

CATALAN LITERARY NON-FICTION 2020

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Institut Ramon Llull

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Foreword

Institut Ramon Llull

This is an excellent moment for Catalan literature. An exceptionally fine tradition meets contemporary innovation in constant dialogue with other literatures and realities. This creative momentum is bolstered by a dynamic publishing industry and a proficient network of literary agents.

This booklet offers a selection of 11 non-fiction books recently published in Catalan, organised in 4 thematic blocks. This list reflects a variety of trends, topics and genres: philosophical texts; humanistic essays; narrative journalism; popular science; current affairs; biographies, and more. The collection of titles is targeted at a wide readership, cultured but not specialised, and concerned with art, history, politics, classic and contemporary issues. 11 outstanding books that aim to promote critical thinking and aesthetic pleasure in order to enrich our experience of the world.

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 to ensure that Catalan literature is translated, published and read abroad. It is our belief that in times of (Covid-related) uncertainty the Institut Ramon Llull, as a public institution, must persist in its task and continue supporting the publishing professionals to guarantee that good books are on our side against common challenges.

Along with this exciting overview of the lively scene of Catalan literary non-fiction, this booklet also presents information on the Llull Services & Grants directed at the international publishing sector.

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

NAJAT EL HACHMI

They've Always Spoken For Us

Sempre han parlat per nosaltres



Edicions 62, 2019
106 pages
Also published in Spanish (Destino)

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MB Agència Literària

Najat El Hachmi moved to Catalonia from Morocco when she was only eight years old, and she had to stand up to her community in order to gain the freedoms she now has, such as choosing her own husband, and writing books. Twenty years later, the author observes that the rise in feminist movements hasn't caused Islam to change its views on women, but rather, paradoxically, to use them in the elaboration of new strategies of submission. It is no longer grim-faced imams who insist on the use of the veil, she tells us, but persuasive women who find space on the internet and in the press. They are the face of an allegedly open religion that defends an Islamic feminism and the freedom to live according to their faith. But for El Hachmi there is no possible freedom within a faith that is intrinsically misogynist. Islam is, fundamentally, patriarchal. And she adds: there is no Islamic feminism (nor Black feminism, nor white, nor rich, nor poor). Feminism has no modifiers, she asserts, it is a struggle that is shared by all the women of the world. The Western left would be wise to join in this struggle, she concluded, and avoid the trap of multicultural relativist discourse that ends up justifying abuse and discrimination. This is an urgent, lucid, valuable text. And a controversial one.

In this brief text with enormous implications, Najat El Hachmi argues that there is no such thing as Islamic feminism. Gender emancipation is not possible when religion serves as a mechanism of patriarchal control. We must defend an interfaith feminism that supports the rights of women around the world regardless of race, class, or religion.



Najat El Hachmi was born in Morocco in 1979 and moved to Spain in 1987. She holds a degree in Arab Studies from the University of Barcelona. Her first novel *L'últim patriarca* (Planeta, 2008), won the 2008 Ramon Llull Prize and the Prix Ulysse, and was a big bestseller and translated into 11 languages. It was followed by the novels *La caçadora de cossos* (Columna-Planeta, 2011) and *La filla estrangera* (Edicions 62, 2015), winner of the BBVA Sant Joan Novel Award and the Ciutat de Barcelona Catalan Fiction Award and *Mare de llet i de mel* (Edicions 62, 2018), all of them international bestsellers.

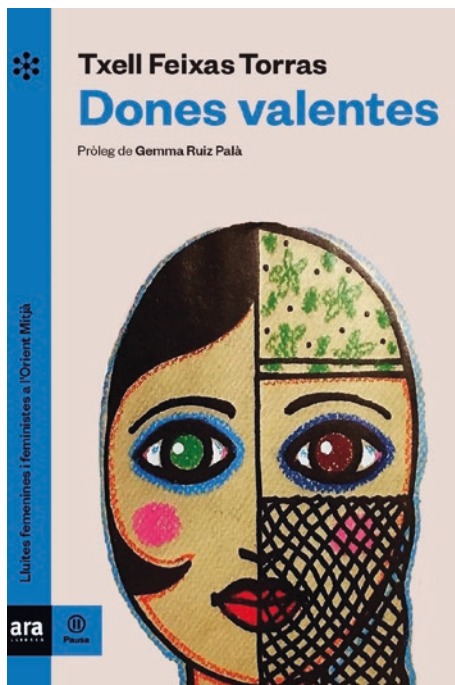
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I wasn't surprised by their criticisms, or by the hysterical sermons of the bearded men protesting women's liberation. But I wasn't prepared for the current climate, in which, rather than joining the fight against the prevailing sexism, younger women subscribe to the religious indoctrination, align themselves with reactionary versions designed to halt the progress of women, and lift their voices to defend, in the name of common cultural identity and religious essentialism, elements which are objectively disastrous for our dignity.”

TXELL FEIXAS TORRAS

Brave Women

Dones valentes



Ara Llibres, 2020
176 pages

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Ara Llibres

The image we receive of Middle Eastern women is often obscured by a veil of victimization and prejudices. This book strives to correct that impoverished and schematic vision. As a foreign correspondent in the region, Txell Feixas has met a number of what she deems brave women: women engaged in a personal rebellion against the injustices they suffer because of their gender.

