NEW BOOKS FROM ISRAEL
Fall 2014

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Zeruya Shalev was born at Kibbutz Kinneret. She has an MA in Biblical studies and works as a literary editor. Shalev has written six novels, poetry, and a children’s book. Love Life, Husband and Wife and Late Family (Thera) have been bestsellers in several countries. Love Life is also included in Der Spiegel’s prestigious list of 20 Best Novels in World Literature over the last 40 years. Husband and Wife is included in the French Fnac list of the 200 Best Books of the Decade. And The Remains of Love was included in The Independent’s list of Books of the Year in Translation, 2013. Shalev has received the Book Publishers Association’s Gold and Platinum Prizes, the Corine Prize (Germany, 2001), the Amphi Award (France, 2003), the ACUM Award (1997, 2003, 2005), the French Wizo Prize (2007) and the Rome-Jerusalem Prize (2014). Her books have been published abroad in 23 languages. 

Wounds and Wonders is forthcoming in German (Berlin Verlag).

CLICK HERE FOR A COMPLETE LISTING ON THE ITHL WEBSITE.

Zeruya Shalev

Wounds and Wonders

a novel

Jerusalem, Keter, forthcoming

Ten years after she was seriously injured in a terrorist attack, the pain comes back to torment Iris, the heroine of Zeruya Shalev’s new novel. But that is not all: Eitan, the love of her youth also comes back into her life. And although their relationship ended many years ago, she was more deeply wounded when he left her than by the suicide bomber who blew himself up next to her.

Iris’s marriage is stalled. Her two children have grown up and are almost independent; she herself has become a dedicated, successful school principal. But now, after years of living without passion and joy, Eitan brings them back into her life. Unhappily, she must concoct all sorts of lies to conceal her love from her family, and the lies become more and more complicated. But can one ever restore the love of one’s youth? Iris is in an impossible predicament, and in order to decide she tries to fathom whether her love with Eitan can heal all her pain, and more essentially, whether in the process she would have to hurt the people who are closest to her.

Foreign rights sold: German (Berlin Verlag)

No reviews available yet.

For The Remains of Love
An adventure of the psyche...a breathtaking triumph of love.
FAZ

A particularly intense novel, a fiery story that overwhelms us.
La Repubblica

Searing, intense, provocative.
Author Nicole Krauss

A hypnotic study of an Israeli family by a novelist of immense talent.
The Independent
Eshkol Nevo

Think of it as a Story

a novel
Tel Aviv, Zmora-Bitan, forthcoming. ca. 200 pp.

"What was I trying to do? Just protect my women," Arnon Levanoni says heatedly to his friend, a successful writer. The two are in a restaurant, Arnon pouring out his heart and confessing his sins in a lengthy monologue. He is Israeli macho, aggressive and possessive, but his jealousy for his little daughter Ofri has made him lose control. When he becomes suspicious that his neighbor across the hall, a polite, elderly gent has sexually molested Ofri, he attacks him, and the man is hospitalized. But Arnon gets into more trouble—with the neighbor’s granddaughter, a seductive minor, who is now threatening to destroy Arnon’s marriage in revenge.

Arnon and his family live in a quiet middle-class neighborhood. Above them lives Hani Doron, known as “the widow”—her husband Asaf is often away on business. Neglected, sequestered in her apartment with her two children, her dream of the perfect family nest is shattered. After her brother-in-law, in trouble with loan sharks and the police, comes to hide out with her, the few moments of joy he has given her seem no more than figments of her imagination.

On the top floor lives a genuine widow: former judge Devorah Edelman, who dreams at night that her super ego is being amputated. Now retired, Devorah is trying to start a new life and joins the social protest movement that swept Israel in summer 2011. But can she reconnect with her estranged son? Will Hani Doron overcome her problems? Can Arnon save his marriage?

The three floors of the house in Nevo’s novel reflect the tripartite Freudian model of the id, the ego and the superego. With wisdom, humor and penetrating insight Nevo lays bare the failures, inner distortions and psychoses that underlie the placid surface of the Israeli bourgeoisie, and gives us a gripping novel on the secret corners of the Israeli soul.

No reviews available yet.
For previous novels:

His gift is to make the characters jump out of the pages…A compelling novel which I never wanted to end.

The Independent

One of the most beautiful books to fall into my hands recently…. I haven’t had such fun or felt such tenderness for a character since The Bad Girl by Vargas Llosa. A fantastic Israeli writer.

Corriere della Sera

Eshkol Nevo writes beautifully, funnily and wisely about men and women…Friendship, envy, love, misery, endurance – he captures the lot.

Novelist Roddy Doyle
Eshkol Nevo was born in Jerusalem in 1971. He studied copywriting at the Tirza Granot School and psychology at Tel Aviv University. Today, Nevo owns and co-manages the largest private creative writing school in Israel and is considered the mentor of many upcoming young Israeli writers. His previous novels have all been top bestsellers in Israel. Nevo has received the Book Publishers Association’s Gold and Platinum Prizes (2005; 2008; 2011), the FFI-Raymond Wallier Prize (Paris, 2008), the ADEI-WIZO Prize (Italy, 2011). Homesick was a finalist for the prestigious Independent Foreign Fiction Prize (UK, 2009), and World Cup Wishes was a finalist for the Kritikerpreis der Jury der Jungen Kritiker (Austria, 2011).

Nevo’s books have been translated to English (Chatto & Windus; Dalkey Archive), French (Gallimard), Italian (Mondadori; Neri Pozza), German (dtv), Polish (Muza), Turkish (Can), Spanish (Duomo; Oceano, Mexico), and Arabic (Kul-Sheee). They have been bestsellers in several of these countries.

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The Lost Solos

a novel

Tel Aviv, Kinneret, Zmora-Bitan, 2013. 239 pp.

The Lost Solos weaves together a number of love stories culminating in one outrageous moment. It takes place in an imaginary town in northern Israel called the City of the Righteous, and takes a sly look at the ridiculous, infuriating and touching aspects of real life in Israel, while telling a universal tale of loneliness and the need to be understood.

Moshe Ben-Tzuk feels reborn. Raised on a kibbutz, he later served as an officer on a secret army base, but was never at peace. Now, after a deep inner crisis, he is ultra-Orthodox, married with children, living in the City of the Righteous, and serving as a personal aide to the mayor. On the surface, he has found his place in the world. But why does the memory of his youthful love, Ayelet, continually disrupt his peace of mind? A job for the mayor leads to a meeting with Ayelet, seven years after they parted. Will Ben-Tzuk give up his wife and family and choose his love?

Someone who does choose love without hesitating is Na’im, a young Arab building contractor and bird lover. Ben-Tzuk hires him to build a ritual bath house in an area with many immigrants from Russia. But everything goes wrong. Na’im is suspected of spying and is arrested; he manages—by a trick—to get released, and meets the girl of his dreams. Meanwhile, the neighborhood residents turn the bath house (intended for ritual cleansing) into a red-hot trysting place for lovers.

