



RIGHTS CATALOGUE 2025



marvellous
books





Alise Nigale | Fox
Founding Publisher



Inese Zandere | Bear
Founding Editor-in-Chief,
author



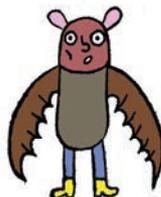
Ūna Laukmane | Cat
Founding Arts Editor,
illustrator



Ieva Kudeiko | Nutcracker
Sales Manager



Lote Šteina | Cow
PR & Marketing Manager



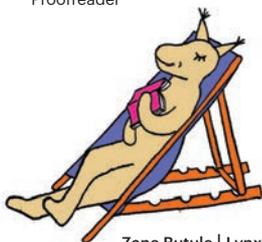
Kristīne Jonuša | Bat
Foreign Rights Manager



Rūta Briede | Deer
Arts Editor, illustrator



Guna Kalniņa | Owl
Proofreader



Zane Butule | Lynx
Office & Events Manager



Artis Briedis | Deer
Designer

Liels un Mazs is a family-owned and run children's book publisher based in Riga, Latvia, founded in 2004 by Alise Nigale (Publisher & Managing Director), Inese Zandere (Editor-in-Chief), and Ūna Laukmane (Arts Editor).

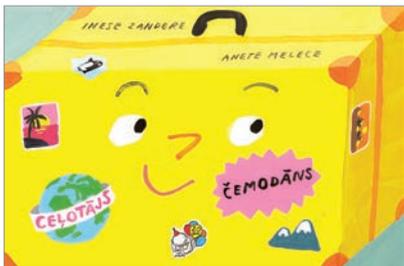
It started with a single book that our co-owners, Inese and Ūna, had written and illustrated. With a mission to get this title back into print when its original publisher dissolved, Liels un Mazs was formed, and in 2024, we celebrated a milestone birthday, and our list has grown from one to over 300 titles strong.

Over the years, our work has been recognised with various awards nationally and internationally, the highlight of which was the Bologna Prize for the Best Children's Publishers of the Year for Europe in 2022 and Cabinet of Ministers of Latvia Award "for crucial role in shaping contemporary Latvian children's literature and contribution to strengthening a democratic state and building an educated, better, and safer society" in 2024.

From the beginning, Liels un Mazs' vision has been to introduce Latvian readers to contemporary picture books, poetry, and fiction by talented local authors as well as outstanding translations. Our catalogue spans from modern classics to unexpected artistic experiments, delving into serious and complex topics while showcasing diverse writing styles and illustrations. We also love organising various cultural events — exhibitions, concerts, readings, and theatre plays that evolve from our books.

Liels un Mazs' original titles have been translated into over 30 languages worldwide, and some of our authors have become international stars. Our list of published translations includes works from esteemed authors and illustrators from around the globe, such as Kristin Roskifte, Kitty Crowther, Edward van de Vendel, Romana Romanyshyn and Andriy Lesiv, Maria Parr, and many more.

Liels un Mazs' publishing choices are reasoned and responsible, making our books a unifying space where different generations can meet and understand each other.



THE TRAVELLING TRUNK

Čemodāns ceļotājs by Inese Zandere
 Illustrations by Anete Melece
 3+ | hardcover | 29x18 cm | 32 pages
 ISBN 978-9934-633-17-1

Selected for 100 Outstanding
 Picturebooks 2025 by dPictus

Foreign rights: All languages available

A suitcase with secret contents falls out of a flying airplane. It survives its tumble and escapes drowning in the ocean, falling into a volcano, getting lost in a jungle, and freezing in a glacier. The author uses fantasy and the repetitive form of a poem to add to the suspense as the suitcase's mysterious contents are revealed at the end - it has brought migratory birds back home from the south.



travel — around the world — rhyming text — allegory — suspense —
 imagination — riddle — migratory birds — diverse habitats

