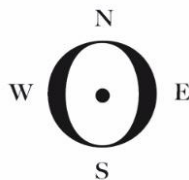


1993 **Thirty years** 2023

30

**BALTIC CENTRE
FOR WRITERS
AND TRANSLATORS**

WWW.BCWT.ORG



Baltic Centre for Writers and Translators
Org Nr 834001-6776
Uddens gränd 3, 621 56 Visby Sweden

Cover: 30 years anniversary poster © Christer Jonson
Photos © Lena Pasternak



ANNUAL REPORT

2023

Introduction

BCWT's 2023 was rich and gratifying. The House, totally devoted to literature and its creators, was buzzing, fully occupied by writers and translators, from 24 countries through the year, working on novels, poetry, theatre texts, filmscripts, children's books, essays, literary and language science papers, articles and at times teaching on zoom.

Year 2023 marked the 30th anniversary of Baltic Centre for Writers and Translators, the international work and meeting place for professionals of literature and beyond. In 1993, when BCWT was founded, the world, Europe, the area of the Baltic Sea, looked different. There was much hope into peaceful future, steadily anchored into democracy. Today there is a war in Europe and the democratic values are under pressure.

May was signed in for celebration of BCWT, reflection and discussion on power of literature, necessity of "a room of one's own", these troubled times, freedom of expression, cultural diplomacy and role and place of BCWT amid it all.

About the BCWT

BCWT is an international work and meeting place for literary professionals. The Centre was established in 1993 on the joint initiative of all the writers' and translators' organizations in the Baltic Sea region and the Nordic countries. The Centre offers writers and translators a place to work and a stimulating international environment. With residencies as a starting point the centre create links and networks across national borders, help to strengthen freedom of expression and dissemination of knowledge, build bridges between nationalities, languages and cultures. Seminars, workshops, conferences and literary events, organized by the BCWT mostly in cooperation with international, national and local organisations follow the same vision. Writers and translators have a majority in the centre's board, which has representatives from both Sweden and other countries. Writers and translators of prose, poetry, drama, children books, filmscript, essays etc, scholars, publishers, librarians. Translation seminars/workshops of different models, international poetry festivals, symposiums, writers group retreats, visits of school pupils, university students, cooperation with embassies, literature and culture institutes, universities is an integrated part of BCWT's activity. BCWT is an active long-term member of the network of international European translation centres (RECIT). BCWT is a headquarter of Baltic Writers' Council, a network of 21 writers and translators organisations in the extended Baltic sea area (Belarus and Ukraine writers' unions are members as well) and Scandinavia and annually host a General Assembly of Baltic Writers' Council.

How BCWT is being governed and managed

Members and founders

of the non-profit organization BCWT (Östersjöns författar- och översättarcentrum) are Swedish Writers' Union, Gotland County Administrative Board and Region Gotland. The members appoint three representatives each to the Board of Representatives and nominate Swedish members to the Board of the BCWT.

Representatives

Gotland County Administrative Board: Britt Silfvergren, Hanna Johansson

Region Gotland: Inger Harlevi, Carin Rosell,

Deputies: Bo Björkman, Eva Gahnström

Swedish Writers' Union: Lena Karlin, Elin Hägg, Anisur Rahman

Annual Meeting of the Representatives was held on 23 May at BCWT in Visby

Board of the BCWT

is composed of a chairperson and six members and six deputies who are on nomination by the founders elected by the Representatives on an annual meeting. The Board internally appoints its deputy chairman. Of the Board's six members, two are nominated by the Swedish Writers' Union, two - by the Gotland County Administrative Board, of whom one represents Uppsala University Campus Gotland, one member is to be nominated by Region Gotland. The Baltic Writers' Council nominate two members representing the non-Swedish Writers' and Translators Unions for a two-year term.

Members of the Board

Olle Jansson, chairman, Campus Gotland Uppsala university

Fredrik Gradelius / Oscar Lindster, Region Gotland

Thomas N Persson, Gotland County Administrative Board

Janina Orlov / Stefan Ingvarsson, Swedish Writers' Union

Marius Burokas, Lithuanian Writers' Union, through Baltic Writers' Council

Ville Hytönen, Finnish Writers Union, through Baltic Writers' Council

Deputies: Lars Thomsson, Region Gotland

Cecilia Hansson, Viveka Sjögren, Swedish Writers' Union

Anna Klingofer-Szostakowska, Polish Translators' Association; Baltic Writers' Council

Mudite Treimane, Latvian Writers' Union, Baltic Writers' Council

Meetings of the Board

During 2023 the Board had four meetings: 14 February, 28 March, 4 May, 8 December

Baltic Writers' Council - BWC

The Baltic Writers' and Translators' Council (BWC) represents 21 literary organizations, 12 countries and approximately 17.000 members around the Baltic Sea region and beyond.