With his rare talent for bringing us close to his characters, Eshkol Nevo unfolds a story that reads like a contemporary fairy tale.

Foreign rights sold: German (dtv); Italian (Neri Pozza), Spanish (Duomo), and Polish (Muza).

PARTIAL ENGLISH TRANSLATION AVAILABLE

A comedy of errors…showing the absurdity of the strange identities at play in Safed.
Haaretz

Reflective and playful, critical without being angry… Sad and funny.
Maariv

A real bonbon!...Unrestrained and free-flowing.
Makor Rishon

With the subtlest humor, Nevo builds a kind of Macondo…and so much magic.
Ynet
Ayelet Gundar-Goshen was born in Israel in 1982. She holds a BA and an MA in psychology from Tel Aviv University. She later studied film and screenwriting at the Sam Spiegel Film School in Jerusalem. Gundar-Goshen has written a number of screenplays, and has produced short films which have participated in film festivals in Israel and abroad. She has also written and co-written a number of TV series. Gundar-Goshen was awarded 2nd prize at the IEMed European short story competition (Barcelona, 2010), the Gottlieb Screenplay Prize (2010), the Berlin Today Award for her short film Batman at the Checkpoint (Berlin, 2012), and the Sapir Prize for Debut Fiction for One Night, Markovitch (2012).

One Night, Markovitch has been published in German (Kein & Aber); forthcoming in English (Pushkin; Anansi), Italian (Giuntina) and Dutch (Meridiaan).

CLICK HERE FOR A COMPLETE LISTING ON THE ITHL WEBSITE.

After an exhausting night shift, Dr. Eytan Green leaves the Beersheba hospital where he works, gets into his luxurious SUV and speeds down a deserted Negev road. When he hits someone, he is horrified to discover that the injured man, an Eritrean migrant, has no chance of surviving, and he flees the scene. He goes home to his wife Liat, a high-ranking police investigator, and their two sons, to carry on with his life as if nothing had happened. But his life is turned upside down when, in the morning, a young black woman knocks at the door of his home. She is the dead man’s widow and Eytan realizes that she knows what has happened. At first, he thinks that she wants money but in fact she demands something quite different. In a deserted garage deep in the desert, she forces him to give free medical assistance to sick and wounded people who have infiltrated into Israel from Africa and cannot afford to go to a doctor or a hospital. Eytan’s fate is now in the hands of this beautiful, strong woman who both attracts and repels him.

Together with extortion and power struggles, a suspenseful social and moral drama. Waking Lions is a story of intimacy at the heart of alienation, and of erotic attraction between opposites. But it is also the story of a single choice at a particular moment that leads a man to open his eyes and to ask, “Who am I, actually?” Ayelet Gundar-Goshen takes an unrelenting look at the darkest corners of Israeli society and of the human soul. The reader, whoever he or she may be, will ask, “What would I do in this situation?”

Foreign rights sold: German (Kein & Aber), English (Pushkin), Italian (Giuntina), Turkish (Koton).

It’s still early to describe Gundar-Goshen as a master, but she slips easily into this space.

Yedioth Ahronoth
An ultra-topical social novel… suspenseful, stormy and magnificently constructed.

Maariv
Captivating, complex characters…very stirring.

Kol Israel 1
A terrific book.

IDF Radio
Youval Shimoni was born in Jerusalem in 1955. He studied cinema at Tel Aviv University and first began publishing in 1990. Shimoni is a senior editor at Am Oved publishers; he also teaches creative writing at Tel Aviv and Haifa Universities. He has been awarded the Bernstein Prize (2001) and the Prime Minister’s Prize (2005).

His books have been published in French (Metropolis), German (Suhrkamp) and English (Dalkey Archive).

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Youval Shimoni

The Salt Line

a novel

In 1904, a wounded Russian Jew by the name of Ilia Poliakov turns up in Ladakh, in northern India. On the run from his pursuers and his own conscience, he doesn’t miss anyone—neither his parents, nor the pregnant girl he has deserted, his people or his revolutionary comrades. He is cared for by Edward McKenzie, an English doctor at the mission hospital. McKenzie is obsessed with the man who stole his wife from him in Rome, and has devised a scheme to lure his rival, an archaeologist, to the region and take revenge on him.

From this double infrastructure founded on the betrayal of colleagues and family members, two separate plots emerge. In one, we see acts of terrorism against the Tsar and his ministers, in early 20th century Russia; in the other, a caravan goes into the desert on a private journey of revenge, insane but very practical. The heroes—Russians, Brits and Indians—range from those who believe in an ideal or a god, to the entirely faithless; from St. Petersburg to a remote district capital in the Indian Himalayas, and from snowy mountains to arid dunes.

A hundred years later, when Ilia’s grandson, Amnon Poleg, sets out from Israel for England and India in order to investigate his grandfather’s disappearance, it is not only the family aspect that motivates him. Slowly, he approaches the misdeeds Ilia was implicated in. But the revelations go further and also touch Amnon’s life. What seemed at first to be a story about distant, exotic events finally turns its spotlight onto the here and now.

An outstanding novel in which one moment of hesitation, one decision—repeated—and no one knows if there is a way out.

PARTIAL ENGLISH TRANSLATION AVAILABLE

No reviews available yet.
For *A Room*:

A spellbinding, underground novel, a masterpiece.

**TGV (Switzerland)**

Takes us back to realize anew the role and the necessity of great art.

**Haaretz**

A wonderful achievement.

**Yedioth Ahronoth**
Yael Dayan, author, journalist and politician, was born in Nahalal, Israel's first moshav (smallholders' collective) in 1939, the daughter of Moshe Dayan and his wife Ruth. She studied international relations at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and biology at the Open University. Yael Dayan was a Labor MK in the Knesset from 1992 until 2003; deputy mayor of Tel Aviv, and chair of the Tel Aviv city council. She is known for her activism for Israel-Palestinian peace; for minority, women's and gay rights. For these, she was awarded the Bruno Kreisky Human Rights Award (1991) and the Olaf Palme Award for Peace (1998). She was also listed by the French weekly, L'Express, as one of “The 100 Women Who Make the World Move” (1995), and was honored by the State of the World Forum as one of the “Women Redefining Leadership” (1997).

Dayan began writing for the press at age 16, and her first novel, New Face in the Mirror – written in English and published when she was 20 – won her international recognition. She has published eight books, including novels and non-fiction. Her previous book, My Father, His Daughter, was a great international success. Her books have appeared in 15 languages.

All backlist titles will be published as e-books by Open Road, New York.

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Yael Dayan

Transitions

autobiographical novel
Tel Aviv, Modan, 2014. ca. 210 pp.

Yael Dayan, novelist, daughter of the legendary Moshe Dayan, and a public figure in her own right with an illustrious political career behind her, looks back at her life, scrutinizing it without illusions.

