



CATALAN FICTION 2022

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ramon llull

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Institut Ramon Llull

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Foreword

Institut Ramon Llull

This is still an extraordinary time for Catalan literature. An exceptionally fine tradition, the enticement of modernity, and the curiosity to address contemporary issues are all to be found among its current strengths, which are further bolstered by a well-established and vibrant publishing industry and the efficient work of literary agents.

Featuring both emerging voices and renowned, experienced authors, this booklet presents a selection of ten fiction books recently published in Catalan. The list reflects a wide variety of trends, topics, and genres: award-winning novels; intricate, intimate stories; plenty of wit and humour; and profound, genuine voices that talk about female empowerment, friendship, history, freedom, family sagas, or even the Kafkaesque nature of scholarly life. Ten outstanding books that reflect the richness, diversity, and vigour of Catalan literature today.

As a public institution devoted to extending the reach of Catalan language and culture, the Institut Ramon Llull provides aid to authors, translators, publishers, and literary agents with the aim of ensuring that Catalan literature is translated, published, and read abroad. It is our belief that, in these post-pandemic times, the Institut Ramon Llull must persist in its task and continue to support publishing professionals, in order to guarantee that we have good books on our side as we face common challenges.

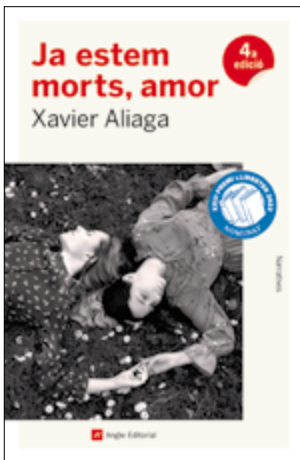
Along with an exciting overview of the lively Catalan fiction scene, the booklet also presents information on the Lull's services and grants for the international publishing sector.

We trust you will find our authors engaging and our services valuable.

XAVIER ALIAGA

We Are Already Dead, My Love

Ja estem morts, amor



Angle Editorial, 2021
220 pages

RIGHTS AVAILABLE WORLDWIDE

FOREIGN RIGHTS CONTACT:

Bernat Fiol
bernat@salmaialit.com
SalmaiaLit

Many sixteen-year-olds think they know everything, but Anaïs really does, because she’s dead. Her matter-of-factly omniscient narration recounts how her mother was orphaned by a freak accident and raised by her aunt. She tells us how her parents met and formed a family with two daughters with French names, Anaïs and Chloe. Then, with twenty-twenty hindsight, she tells us how their lives veer off course, when a car enters their lane provoking a head-on collision.

Readers are pulled along by Aliaga’s self-assured, solid prose in this kaleidoscopic portrait of the Albiol family, revealed in a wide variety of short chapters that include diary entries and fragments of Anaïs’s fiction, a study of a marriage and of careers, of youthful delusions and chosen family, of ways of living that turn out to be loans whose interest you’ll never be able to pay off.

How can you survive after a great loss when dying is the only way to know everything?



Xavier Aliaga (Madrid, 1970), a graduate of Catalan Philology, is a journalist and writer. He has worked for the Spanish newspaper *El País* and for several literary publications such as *Caràcters*, *L'Espill* o *L'Illa*. Currently he is head of the cultural section at the weekly news magazine *El Temps* and is a columnist for three regional newspapers: *Levante-EMV*,

El Punt-Avui and *La Veu del País Valencià*. He has published seven novels and has won the Critics Prize for Valencian Fiction Writers three times, and other literary regional awards as the Joanot Martorell, Andròmina dels Octubre, Samaruc and the Pin i Soler award from the city of Tarragona.

SELECTED WORKS

FICTION

Vides desafinades
(Out of Tune Lives)
Edicions 62, 2011

Dos metres quadrats de sang jove
(Two Square Meters of Young Blood)
Crims.cat, 2014

El meu nom no és Irina
(My Name Is Not Irina)
Andana, 2013

Les quatre vides de l'oncle Antoine
(The Four Lives of Uncle Antoine)
Angles Edicions, 2017

BORJA BAGUNYÀ

Dead Angles

Els angles morts



Edicions del Periscopi, 2021
491 pages

RIGHTS SOLD TO:
Malas Tierras (Spanish)

FOREIGN RIGHTS CONTACT:
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Carmen Balcells Agency

Dr. Morella, after nineteen years in academia, can barely cling to his image of himself as a Charmingly Anachronistic Literature Professor as he struggles to write an article and drowns in envy over his colleague’s successes. When his obstetrician wife, Sesé, delivers a horrifically deformed yet biologically viable baby—“its face a flesh dog’s dinner [...] its head exploded like bone popcorn”—its birth calls into question their conceptual and aesthetic certainties.