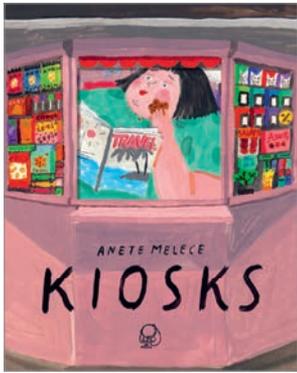


Flip through *The Travelling Trunk*



PIECĀS DZĒRVES UN SEPTIŅAS ZOIŠ,
 PUPŪKU PĀRIS, CEKULIEM POSIES,
 DIVI STRAZDI, KAS IVLĒDĀ SKALI,
 ZALĀ VĀRNA, KAM SĀNI ZILZALI,
 VĀLODZEI KOŠI DZELTENIEM SPĀRNIEM,
 JUKJUKĀM BALTI UN PEĻĒKI GĀRŅI,





THE KIOSK

Kiosks by Anete Melece
5+ | hardcover | 21x28 cm | 40 pages
ISBN 978-9934-574-10-8

International Jānis Baltvilks Prize in Children's Literature and Book Art 2019, Excellence Award of Culture 2021, IBBY Honour List 2020, Peter Pan-pret 2021 (Sweden), Independent bookstore association prize Premio Orbil 2019 (Italy), Banco del Libro 2023 (Venezuela)

Foreign rights sold: German, French (World), Swedish, Korean, Simplified Chinese, Complex Chinese Characters, Italian, English (World), Estonian, Spanish (World), Catalan, Czech, Croatian, Slovenian, Mongolian, Japanese, Arabic (World), Portuguese (World except Brazil), Dutch, Greek, Polish, Ukrainian, Lithuanian

The kiosk has been Olga's workplace and home for years now. She feels like she can never leave it to fulfil her dream of watching beautiful sunsets in faraway lands. One day, something dramatic happens that makes her wish come true. Children can follow Olga's funny and exciting journey, while adults can perhaps relate to feeling 'stuck' in life. The multi-layered, life-affirming story and Anete's vibrant, expressive illustrations have made *The Kiosk* an international bestseller.

neighbourhood — urban environment — stuck in a routine — dreams come true — travel

In 2013, Anete Melece created a 7-minute-long animated short film *The Kiosk*, which gained international recognition and received more than 20 awards in Switzerland, Latvia, China, Korea, Luxembourg, Portugal, Russia, Egypt, and Austria. Her movie has been selected for more than 100 festivals all over the world.



← *The Kiosk* on YouTube

A parable for our time, *The Kiosk* is about escaping a confining routine and finding something better, about being "stuck", as Melece herself has described it, and figuring out a way to "start a journey to your happy place exactly as you are".

Elizabeth Spires for *The New York Times Book Review*

Anete Melece's beautiful painted illustrations use bold strokes to create an endearing childlike style that is also rich with lots of gorgeous detail and colour.

The BookTrust selected *The Kiosk* as one of the best children's books in February 2021

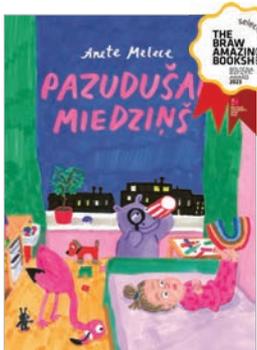
Her subtle text — represented through the gentle translation of Juris Kronbergs — along with her colourful illustrations, *The Kiosk* is a worthy Peter Pan winner.

Peter Pan-pret 2021, announced by IBBY Sverige

With *The Kiosk*, Latvian author Anete Melece has created a story for four-to-ten-year-olds, which for the kids in this age group is unusually unsweetened and "un-cute". It is inviting to read it out loud or to read it by yourself, to look closely and discover all the details and to dream about wanderlust.

Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung





STELLA'S STOLEN SLEEP

Pazudušais miedzīns by Anete Melece
3+ | hardcover | 19x27 cm | 40 pages
ISBN 978-9934-574-87-0

Selected for the BRAW Amazing Bookshelf 2023, 100 Outstanding Picturebooks 2023 by dPictus, the BCBF Illustrators Exhibition 2023, Latvian Children's Jury Award 2024

Foreign rights sold: German, Korean, French, Greek, Macedonian, Swedish, Italian, Faroese, Spanish, Catalan, Japanese, Slovenian, Portuguese (World)

It's time to go to bed, but toddler Stella can't fall asleep even after nine bedtime stories. A quick check with the Sleep Helpline and it turns out Stella's sleep is missing, presumed stolen. This calls for a serious investigation, and detectives Hippo, Flamingo, and Bobby get to work. They check everywhere and question everyone before discovering that the sleep was delivered to a room where no one dared to look — the home office where Mum was working late that night. Internationally acclaimed author and illustrator Anete Melece has created a funny story based on the real-life experience of parents about the challenges of bedtime that will seem familiar to every family with young children.

toddler — sleep — toys — bedtime routine — investigation — bedtime stories



THE SECOND CONCERT

Otrais koncerts by Anna Vaivare
5+ | hardcover | 21x33 cm | 40 pages
ISBN 978-9934-633-11-9

Highlighted by the dPictus jury of the Unpublished Picturebook Showcase 4 among its top five titles

Foreign rights: All languages available

An aspiring young cellist, Agatha prepares for her first solo with the orchestra. She can't sleep at night, and her hands keep shaking. Could there be anything more awful than making a mistake on stage in front of everybody? When almost everything goes wrong at the concert, Agatha feels like the ground is about to swallow her up. The day is saved by her Grandpa, who helps Agatha believe in herself again and see how a mistake can be turned into an advantage just by a change of attitude.

stage fright — public performance — overcoming fear — intergenerational — orchestra





LET'S DRAW A STORY!

Uzzimēsim stāstu? by Elina Brasliņa
3+ | hardcover | 21x28cm | 40 pages
ISBN 978-9934-633-20-1

The National Book Art Contest Award 'Golden Apple Tree' 2024, The BCBF Illustrators Exhibition 2024, selected for 100 Outstanding Picturebooks 2025 by dPictus, selected for the BRAW Amazing Bookshelf 2025

Foreign rights sold: Lithuanian, English

This picture book explores storytelling as a shared experience by posing and answering a series of questions like “how does it start?”, “what happens next?”, and “does all end well?”. It follows a parent and a child who work together to create a narrative and draw pictures to illustrate it. It's a book for — and about — children who, rather than settling down to listen to a story, actively want to shape it.

creative storytelling — drawing — relationship with mum — role play





THE ZOO AT NIGHT

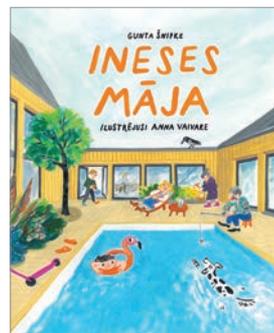
Kas zoodārzā notiek naktī by Egils Zirnis
 Illustrations by Svens Neilands
 3+ | hardcover | 21x28 cm | 32 pages
 ISBN 978-9934-633-00-3

Selected for the BRAW Amazing Bookshelf 2024

Foreign rights: All languages available

What goes on at the zoo after dark? As the cleverly rhyming poem in this picture book discovers, the animals trade coats and play dress up games while the only human in the story — the night watchman, continues to snore through the nighttime mischief and winds up in the belly of a lion. This book sees words and illustrations play together, encouraging children to join the animals for a wild ride of imagination while keeping the zoological knowledge at the core of the story.

zoo animals — role play — dress up — nighttime — open ending — rhyming text



A HOUSE FOR INES

Ineses māja by Gunta Šnipke
 Illustrations by Anna Vaivare
 5+ | hardcover | 20x23 cm | 32 pages
 ISBN 978-9934-574-74-0

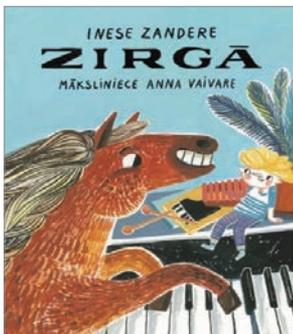
Festival of creative excellence ADWARDS 2022,
 selected for 100 Outstanding Picturebooks 2023
 by dPictus