Once a desirable, free-spirited young woman and a successful author, she lived with the sense that she held the world in the palm of her hand. And the world adulated both her and the young state she came from. She was an officer in the Israel Defense Force, the daughter of a renowned general, a successful writer—Death Had Two Sons, A Soldier’s Diary: Sinai 1967—much in demand on the lecture tour, and a star of the gossip columns.

Now in her 70s, she admits with touching honesty to missing both the vibrant 20-something she was, and the sober woman she became—a fierce political activist and parliamentarian for the left, a fighter for justice, women’s rights and peace. Having resigned her last public position, she must reconcile herself to being a mentor, a participant instead of a leader, yet remaining center-stage on the Peace Camp scene.

The narrator’s warm, intimate voice and her rich intellect, as well as her insights, make for a powerful reading experience.

PARTIAL ENGLISH TRANSLATION AVAILABLE
Haim Be’er, born in Jerusalem in 1945, was raised in an Orthodox home and completed his army service in the military chaplaincy. In 1966, he began working for Am Oved Publishing House and later became member of the editorial board. For many years, he also wrote a weekly column for the daily Davar. Be’er has taught Hebrew literature and creative writing at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, and at present is editor of the Kesset Project for debut fiction. Be’er is the author of six novels as well as poetry and non-fiction. He has been awarded the Bernstein Prize, the Bialik Prize (2002), the ACUM Prize for Lifetime Achievement (2005), the Brenner Prize (2011), the Prime Minister’s Award for the Fostering and Preservation of the Hebrew Language (2012) and the Ramat Gan Prize (2013). His novel, Feathers, is included in “The Greatest Works of Modern Jewish Literature” (2001).

Be’er’s novels have been published in English (Brandeis Univ. Press), German (dtv; Berlin Verlag), Italian (Giuntina), Dutch (Vasallucci) and Chinese (Shanghai Translation).

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A BESTSELLING NOVEL

Their New Dreams

a novel

Alma Weber, a 40 something divorcee and the author of a bestselling novel, returns to Tel Aviv after a brief writing holiday, only to discover that her lover, Gideon Sorek, a senior Mossad official, has disappeared in England. This is the beginning of Be’er’s dizzying, erudite book which combines a love story with the search for an elusive, secret-shrouded mother in Germany, and the powerful desire to write a novel.

Alma makes a living from a lab that converts old cassettes into digital discs. Gideon, a customer, has brought her old tapes found among his late mother’s belongings. The two become friends and then lovers, and Gideon asks Alma to help him realize his dream: to write a historical novel about the anxious time in Palestine when people feared an invasion by the German army under Rommel. Alma persuades Gideon to switch subjects and to write instead about his mother, Lotte Struk, who was born in Leipzig, left for Palestine in 1934 and enlisted in British intelligence. Gideon wonders whether his mother ever interrogated German prisoners in Egypt, but his friends in British Intelligence refuse to open Lotte’s still-classified file. Gideon and Alma visit Leipzig, but although they uncover family secrets, as well as the story of Leipzig’s Jews, Gideon has writer’s block. So he flies to England, holes up in a remote village in East Hampshire and at last is able to write. Then he can come back to life—and Alma is waiting for him.

PARTIAL ENGLISH TRANSLATION IN PROGRESS

A reading experience that leaves its imprint…Compelling.

Haaretz
Why you must read it: Be’er writes like a carpet weaver…A splendid novel.

Yedioth Ahronoth
An abundance of enjoyment here…A compelling, colorful plot, full of humor and sensitivity.

Makor Rishon
Be’er is in my eyes the heir of Shalom Aleichem, Mendele Mocher Sforim and Agnon.

Nana 10
Haim Lapid

Milano Square

a novel

Ilana, a wealthy widow, becomes involved in a passionate romance with the male Arab nurse who took care of her husband in the last months of his life. She finds in Mahmid, some twenty years her junior, everything she missed in her husband: a poet's soul, tenderness and empathy, and a powerful physical attraction. But Ilana's sons are suspicious of Mahmid's intentions and stop at nothing to disrupt the relationship, which they believe is harming the family's good name. They even threaten to dispossess and evict her from her apartment, overlooking Milano Square in upscale north Tel Aviv. Only Dusha, Ilana's crazy, non-conformist sister-in-law, is on her side.

Ilana is determined to maintain her impossible romance, despite the prejudice she confronts on all sides, her son's tricks, and the surprising secrets she discovers. The plot is suspenseful, packed with twists and turns, and constantly collides with the reader's expectations—as when skeletons, real and imagined, are discovered in Mahmid's closet, including relationships with other women. Yet every time Ilana thinks that love triumphs at last, something new pops up to remind the couple of the gap that separates them.

Milano Square is an unusual book on the Israeli literary scene. Its clever political allegory is woven into a delightful love story, undermining all that we thought we knew about relations in Israeli society, and how to write about them in a divided, torn society.

PARTIAL ENGLISH TRANSLATION IN PROGRESS

Reviews not yet available

For Breznitz:

Haim Lapid has made an impressive criminal novel debut.

Handelsblatt

One of the most surprising and shocking climaxes that one could imagine.

Buch der Woche

He takes us into the mysteries of the human brain.

L'express
Jonathan Yavin

The Misanthropist

a novel

Doron Aricha, a very successful playwright in his late 30s, despises people and torments them verbally. He lives in Tel Aviv with his girlfriend of 11 years, Irit Spirer, a frustrated fringe artist. As the story unravels, we learn that she recently attempted suicide and was saved at the last moment by Doron. Now she is furious.

Thus begins an intricate conspiracy concocted by Irit, whose endgame is the transformation of Doron Aricha from passive misanthrope into active serial killer. But both Doron and the reader are unaware of her motivation until the very last episode, in which Irit maneuvers him into killing her—on stage, dramatically, on a gala night—thus paying him back for the death he “stole” from her in the beginning.

Though thrilling and slanted toward the tragic, The Misanthropist is a very funny, snappy novel with evident philosophical and psychological depth, almost palpable descriptions and superbly snide dialogues. It deals comically with the most sinister attributes of human nature, mainly our innate disdain for one another, which are often veiled by kindness and etiquette.

PARTIAL ENGLISH TRANSLATION AVAILABLE

Jonathan Yavin

Jonathan Yavin was born in New York in 1972. He holds a BA in philosophy and literature from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Yavin started writing professionally at age 19 and later wrote personal columns and political essays for the Hebrew press – Haaretz and Yediot Ahronoth in particular. He has also participated in many TV and radio shows. At present, he teaches creative writing and is op-ed columnist for the daily Yedioth Ahronoth. Yavin has written children’s books, young-adult and adult novels. His first children’s book, When I Grow Up, has had ten reprints since its publication in 2002. Pumpkin the Kitten was selected as a set text for kindergarten and elementary schools. Yavin has received the Book Publishers Association’s Platinum Prize (2011) and the Prime Minister’s Prize (2011).