This hilarious campus novel with no campus takes aim at the functioning [sic] of both humanities and scientific institutions. Bagunyà’s multi-faceted, supersaturated narration—with its monstrous barrage of footnotes, serial parenthetical clauses, digressions, knowing winks, sentences that end abruptly or trail off—challenges the reader’s perspective through a constant upending of their expectations, setting the novel of ideas on its ear.

Life *literally* imitates art when a perfectly healthy baby with a Cubist face is born.



Borja Bagunyà (Barcelona, 1982) has a PhD in Literary Theory and Comparative Literature and is a lecturer in literary theory, editor of the magazine *Carn de Cap*, and author of three short story collections, which earned him both a Mercè Rodoreda and a QWERTY award in 2006. *Els angles morts* [Dead Angles] is his first novel, nominated for the Òmnium and Finestres awards, winner of the Critics Prize for Catalan Fiction Writers 2022, and included in many best-of-the-year lists. In 2016 he founded Escola Bloom with Lana Bastasic, and currently, he is a member of the Comparative Literature Research Group in the European Intellectual Space.

SELECTED WORKS

FICTION

Apunts per al retrat d'una ciutat
(Notes for the Portrait of a City)
Arola, 2004

Defensa pròpia
(Self-Defense)
Proa, 2007

Plantes d'interior
(House Plants)
Empúries, 2011

NON-FICTION

Trapologia
(Trapology)
Ara Llibres, 2018

EVA BALTASAR

Mammoth

Mamut



Club Editor, 2022
128 pages

RIGHTS SOLD TO:

Literatura Random House (Spanish)
Edizioni Nottetempo (Italian)
Éditions Verdier (French)
Aira Editorial (Galician)

FOREIGN RIGHTS CONTACT:

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Our nameless 24-year-old protagonist leaves the city after coming to the realization that society’s system of work is a scam, that she was handing over the most valuable things she had, her time, her body, and most of all her dignity. Initially she says she wants to be a single mother, but her encounters with men become increasingly primitive along with her environs, and her desire morphs toward the animalistic: to conceive and bear a child.

Baltasar closes her lyrical lesbian outsider trilogy with her most austere novel yet, both in terms of style and plot: the tale of a woman told in three acts; a first-person howl against greasy urban decadence; a search for restorative silence among the beasts she nurtures, sleeps with and kills; a flight from the threat of hunters; a flight from extinction.

A woman flees people yet pursues a certain primal warmth, amid the smell of manure and milk.



Eva Baltasar (Barcelona, 1978) has a bachelor’s degree in Pedagogy and her debut in the literary world was in 2008 with her book of poetry *Laia*, which won the Miquel de Palol prize. After nine more poetry books, she published her first novel in 2018: *Permafrost*, which became a literary phenomenon and was awarded the Llibreter prize. The second part of this trilogy, *Boulder*, also received the Òmnium award. The last volume, *Mamut* [Mammoth], was published this year. At the international level, Baltasar’s books have been translated into various languages, she has been a finalist of the French Prix Médicis and praised by the magazine *Granta*.

SELECTED WORKS

POETRY

Laia
(*Laia*)

Columna, 2008

Animals d’hivern
(*Winter Animals*)

Edicions 62, 2016

Neutre
(*Neutral*)

Edicions Bromera, 2017

Invertida
(*Reversed*)

Leonard Muntaner, 2017

FICTION

Permagel
(*Permafrost*)

Club Editor, 2018

Boulder
(*Boulder*)

Club Editor, 2020

MARTA CARNICERO HERNANZ

Matryoshkas

Matrioixques



Quaderns Crema, 2022
176 pages

RIGHTS SOLD TO:
Acantilado (Spanish)

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Hana is an exiled woman in her forties who is haunted by her fantasies of revenge for her experiences at the Vilna Vlas camp during the Balkan War, who still struggles with the poisonous pain that runs through her veins. Sara has just turned eighteen years old and is eager to start her adult life when she finds out a shocking truth: she is not genetically related to the family who raised her in Barcelona.

