard



Hanna Rajs
Foto: Märta Thisner



Iradj Alinejad
Foto: Asif Talaash



Magnus William-Olsson
Foto: Sara Mac Key



Nioosha Shams
Foto: Louise Helmfrid



Sanam Anbarin
Foto: Maria Bashir



Sofia Karámpali Farhat
Foto: IMA



Somaia Ramish
Foto: Elaha Sahel

GÖTEBORG/INTERNATIONEL/ POESI/FESTIVAL/MERCIPOESI/2024

Stadsbiblioteket /30e november kl 14:00

Kulturhuset Bergsjön / Söndag 1 december kl 14.00 / Poesi på persiska