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Yair Agmon

Yair and Jonathan—No Book for Old Men

a novel

Jonathan, a confused young student of cinema, is trying to understand what made him brutally murder his fiancée. Writing in the first person, in a frank and self-revelatory style, he describes his evolving relationship with his fiancée, Shelly, against the backdrop of his nationalistic upbringing, and his army service as an officer in the occupied Palestinian territories, where he witnessed violent events.

But this is also the story of Yair, the author, another confused young student of cinema, who inserts lengthy notes into the margins of the novel, attempting to fathom what the hell made him write this disconcerting, impertinent, crazy book that shows contempt for all literary conventions. He tells us of intimate experiences, of being his mother’s only child, of the traumas he experienced at religious high school and yeshiva and then in the army; and of his daily life as a guide at the Yad Vashem Holocaust Museum. Throughout the book, Agmon mixes his marginal notes with the body of the plot, blurring boundaries and taking the reader into his inner life, his fears, his conflicted and fragile existence, his deep need for love, fame, recognition.

And always, the double plot erupts from surprising directions, with the “truth” being formulated and fractured again and again as Agmon scrutinizes the condition of us all. As he himself puts it: “The most important thing in life is to feel.” The result is an ambitious, provocative book on human evil, literary writing, and the relationship between the writer and his work.

Agmon is not simply a talented writer, he is a genius…A wondrous, stirring, disturbed and uninhibited creation…296 pages of dynamite.

Maariv NRG

Great talent…A disconcerting book…magnificent, powerful, almost unreal…A literary experience of unparalleled intensity.

Makor Rishon

A breakthrough…A dynamic and unique reading experience.

Time Out

Yair Agmon was born in Jerusalem in 1987 and still lives there today. Raised in an Orthodox Jewish environment, he graduated from a yeshiva (school for Jewish studies). At present, he is studying cinema at the Sam Spiegel Film and Television School, and working as a guide at Yad Vashem – the Holocaust Museum and Research Center. Short films he directed have been screened in Israel and New York and a short story of his won a judges’ commendation in the Haaretz short story competition in 2011. Agmon published his first book while serving in the army. Yair and Jonathan is his third book.

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Nathan Shaham was born in Tel Aviv in 1925. He fought in the elite Palmach unit during Israel’s 1948 War of Independence and has been a member of Kibbutz Beit Alfa since 1945. Shaham has served as cultural attaché in New York, vice-chairman of the Israel Broadcasting Authority, and editor-in-chief of Sifriat Poalim Publishing House. Shaham, a well-known fiction writer and dramatist, has published over 40 books. Among his many awards: the Shlonsky Prize (1958), the Bialik Prize (1988), the American National Jewish Book Award (1992), the Newman Prize (1993), the ADAI-WIZO Prize for The Rosendorf Quartet (Italy, 2005), the Prime Minister’s Prize (2007) and the Israel Prize for Literature (2012).

Shaham’s The Rosendorf Quartet has been published in English (Grove, NY), German (Dvora/Alibaba, Insel/Suhrkamp), Italian (Giuntina), Russian (Aliya), Chinese (Flower City), Czech (Paseka) and Spanish (Leviatan, Buenos Aires).

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Dormant Account

a novel

Menahem Shahar, divorced and living in Tel Aviv, owns a publishing house with a glorious past and a shaky present. He decides to publish a book in memory of his grandfather, Aharon Zvi Morgenstern, an enigmatic, complex man who founded a Hebrew-language publishing house in Warsaw in the early 20th century. The plot moves between the grandfather’s story and that of his grandson, who inherited the firm. Morgenstern, a man of vision as well as a legendary businessman, fostered Hebrew writers as well as publishing the best European literature in Hebrew translation. An admirer of German culture, he later moved his publishing house to Germany, which he saw as the most enlightened country in Europe. Morgenstern’s life ended in a death camp in Poland. Years after, his grandson discovers that he had money in an unclaimed account in a Swiss bank.

In a plot akin to a detective story, Menashe traces his grandfather’s character and his fortunes. But the novel also aims higher, tackling the complex relations between Israelis and Germans today. Menashe gets the opportunity to cooperate with a German publisher, who wants to publish a bilingual series about the contribution of Jewish intellectuals to German culture. In the course of this project, Menashe also experiences new romance: a mysterious woman comes to his home, claiming to be a member of the Morgenstern family, and the two have a brief affair which dies down when the German publisher’s sexy daughter makes her appearance.

Dormant Account, a book permeated with a love of Hebrew literature, examines the tragic love of educated German Jews for the nation that rejected and wanted to erase them.

Lucid and thought-provoking... The future of Jews and Germans shines through in all its intellectual intensity. Haaretz

A fascinating book...up-to-date and fresh...Shaham is elegiac and cynical, clear-cut and tortuous, yet everything combines harmoniously. Ynet

Brings the Europe that ceased to exist in 1939 back to life [with] impressive dramatic power. SofHashavua
Agur Schiff

Agur Schiff was born in Tel Aviv in 1955. He is a graduate of St. Martin’s School of Art in London and of the Rijks Art Academy in Amsterdam. Before turning to writing, he won critical acclaim as a filmmaker: he received the Silver Dragon Award at the Cracow Film Festival, and, for his film Gentila, a prize at the Haifa Film Festival (1997). Schiff started publishing fiction in the early 1990s and has published two collections of stories and four novels. He is a senior lecturer at the Bezalel Academy of Art & Design in Jerusalem where he teaches creative writing, screenwriting and cinematic concepts. Schiff has been awarded the Prime Minister’s Prize (2010).

CLICK HERE FOR A COMPLETE LISTING ON THE ITHL WEBSITE.

The Latecomers

a novel
Tel Aviv, Am Oved, 2013. 369 pp.

It is summer 2006, and the Second Lebanon War is underway. Liora Kerem, a retired teacher who lives by herself, attempts to assassinate the Israeli army’s Chief of Staff, but fails. She is confined to a mental institution where Dr. Yirmi Bloch, a police psychiatrist, has a series of sessions with her to try and fathom the reasons for her extreme act. Did she really mean to kill the Chief of Staff, or merely to attract attention? Was she driven by ideology or were her reasons personal?

Some 40 years earlier, during the Six Day War, Liora’s husband Miki was shot in the head. After being in a coma for several weeks, he regained consciousness, but was no longer the man that Liora had married. His body had healed but instead of the confident, life-loving, womanizing kibbutznik, the man who returned to her was a cringing weakling without sex drive, who admitted that he had lost his masculinity. Was Liora seeking revenge through the man who symbolized what had ruined her life? In tracing her motives, the novel examines, through a woman’s eyes, the masculine virtues that are glorified in Israeli society, the heroism and the militarism which casts its shadow over the country.

The plot shifts between two eras, two wars, and contrasts Israel drunk on victory in 1967 with the country humiliated in 2006, which woke up too late from its euphoria.

Schiff tackles an important subject...[with] intriguing and sympathetic characters...An interesting writer. 

Haaretz

Clever, funny, sad... presents complex situations in a fresh way... Schiff’s novel is attractive and challenging...at times brilliant.