Marta Carnicero Hernanz, in short alternating chapters inspired by true events, brings the two women's parallel stories closer and closer in a series of psychological reveals that heartbreakingly call into question the systematic violence against women that is so often collateral damage of wars. Her cogent, lucid prose steeped in empathy shines a light on how we are shaped by inherited trauma—both personal and societal—through the lens of motherhood.

Two women joined by the twisted braid of history's violence, neither able to escape its weight.



Marta Carnicero Hernanz (Barcelona, 1974), a graduate of Industrial Engineering, is an engineer and lecturer. Her interest in gastronomy also encouraged her to study at the Hofmann Culinary School and she has published several books related to this field. Likewise, she has a master's degree in Literary Creation from the Universitat Pompeu Fabra.

In 2016 she published her debut novel, *El cel segons Google* [The Sky According to Google]. She regularly participates in several media outlets, such as radio news programs *Via lliure* and *El matí de Catalunya Ràdio* and the literary TV show *QWERTY*.

SELECTED WORKS

FICTION

El cel segons Google
(The Sky According to Google)
La Magrana, 2016

Coníferes
(Conifers)
Quaderns Crema, 2020

PILAR CODONY

Dystocia

Distòcia



L'Altra Editorial, 2022
196 pages

RIGHTS AVAILABLE WORLDWIDE

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Goja—short for Glòria—is an elusive 35-year-old contemporary farmer, more in touch with beasts and nature than most of us in the 21st century. She’s no stranger to the brutal cycles of life and death: assisting at the birth of calves; slaughtering and plucking a chicken for dinner. Yet she lives surrounded by animals she’s given names to, is unable to destroy a bird’s nest, and witnesses a cow mourn. Over the course of 17 days one spring, we are privy to her thoughts on what makes us human, and what makes humans animals.

Animals have always helped Goja to understand that separation, loss, even death, are minor and necessary pains. That they’re not that important, that we are not that important. Her deep and abiding appreciation for animal nature—and her conviction that it is not incompatible with reason—are the pillars of her ruminations on the possibility and magnitude of motherhood. Told here in an omniscient third-person that lingers on details, the resulting prose is luminous, tranquil, and mesmerizing.

A moving reflection on both what separates us from and binds us to the animal world.



Pilar Codony (Banyoles, 1987) has a degree in Veterinary Medicine. After a stay in Cuba (where she completed an apprenticeship on a dairy cattle farm) and in the United States (where she worked in a wildlife center) she currently pursues an occupation in farms, specifically calf ones. Her debut, *Distòcia* [Dystocia], won the 2021 Documenta prize and is set in the world of a cattle and sheep farm. In the novel, Codony ponders on the dichotomy between animality and humanity through the motherhood of the protagonist.

FERRAN GARCIA

Guilleries

Guilleries



Editorial Males Herbes, 2022
179 pages

RIGHTS SOLD TO:
La Fuga (Spanish)

FOREIGN RIGHTS CONTACT:
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txell@mbagencialiteraria.es
MB Agència Literària

Taradell and its surrounding forest is the pre-industrial and magical setting for this sort of Western in deep Catalan that unfolds during the final Carlist War. Amid the cruel and charismatic bandits, midwives who can read your past, and horse whisperers, the foggy, dramatic landscape is an important character, as our narrator Boi explains: his life is like entering a bramble thicket. And some human emotions are like rat teeth, they never stop growing.

One day while out fishing, Boi sees a trickle of blood flowing downriver, and following it leads him into a voyage of initiation run through with the violence inherent to this land of gunslingers and war, where he will discover tenderness, cruelty, and pain along with his family story. Ferran Garcia's enigmatic, virtuoso prose draws us into a maelstrom of murder and revenge, a bramble thicket of redemption and guilt.

A lovely and brutal trip on horseback through the misty Plain of Vic, where time shall not mend and sorrow is certain.



