The background features a complex geometric pattern. It includes a yellow rectangular frame in the upper left, a blue grid-like structure on the left side, and a series of horizontal blue lines on the right. A prominent feature is a diagonal band of three parallel red lines crossing the bottom right corner. The text is centered in the white space between the blue lines.

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# Foreword

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## **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, toxic masculinity, history, sports, impossible futures, freedom, family sagas, or apocalyptic plagues. Ten outstanding books that reflect the richness, diversity, and vigour of Catalan literature today.

As a public institution devoted to extending the reach of the 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.

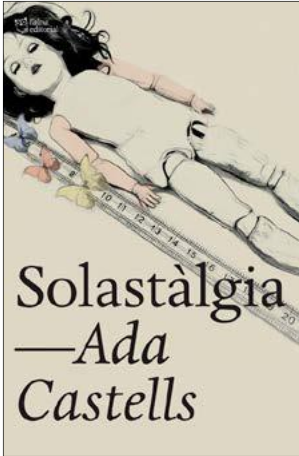
Along with an exciting overview of the lively Catalan fiction scene, the booklet also presents information on Llull's services and grants for the international publishing sector.

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

ADA CASTELLS

# Solastalgia

*Solastàlgia*



L'Altra Editorial, 2023  
208 pages

**RIGHTS AVAILABLE WORLDWIDE**

**FOREIGN RIGHTS CONTACT**

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paucentellas@silviabastos.com  
Silvia Bastos Literary Agency

Heavy, constant rains flood pandemic Barcelona and send Sara and her family fleeing for higher ground. Her overdose on fatalist Anthropocene philosophy has her convinced this is the beginning of the end of the world, and unable to start writing her new novel. As they build a new life in the mountains of the Empordà, renouncing modern comforts in a dilapidated house, Sara finds inspiration in the story of Typhoid Mary.

Castells views both extremes of our society's reactions to solastalgia, our panic and our denial, as mistaken. In a tranquil tone, she eases us into a reflection of the twenty-first century human experience, as Sara uses her writing to contend with the complexities of marriage and motherhood on an ailing planet, as she navigates a traumatic past and an anxious present.

# Solastalgia is a neologism to describe the pain we feel as witnesses of the Earth's destruction.



**Ada Castells** (Barcelona, 1968) is an author, journalist, creative writing professor, and seminary school dropout. *Solastalgia* is her fifth novel and eighth book; her previous novel earned her the Sant Joan Prize and followed a fictionalized biography of Romantic painter Caspar David Friedrich. She has been translated into Spanish, English and German.

## SELECTED WORKS

### FICTION

*El dit de l'àngel*  
(The Angel's Finger)  
Empúries, 1998

*Tota la vida*  
(A Lifetime)  
Empúries, 2005

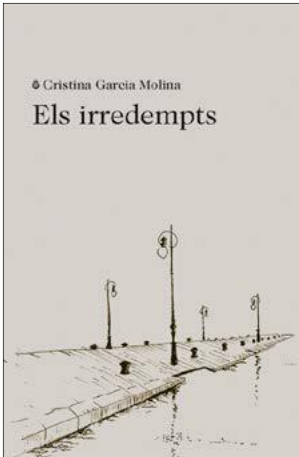
*Pura sang*  
(Pure Blood)  
Edicions 62, 2012

*Mare*  
(Mother)  
La Campana, 2019

CRISTINA GARCIA MOLINA

# The Unredeemed

*Els irredempts*



LaBreu Edicions, 2022  
153 pages

**RIGHTS AVAILABLE WORLDWIDE**

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LaBreu Edicions



Short List Finestres 2022  
Catalan Booksellers Prize 2023

In this unclassifiable book studded with literary references, three novellas hang together like a Francis Bacon triptych of studies for a crucifixion. The characters are unredeemed, oblique, captives: a daughter searching for clues as her father slips into aphasia; an obsessive professor turned museum volunteer; teachers searching for a common language with their multicultural students; a mother who abandons her family with a somewhat cryptic Chekhov quote.

Rootlessness, miscommunication, grief, and relationships emerge as themes in a dense, polished, intense narrative style that manages to be minimalist yet heavy with feeling and perspicacity. These three dreamily ambiguous tales refuse to offer easy answers to the trials of the examined life, the qualms of readers searching for salvation in books yet afraid they might die without ever having a brilliant thought of their own.



The pages are knives in this sensual, raw triptych that presents literature as voluntary exile.