The Council which was founded during the legendary authors and translators' Baltic Sea voyage in 1992 is a multinational, non-profit, non-governmental organization which promotes the freedom of expression, democracy and the free flow of ideas and information between the writers' and translators' organizations. It also aims to support and inspire BCWT activities. The BCWT is the headquarters for BWC, which nominates two members and two deputies to BCWT's Board. The chairperson of Baltic Writers' Council is **Malin Kivelä** (Finland's Swedish Writers' Union)

BWC annual General Assembly was held on 5 - 6 May. In cooperation with BCWT GA 2023 had an extended programme: Belarus Literary Day, a non-public discussion-in-depth between professional literary organisations about the situation in Belarus, a public poetry reading at Almedal Library and a public roundtable talk devoted to 30 years of BCWT.

Employees:

Lena Pasternak - director

Patrik Muskos - managing assistant

Natalia Shevchuk, Olesia Skliaryk - household cleaning

External services:

Accountant: Gustav Söderdahl

Auditors: Barbro Hallgren, Revision & Redovisning på Gotland, and Elena Stepanova, Region Gotland

BCWT is funded by

Swedish Arts Council and Region Gotland

BCWT acquired project grants as well from Natur & Kultur foundation, Swedish Academy, Swedish Arts Council, Region Gotland, Centre for Baltic and East European Studies Södertörn College.

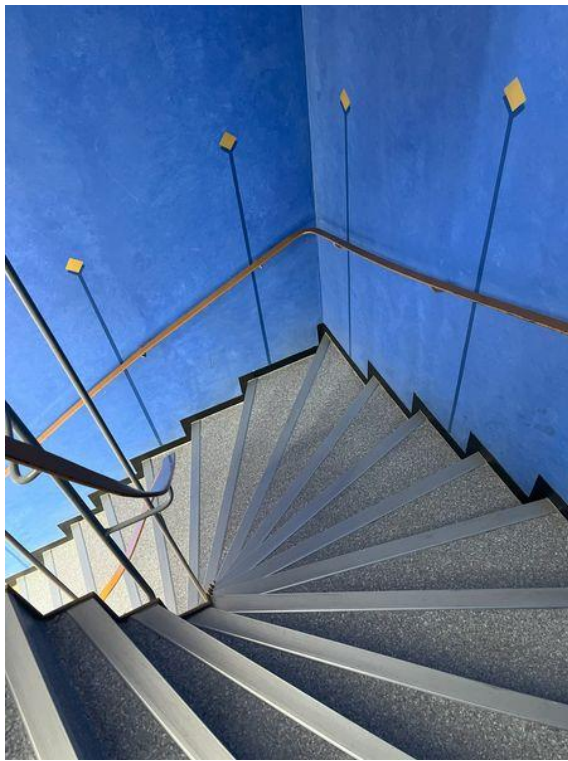
BCWT is a haven for work and a forum for exchange

“Building bridges and breaking barriers”

BCWT is a workplace and meeting point for writers and translators, open for applicants from all over the world, though residency priority is given to literary professionals from the countries in the Baltic Sea region and Scandinavia. The main criteria for receiving BCWT residency grant is the professional character of one's literary work, t. i. a writer/translator's works been published at an established publishing, either in paper or digital form. An applicant is required to send in a CV, list of publications, description of the project to be worked on.

During 2023 the BCWT hosted 160 residing guests from twenty-four countries. They could devote themselves to a literary project of their own, staying in average 2-5 weeks on a residency bursary, t. i. free of charge, and with 24-hours full access to all BCWT's facilities. Furthermore, Region Gotland, German Translation Fund, Swedish institute, Estonian Writers' Union, Finland Swedish Writers' Association, Norwegian Writers Union, et al granted a number of individual allocated bursaries, meant for a work term at the BCWT. Most of the residing guests were authors and translators of poetry, prose, plays, screenplays, film scripts, libretto, essays, children's books, non-fiction within humanities, though occasionally cultural administrators, publishers, and other guests working in the literature field stayed in connection to a shorter project or meetings. BCWT actively facilitated dialogue between residents, as well as visibility of Centre's international activity. The Centre extensively served as a place for readings, Open Houses, film-screenings, meetings, talks, receptions, mingles, dinners and study visits.