Foreign rights sold: Korean

Some might think an architect has an easy job of just drawing a house. This rhyming picture book invites the reader to visit an architect's studio and follow the process of creating a blueprint for Ines's dream house. When the eccentric Ines starts listing all the habits, needs, and wishes of her family, friends, and pets, we learn about the work that goes into designing a building and the importance of managing expectations. The rhyming text takes us through Ines's flight of imagination before culminating in a stunning, intricate, fold-out poster of a house that takes up an entire city block. Both authors of this book — the poet and the illustrator — are also professional architects.

architecture — dream house — home environment — need vs want — spotting game





RIDING HIGH

Zirgā by Inese Zandere
 Illustrations by Anna Vaivare
 3+ | hardcover | 20x23 cm | 32 pages
 ISBN 978-9934-533-94-5

The National Book Art Contest Award 'Golden Apple Tree' 2017

Foreign rights sold: Estonian, Arabic (World)

Practising piano can be boring unless a horse comes to keep you company — then it's the most exciting adventure in the world. This action-packed picture book tells the story of a boy learning to play the piano. The reader can join in on the horseplay and spend ages looking through the extensive detail on each page until the horse runs off just in time before Mum walks in to check on the commotion.

practising piano — learning musical instruments — imaginary friend — horseplay



KATE, THE GIRL WHO WANTED TO BECOME A GRANDFATHER

Kate, kas gribēja kļūt par vectēvu by Signe Viška
 Illustrations by Elina Brasliņa
 3+ | hardcover | 21x28 cm | 32 pages
 ISBN 978-9934-574-63-4

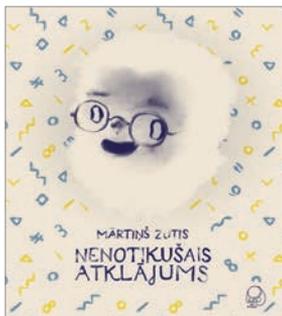
Selected for the BRAW Amazing Bookshelf 2022

Foreign rights sold: German, French (World), Czech, Spanish (World), Catalan, Basque, Galician, Korean,

Kate wants to be her Grandad when she grows up. In fact, she wants to become Grandad now! A playful picture book about an enthusiastic little girl who is determined to make her spontaneous ideas come alive in a way only children know how. And Grandad is all too happy to play along.

relationship with grandfather — dress-up — role play — feeling good — spontaneity





THE DISCOVERY THAT NEVER WAS

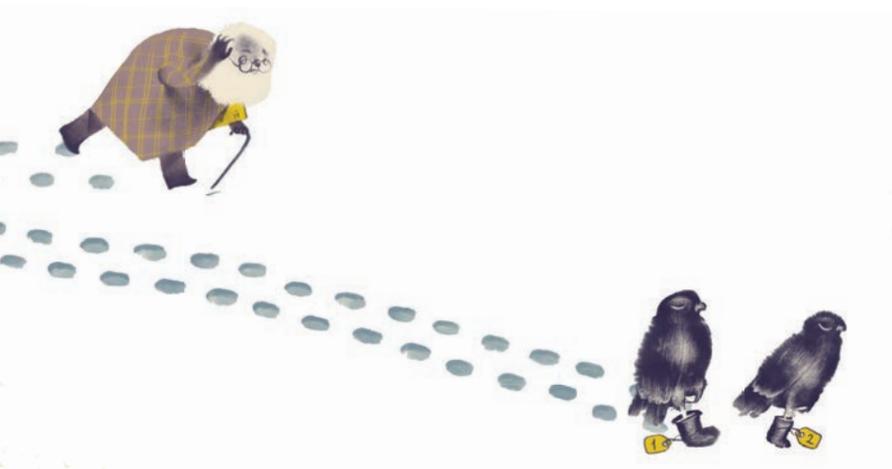
Nenotikušais atklājums by Mārtiņš Zutis
5+ | hardcover | 20x23 cm | 32 pages
ISBN 978-9934-533-24-2

International Jānis Baltvilks Prize in Children's Literature and Book Art for the best debut 2016, Latvian Children's Jury Award 2017, White Ravens 2016 collection