Maariv

Likely to challenge people on both sides of the political barricade.

SofHashavua
Sarit Yishai-Levi, a journalist and author, was born in Jerusalem in 1947 to a Sephardic family that has lived in the city for seven generations. She studied at the Nissan Nativ Acting Studio and later at Tel Aviv University. Before turning to journalism, Yishai-Levi acted in theater and film for several years. Later, she was a correspondent for various Israeli newspapers and magazines, including At, Monitot, HaOlam HaZeh and Hadashot, as well as hosting Hebrew TV and radio programs in Los Angeles. At present, she is a senior correspondent for Olam Ha’Isha magazine and hosts TV shows on tourism and lifestyle. Yishai-Levi has published four non-fiction books. The Beauty Queen of Jerusalem, a bestseller in Israel, is her first novel.

The Beauty Queen of Jerusalem is forthcoming in Italian (Sonzogno/RCS).

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The Beauty Queen of Jerusalem

a novel
Tel Aviv, Modan, 2013. 448 pp.

This Israeli bestseller is a multi-generational saga of Jerusalem extending from the early 20th century when the Turks ruled Palestine, through the years of the British Mandate and the establishment of the State of Israel, to the early 1970s. It is the story of the Ermoza family, respected Sephardic Jews who own a delicatessen in the Jerusalem market. The narrator is Gabriela, the wild, rebellious daughter of Luna, known as “The Beauty Queen of Jerusalem.” Gabriela gradually reveals the family secrets and lies, but mainly the inner strengths that family members have to summon in order to overcome the ups and downs of life along the way.

A curse seems to hang over the family, for the men know great love but have to give it up and marry women they do not love. Rafael Ermoza, Gabriela’s great-grandfather, fell in love with a mysterious, blue-eyed Ashkenazi girl—shameful!—but was prevailed on to marry frigid Merkeda who did not attract him at all. His handsome, clever son Gabriel is forced to marry Rosa, an ugly and illiterate orphan, and Rosa’s daughter Luna, courted by all the young men in Jerusalem, picks David who cannot forget his love for a girl that he met in Italy during World War II.

A colorful, rich and enjoyable novel in which Jerusalem and its historic events during the last century play a leading role.

Foreign rights sold: Italian (Sonzogno/RCS)

PARTIAL ENGLISH TRANSLATION AVAILABLE

Beautiful, sweeping…an enchanting, moving book…The characters stayed with me, as if they were still living in Jerusalem.

Haaretz

The surprise of the year, if not the decade… Everything is so alive… What marvelous writing…what insight and passion!

Marmelada

This is the Sephardi version of Amos Oz’s A Tale of Love and Darkness…Superb.

Nana 10

A gripping plot full of secrets, lies, loves and disappointments…A pleasure to immerse oneself in.

La’Isha
Gabriel Bensimhon was born in Sefrou, Morocco, in 1938, and came to Israel with his family at age 10. An author and filmmaker, he studied literature and Biblical studies at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and later at the Sorbonne, where he received a PhD in theater and film studies. Bensimhon taught at Tel Aviv University until 2006, in the departments of film/TV and theater arts. He has also been a visiting professor at UCLA, USC, NYU and Cornell University. He is now Professor Emeritus. Bensimhon has published plays, screenplays, poetry, short stories, novels and a book on the Fellini’s cinema. His play, A Moroccan King, produced by Israel’s Habima National Theater, won the Lieber Award for Classic Jewish Drama (1978). Bensimhon has been awarded the Book Publishers Association’s Gold Prize for A Girl in a Blue Shirt (2014).

A Moroccan King has been translated to English and French.

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A Girl in a Blue Shirt

A Girl in a Blue Shirt is a remarkable love story that takes place in the 1950s, the first decade of the State of Israel. Yonatan Marciano, a young immigrant from Morocco, is in love with the beautiful Israeli-born Nurit Stav, who looks strikingly like al-Kahina, an ancient Jewish Berber queen. Nurit, however, is in love with Bolush, a Holocaust survivor from Poland. In order to win Nurit, Yonatan turns to his Uncle Amram, who was a famous exorcist in Morocco. He also uses his own skill as a storyteller, like Scheherazade—telling exotic tales of Morocco, whose colors and smells are unknown to Nurit.

The novel is written as a diary that Yonatan keeps from the age of 14 until after his army service, at age 21. In it, he writes of his longing for his beloved, whose father owns a movie theater in Haifa, and about the consolation he finds in watching movies. For in those days, it was clear who the heroes were and who the villains, who would draw his weapon quicker, and who would win the beautiful heroine in the end. Of course, Yonatan wants to draw first and to be a hero like Gary Cooper, but the only weapons he has are his imagination and words.

Later on, when he is called “a poet” at school, his father buys him a typewriter and sits him down to write the family story, in order to perpetuate the memory of a world that was once full of life and is now fading away.

A collage of rich and colorful characters...This book should be read slowly, every detail dwelt on, and the power of each character wondered at.

Maariv NRG

A very moving Israeli tale... told with great charm and superb literary ability...A charming love story between a boy and a girl, that will intrigue and fascinate.

Nana10

The magical realism that weaves reality with imagination makes me want to find Bensimhon and hug him for this beautiful book.

Mako
Ori Rom

English Summer

a novel

In this short, compact novel, Ori Rom powerfully evokes the scenes, colors and odors of the rural Land of Israel under the British Mandate, between World War I and the establishment of the State of Israel in 1948. Against the backdrop of established colonies in the Galilee and around Lake Kinneret, he weaves a powerful and intricate family drama that has an almost Faulknerian quality. At the center of the drama are a tough but tormented farmer; his beautiful, tender-hearted artist wife who feels alien to the local landscape and culture, and their two sons. Their eldest, Shimshon, is sensitive and soft and much loved by his mother; the younger brother, Otniel, is unloved and eventually becomes an abusive husband, cut off from his family and living in Alexandria, Egypt. Echoing the legendary drama, Otniel is like Cain and Shimshon like Abel, but it is Abel who takes the role of the killer.

The disaster takes place one summer, when two British police officers turn up at the family home and flirt with the mother, enabling her to escape from her unsatisfying, provincial life for a little while. Shimshon, then a young boy, sees the dangerous liaison developing and is jealous. Later on, the bullet-riddled bodies of the two Englishmen are found and an investigation begins. Although the identity of the murderer is never discovered, the father decides to send Shimshon far away from home. Years later, during the shiv'a week of mourning after the mother's death, Shimshon returns to the family home for a fraught reunion with his aged father, his unfriendly brother and the girl he loved in his childhood, now married to his brother.

Brilliant, innovative and arousing...Rom's language fuses the prosaic and the poetic, the violent and the refined, the local and the universal.

Haaretz

An original book...Uri Rom doesn't invent a language, but rather begets it in pain...His images are absolutely unique.

Yedioth Ahronoth

Simply enthralling. Full of poetry and color and feeling and thought and passion and love.