Ferran Garcia (Taradell, 1971) is a graduate of Veterinary Medicine and Sociology and has a master’s degree in Public Administration and Biodiversity and in Agroecology. After a course at the writing school of the Barcelona Atheneum, he wrote his first novel, *Recorda que moriràs* [Remember You Will Die]. He is the author of *Larva*, which won the Pare Colom poetry award and of the unpublished poetry book *Magror* [Meagerness], that was rewarded with the XXI Pere Badia poetry prize. He has also written critically acclaimed short stories such as “Mil Vegades Llätzer” [A Thousand Times Llätzer], recognized at the Cryptshow Festival and “Òpera Creus” [Opera Creus], winner of the 2020 Recvll literary competition.

SELECTED WORKS

POETRY

Larva
(*Larva*)

Lleonard Muntaner Editor,
2017

Magror
(*Meagerness*)

Poemari inèdit, 2021

FICTION

Recorda que moriràs
(*Remember You Will Die*)

Males Herbes, 2016

Blasfèmia
(*Blasphemy*)

Males Herbes, 2019

JOAN-LLUÍS LLUÍS

Junil in the Lands of the Barbarians

Junil a les terres dels bàrbars



Club Editor, 2021
288 pages

RIGHTS SOLD TO:

La Montaña Pelada (Spanish-Spain)
Sigilo (Spanish-Latin America)

FOREIGN RIGHTS CONTACT:

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Asterisc Agents

After her mother’s death, Junil learns to navigate the world despite her father’s disdain. He puts her to work gluing papyri at his bookstore, where a scribe slave teaches her to read. An unwanted marriage proposal triggers a series of events that sets Junil walking, accompanied by three slaves—the scribe, a librarian, and a gladiator. What begins as a flight from the threat of death becomes a utopian voyage toward freedom, and a paean to language and literature.

“Once upon a time...” begins this fable-like story of a young woman inspired to preserve a scroll of *The Metamorphosis* from the censor’s flames and deliver it to her beloved poet in exile. This tale of countless adventures—told in a third-person where the first-person steps in to remind us who’s in control—moves implacably forward in short chapters over the course of four seasons, leading us into the nebulous borderlands and introducing us to the barbarians, their mother tongues, and their pantheon of gods.

A heroine's journey into the far reaches of the Roman empire in search of exiled Ovid.



Joan-Lluís Lluís (Perpignan, 1963) graduated in Art History and Catalan Studies and is one of the leading authors writing in Catalan. He has seven novels to his name, often with a personal narrative that sets him apart from many other writers of his generation. They have earned him the

Lletra d'Or, Serra d'Or, and Sant Jordi prizes. *Junil a les terres dels bàrbars* [Junil in the Lands of the Barbarians], which critics are saying is his finest yet, won the 2021 Òmnium prize for best book of the year and the 51st Joan Crexells Catalan narrative award.

SELECTED WORKS

FICTION

Vagons robats
(*Stolen Carriages*)
La Magrana, 1996

El navegant
(*The Seafarer*)
Proa, 2016

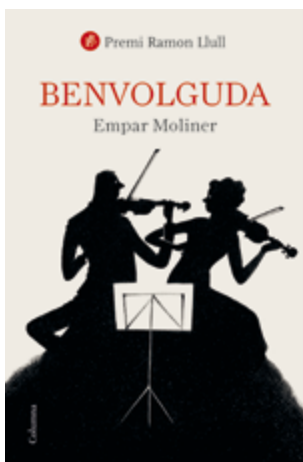
El dia de l'ós
(*The Day of the Bear*)
La Magrana, 2004

Jo soc aquell que va matar Franco
(*I'm the One Who Killed Franco*)
Proa, 2018

EMPAR MOLINER

Dear

Benvolguda



Columna Edicions, 2022
232 pages

RIGHTS SOLD TO:

Planeta (Spanish)
3TimesRebel (English-UK)
Planeta Manuscrito
(Portuguese-Portugal)

FOREIGN RIGHTS CONTACT:

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Grup 62-Planeta

Remei Duran is in her early fifties, runs sixty kilometers a week, still considers herself a well-hydrated, attractive mature woman, and she's never been more sought after as an illustrator. Imagine how her world begins to collapse when one afternoon she is struck by the vivid certainty that her beloved husband of fifteen years (and ten years her junior) will fall in love with his new stand partner in the orchestra, even before he is aware of it himself.