**Cristina Garcia Molina** (Granollers, 1975) is a teacher of creative writing, and Catalan language and literature. She has just won the 2023 Catalan Booksellers Prize for *The Unredeemed*, and her previous book of stories was awarded the City of Badalona Prize.

## SELECTED WORKS

### FICTION

*Plou... però quin sol!*  
(It's Raining... But What  
Sunshine!)

La Meceua, 2013

*Silenci a taula*  
(Silence at the Table)

Viena Edicions, 2014

RAÜL GARRIGASAIT

# Prophecy

*Profecia*



Edicions de 1984, 2023  
240 pages

**RIGHTS AVAILABLE WORLDWIDE**

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Widower Andreu Garom, a specialist on wild boars, finds himself in demand when the beasts begin to meander down into the city centre. An interview he gives unexpectedly goes viral and soon he's hired by the municipal government as their expert spokesperson for the crisis. His bitter and estranged daughter Dèbora, meanwhile, sees the urban invasion as a possible Old Testament plague, divine punishment for our destruction of the environment.

Both father and daughter are still reeling from the death of Dèbora's mother and, each in their own way, trying to decipher her repeated assertion that all plagues inevitably lead to rivers of milk and honey. Meanwhile, a Barcelona of the near future becomes a biblical scenario flooded with boars, where the characters face their own demons trapped between the factual and the allegorical. This send-up of local politics, sex, family awkwardness, political correctness, and the end of the world is by turns raucous, cringey, and prophetic as it reminds us how thin our veneer of civilization truly is.

# Symbolism and reality converge when an apocalyptic plague of boars descends on Barcelona



**Raül Garrigasait** (Solsona, 1979) is a classicist and author of essays, poetry, and fiction, as well as a translator from Greek and German. His previous novel, *The Others*, won the 2017 Catalan Booksellers' Prize, and the Omnium Award for Best Catalan Novel, among others.

## SELECTED WORKS

### FICTION

*Els estranys*  
(The Others)

Edicions de 1984, 2017

### NON-FICTION

*El gos cosmopolita*  
*i dos espècimens més*  
(The Cosmopolitan  
Dog and Two Other Specimens)

A Contravent, 2012

*El fugitiu que no se'n va*  
(The Runaway That Does Not Leave)

Edicions de 1984, 2018

*Els fundadors*  
(The Founders)

Ara Llibres, 2020

*País Barroc*  
(Barroque Country)

L'Avenç, 2020

XAVIER MAS CRAVIOTTO

# The Skin of the World

*La pell del món*



L'Altra Editorial, 2023  
272 pages

**RIGHTS AVAILABLE WORLDWIDE**

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MB agencia literaria

Two adult siblings watch over their moribund mother in the hospital. The daughter has returned to their small town after years in Paris, where she went seeking anonymity and distance. The son stayed with their mother, mirroring her codependence and fear. Neither sibling has healed from the drunkenness, cruelty, and violent demise of their father; they both live trapped in a cage of inherited rage and hatred. The skin of the world is the frontier we've constructed as a buffer from the world's random hostility and violence.

This brutally poetic, fragmentary novel is written in the second person, divided into three voices—sister, brother, omnipotent narrator—and features therapy dialogues, automatic writing assignments, and even Rorschach blots. Craviotto experiments with form in order to interrogate how we construct our own personal narratives and underscore the ways in which we can continue to be haunted by the pain of abusive relationships and their corresponding complicity, even after the perpetrators have shuffled off this mortal coil.

# An unforgiving contemplation of the attempt to comprehend family bonds forged in violence



**Xavier Mas Craviotto** (Navàs, 1996) is a professor of Catalan language and culture at the University of Bristol, as well as a line editor. He is the cofounder of *Com ho diria*, a digital platform about contemporary Catalan slang. He has published two novels and three poetry collections, and received numerous awards including the Documenta and the Ausiàs March.