Serving and promoting the BCWT as an international meeting place the organization has been investing significant efforts into creating good working environment and welcoming conditions to develop professional and personal contacts and networking. Dinners, tea-hours, combined with talks and presentations of work-in-progress contribute to deeper acquaintance with each other's writing, culture, backgrounds, experiences. To inspire the guests by extraordinary historical and natural richness of the island, to create more opportunities for international dialogue-on-road excursions in Visby and around Gotland were arranged. A great number of presentations of BCWT's activity were done for booked and drop-in study visitors to BCWT's premises.



Writers and Translators in Residence 2023

	Guests		Days	
Belarus	7	4%	105	4,71%
Belgium	1	1%	4	0,18%
Denmark	3	2%	52	2,33%
Estonia	3	2%	30	1,34%
Finland	8	5%	126	5,65%
France	15	9%	81	3,63%
Germany	9	6%	163	7,31%
Greece	6	4%	125	5,60%
Iceland	2	1%	51	2,29%
Iran	1	1%	6	0,27%
Italy	1	1%	23	1,03%
Latvia	1	1%	6	0,27%
Lithuania	3	2%	39	1,75%
Norway	5	3%	61	2,73%
Poland	10	6%	212	9,50%
Sapmi	1	1%	6	0,27%
Slovenia	1	1%	28	1,26%
Spain	3	2%	81	3,63%
Sweden	59	37%	704	31,56%
Tunisisa	1	1%	18	0,81%
Turkey	2	1%	47	2,11%
UK	1	1%	30	1,34%
Ukraine	3	2%	89	3,99%
USA	5	3%	81	3,63%
Other	9	6%	63	2,82%

	Guests		Days	
Writers	86	54%	1371	61,5%
Translators	50	31%	713	32,0%
Other	24	15%	147	6,6%

Total 2023

Days	2231
Unique guests	160
Countries	24

HIGHLIGHTS of the YEAR

30 years celebration

Roundtable, Belarus Literary Day, GA BWC and International Literature Festival

May made a frame for BCWT's 30 years celebration. Together with BWC we marked the anniversary reflecting on these 30 years. BCWT symbolic birth falls on 13th May 1993 when the House was inaugurated in the presence of then Swedish minister of culture, representatives of writers and translators organizations from the countries around the Baltic sea and the North. Countries' flags waving, Gotland ferries tooting. It was festive, full of hope and visionary.

Public roundtable with representatives from the Baltic Writers Council

5 May. Writers from Belarus at the Almedalen Library!
Hanna Jankuta, Dmitry Strotsev, Barys Pjatrovich

6 May. Public round table discussion on the power of literature, "a room of one's own", the troubled times, freedom of expression, cultural diplomacy and BCWT's role and place amid it all.

25-27 May. International Literature Festival, readings, talks and music at the Centre, Almedal and Klintehamn libraries.



Baltic Writers' Council at Baltic Centre for Writers and Translators in Visby!

**Baltic Centre
for Writers
and Translators**

5 maj, 19.00
POETER från BELARUS
Almedalsbiblioteket
Cramérgatan 5
Visby

Hanna Jankuta
Barys Pjatrovitj
Dmitrij Strotsev

6 maj, 17.00
BCWT
Uddens gränd 3, Visby

**Baltic Writers'
Council**

**SAMTAL OM
LITTERATURENS
KRAFT,
YTTRANDEFRIHET,
KULTURDIPLOMATI
och BCWTs roll och
plats mitt i allt detta**



Reading of Belarusian poets. Colleagues, writers and translators, read translations into different languages



"...the anniversary meeting at the Baltic House was devoted to the theme of solidarity with Belarusian writers and support for Belarusian literature. There were round tables where Belarusians told about their situation and answered questions, and there was a poetry festival where Belarusians read their texts, and colleagues from Baltic countries read translations into Swedish, Polish, Norwegian, Latvian, Finnish, Lithuanian,

Thank you my friends! This is precious and important",

writes Dmitry Strotsev, one of the poets

International Literature Festival 25 - 27 May

"That was a contemporary fairytale - it how we wanted it to be - to celebrate literature, writing, the sense of freedom and inspiration it gives one... When many languages meet, when many thoughts, observations, emotions meet and nourish ..."