Benchymer flees the ring of enslaved domestics in Lebanon. Gulan takes up arms to fight the Islamic State on the front lines. Fatma takes part in a performance piece protesting the law that forces Lebanese women to marry their rapists . . . Feixas offers a series of personal profiles with far-reaching social implications. Her journalistic narrative is discreet and generous, prioritizing the subjects' voices while providing detailed context for their lives. The result reveals a reality that is known to few people in the West, and some aspects will provoke outrage, while others will inspire. This is both an enraged cry and a call for dignity.

A journalistic account of the daily struggles (to the death, in many cases) of Middle Eastern women who stand up to the injustices they face for being born female. A book that brings together the testimonies of these brave women who, day after day, assert and demand their legitimate rights.



Txell Feixas Torras

(Mediona, 1979) is a journalist. She is currently a Middle East correspondent, based in Beirut, for the Catalan Audiovisual Media Corporation, and has covered the war against the Islamic State in Iraq, the fall of the Caliphate from Rojava, and the March of Return to the Gaza Strip, among other significant events in the region. Previously she reported on the Al-Qaeda kidnapping of volunteers from Barcelona Acció Solidària in Mauritania, and the humanitarian crisis at the Ceuta border fence with Morocco.

“

Straight away and with the resignation of those who believe there is no other alternative, the mothers agreed to marry Fatma off to her rapist. They never asked her what she thought of that decision. In the days that followed, Fatma saw how her father avoided her instead of supporting her and found she had to hide from her own brother after he tried to attack her with a kitchen knife, accusing her of having brought dishonor to the family.

«It was so hard to watch how, over time, my brother was able to forgive the man who had raped me, who'd become my husband and his brother-in-law ... but he continued to blame me for everything that had happened to us».”

MARTA MARÍN-DÒMINE

Fleeing Was The Most Precious Thing We Had

Fugir era el més bell que teníem

SPECIAL MENTION 2019 CATALAN BOOKSELLERS' PRIZE

2019 CITY OF BARCELONA PRIZE FOR BEST NON-FICTION BOOK

20th AMAT PINIELLA PRIZE

2020 SERRA D'OR AWARD



Club Editor, 2019
224 pages

RIGHTS SOLD TO:

Galaxia Gutenberg (Spanish)

FOREIGN RIGHTS CONTACT:

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SalmaiaLit

Marta Marín-Dòmine defines herself as a nomad. She doesn't measure time in years, but rather in landscapes and, any time she suspects she might be taking root somewhere, she packs her suitcase. Where does that desire to flee stem from? She can only answer that question through an investigation of the figure of her father, who was marked by his experience of *depaysament*, spending his childhood in France, where his family had fled from the dictatorship of Primo de Rivera, and the luminous Barcelona of the Republic. Her father transformed these experiences into the political values and warm memories he passed on to his daughter, but the sting of defeat never left him, nor did his desire to return to France and to a period in which he was happy. And while her father was never able to realize his desire of flight, his daughter can't stop. Family inheritances, the most intimate memories, collective identity, the condition of exile ... These are the themes that arise throughout this evocative, beautifully written text, which questions both individuals and societies, and offers resplendent reflections. Marín-Dòmine's prose illuminates and burns and rummages around in an inherited wound with an exacting desire to comprehend.

An intimate, poetic, and revelatory investigation of inherited memory and the condition of exile. A text that brings together literary daring and philosophical speculation.



Marta Marín-Dòmine, a Canadian born in Barcelona, teaches Literatures of Spain at the Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo (Canada), where she directs the Centre for Memory and Testimony Studies. During many years she worked at the Universitat Autònoma in Barcelona on both the practice and teaching of literary translation; her book *Traduir el desig* [*Translating Desire*] grew out of her work with psychoanalysis and translation. She is the author of the documentaries *Argentineans in Toronto* and *Mémoire juive 1932-1945*. She created the artistic installation “Je vous offre les oiseaux / Us ofereixo els ocells” (MUHBA 2017), commissioned by Barcelona’s Municipal Memory Committee, in homage to the victims of Nazi camps. She also works as a consultant on subjects of memory and memorialization.

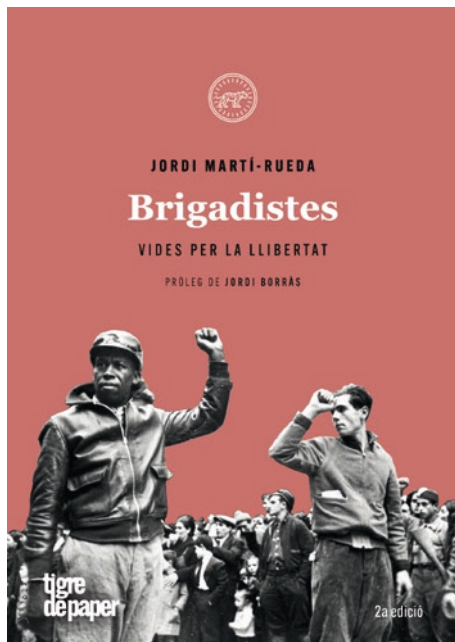
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Can one inherit exile? (...) There are certain experiences lived by others that fix themselves into our skin and appear like a snake at every turn. Someone, without meaning to, passed on their cottony breath to us, one sluggish day at summer’s end. Or some winter when an old woman stood by the foot of our bed. Medicinal herbs, lullabies, the sounds of the night, fears. And that someone also passed along to us, mixed with the fear, the joy of flight: we’re off, pack up the furniture, clear off the shelves, unhang the pictures, grab your notebook, flee, fly, get gone, don’t stay here. For someone leaving a country behind—always torn between the fear of betrayal and the pleasure of fleeing, a gesture of contempt for the contemptible homeland—time’s passage is calculated in the difference between the urgent need to return and the ever-fragile success of having found a direction. A new time machine. The packed suitcase behind the door.”