Kol Israel 1

Ori Rom was born in Tel Aviv in 1950. He graduated in medicine and dentistry from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, and works in dental medicine. Rom, a sculptor and marathon runner as well as an author, has exhibited his work in Tel Aviv. Since 1998, he has published three novels and a children's book.

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Avirama Golan was born in Israel in 1950. She studied literature at Tel Aviv University and French literature in Paris, working as both correspondent and then editor for the daily Darar. In 1991, she moved to Haaretz, where she became senior correspondent on social and cultural affairs and a member of the editorial board. Golan also hosts a weekly literary magazine on Channel 2 TV. In 2012 she became director of the Center for Urbanism and Mediterranean Culture in Bat Yam. Golan has published novels, non-fiction and children’s books. She has also translated many children’s classics and written screenplays for children’s TV. Her first two novels were bestsellers in Israel, and she has received the Prime Minister’s Prize, 2014.

Golan’s books have been translated to French (Galaade), German (Suhrkamp) and Italian (Giuntina).

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A Strange Woman

a novel

What links Mali, a prominent Tel Aviv attorney, to Slava, an illegal Ukranian worker who cleans her house? On the surface, nothing. But Avirama Golan’s novel reveals surprising similarities between the two women, together with the subtle empathy and mutual admiration that grows between them. The drama that connects their two worlds plays out during a murder trial at the Tel Aviv District Court. Mali, divorced with two grown children, is having a futureless affair with Yoav, a married judge. Yoav is the judge in the murder trial which Mali is prosecuting, and the two are careful to keep their relationship secret. Slava too has her secrets: she is pretending to be a legal Jewish immigrant; she has a small daughter in the Ukraine, whom she hasn’t seen for six years, and she supports her whole family there. But Mali doesn’t know all this. Slava is torn between her love for her daughter and her dream of going to university, which could come true in Israel. Mali, on the other hand, can’t heal the breaks in her own life: Her son has left Israel to live in Holland, and her estranged daughter is leaving to study in Berlin. Her loneliness, and the hopelessness of her relationship with Yoav, lead her to reflect on the choices she has made in her life, her career, and her relations with her mother, a strong, optimistic woman originally from Tunis, who has always been there for her.

Slava, Mali, Mali’s mother, and even Rivka, accused of murdering her husband, all turn out to be fascinating women whose stories shed light on one other.

PARTIAL ENGLISH TRANSLATION IN PROGRESS

A wonderful book! The encounter between Russian and Hebrew sets off fireworks. Simply superb. 
Channel 1 TV

Contains deep insights, intriguing characters, treachery, a tempestuous trial, the pain of parting...These seethe slowly as the plot is cleverly built up [until] everything comes to the boil in a series of excellent scenes.
Maariv NRG

We are dying to know what’s going to happen...The characters are vivid and real in a thick and juicy story.
Yedioth Ahronoth
Yitzchak Mayer

Silent Letter

autobiographical novel
Tel Aviv, Maariv, 2010. 295 pp.

One night in January 1943, Rosie's husband Moritz, a member of the French Resistance, is hauled away by the Gestapo in Marseilles, never to be seen again. Rosie is left alone, highly pregnant, with their two sons, Erwin, age 8, and Jacky, age 6. Unable to locate her husband, who later will die in Auschwitz, Rosie decides to escape from Nazi-occupied France to Switzerland, determined to save her boys and herself. They board a train to Saint-Claude, on the Swiss border, carrying false French documents and, in Rosie's bag, diamonds embedded in a bar of laundry soap.

The journey begins, and all the dangers come into play. The first obstacle is language because Rosie, a native of Hungary, speaks no French. So she pretends to be mute and clever Erwin speaks instead of her. In a world where all the fundamentals of human brotherhood have crumbled, they meet evil people, but also some who are good, who show compassion and help her. After an exhausting trek through the snow, the three sneak across the border into Switzerland, but their difficulties are not over. Rosie is taken to an internment camp and separated from her children. They are reunited only a year later.

This remarkable, moving tale of courage is written years later by Erwin, who is none other than the author. But it is told in Rosie's voice and from her perspective. With boundless sensitivity and tenderness, Mayer gets right inside his mother's mind to recount this amazing journey of survival.

ENGLISH TRANSLATION IN PROGRESS
Amalia Rosenblum was born in New York in 1974 and grew up in Tel Aviv. She spent the 1990s in New York. A writer, journalist and screenwriter, she has an MA in philosophy and an MA in anthropology from New School University, New York. She is currently completing her PhD in psychology. At present, Rosenblum teaches at the Tel Aviv College of Management. She also writes regularly for the Israeli press, in particular literary reviews for Haaretz; she also writes for women's and parenting magazines. Her screenplays for Holy for Me and Runhave won awards at the Chicago, Mannheim and Jerusalem festivals. Where the Village Road Ends, won the Ze’ev Prize for Children’s Literature (2007).

Where the Village Road Ends has been published in German (Beltz & Gelberg), Italian (Salani; La Scuola) and Chinese (Jiangsu Phoenix Juvenile and Children).

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Amalia Rosenblum

The Sheep with the Black Spot

a novel (crossover)

Lily is a gifted child from a “good home.” Her mother is an artist, her father manages a bakery, and both are busy searching for themselves. Lily is gifted at solving math problems, she’s interested in astronomy, loves literature and art, and is in love with her teacher. But one day, her parents tell her that they are separating, and her life turns upside down. In a moment of distress, she adopts an old sheep with a black spot on its forehead and starts believing that it has supernatural powers. It is intelligent, understands what she says and gives her advice. With its help, Lily hopes to get her parents back together and also to impress her teacher. But looking after her mysterious guest gets complicated, and Lily seeks help from Zohar, a good-looking, shifty street kid, who is is a tattoo artist and has secrets of his own. The two become friends, but Lily’s life continues its downward path. She gets caught up in secrets and lies, but her parents are too busy with their own crisis to see what is happening. How far will Lily go with her cover-ups and fantasies before the people around her notice that something has gone wrong?

A brilliant book, moving and full of humor, that boldly tackles the difficulties of adolescence and the problems of people who feel like outsiders.

PARTIAL ENGLISH TRANSLATION IN PROGRESS

Streams along so that one can’t put it down or part from the girl…Tumultuous, overwhelming dialogues.

Haaretz

A courageous book…Very impressive…written with skill and originality.

Marmelada

A convincing coming-of-age book that any outsider, or even a classroom queen, can connect to.

Israel Hayom
Savyon Liebrecht was born in Munich, Germany, in 1948, to Holocaust survivor parents. She studied philosophy and literature at Tel Aviv University. Liebrecht has published novels as well as collections of novellas and short stories. She has also written a number of plays, all of which have been staged, and TV scripts. Among her many awards: the Alterman Prize (1987), the Prime Minister’s Prize twice (1991; 1999), the Amelia Rosselli Prize for Mail Order Women (Italy, 2002) and the Maior-Amalfi Award for A Good Place for the Night (Italy, 2005). Most recently, she received the WIZO Prize (France, 2009).