Empar Moliner brings her engaging, intimate prose to this gut-wrenchingly honest—and at times gut-wrenchingly funny—first-person interior monologue that wavers between resignation and desperation in the present as Remei comes to terms with what she sees as inevitable. Then she reflects on the past while jogging with her group of friends, and readers are privy to her compulsive, unfiltered take on marriage, exes, motherhood, mature sex, menopause, and the aging of a female artist.

A caustic, eminently relatable, no-holds-barred dissection of contemporary female middle age by a narrator with very few f*cks left to give.



Empar Moliner (Santa Eulàlia de Ronçana, 1966) began her professional career as an actress, but she became well-known thanks to her ongoing collaboration with media outlets. In 2000 she won the Josep Pla prize with the novel *Feli, esthéticienne* [Feli, Stylist] and became an acclaimed writer with *T'estimo si he begut* [I Love You When I'm Drunk], which was recently made into a successful stage play, and *Busco senyor per amistat i el que surgeixi* [In Search of a Man for Friendship and Possibly More]. In 2015 she won the Mercè Rodoreda award for *Tot això ho faig perquè tinc molta por* [I'm Doing All This Because I'm So Scared], and in 2022 the Ramon Llull prize for her latest novel *Benvolguda* [Dear], which was the bestselling book during this year's Sant Jordi.

SELECTED WORKS

FICTION

T'estimo si he begut
(I Love You When I'm
Drunk)

Quaderns Crema, 2004

*Busco senyor per amistat
i el que surgeixi*
(In Search of a Man for
Friendship and Possibly
More)

Quaderns Crema, 2005

*No hi ha terceres
persones*
(There Are no Third Parties)
Quaderns Crema, 2010

La col·laboradora
(The Collaborator)
Columna, 2012

*Tot això ho faig perquè
tinc molta por*
(I'm Doing All This Because
I'm So Scared)
Edicions Proa, 2016

És que abans no érem així
(We Were Not Like That
Before)
Columna, 2020

MAITE SALORD

The Country on the Other Bank

El país de l'altra riba



Edicions Proa, 2021
304 pages

RIGHTS AVAILABLE WORLDWIDE

FOREIGN RIGHTS CONTACT:

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Grup 62-Planeta

In February of 1943, a Nazi plane had just bombed Algeria—home to six thousand Balearic islanders—and was headed to Majorca when it ran out of gas and landed off the south-eastern coast of Minorca. Meanwhile, Daniel Gold and his grandfather manage to flee Brussels with their lives intact, but not to escape war. In Algiers, Daniel ends up working at the restaurant of French colonist Michel Bisset, where he meets Omar, a veteran of the French troops, and Isabel, the daughter of Minorcan migrants.

In a parallel narrative thread, Marta and Hanna meet at a demonstration against the war in Iraq and begin a love story encumbered by family secrets. The two threads wind together for a final reveal, highlighting how identity and historical memory illuminate our present. In compelling, well-documented prose that reflects her island's dialect, Salord skillfully weaves together issues of diaspora and colonization with Minorcan ecological struggles in the face of growing tourism.

Minorcan emigration to Algeria—the first wave sending one in four islanders—is the inspiration for this historical novel.



Maite Salord (Ciutadella, 1965) graduated in Catalan Philology and is a Minorcan author and teacher of Catalan language and literature. She is also a member of the Institut Menorquí d'Estudis, a government organization for cultural promotion of the island. A finalist for the 2006 Sant Jordi Prize, with *La mort de l'ànima* [The Death of the Soul], she soon became involved in regional politics until 2021, when she resigned as vice-president and Minister for Environment and Biosphere Reserve of the Menorcan government. On her return to writing, she was awarded the 2021 Proa prize for *El país de l'altra riba* [The Country of the Other Bank].