JORDI MARTÍ-RUEDA

Brigade Volunteers. Lives for Freedom

Brigadistes. Vides per la llibertat



Tigre de Paper, 2020
160 pages

FOREIGN RIGHTS CONTACT:

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Tigre de Paper

The International Brigades are one of the most legendary chapters in the history of the world's fight against fascism. When General Franco's coup d'état threatened the Second Republic, more than forty thousand men and women from around the world came to Spain to battle against fascism. Jordi Martí-Rueda pays tribute to them in this book, and invites us to relive their stories. Sixty portraits—each with a photograph and a short text—tell us about the people who risked their lives to defend the lives of others. In these pages we discover young men who crossed borders on bicycle to join the Republican cause; men and women who came from across the Atlantic to fight in Spanish trenches; students driving ambulances; friends who adopted the surnames of the fallen to commemorate them; African-Americans who find they aren't discriminated against for the color of their skin; women who earn the respect of entire battalions; English and Irishmen who find a shared cause and homeland in the ranks of the international brigades. These true stories pack more emotional impact than fiction; they are richly layered, surprising, and moving, each with its own distinct essence and particulars but all with a common goal: the generous defense of freedom.

A thrilling collection of sixty portraits of impassioned men and women who formed part of the International Brigades. An homage to the anonymous heroes who risked everything to challenge fascism. An emotional and politically committed text that explains the ideals that spurred on an entire generation and offers an inspiring example of solidarity and struggle.



Jordi Martí-Rueda is a historian specialized in the Spanish Civil War and the International Brigades. His first book, *Tocats pel vent. Cinc històries humanes de les Brigades Internacionals i la Guerra Civil* [Moved By The Wind. Five Human Stories of the International Brigades and the Civil War] won the 2015 Liberisliber Prize for Non-Fiction. He has worked in the publishing industry and on various historical memory projects. He currently works in the Catalan government's Commission for Democratic Memory.

“*«Maybe you could drive an ambulance. But I doubt you'd be able-at night, in the dark, on a highway destroyed by bombs-to fix an engine or change a flat tire.»*

[...]

Evelyn Hutchins was the only American woman who drove ambulances for the front lines. It turned out she could fix engines and change truck tires. And she could also drive along bombed out highways, swerving all the holes and making sure none of the four wheels landed in any of the craters [...] It turned out she could do all that at night, very often with the headlights turned off to avoid attacks by enemy planes, her mind focused on all the craters in the road and keeping all four wheels out of them [...] The challenges didn't throw her off her game. If you're an ambulance driver, she would declare, then you're an ambulance driver.

[...]

Reporters and her comrades alike were surprised to find such a petite, smiling young woman at the wheel of such a large vehicle. Many of them treated her kindly and took photographs. Others didn't. Those ones, she would say some years later, were my true comrades.”

JOAN FONTCUBERTA & XAVIER ANTICH

Revelations

Revelacions



Arcàdia, 2019
160 pages

RIGHTS SOLD TO:
Gustavo Gili (Spanish)

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Txell Torrent
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MB Agència Literària

Revelations offers two complementary approaches to photography. In the first, photographer and image theorist Joan Fontcuberta reflects on the images made by Nils Strinberg on a failed expedition to the North Pole. Lost for years, they were found and restored to produce sharper positives, but to what extent was that embellishment genuine? Wasn't the deterioration of the negatives still an accurate portrayal of reality? Fontcuberta posits that photography began with the haughty pretension of stopping time, but time ended up rebelling and exposing the private lives of photographs. Images, like the life they capture, suffer their own traumas as well.

In the second text, Xavier Antich's musings are inspired by Fontcuberta's body of work directly entitled *Trauma*, which presents damaged images that invite us to reflect on what remains of a photograph when it no longer depicts reality. The philosopher invokes the tradition begun by Walter Benjamin and defines Fontcuberta's series as an archeology of the present. Just as Atget unmasked Paris by photographing its seedy side, Fontcuberta's traumatized photographs point to meanings that go beyond the reality reflected within them.

Joan Fontcuberta and Xavier Antich interweave philosophy and poetics to grasp the nature of photography. Their reflections reveal the intimate life of images that, with all their lights and shadows, are in relationship to the realities they struggle to reveal to us. The world splits in two and meanings multiply.