Foreign rights sold: Korean, Slovenian, Polish, Simplified Chinese (magazine rights only), Estonian, English, Dutch, Spanish (World), Catalan, Basque, Galician

Famous naturalist Karl Darwing is excited for the new edition of his favourite science magazine featuring a magical three-legged raven to arrive. He hops to the letterbox on one leg, as a pet snake has slid into one of his boots. Upon finding mysterious footsteps in the snow, Karl Darwing could be on the brink of an amazing discovery. Could it be a jumping snake, two sleepwalking parrots, three robbers, or a ten-legged alien? Karl gets close to the answer but decides to leave the mystery unsolved so the readers can enjoy working it out for themselves.

counting — imaginary creatures — footprints in the snow — reader participation



REBELLIOUS GRANDPA

Nepaklausīgais vectēvs by Rebeka Lukošus
5+ | hardcover | 23x20 cm | 32 pages
ISBN 978-9934-574-66-5

Selected for the BRAW Amazing Bookshelf 2022, Latvian Children's Jury Award 2023

Foreign rights sold: Arabic (World), Korean, Finnish

It's Grandpa's 80th birthday — a perfect day to rebel against the world. Having only done “what's right” for his whole life, Grandpa finally decides to break free from the rules and try every “forbidden fruit” he can think of — driving a car again, strolling on the beach for as long as he wants, eating unhealthy food, and even dyeing his grey hair black! With light and non-didactic humour, author Rebeka Lukošus lets Grandpa go on a mischievous journey until he is ready to return to his loved ones. This book offers a warm and witty look at children's struggles while balancing their need for independence with the world's demands.

birthday — grandad — fulfilling dreams — self-determination — rebelling — joyful protagonist





THE DOG WHO FOUND SORROW

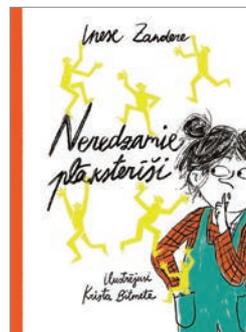
Suns, kurš atrada skumjas by Rūta Briede
 Illustrations by Elina Brasliņa
 Crossover | hardcover | 20x23 cm | 32 pages
 ISBN 978-9934-574-02-3

The National Book Art Contest Award 'Golden Apple Tree' 2018

Foreign rights sold: English, Korean, Simplified Chinese (magazine rights only), Complex Chinese Characters, Polish

This picture book about sadness and healing tells a story of a dog who finds his hometown covered in black smoke and thick black clouds. Every colour and scent has disappeared. He takes a ladder and climbs up to the sky to find out what's wrong. It turns out that the clouds are filled with sad creatures called Sorrows.

emotions — dealing with sadness — taking responsibility — music therapy — healing



INVISIBLE PLASTERS

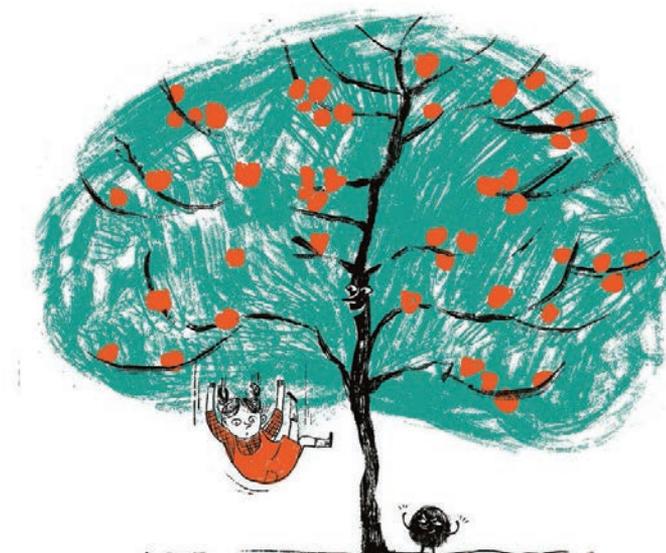
Neredzami plāsteri by Inese Zandere
 Illustrations by Krista Bitmete
 5+ | hardcover | 15x21 cm | 48 pages
 ISBN 978-9934-633-01-0