SELECTED WORKS

FICTION

La mort de l'ànima
(The Death of the Soul)
Edicions Proa, 2007

L'alè de les cendres
(The Ashes' Breath)
Editorial Arrela, 2014

CHILDREN'S AND YOUNG ADULT LITERATURE

Com una nina russa
(Like a Russian Doll)
Editorial La Galera, 2002

Mar de boira
(Sea of Fog)
Editorial La Galera, 2004

ALBERT SÁNCHEZ PIÑOL

The Monster on Saint Helena

El monstre de Santa Helena



La Campana, 2022
304 pages

RIGHTS SOLD TO:

Alfaguara (Spanish)
Aurora Boreal (Danish)
Labyrinth (Bulgaria)

FOREIGN RIGHTS CONTACT:

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What would occur if we gathered Love, Culture, and Power in a single room?’ wonders the Marquise Delphine de Custine. This question leads her to challenge her married lover, the renowned writer François-René de Chateaubriand, to undertake a voyage like the great lovers of yore. This journey will lead them to the gloomy isle of Saint Helena, to Longwood House where post-Waterloo Napoleon is held captive, as well as to the depths of despair and to the jaws of imminent death.

Actual historical figures mingle with fantastical creatures in this captivating and trepidatious suspense novel written in the Marquise’s diary entries (“Despite what they say, history is not written by the victors; it’s written by writers,” she warns the Great Men who surround her.) In the spring of 1819, Delphine and Chateaubriand set out to prove their love can withstand a great distance and a great adversary yet end up discovering that monsters can come in many guises.

The whim of a Marquise leads her to Napoleon’s sinister island prison where her parlor-room ideals face horrors both real and otherworldly.



Albert Sánchez Piñol (Barcelona, 1965) is an anthropologist, Africanist and writer. He is a member of the African Study Center and the author of several essays, short story books and novels. His breakthrough debut novel *Cold Skin* brought him great critical and public recognition. It received the Ojo Crítico award and the Catalan Booksellers’ prize and was a finalist of the Llibreter prize. It has been translated into more than thirty-seven languages (with more than 800,000 copies sold). With the novel *Pandora in the Congo*, he received the Serra d’Or Critics award in 2006 and the Catalan version of *Victus*, translated by Xavier Pàmies, won the third L’Illa dels Llibres readers award.

SELECTED WORKS

FICTION

La pell freda
(*Cold Skin*)
La Campana, 2002

Pandora al Congo
(*Pandora in the Congo*)
La Campana, 2005

Victus
(*Victus*)
La Campana, 2012

Fungus
(*Fungus*)
La Campana, 2018

NON-FICTION

Pallassos i monstres
(*Clowns and Monsters*)
Edicions La Campana,
2000





Grants

LITERATURE TRANSLATION

Grants for the translation of Catalan literature, including fiction, poetry, plays, graphic novels and scholarly works (non-fiction and the humanities).

Recipients: Publishers.

LITERATURE PROMOTION

Grants for activities aimed at promoting Catalan and Aranese literature abroad, including participation in international literary events and promotional plans focused on illustrated works.

Recipients: Publishers, Literary Events Organisers.

ILLUSTRATED BOOKS

Grants for the publication abroad of illustrated books by illustrators settled in Catalonia or the Balearic Islands.

Recipients: Publishers.

PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS

Grants for the creation of materials used in the promotion of Catalan works abroad.

Recipients: Catalan Publishers, Literary Agencies.

TRANSLATORS IN RESIDENCY

Grants for translators working on translations from Catalan to stay in Catalonia for two to six weeks.

Recipients: Translators.



Lull Fellowship

In 2022, the Institut Ramon Lull is organizing the 21st edition of its fellowship, aimed at international publishers and agents. This will take place in Barcelona between 13th and 16th September, during the 40th Setmana del Llibre en Català (Catalan Book Week Festival).

HISTORY

First launched in 2007, when Catalan Culture was Guest of Honor at the Frankfurt Book Fair, the project was designed to foster the translation of Catalan works into other languages and the introduction of these books to new markets. Since then, over 185 professionals from 43 countries have participated in this fellowship.

GOAL

The program aims to provide participants with a more in-depth perspective on Catalan literature and the Catalan publishing sector and to build networks among Catalan and international publishing houses and literary agencies.

APPLICATION DATES

Call for applications not yet published. The exact dates of the call can be found on our website (lull.cat).

Other Services and Latest News

The Institut Ramon Llull promotes networking between international publishers and agents and the Catalan publishing sector. We will be delighted to put publishing professionals in touch with Catalan authors, publishers or agents.

The Llull also provides information about the translation of Catalan literature through three databases:

BOOKS IN CATALAN

booksincatalan.llull.cat: A professional tool full of great Catalan-language books, waiting to be discovered and devoured by international readers.