Xavier Antich (La Seu d'Urgell, 1962) is a Doctor of Philosophy and, since 1995, a professor of Aesthetics at the Universitat de Girona. He has taught at Stanford University (Palo Alto) and the Universidade Católica Portuguesa (Lisbon); he was director of the Master's in Art Criticism and Cultural Communication (U. de Girona) and the Independent Studies Program (MACBA); he is also a professor in the Taller d'Humanitat(s) at the ESADE and the Talleres Islados in Minorca. Since 2012 he has been the president of the Fundació Antoni Tàpies. His essays have earned him numerous awards.



Joan Fontcuberta (Barcelona, 1955) is a photographer, teacher, critic, curator, and historian. He was awarded the National Photography Award in 1998 and named a Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres by the French Ministry of Culture. His creative and theoretical body of work reflects on the ontology of the image. He is the author of a dozen books on photography and has had solo exhibitions at MoMA, M.I.T., Museum of Fine Arts (Fukui, Japan), MEP (Paris), and the Science Museum (London). His work has been acquired by important public collections including the Musée d'Art Moderne – Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris; the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; and the National Gallery of Art, Ottawa.

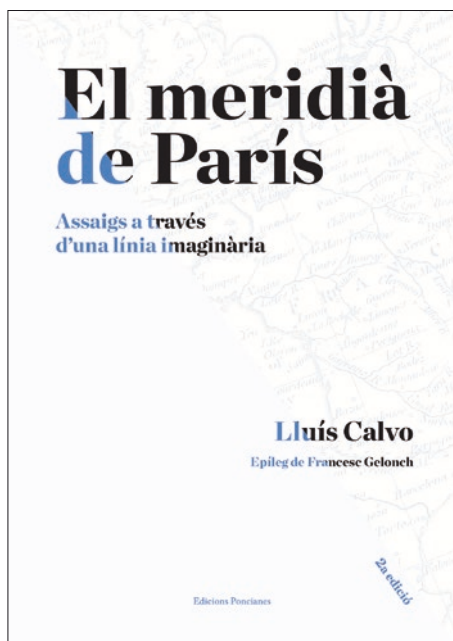
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Herein lies the meaning of advocating for decaying photographs, accepting the force that erases them to the extent that this renunciation of representation allows for gains in introspection and discourse. An image's deterioration should not be understood as a defect or a limitation, perhaps it is not even a loss. It is actually a phase of its existence in which expression and memory settle and clarify. The adventure that Strindberg's photographs lived through must lead us to this perspective on substance and time in photography.”

LLUÍS CALVO

The Paris Meridian

El meridià de París



Before being supplanted by the Greenwich Meridian line, the Paris Meridian was a world geographical reference and a symbol of enlightened progress, but today it has become a phantasmagorical presence. Using this metaphor as a starting point, Lluís Calvo combines poetic pacing, philosophical rigor, and narrative passion to propose an itinerary that stops at various points along this invisible line that traces the flip side of European history. This route ends, as a symbol and a warning, at Dragonera Island, surrounded by a sea where each year hundreds of the dispossessed drown: symbol of a Europe that “rises from the ruins of its errors,” and warning for a future that remains to be written.

Edicions Poncianes, 2018
206 pages

RIGHTS SOLD TO:
Editorial Godot (Spanish)

FOREIGN RIGHTS CONTACT:
Lluís Calvo
daltabaixp@gmail.com

Using the Paris meridian as an itinerary, Lluís Calvo weaves together stories and reflections that sketch an alternative history of enlightened Europe.



Lluís Calvo (Saragossa, 1963) holds a degree in geography from the Universitat de Barcelona and works in cultural management. He is a poet, prose writer, literary critic, and essayist. He has published the following books of essays: *Les interpretacions* (2006) and *Baules i llenguatges* (2011). His fourteen volumes of poetry include *Estiula* (2011), *Teresa la mòmia* (with David Caño, 2013) *Llegat rebel* (2013), and *Selvàtica* (2015). He has published four novels, most recently *L'endemà de tot* (2014). He has been awarded numerous prizes including the Amadeu Oller, the Jocs Florals de Barcelona, the Vicent Andrés Estellés, the Rosa Leveroni and the Serra d'Or Critics' Prize. Calvo's work has been translated into English, Spanish, French, Italian, and Polish.

“

Europe will only avoid sinking [...] if it can put an end to blind, cruel, exploitative action and reconsider its unlimited reliance on the material progress set in motion by modernity. And also if it can see itself reflected in the emancipating actions that have given it voice, vote, and personality over the last three centuries. Now progress lies in another place, beyond the spirit of depredation, like a line that extends from one end of the continent to the other. Meridians remain everywhere, sketching out paths and history. Dusk falls. And in the most ancient sea the glow of a lighthouse beams, perhaps for the last time.”

VVAA

Deadly Sins

Pecats capitals



Fragmenta, 2019-20
7 volumes, 70 pages each (approx.)
Also published in Spanish

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Fragmenta

Despite the world's disillusionment, science's hegemony, and our postmodern crises of faith, the seven deadly sins still carry weight in our individual and collective morality. Who wants to be seen as slothful? Who'll admit to envying their friends? Or that they sometimes get carried away by wrath? In order to analyze these concepts, which were born in religion but still operate in our secular day-to-day, Fragmaenta has brought together seven essayists under forty-five years old and gave them free rein to write a brief reflection on one of the seven cardinal sins. The assignment was to create a text that was both completely rigorous and absolutely personal; a text that engaged with tradition yet was also heterodox. The result is an astute collection that transgresses the nature of the deadly sins to reveal the nature of the sinners.