## SELECTED WORKS

### FICTION

*La mort lenta*  
(A Slow Death)  
L'Altra Editorial, 2019

### POETRY

*Renills de cavall negre*  
(Black Horse Neighs)  
Viena Edicions, 2019

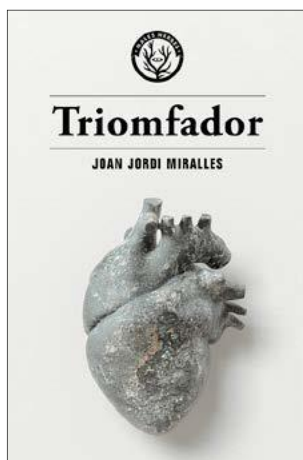
*La gran nàusea*  
(The Great Nausea)  
LaBreu Edicions, 2021

*La llum subterrània*  
(The Underground Light)  
Edicions 62, 2023

JOAN JORDI MIRALLES

# Triumphant

*Triomfador*



Males Herbes, 2023  
205 pages

**RIGHTS SOLD TO:**

Seix Barral (Spanish)

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Ulisses is a fairly timid thirteen-year-old when he receives an offer to train with the youth basketball team of FC Barcelona. This incredible opportunity to compete at another level is a dream come true, but it quickly becomes a nightmare of bullying and hazing when he leaves home and moves into La Masia, the legendary residence hall where so many mythical players were formed. In a trying atmosphere of pressure-cooker rivalries and near-constant victimization, young Ulisses must find his way, both on the court and off.

Set in the 1990s in the world of the youth farm teams of one of the planet's most beloved sports franchises and inspired by the author's own experiences, this bildungsroman reveals a culture of toxic masculinity in which the flip side of elite performance is a hovering threat of psychological and physical violence. Told in exacting and incisive prose, this novel focuses its gaze where so many would prefer to look the other way.

## A gripping and devastating exposé of the competitive world of aspiring elite athletes



**Joan Jordi Miralles** (Huesca, 1977) has published five novels, two short story collections, and two plays, which have earned him the 2005 Andròmina Prize, the 2018 Joanot Martorell Prize, the 2017 Marian Vayreda Prize, and the 2012 Pare Colom Prize for Mediterranean Theater.

### SELECTED WORKS

#### FICTION

*L'Altíssim*

(The Almighty)

Tres i Quatre, 2005

*Una dona meravellosa*

(A Wonderful Woman)

LaBreu Edicions, 2014

#### DRAMA

*Això és Àustria*

(This Is Austria)

Leonard Muntaner, 2012

*Els nens feliços*

(Happy Children)

Males Herbes, 2016

IMMA MONSÓ

# The Teacher and the Beast

*La mestra i la Bèstia*



Anagrama, 2023  
352 pages

**RIGHTS SOLD TO:**

Anagrama (Spanish)  
Feltrinelli (Italian)

**FOREIGN RIGHTS CONTACT**

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Carmen Balcells Agency

September 1962. Severina, a nineteen-year-old, orphaned, only child, accepts her first teaching post in Dusa, a rural village in the high Pyrenees, despite being homeschooled. She has more book learning than practical knowledge of the world and arrives with three objectives: to experience snow, have her own home, and be part of a small town. The year she spends in Dusa is one of awakenings, socialization with a series of eccentric characters, unrequited passion, and loss of political innocence.

Severina is an extreme product of the “Silent Generation” and her parents spoke of their political activities in code. It isn’t until the epilogue that she is confronted by her daughter with the documents of her father’s drumhead court-martial, in a scene driven by the author’s recent discoveries about her own family. Monsó takes the seeds of these silences and spins a classic winter yarn: subtle, detailed, and psychologically complex, brought to life with humor and a musical range of accents and dialectical variations, accompanied by the sounds of bossa nova and Duke Ellington.



# A naive young woman in search of an idyllic setting instead has the veil of Franco's "peace and prosperity" lifted from her eyes



**Imma Monsó** (Lleida, 1959) is the author of ten novels and three short-story collections, as well as children's literature and non-fiction. Her many awards include the Prudenci Bertrana, the Ramon Llull, the City of Barcelona, and the 2013 Catalan National Culture Prize for her lifetime literary achievements.

## SELECTED WORKS

### FICTION

*Un home de paraula*  
(A Man of His Word)  
RBA, 2006

*Millor que no m'ho expliquis*  
(You Better Not Tell Me)  
RBA, 2008

*Una tempesta*  
(A Storm)  
La Magrana, 2009

*La dona veloç*  
(The Fast Woman)  
Planeta, 2012

*L'aniversari*  
(The Birthday)  
Columna Edicions, 2016

MARTA ORRIOLS

# The Possibility of Home

*La possibilitat de dir-ne casa*



Proa, 2023  
320 pages

**RIGHTS SOLD TO:**

Destino (Spanish)  
Aira Editorial (Galician)

**FOREIGN RIGHTS CONTACT**

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Forty-something Valentina is a foreign correspondent returning to Catalonia after twenty years in Lebanon, where she lived a life read right to left. She'll tell people she came back because her parents are getting old, but the truth is she's fleeing both career uncertainty and her confusing feelings for another woman, only to find that coming "home" doesn't solve her sense of feeling adrift.