Amanda Michalopoulou, Greek writer, festival participant

Participated - one of the most distinguished Finnish-Swedish authors, an innovator of the Swedish language and a groundbreaking, style-forming author, Monika Fagerholm, Polish poet Krystyna Dąbrowska, winner of the Szyborskapreis, Greek author Amanda Michalopoulou, whose novel Mesopotamia was selected as Best European Fiction, Selene Hellström, who translated Michalopoulou into Swedish and published a new novel *Obol för älskande* the year before, translator and moderator Janina Orlov, duo 'Kult.', a collaboration between Ukrainian musicians Nataliia Popova and Polina Pohozha, accompanied throughout the festival journey, tuning into the pulse and flow of the words on piano, flute and viola da gamba.





Readings in Klintehamn library

Visit of the Swedish minister of culture on 10th May



Second from right Sweden's minister of culture Parisa Liljestrand visiting BCWT on 10th of May. Here as well, representatives from Baltic Art Center, Visby International Centre for Composers and Bergman Center

The Ukrainian poets Kateryna Mikhalitsyna, and Julia Musakovska, both from Lviv, arriving for a month residency and bringing new books by Ukrainian authors fo BCWT's library!



Kateryna is also a children's book author and Julia as well translates from Swedish and English

”Нові книжки українських авторів для Балтійського центру письменників і перекладачів, Візбі, Швеція” signed Julia Musakovska

On 20th October Julia gave a public reading and talk, - full house and deeply hearted response of the audience.



Left of Julia is Olesa Sliaryk, from Kyiv, who was employed at BCWT



30 August - 2 September

"Paris-seminar" in Visby!

17 translators from Swedish into French, all participants in the translators seminar in Paris under the guidance of Elena Balzamo, gathered at BCWT for three days discussions and talks.

Susanne Bergström Larsson from Swedish Literature Exchange spoke of literature exchange and significance of a translator, Linda Altrov Berg from Norstedts Agency - on Swedish books in French translation och work of a literary agent.

On the second day Swedish translators from French joined the seminar. A lecture "To Live between the languages. Poetic representations of migration stories" by the linguist Katrin Ahlgren, Elena Balzamo's presentation of Paris seminar and publishing were followed by reading and music intermezzo.