Seven unfettered and heterodox reflections on the deadly sins conform this lucid and irreverently intellectual collection of slim volumes. A catalogue of flaws, errors and excesses that is also a sampling of some of the most stimulating voices in contemporary Catalan literature.



Oriol Quintana

(Barcelona, 1974) earned a doctorate in humanities from the Universitat Pompeu Fabra and is an assistant professor at the Universitat Ramon Llull. He is the author of *Filosofía para una vida peor [Philosophy for a Worse Life]* and *Cent preguntes filosòfiques [One Hundred Philosophical Questions]*, as well as numerous articles on the figure of George Orwell. His most recent book, *Vostè i George Orwell [You and George Orwell]*, won the 26th Joan Maragall Prize for non-fiction



Marina Porrás

(Barcelona, 1991) graduated in art history and Catalan language and literature, and holds a master's in literary theory and comparative literature. She is a researcher in training with the Comparative Literature research group at the European Intellectual Space at the Universitat de Barcelona. She contributes to various media as a literary critic and cultural journalist.



Oriol Ponsatí-Murlà

(Figueras, 1978) earned his doctorate in philosophy, and is a professor of ancient philosophy at the Universitat de Girona. Founder of the publishing house Edicions de la Ela Geminada. Author of the novel *Totes les estacions de França [All the Stations in France]*, as well as numerous preliminary studies of philosophical works. He has translated into Catalan such authors as Nietzsche, Vattimo, Diderot, and I. Calvino. He is currently the director of the Institució de les Lletres Catalanes.



Adrià Pujol Cruells

(Begur, 1974) is an anthropologist, writer, and translator. He combines his teaching at the Escola Bloom and the Aula d'Espectura de Girona with museography and research. He has published books in numerous genres including novel, biography, diary, and essay (*La carpeta és blava*, *Els barcelonins*, *Míster Folch*, among others). His translation of *Eclipse*, by Georges Perec, won several prestigious awards. He is a regular contributor in various media.

Far from pointing to the capital sins as the origin of all vices, as Christianity does, many of the authors focus on the relativity of moral concepts. Oriol Quintana finds an essentially human dimension to sloth; Adrià Pujol observes that there are health risks in gluttony, but also an undeniable pleasure for the senses; Oriol Ponsatí-Murlà points out how greed can be both a condemnable vice and a revolutionary virtue; Anna Punsoda, on the other hand, goes a step further when she declares lust to be a thermometer of our mental and physical health; and Marina Porrás notes a facet particular to envy: it is the only sin that is an insatiable, bottomless well. Others, such as Jordi Graupera and Raül Garrigasait, draw connections between their chosen sins (pride and wrath) and the social realm, showing how they are used in politics.



“

Expressing rage is already a way to domesticate it. The ritual accompanies the wrath and channels its power. It's like living with a majestic beast that can kill you and can serve you; no matter how hard you try to tame it, it will never cease being an animal, but if you treat it with sufficient respect it will become your protective spirit.

[...]

Wrath can unsettle us and it can strengthen us, it can liberate us from a life of submission or from repeating a watered-down version of other people's lives. But the beast can never be completely tamed. We keep it always close at hand, in the cave, half-asleep. We must visit it often, to offer our respects, and our trust.”

FROM THE VOLUME *WRATH* BY RAÜL GARRIGASAIT



Anna Punsoda

(Barcelona, 1985) holds degrees in journalism from the Universitat Ramon Llull and in philosophy from the Universitat de Barcelona, where she also earned a master's in «Classical Studies and Thought». Among the authors she has translated from German are Rilke, Kafka, and Panikkar. Her first novel, *Els llits dels altres* [*Other People's Beds*] (Amsterdam, 2018) won the Roc Boronat Prize. She contributes to various media and edits the magazine *Diagonal*.



Jordi Graupera

(Barcelona, 1981) earned a doctorate in philosophy from the New School for Social Research in New York. He has been a professor and researcher of political thought, anthropology, and international relations at several American universities, such as New York University and Princeton University.



Raül Garrigasait

(Solsona, 1979) is a writer and a Hellenist. In his non-fiction he has explored such themes as cosmopolitanism (*El gos cosmopolita i dos espècimens més* [*The Cosmopolitan Dog and Two Other Specimens*]), the beginnings of modernity in Catalunya (*El fugitiu que no se'n va* [*The Fugitive Who Won't Leave*]) and the relationship between Greco-Roman classics and power (*Els fundadors* [*The Founders*]). His novel *Els estranys* [*Strange Strangers*] (2017) won the Catalan Bookseller's Prize, the Òmnium Award for Best Catalan Novel, and the Setè Cel Prize.