Best-selling author Marta Orriols has a gift for connecting intimately with readers, making them feel seen. Here she combines research with emotionally observant reflections that critique how we consume the news of the world, question the assumption that we all want the same things in life, and define home as merely the place we don't want to leave.

# A journalist who made Beirut her home realizes the true unexplored territory is within herself



**Marta Orriols** (Sabadell, 1975) began her literary career in 2016 with a collection of short stories, and followed it up two years later with *Learning to Talk to Plants*, which won the Òmnium Prize for best novel of the year, and was translated into sixteen languages, including English, French, Italian, Chinese, and Arabic.

## SELECTED WORKS

### FICTION

*Anatomia de les distàncies curtes*  
(The Anatomy of Short Distances)  
Edicions del Periscopi, 2016

*Aprendre a parlar amb les plantes*  
(Learning to Talk to Plants)  
Edicions del Periscopi, 2018

*Dolça introducció al caos*  
(A Sweet Introduction to Chaos)  
Edicions del Periscopi, 2020

EVA PIQUER

# Landing

*Aterratge*



Club Editor, 2023  
160 pages

**RIGHTS SOLD TO:**

Tránsito (Spanish)

**FOREIGN RIGHTS CONTACT**

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In November 1973, an American military plane crash-landed on the black sand of Solheimasandur Beach in southern Iceland, yet everyone on board survived. Nearly fifty years later, a recently widowed woman—who refers to what happened only as “All that”—contacts the pilot, who is now in his seventies. He consents to tell her his story on one condition: that she does not fictionalize it. Her writing journey leads her to travel to the landing site, finding the path to her survival in the experiences of others, because “every accident seems exceptional when it’s happening to you.”

Weaving the pilot’s story told in his own words with the protagonist’s introspective first-person account of her struggles with loss, and the chronicle of her four-day trip to Iceland, Piquer leads us on an intimate journey that we all must one day face. The pilot’s directive sets the tone for her own unvarnished truth-telling. How can we come out on the other side of grief and become survivors? How can we find the metaphor that leads us out of the darkness?

# A grieving woman finds a metaphor for her own survival in the wreckage of a crashed plane



**Eva Piquer** (Barcelona, 1969) is an author, journalist, and editor of the cultural magazine *Catorze*. A prolific author with thirteen books to her name, this is the first novel she has published in twenty years. Her numerous awards include the Atlàntida for lifetime achievement in journalism and the Josep Pla.

## SELECTED WORKS

### FICTION

*Una victòria diferent*  
(A Different Victory)  
Destino, 2002

### CHILDREN'S AND YOUNG ADULT LITERATURE

*La noia del temps*  
(The Weathergirl)  
Cruïlla, 2017

### ILLUSTRATED ALBUMS

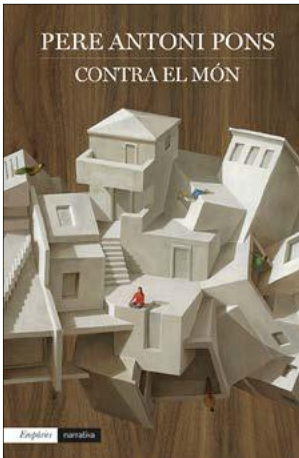
*Evasions*  
(Breakouts)  
Bridge, 2018

*Com abans de tot*  
(Like Before Everything)  
Bridge, 2021

PERE ANTONI PONS

# Against the World

*Contra el món*



Empúries, 2023  
416 pages

**RIGHTS AVAILABLE WORLDWIDE**

**FOREIGN RIGHTS CONTACT**

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What would happen if the Serra de Tramuntana crumbled because of strange seismic activity and floated up into the sky, forcing the evacuation of a hundred thousand people and creating new land for real-estate speculation? This is the catalyst that sets this allegorical novel into motion, lampooning the corruption and greed that has created an inexorable state of emergency on the once virgin island. Its main characters are a former member of the hotel sector, a well-known painter and an environmental activist, each representing an aspect of society: tourism, arts, and ecology.

This ruthless critique of where Mallorca is headed is organized into six parts and employs a variety of forms including the epistolary, monologue, alternating third-person narration, and journalist reportage. Pons manages to combine heartbreaking parable and sarcastic plausibility so effectively in part because Mallorca's hypercapitalist spiral in recent decades has been so grotesque, and its future or lack thereof mirrors the planet's. Or, as Sebastià concludes: "Mallorca remained intact, the destruction is absolute."