Photos: the Paris-Seminar at work





KOLLEKTIV NORDEN

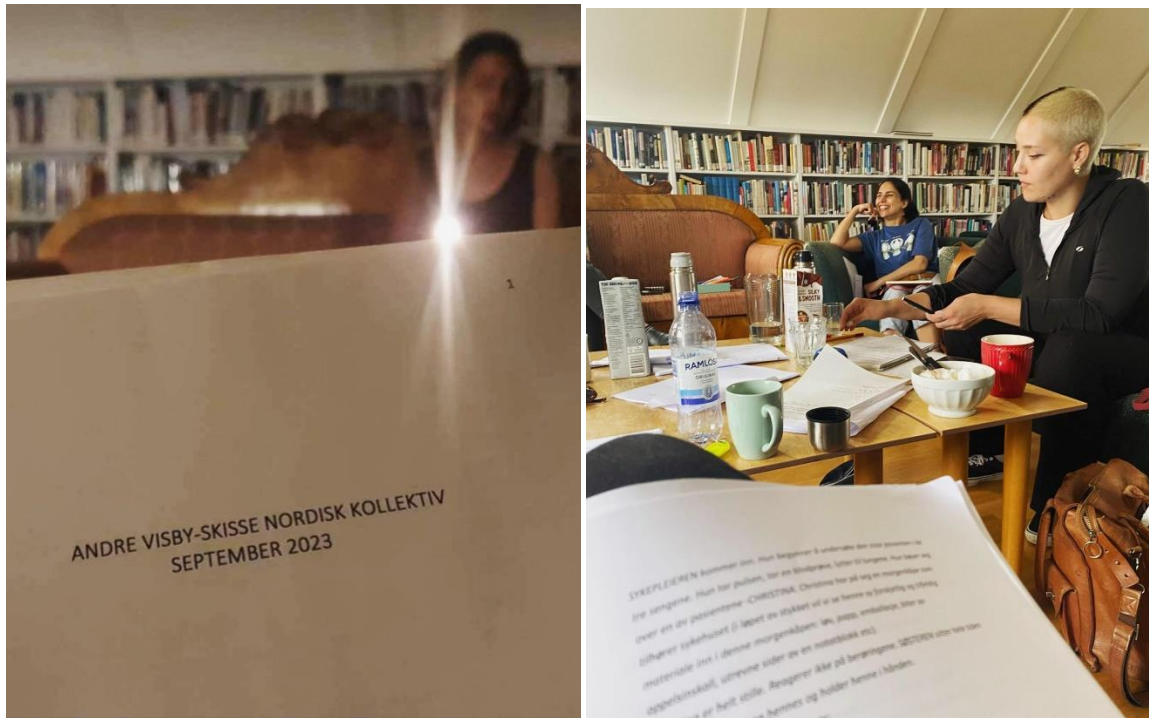


As a result of cooperation with Cornerstone, a platform for new performing arts with a base in Bergen, Norway **Kollektiv Norden** came to BCWT in September for a week of intensive writing, thinking, and discussions! In Visby a big decision was to be made – in what direction the collective dramatext would continue.

BCWT supported the project along with Nordic Cultural Point, Nordic Cultural Council, Davvi - Centre for performing arts.

KOLLEKTIV NORDEN: Tale Næss (NO), Henning H. Bergsvåg (NO), Fatemeh Ekhtesari (NO/IRAN), Jonas Eika (DK), Timimie Mäarak (SÁPMI) with Idun Vik (NO) as dramaturgist.





"Takk for oss, Gotland! Kollektiv Norden har hatt en særdeles fruktbar samling her på vakre Baltic Centre i Visby, som har skapt en rolig og inspirerende ramme for et intenst og tidvis uhørt krevende arbeid! Ikke rart denne residensordningen betyr så mye for så mange forfattere. Nå returnerer våre modige kollektivister Tale Næss, Fatemeh Ekhtesari, Timimie Märak, Jonas Eika og Henning H Bergsvåg til sine hjembyer, med et sprell levende arbeidsmanus på laptopen. Mye er forkastet, mye nytt har kommet til. Neste fysiske samling blir i november i Dale i Sunnfjord i samarbeid med PreForm og Jakob Sande-senter for forteljekunst. Det gledes!"

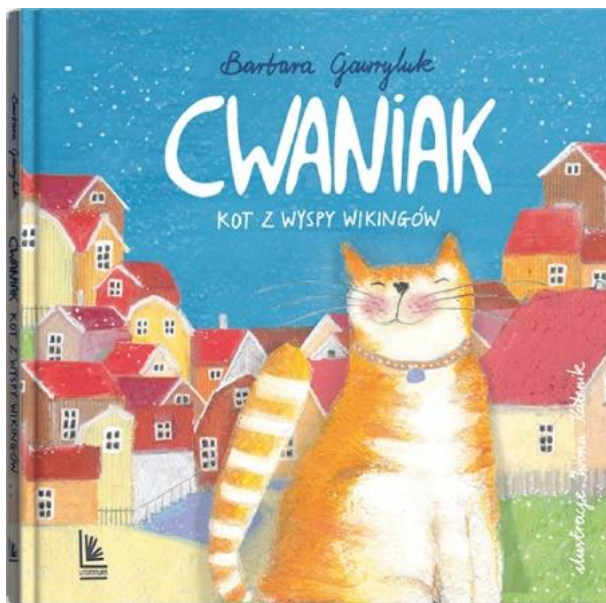
Thank you for us, Gotland! Kollektiv Norden has had an extremely fruitful gathering here at the beautiful Baltic Center in Visby, which has created a calm and inspiring setting for intense and sometimes very demanding work! No wonder this residency means so much to so many writers. Now our brave collectivists Tale Næss, Fatemeh Ekhtesari, Timimie Märak, Jonas Eika and Henning H Bergsvåg are returning to their hometowns, with a vibrant work script in their laptops. Much has been discarded, much has been added. The next physical gathering will be in November in Dale in Sunnfjord in collaboration with PreForm and Jakob Sande Center for Storytelling. What a pleasure!