SALVADOR MACIP

The Great Modern Plagues

Les grans epidèmies modernes



How much of a threat to humankind are viruses and bacteria? Are vaccines enough to neutralize that threat? How can we fight a pandemic in a globalized world? These are the questions that Salvador Macip set out to answer in 2010, shortly after the avian flu had put the entire world on viral alert. Macip, in addition to his numerous works of prose fiction, is a PhD in Molecular Genetics and a researcher at the University of Leicester who has written a number of popular science books. This impressive skill set means he is able to describe, in both a scientifically rigorous and clearly understandable way, the primary diseases caused by micro-organisms (flu, ebola, SARS-CoV, AIDS ...) and explain the dangers they pose to humans. Reading this book ten years after it was first published, one is surprised by the relevance of both its diagnosis of the risks and its final warning. New viruses will come that will present a global threat, Macip tells us, and we must be prepared to tackle them with a combined effort among all the different world leaders.

La Campana, 2010 (and 2020)
257 pages
Also published in Spanish (Destino)

RIGHTS SOLD TO:

Polity Press (English)
Companhia Editora Nacional (Brazilian)

FOREIGN RIGHTS CONTACT:

Natàlia Berenguer
natalia@asteriscagents.com
Asterisc Agents

A prescient classic written a decade ago and published in a new edition for 2020, this book warns of the dangers of a pandemic and offers keys in the fight against it. Clearly and engagingly written, it details the historical dynamics between viruses and the human species, projects future scenarios and explains our world as it is, as we never dared to imagine it.



Salvador Macip (Girona, 1970) He holds degrees in Medicine and Surgery from the University of Barcelona, as well as a doctorate in Molecular Genetics and Human Physiology. After earning his PhD, he spent nine years researching cancer and cellular aging at Mount Sinai Hospital in New York. There he had the opportunity to study the functioning of the immune system and infections, and to collaborate with the virologists who discovered the genetic bases of the flu pandemics of 1918 and 2009. Since 2008 he has continued his research at the laboratory he runs at the University of Leicester (U.K.), where he is a professor of Molecular and Cellular Biology. He has published more than thirty books, which have earned him several awards and have been translated into Spanish, English, Portuguese, French, German, Italian, and Korean. He is a regular contributor to newspapers and radio.

“

The next time—because there will undoubtedly be a next time—we have to presume that we will do better. Information travels faster than ever. And it must be made clear to all the world’s governments that by working together we have the chance to save millions of lives [...] We cannot ignore an epidemic just because it is happening thousands of kilometers from where we live. We have to be able to rapidly detect outbreaks of serious illnesses in order to halt and eradicate them before they spread across the entire planet. We cannot continue to design national strategies, we must think of the whole world, and that will inevitably involve investing resources in developing countries.”

INGRID GUARDIOLA

The Eye and the Razor

L'ull i la navalla



The world is a virtual interface. Through the screens of our digital devices we experience physical (and psychic) reality; we exchange images and information that condition our private and public lives. This technology has already changed personal relationships, our ideas about ourselves, and our very perception of time and space. At these coordinates, life is reduced to a spectacle managed by private interests. To combat this commercialized gaze, Ingrid Guardiola proposes using Bartleby's strategy; in other words, refusing to participate with a gentle "I would prefer not to." And following this gesture, the author strives to recover a critical distance from the virtual world, facilitate an alternate space in which to reestablish community ties in order to make our world inhabitable.

Arcàdia, 2018
264 pages
Also published in Spanish

RIGHTS SOLD TO:
Skarifima (Greek)

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MB Agència Literària

With a subtle yet sharply incisive style, Guardiola analyzes the oppressive/liberating possibilities of consuming/living reality as an audiovisual product.



Ingrid Guardiola (Girona, 1980) is a film producer, researcher, and director. She holds a doctorate in Humanities from the Universitat Pompeu Fabra, and has worked primarily on issues around gender, inequality, and technology in the realm of culture and film praxis. She was an associate professor at the Universitat Pompeu Fabra (2009-2015) and currently teaches at the Universitat de Girona and the Universitat de Barcelona, and as a visiting professor at the universities of València and Rovira i Virgili.

“

Without a doubt, it is the companies with the most capital (headed up by Facebook, Google, Amazon, Microsoft, and Apple) that have the greatest capacity to infiltrate our personal communication spaces and mobilize our sensibility and our tastes. They are able to not only determine our consumption, but also our identity, in other words, how we dress, how we speak, how we think, how we act.”

MARINA GARCÉS

New Radical Enlightenment

Nova Il·lustració radical

WINNER OF THE 2018 BARCELONA ESSAY PRIZE



We live in a time Marina Garcés describes as posthumous. Enlightenment’s aim of “liberating human beings from fear and installing them as masters,” in the words of Adorno and Horkheimer, seems to have failed. Confidence in history’s constant progress has plummeted and, in its place, reigns a provisional apocalyptic experience. New catastrophic narratives incite authoritarianism, fanaticism, and terrorism, and impose a false dichotomy between seeking contingent solutions or falling into the fatalism of the doomed. The author pushes back against these new forms of gullibility and again picks up the old gauntlet of philosophy. Reinstating the radical nature of the Enlightenment affirms the dignity of the human experience and, from that space, proposes a “reciprocal and welcoming” universal standard that fosters new forms of life.

Anagrama, 2017
80 pages
Also published in Spanish

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paula@indentagency.com
Indent Literary Agency

Garcés challenges the catastrophic narratives put forth by the politics of hate and in their place proposes a new radical Enlightenment able to imagine new horizons in community.