TRAC

llull.cat/trac: A tool to find out what works of Catalan literature have been translated.

TRADUCAT

llull.cat/traducata: A database with the profile and contact details of literary translators from Catalan to other languages.

If you wish to be informed about our calls for applications for grants and all the latest news, you can subscribe to one of our newsletters aimed at translators, publishers and festival programmers via literature@llull.cat.



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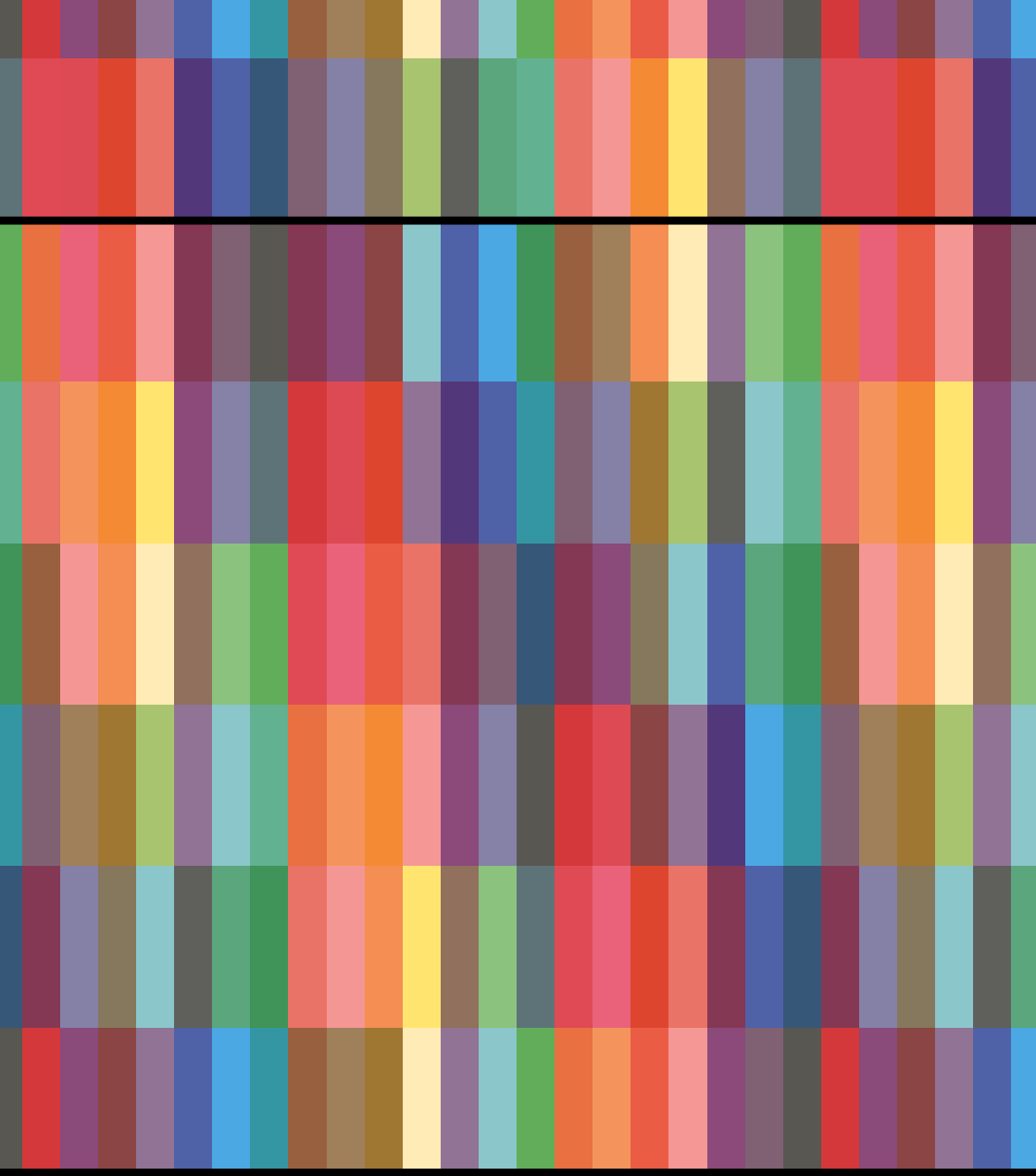
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