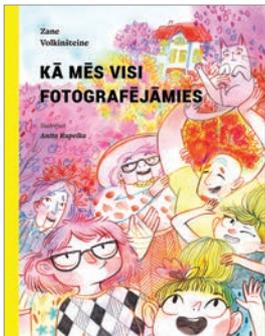
International Jānis Baltvilks Prize in Children's Literature and Book Art 2024

Foreign rights sold: Estonian English translation available

Some injuries don't bruise, but they still hurt. Anette and her friends feel the pain from a series of heartaches — failures, disappointments, grudges, and arguments, but luckily, Anette's mum has a fix — invisible plasters. Soon, no more plasters are left in Mum's drawer — just as Mum needs one herself. Fortunately, Anette saves the day by learning to find invisible plasters in her own pocket. The luminescent paint glows when exposed to blue light, revealing another "invisible" part of the story.

friendship — hurt feelings — empathy — taking care of one another — problem-solving — handling emotions





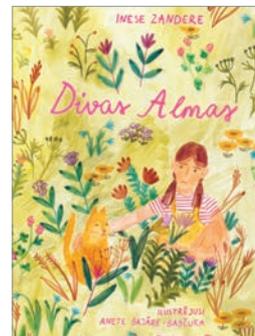
THE FAMILY PICTURE DAY

Kā mēs visi fotografējamies by Zane Volkinšteine
 Illustrations by Anita Rupeika
 5+ | hardcover | 16x20 cm | 44 pages
 ISBN 978-9934-633-16-4

Foreign rights: All languages available
 English translation available

This easy reader follows a story of two sisters, Marta and Mētra, as they are having their photos taken in different places like a photo booth, a swimming pool and even on a speed camera. The girls are having fun spending time with their granny over the course of a summer's day which ends with a group photo taken at their mum's birthday party.

adventures — summertime — having fun with a grandparent — siblings



TWO ALMAS

Divas Almas by Inese Zandere
 Illustrations by Anete Bajāre-Babčuka
 5+ | hardcover | 15x21 cm | 40 pages
 ISBN 978-9934-574-64-1

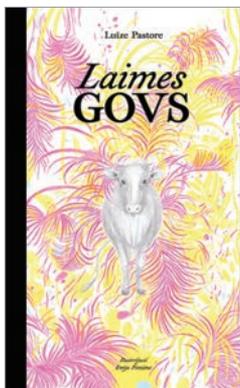
Golden Apple BIB 2023 (Biennial of Illustrations
 Bratislava)

Foreign rights sold: Portuguese (World except Brazil)
 English translation available

Alma spends her summer holidays in a country village. When she overhears her name at a local funeral, Alma becomes "invisible". She tries to understand the relationship with her own name, the difference between the living and the deceased, and the importance of keeping people who have passed away in loving memory. The author uses light humour to discuss important matters, making seriousness inseparable from a smile.

summer holidays — countryside — extended family — discussing death — honouring the deceased