Marina Garcés (Barcelona, 1973) is a philosopher, essayist, professor at the Universitat Oberta de Catalunya (UOC), and winner of the 2018 Barcelona Non-fiction Prize. Committed to reflecting on life as a common problem, she has, since 2002, guided the collective critical thought project Espai en Blanc. She is the author of the books *En las prisiones de lo posible* (2002), *Un mundo común* (2013), *Filosofía inacabada* (2015), *Fora de classe* (2016), *Nova Il·lustració radical* (2017), and *Ciutat Princesa* (2018).

“

“We are on the cusp of a surrender. The human renunciation of the task of learning and educating oneself in order to live more nobly. In the face of this surrender, I propose a new radical Enlightenment. Recommencing the fight against gullibility and affirming the freedom and dignity of the human experience with its capacity for learning. Originally, this fight was revolutionary. Now it is necessary.”

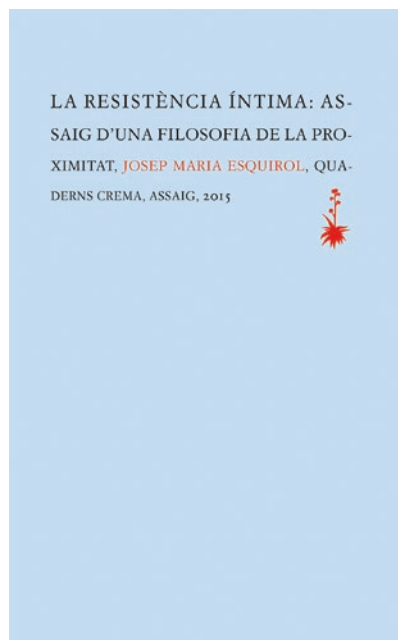
JOSEP MARIA ESQUIROL

Inner Resistance

La resistència íntima

CITY OF BARCELONA ESSAY PRIZE 2015

NATIONAL ESSAY PRIZE 2016



We feel adrift in today's high-tech world. We rush to and fro without knowing whither we are bound. We feel stranded, stressed and nihilistic. That is why Josep Maria Esquirol resorts to a radical philosophical step — the quest for meaning. Here, his ambition is comparable with Peter Sloterdijk's. Instead of pursuing totalitarian notions (including those of Science), Esquirol takes a critical look at the world around us, fleshing out a simple but powerful concept based on proximity. With engaging naturalness, he speaks of a dish of soup, the graffiti on a house wall in Turin, a sleepless night, or the use we make of language. In doing so, he weaves a simple yet compelling theory, namely: that we must resist if we are to shield our innermost being so that we can care for ourselves and help those at our side.

Quaderns Crema, 2015
 176 pages
 Also published in Spanish (Acantilado)

RIGHTS SOLD TO:

Vita e Pensiero (Italian)
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 Quaderns Crema

Esquirol reclaims what is deepest in the human condition and proffers answers with the hospitality and open-handedness of one of the Ancient Philosophers. His book is unusual in both its ambition and its delicacy.