Liebrecht’s work has been published in English (Persea; Feminist Press), German (Persona; Fischer; dtv), Italian (edizioni e/o), French (Buchet Chastel/Caractères), Chinese (Flower City), Polish (Claroescura; ADIT), Spanish (El Milagro), and Estonian (Loomingu Raamatukogu).

A Special Case Named Freud; Freud’s Women; Dear Sigmund and Carl; Spielrein (four plays)

A n intriguing cycle of plays about various aspects of Freud’s life.

A Special Case Named Freud deals with the relationship between Freud and Anton Sauerwald, a Nazi chemist who in March 1938, after the Anschluss of Austria into the German Reich, was appointed trustee of Freud’s property. Sauerwald found out that Freud had a secret account in a Swiss bank, yet he signed the certificate that enabled Freud and his family to leave Vienna safely for London.

Freud’s Women takes place in London in 1940, and dramatizes Freud’s relationships with the three women closest to him: his wife, his sister-in-law and his daughter. Much of the play is told in flashback, as Freud’s widow Martha and her sister Minna recall their lives with him in Vienna. Old jealousies arise and wounds open when Martha learns that her husband probably had a love affair with her sister and controversial relations with his daughter Anna.

Dear Sigmund and Carl is an imaginary portrayal of the historic meeting between Freud’s and Jung’s sons in London in February 1970. During this meeting they signed a contract, agreeing to publish the correspondence between their fathers.

Spielrein is based on the relationship between Sabina Spielrein, one of the first female psychoanalysts, Carl Gustav Jung and Sigmund Freud.

ENGLISH TRANSLATION AVAILABLE

No reviews available yet.

For The Banality of Love: A deeply moving and many-layered play. www.theater-bonn.de

The tension never recedes...It is sad and beautiful at once...In every respect an extraordinary performance

General-Anzeiger

This is intellectual, emotional and aesthetic drama.

Haaretz
Yoram Kaniuk (1930-2013), one of Israel’s leading writers, was born in Tel Aviv. Wounded in Israel’s 1948 War of Independence, he moved to New York for 10 years. A novelist, painter and journalist, Kaniuk published over 20 novels and novellas as well as stories, non-fiction and books for children and youth. Among his many prizes: the Prix des Droits de l’Homme (France, 1997), the Bialik Prize (1999), the prestigious Prix Mediterranée Étranger (2000), the Newman Prize (2006), the France-Israel Foundation Award (2010), the Sapir Prize (2011) and the Italian WIZO Prize (2013). In 2012, Kaniuk received the prestigious French decoration of Officier de l’Ordre des Arts et des Lettres.

Kaniuk’s books have been published abroad in 20 languages, among which: English (Harper & Row; Grove/Atlantic; NYRB Lit), French (Stock; Fayard), German (Paul List; Hanser; Aufbau), Italian (Einaudi; Giuntina), Dutch (Meulenhoff), Norwegian (Cappelens), Danish (Gyldendal), Arabic (Canaan, Damascus), Chinese (Shanghai Translation Publishing House).

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Yoram Kaniuk

Angels

an essay
Tel Aviv, Yedioth Ahronoth, 2014. 120 pp.

This is Kaniuk’s last book, completed not long before he died in 2013. Angels had always interested him, he said, as had devils, and he worked on the book for ten years.

Angels is an associative, ironic essay that includes philosophical reflections, incidental details drawn from the scriptures, and references to literature and art as well as to personal experiences. Kaniuk tells of angels that are mentioned in Jewish and Christian writings and dwells on the discrepancy between the positive, pure image of the angel and the destructive divine missions carried out by many of those that figure in the Hebrew Bible. Although the angels in scripture are all sexless males, Kaniuk tells of flesh and blood females he has known whose qualities are many times greater than those of male angels—for example, the angelic woman who was his life companion, a person filled with beauty and compassion, totally devoid of egocentricity or wickedness.

Kaniuk also admits his failure “to create” an angel in painting. In 1948 he was on the crew of a ship bringing Jewish refugees from Europe to Israel. When it docked in Naples, he met an emaciated, hungry young prostitute named Angelina. Her name and appearance contradicted her occupation, and when Kaniuk, living in New York, painted Icarus, he tried to give him Angelina’s face. It didn’t work and the painting remained unfinished, but his obsession with solving the mystery of angels remained with him from then on.

Fascinating and touching… Kaniuk was a religious man. Not in the narrow, establishment sense, which he despised and saw as sinful, but in a deeper, numinous sense, which entails exaltation, awe and a sense of non-existence. Out of all these, Kaniuk wrote Angels, an essay possessed, which contains many moments of raw beauty and love – love for writing without hope, love for the muses that have slipped away.

Haaretz
Dror Burstein was born in 1970 in Netanya, Israel, and lives in Tel Aviv. He first became a fully qualified lawyer; he then left the legal field and started studying literature. He received a PhD in Hebrew literature from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem in 2001 and now teaches at Tel Aviv University. A literary editor and curator of exhibitions, Burstein writes literary and art reviews for the Hebrew press and has also edited programs for Israel Radio’s music station. Since 2011 he is editor of the poetry journal Helikon. Burstein has been awarded the Jerusalem Prize for Literature (1997), the Ministry of Science and Culture Prize for Poetry (2002), the Bernstein Prize (2005) and the Prime Minister’s Prize (2006). Burstein’s novels have been published in French (Actes Sud), English (Dalkey Archive), German (Wallstein) and Italian (Riuniti); forthcoming in Turkish (Dedalus).

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Dror Burstein

Meat and Art

essay
Tel Aviv, Hakibbutz Hameuchad, 2014. 135 pp.

Dror Burstein contemplates works of art from various cultures—Europe, the Far East, Israel, ancient Mesopotamia—that portray animals which are caged, suffering or dead at the hands of humans. In clear but delicate language that appeals to the eye and the heart, Burstein writes about the still-life paintings, sculptures and photographs in which the treatment of animals is an outrage. The images depict animals that have been dismembered at the butcher’s or in abattoirs; hunted birds; fish laid out at a London market; chained apes in Antwerp’s port; a lion hunt by an ancient Assyrian monarch; various biblical scenes, such as the Binding of Isaac with the ram caught in the thicket, and more. Among them, Burstein also seeks out images that protest the way in which animals are used by humans, whether they be artists, cooks or diners. They show a different relationship between man and beast: one that is harmonious and not violent.

The book makes incisive statements about human responsibility, solidarity, the meaning of death, suffering and art. It offers cultural, artistic and literary enrichment to the vegetarian and vegan conversation underway in the world, as well as an activist look at the fine arts that will intrigue anyone interested in art and art criticism. There are also animal poems written by various poets.

A book that is heartening and gratifying to encounter… Evokes respect… This is a book that satisfies, reminding us that writing about art can be profound.