From BCWT "logbook"

9 June

Pupils from Hemse school visiting BCWT and meeting translators from Swedish to German Ursel Allenstein, Stefan Pluschkat, Polish poet Krystyna Dabrowska, poet from New-York/Puerto Rico Janina Braschi, telling the pupils how a writer/translator works, how they became writers/translators, about their countries, languages.

When Polish children books' writer and translator Barbara Gawryluk was at BCWT in May 2022 she saw a statue of Knäcken, a cat, in Stora Torget (Big Square) in Visby. Why is it there?! She started searching for traces of Knäcken, and here is the story. The book "Cwaniak. Kot z wyspy wikingów" by Barbara Gawryluk, with wonderful illustrations by Iwona Kalenik, has arrived to BCWT.



25 April

Public reading and talk with Turkish writer and Netflix author Afşin Kum. As a result of the cooperation between KIRAATHANE Cultural Centre in Istanbul, the Baltic Centre for Writers' and Translators in Visby and the Swedish Research Institute in Istanbul, Afşin Kum was a resident at BCWT in April.

Anja Utler, German poet, contemplates over translation-in-process of her book *Es beginnt: Trauerrefrain* by Linda Östergaard



September

A report re Translation-in-Motion (TIM), EU funded cooperation, which BCWT been a partner of, is finalized.

The network RECIT, which member BCWT has been a long term partner of, was a formal applicant and coordinator of TIM project. Through the project the visibility and knowledge about the network on the EU level been significantly risen, and all the participated centres have benefited from this supporting literary translation, translators and literature cultural exchange cooperation.

3rd October

On the study trip to Gotland and Visby, 20 civil servants from Swedish Ministry of Culture's visited BCWT. Ukrainian, Belarusian, German, Polish, Icelandic, Swedish writers and translators, staying at the time at the Centre, joined the extended conversation.

12-13 October

SWAN conference

Swedish Artist Residency Network

BCWT was a part of the working group, preparing the conference during a yeartime.

Lena Pasternak took part in a panel at Bergman Center, BCWT resident Julia Musakovska, Ukraine, participated in the public reading during the confrence.

20th October

Open House and Reading and talk with the Ukrainian poet Julia Musakovska. Recording for digital publication.

December



For a week BCWT was a writing retreat for doctoral students and PostDocs from CBEES, Baltic and East European Studies at Södertörn University in Stockholm.



On 3 May BCWT was awarded World Free Press prize by *Gotlänningens tryckeri AB*,
And such a wonderful meaningful coincidence – 30 years of World Press Freedom Day and 30 years of
Baltic Centre for Writers and Translators!

In 2023 BCWT cooperated and communicated, daily and in connection to projects, with a substantial number of international, national and local organisations and authorities:

Swedish Arts Council, Region Gotland Libraries on Gotland, Klintehamn library, Almedal library, Hemse school, Christina Nilsson Hemse school librarian, Culture association Roxy, Translation Centre in Arles, France, Next Page Foundation in Sofia, Bulgaria, Ventspils International Writers and Translators House, Latvia, International Composers Center in Visby, Gotland Music, Baltic Art Center, Translation House Looren in Switzerland, Campus Gotland Uppsala University, Business Management Department, Natur & Kultur publishing house, RECIT - European Network of International Translators Houses, Partners "Translation-in-Motion" project, Cornerstone i Bergen - Kollektiv Norden, Centre Culturel Suédois in Paris, Norstedt Literature Agency, Swedish Ministry of Culture, Latvian Embassy in Stockholm, Latvian Ambassador Ilze Ruse, Lithuanian cultural attaché Liana Ruokyte, Elena Balzamo, translator and scholar, SWAN - national network of artists residences, Bergman Centre, Literature Centre Kiraarthane in Istanbul, Swedish research institute in Istanbul, Association Krokodil in Belgrad, Riina Noodapera, Honorary Consul of Estonia to Gotland

Thank you from BCWT's Board

To maintain and develop the activity of BCWT is only possible thanks to support and vital relations with institutions, organisations, and individuals in different countries.

Thank you all!

Visby, June 2024

Olle Jansson, chairman

Thomas Persson

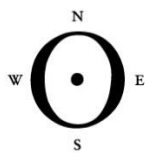
Ulla Pettersson

Janina Orlov

Stefan Ingvarsson

Ville Hytönen

Marius Burokas



BALTIC CENTRE *for* WRITERS *and* TRANSLATORS