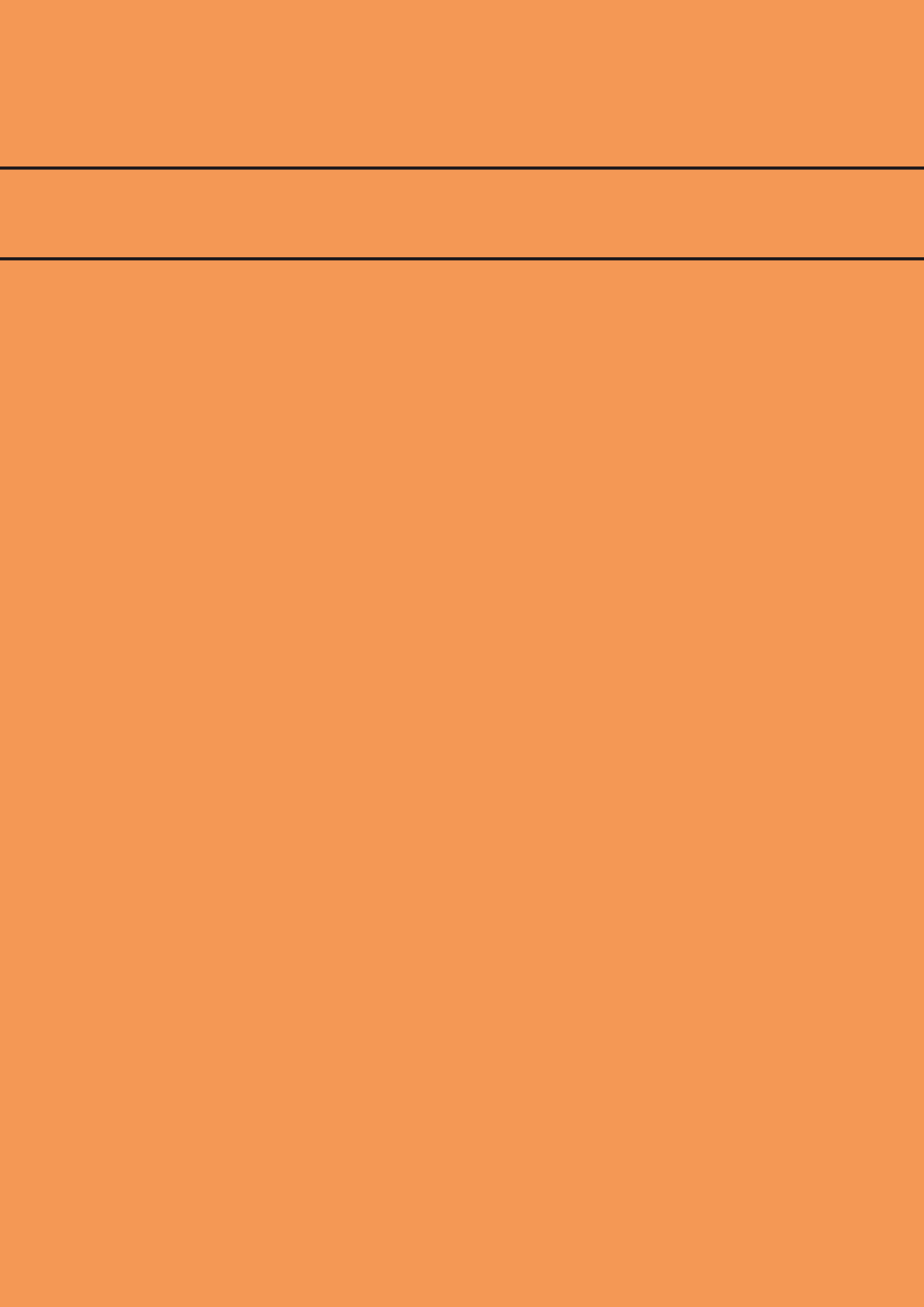


Josep Maria Esquirol,

(Sant Joan de Mediona, 1963)
is Professor of Philosophy at the University of Barcelona (UB), where he directs the Aporia research group. He is the author of numerous studies on contemporary philosophy and gives seminars on the subject at universities abroad.

“

[...] The fog of nihilism can seep into everything, given that it is part of the human condition. It is precisely for this reason that the meaning of proximity will never be that of a perfect, happy world. Maybe this will be seen as too modest an ambition but it is not. It could be delusional but equally well, it could not. What can save us?, asked Heidegger. It is not only God, artistic creation and political oratory that hold out hope of salvation — so too does proximity.”





Grants

LITERATURE TRANSLATION

Grants for the translation of Catalan literature: fiction, non-fiction, children's and YA books, poetry, theatre and graphic novels.

Recipients: Publishers.

LITERATURE PROMOTION

Grants to promote abroad Catalan literature (fiction, non-fiction, children's and YA books, poetry, theatre and graphic novels), including participation in international literary festivals and presentations and promotional plans for works in translation.

Recipients: Publishers, Literary Events Organizers.

ILLUSTRATED BOOKS

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

Recipients: Publishers.

SAMPLES & BOOKLETS

Grants to translate samples of works written in Catalan to produce booklets for promotional purposes.

Recipients: Catalan Publishers, Literary Agencies.

TRANSLATORS IN RESIDENCY

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

Recipients: Translators.

TRAVEL FOR WRITERS AND ILLUSTRATORS

Grants for writers and illustrators to finance travel costs to carry out literary activities, to which they have been invited.

Recipients: Writers in Catalan and illustrators with at least two books originally published in Catalan.



Llull Fellowship

Every year the Institut Ramon Llull organises its fellowship aimed at international publishers and agents. It takes place in Barcelona in September, during the Setmana del Llibre en Català (Catalan Book Week Festival).

First launched in 2007, when Catalan Culture was Guest of Honour at the Frankfurt Book Fair, the project was designed to foster the translation of Catalan works into other languages and their introduction into new markets. Since then, over 173 professionals from 32 countries have participated in this fellowship.

The programme aims to provide the participants (10 focused on Fiction, 8 on children's & YA books) with a more in-depth perspective on Catalan literature and the Catalan Publishing sector as well as to build networks among Catalan and international publishing houses and literary agencies.

For five days, the fellowship offers a schedule of professional 30' meetings with Catalan publishers and agents selected in accordance with the participant's catalogues. The programme also features introductory sessions on Catalan literature; an overview of the Catalan literary publishing world; informal meetings with writers, illustrators, translators and journalists; and visits to emblematic bookstores and illustration schools. Both groups of participants, either focused on Fiction or on children's & YA books, enjoy a customised set of activities based on their interests.

The Institut Ramon Llull covers travel, accommodation and expenses related to the fellowship programme.

The application for the Llull Fellowship can be sent during March and April. The exact dates of the call can be checked on our website (www.llull.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 pleased to put publishing professionals in touch with Catalan authors, publishers or agents.

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

TRAC

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

TRADUCAT

www.llull.cat/traducats: to browse the profile and contacts of literary translators from Catalan to other languages.

PAPER LLULL

www.llull.cat/en

Institut Ramon Llull continues to develop its communication, broadening horizons and fulfilling the needs of both its potential audience and the specialist community that makes up its educational, literary, artistic and prescriptive network. This is the driving force behind the Paper Llull, a new communication initiative in digital magazine format with specific content on all the disciplines covered by Institut Ramon Llull.

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



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