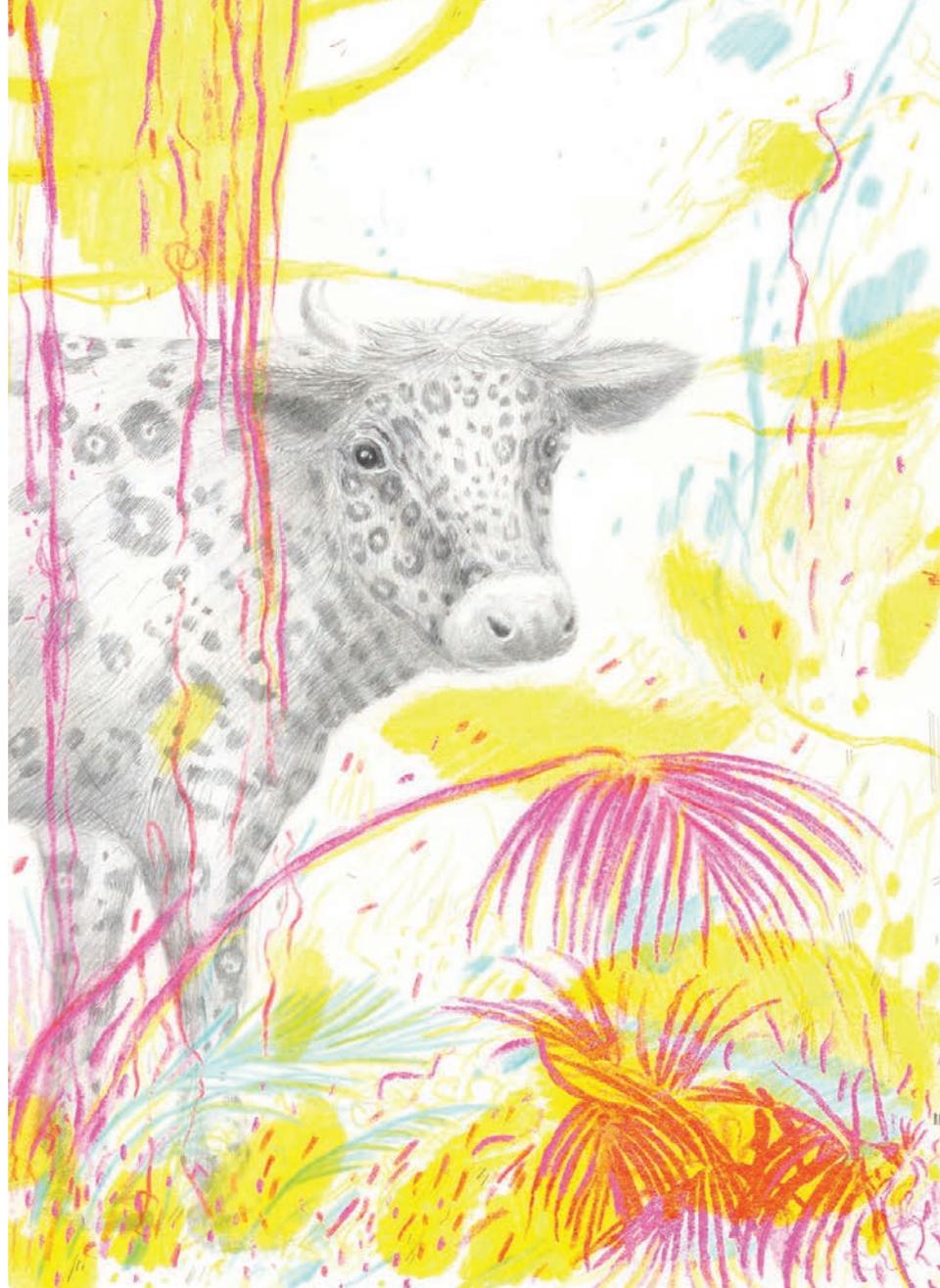
THE LAIME'S COW

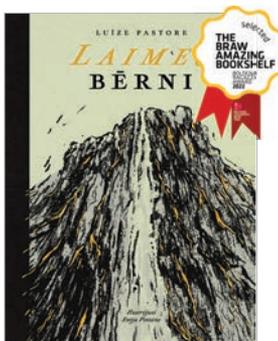
Laimes gov's by **Luize Pastore**
 Illustrations by **Evija Pintāne**
 5+ | hardcover | 20.5x35.5 cm | 128 pages
 ISBN 978-9934-633-27-0

Foreign rights: All languages available
 English sample translation available

Set in the Venezuelan jungle, the story introduces the incredible Laimé's Cow—a creature as extraordinary as Devil's Hill and the world's highest waterfall, as rare as gold and diamonds, and as surprising as teleportation and levitation. Internationally acclaimed author and illustrator duo Luize Pastore and Evija Pintāne continue their collaboration with an enchanting bedtime story in which a father and daughter create fantastical tales of real and imagined adventures, blurring the lines between reality and imagination. With its rhythmic storytelling and the charm of a traditional fairy tale, Laimé's Cow is a heartwarming adventure that sparks imagination, curiosity, and the joy of storytelling in young readers.

jungle — sense of belonging — bedtime stories — blurred reality — imaginary friend