Yedioth Ahronoth

Everything that Burstein writes is a rare gift to the reader… He opens a door wide to a world brimming with beauty and insights.

Maariv

Innovative and sophisticated… For Burstein, art is a sharp tool for social criticism.

Erev Rav
SELECTED POEMS BY FIVE OF THE MOST INNOVATIVE AND PROMINENT POETS IN ISRAEL TODAY

A new ITHL project designed to present five of the best poets of the younger generation, as yet untranslated in book form.

35-40 poems by each poet are available in superb translation.

Anat Zecharya

We opened wide
We disconnected from ourselves and our organs
our stomach, head, shoulders
underarms, hands, fingers,
we upturned earth, water, bird feathers
we traced the circular motion exactly.
Air entered from the outside
and the sun cooperated
clearing space.
We were more slender than the wind
a large area opened for us
we went from place to place thinned down
until we no longer belonged to anything
just identical sounds
the sound of water drops
each one the last
in an infinite row of the last.
Each night was like this
echoing, echoing
shining, shining
the only thing before us now
is love.

Translated by Lisa Katz

ENGLISH TRANSLATION AVAILABLE

Anat Zecharya was born in Tel Aviv in 1974. She graduated in photography at the WIZO Neri Bloomfield Academy of Design and Education in Haifa, and Alma College in Tel Aviv. A photographer and dance critic, she is content advisor for Alma College and holds creative writing workshops.

Zecharya has published two books of poetry and was the Israeli candidate for the 2012 Olympic Poetry Parnassus Festival in London. She has received the “Poetry in the Streets” Prize from the city of Tel Aviv (2005; 2007), the Sha’ar Poetry Festival Young Poet’s Prize (2007), a citation at the Poetry Festival in Metula (2008) and the Prime Minister’s Prize (2014).

Anat Zecharya’s selected poems have been translated into English by Lisa Katz.
Eli Eliahu

The meal

As on every Sabbath
We gather. The doorbell announces
The arrivals. There isn’t
More love here than anywhere else.
Sometimes strange things
Are said. Lying ready
On the table are
The knives.

What is not said
Has become sharper over time.

What the eye has not seen
Is sliced by the glances.

On the chairs of the dead
The children are sitting.

Translated by Vivian Eden

ENGLISH TRANSLATION AVAILABLE

Eli Eliahu was born in Tel Aviv in 1969. He received a BA in Jewish philosophy and Hebrew literature from Tel Aviv University; later, he studied editing and translation at Alma College of Hebrew Culture, and participated in the Helicon poetry workshops. He is a journalist and a copy editor at Haaretz daily.

Eliahu has published two books of poetry. He has received the “Poetry in the Streets” Prize awarded by the city of Tel Aviv (2005), the Education and Culture Ministry Prize for debut book (2008), the Matan Prize (2013) and the Prime Minister’s Prize (2014).

Eli Eliahu’s selected poems have been translated into English by Vivian Eden.

I Am Yudit

I am Yudit, granddaughter of Rabbi Yudah,
who sailed on his longings in a ship from Istanbul
only to die in the shack where I was born.
With no separation from the world,
on floors spread over sand,
I ascended and descended with the earth’s breath.
I asked the twisted roots
turning water and light
into lemon-flesh and plum-sweetness,
I craved the wails of cats
and the calls of doves and I hungered
for the drumming of rain on shaky clay roofs.
I knew the desire of birds flying away.
I swelled, with the victory of the wadi
blackening and swallowing all,
and I didn’t know where to.

Translated by Aviya Kushner

ENGLISH TRANSLATION AVAILABLE

Yudit Shahar was born in an economically distressed area of Tel Aviv in 1959 and lives in Petah Tikva. She studied history at Tel Aviv University and special education at the Kibbutzim College of Education. She teaches at a high school for youth at risk and conducts writing workshops.

Shahar, a member of the artists’ activist group “Cultural Guerilla”, has been writing poetry since the age of seven and has published two books of poetry, the first when she was fifty. She has been awarded the Teva Prize of Poetry (2009) and the David Levithan Prize for debut poetry (2011).

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Translated by Vivian Eden

ENGLISH TRANSLATION AVAILABLE
PHOTO © ZOE GRINDEA

Hagit Grossman

was born in Rishon LeZion in 1976 and currently lives in Tel Aviv. She studied photography at the Camera Obscura School of Arts in Tel Aviv, theater at Beit Zvi School of the Performing Arts, painting at the Hamidrasha Art Academy at Beit Berl, and literature at Tel Aviv University. She holds a Master's degree in Hebrew literature from Ben-Gurion University of the Negev and teaches creative writing at the Naggar School of Photography, Media and New Music in Musrara, Jerusalem.

Grossman began publishing poetry as a child and to date has published four books of poetry and two novels. She participates in international poetry festivals. A collection of her poetry, translated by Michel Eckhard Elial, is forthcoming in French (Ed. de la Margeride).

ENGLISH TRANSLATION AVAILABLE

PHOTO © GREG BALL

Dory Manor

was born in Tel Aviv in 1971. In 1993 he was a founding member of the literary group “Ev”, whose aim was to find a new poetic interface between classical and modern Hebrew. Three years later, he moved to Paris, where he studied French and general literature at Paris VII University. In 2006 he returned to Israel and became editor of the literary journal Ho!.

A poet and translator, he is a lecturer at Tel Aviv University and other academic institutions. He is also editor and broadcaster for IDF radio, and collaborates with musicians as artistic advisor, writer and translator.

Manor has published four books of poetry. He is the recipient of several literary prizes, including the Prime Minister's Prize (2007), the Tchernichovsky Prize for Translation (2008) and the Ministry of Culture Prize for Literary Editing (2011).

Screams

So many screams I have in my head
Man it's a madhouse
You could call up a minyan for Kaddish
So many deaths I have in my head
And not a penny to rent a home or buy bread.
Poets are doomed to be outcast from big cities
Unless they are heirs or beggars
Who speak the truth
And no one listens to them anyway.
Mostly they are laid off from work
Or quit out of principle.

Translated by the poet

ENGLISH TRANSLATION AVAILABLE

Fin de Siècle

לעשת שונים, שונים הוא שיר. הזרע – כותב בק.
ולעםינו – דומם.
ואז הביאו נפש אלהים לארץ
ולעםינו – נשים.

אננה סבאי שירה:旭-קן חורי
לقاء עם הנהרות (אשלים אלהים)
לשם ולהנהר במשה לע Şeўרי
네ו את מאור בשית, ידעת עולם, בורף!

녕 קולות בית קולות קולות קולות ידועה
כנראה ממנות היא העבר: בקוצר סקוט, מחול.
ולעם בקוק ל янשך נושאם – לזכר

خلق כלするのが, כל פעמים שהכי!
את ברייה המתקופה אחרונה מגיעה: לא
שולם זה זמן משך ימי

Translated by the poet

ENGLISH TRANSLATION AVAILABLE