# A realistic novel with a cataclysmic premise: the sudden disappearance of a mountain range



**Pere Antoni Pons** (Campanet, 1980) is a journalist, a literary and art critic, poet, and novelist whose many publications include volumes of poetry, nonfiction, books of interviews, and four novels. His awards include the Llucieta Canyà for literary criticism, the Documenta for prose, and the Maria Mercè Marçal for poetry.

## SELECTED WORKS

### FICTION

*La felicitat dels dies tristos*  
(The Happiness of Sad Days)  
Editorial Empúries, 2010

*Tots els dimonis són aquí*  
(All the Demons Are Here)  
Editorial Empúries, 2011

*Si t'hi atreveixes*  
(If You Dare)  
Editorial Empúries, 2014

### POETRY

*Aquí, on passa tot*  
(Here, Where Everything Happens)  
Bromera, 2017

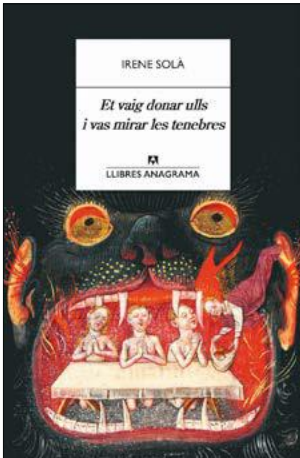
*Canvi de guàrdia*  
(Changing of the Guard)  
Viena Edicions, 2019

*Dilema d'energies*  
(Energy Dilemma)  
Ensiola, 2022

IRENE SOLÀ

# I Gave You Eyes and You Looked toward Darkness

*Et vaig donar ulls i vas mirar les tenebres*



Anagrama, 2023  
184 pages

## FOREIGN RIGHTS CONTACT

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## RIGHTS SOLD TO:

Cappelen Damm (Norwegian)  
ThinkKingdom (Chinese)  
Seuil (French)  
Fischer (German)

Ikaros (Greek)  
Magveto (Hungarian)  
Mondadori (Italian)  
Humanitas (Romanian)

Cossee (Dutch)  
Granta (English-UK)  
Cavalo de Ferro (Portuguese)  
Graywolf (English-US)

Impossibly old Bernadeta lies dying in an old farmhouse in the Guilleries mountain range. The women of her family prepare for her passing, particularly those who are dead. The matriarch, Joana, is arranging a feast to welcome her to the other side: the riotous, purple-dark underworld to which they have all been condemned since Joana made a deal with a devil in order to find a husband, and then reneged on her side of it.

This densely layered story covers more than four centuries of legend and history, yet unfolds in a single day. It is told in the many spirit voices that overshadow the living inside this bewitched farmhouse, interrogating storytelling convention itself: what is remembered and what is forgotten, whose stories are valued and believed, what myths underlie our present moment. Its visceral, sensorial, gritty, and irreverent language approximates oral history and enchants and entralls like a tale told around a bonfire.



# The spellbinding saga of a family and a house cursed by a broken pact with a trickster devil



**Irene Solà** (Malla, 1990) is a poet, novelist, and visual artist. Her previous book, *When I Sing, Mountains Dance* has spent more than two years on the Catalan best-seller list, after winning the 2019 Anagrama Prize and the 2020 European Union Prize for Literature, among others; it has been translated into thirty languages, a symphony, and an award-winning play.

## SELECTED WORKS

### FICTION

*Els dics*  
(The Dams)  
L'Altra, 2018

*Canto jo i la muntanya balla*  
(When I Sing, Mountains Dance)  
Anagrama, 2019

### POETRY

*Bèstia*  
(Beast)  
Galerada, 2012

# Grants

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## 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.

# Llull Fellowship

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In 2023, the Institut Ramon Llull is organizing the 22nd edition of its fellowship, aimed at international publishers and agents. This will take place in Barcelona between the 11th and 15th September, during the 41st 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 200 professionals from 45 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 ([llull.cat](http://llull.cat)).

# Other Services and Latest News

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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.

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

## **BOOKS IN CATALAN**

[booksincatalan.llull.cat](http://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](http://llull.cat/trac): A tool to find out what works of Catalan literature have been translated.

## **TRADUCAT**

[llull.cat/traducats](http://llull.cat/traducats): 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](mailto:literature@llull.cat).

# Llull Literature Team

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