THE LAIME CHILDREN

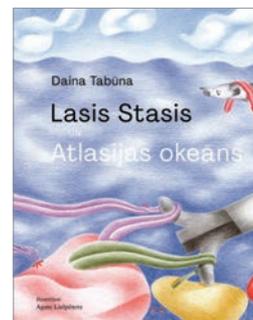
Laimes bērni by Luīze Pastore
Illustrations by Evija Pintāne
9+ | hardcover | 14.8x21 cm | 176 pages
ISBN 978-9934-574-65-8

BRAW New Horizons 2022, White Ravens 2022 collection, International Jānis Baltvilks Prize in Children's Literature and Book Art 2022

Foreign rights sold: Italian, Polish, Lithuanian, Ukrainian
English sample translation available

A thrilling adventure story based on a real-life character — the famous Latvian-born explorer Aleksandrs Laime (1911–1994), the first recorded human to reach Angel Falls in Venezuela. Laime invites journalists to go on a jungle expedition so he can reveal the secrets of Devil Mountain to the whole world. The main protagonists are his two children and a Swedish journalist who embark on an exciting adventure with elements of danger, treasure hunting, and even magic. This story looks at the human ability to coexist with the jungle, the damaging consequences of greed, and believing in the impossible.

thrilling expedition — jungle — gold fever — survival — courage — family separation



SAMMY SALMON AND THE OCEAN

Lasis Stasis un Atlasijas okeāns by Daina Tabūna
Illustrations by Agate Lielpētere
7+ | hardcover | 16.5x21 cm | 72 pages
ISBN 978-9934-574-86-3

Foreign rights: All languages available
English sample translation available

This book tells a coming-of-age story of a young salmon named Sammy. As he gets to know other water creatures, the river, and the sea, an old crab tells him about the big ocean. Curious little Sammy imagines the ocean as a world of wonders where everything and everyone is better than in his native river. He decides to see it for himself, setting off on a journey full of danger and self-discovery. This fascinating story describes a rite of passage, but also provides a wealth of knowledge about natural phenomena, presented in an emotional, “humanised” way.

ecology — the life cycle of salmon — coming of age — challenging journey — homesickness





A BOY AND HIS DOG. THE STORY OF AN UNTOLD SECRET

Puika ar suni. Stāsts par nosargātu noslēpumu by Inese Zandere
Illustrations by Reinis Pētersons
9+ | softcover | 14.8x21 cm | 80 pages | 112 pages
ISBN 978-9934-533-95-2;
ISBN 978-9934-574-03-0



National Design Award of Latvia 2018, Festival of creative excellence ADWARDS 2021

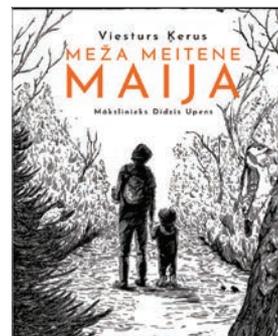
Foreign rights sold: Lithuanian
English sample translation available

This novel about a young boy, living through the Nazi occupation of Latvia, is based on true events that took place in Riga during the Second World War. His father Žanis Lipke is known for saving the lives of at least 55 Jewish people. The emotionally charged story, told from the point of view of young Zigis, looks at his challenging experience through the prism of war and the incredible courage of his parents.

Zigis is only eight years old when he witnesses his father hiding Jewish people from the Nazi regime and cannot yet fully comprehend the events that are happening around him. As he grows older and understands more, Zigis takes an active role in his family's efforts to help Jews escape the Nazis as he helps dig the hiding place, learns to warn about danger, and gets to know the people staying in the bunker. It is difficult for them to endure the cramped conditions and uncertainty and for Zigis to keep the dangerous secret while trying to find answers to complex questions about human nature and morality.

The design recalls the books that little Zigis would have read in his childhood — wartime publications with simple soft covers. This feeling of the past is reinforced by a forgotten technique of bookbinding — readers have to cut the book's pages open themselves.

Holocaust — WWII — coming of age — compassion — courage — companionship — fearing for one's life



MAIJA AND THE FOREST

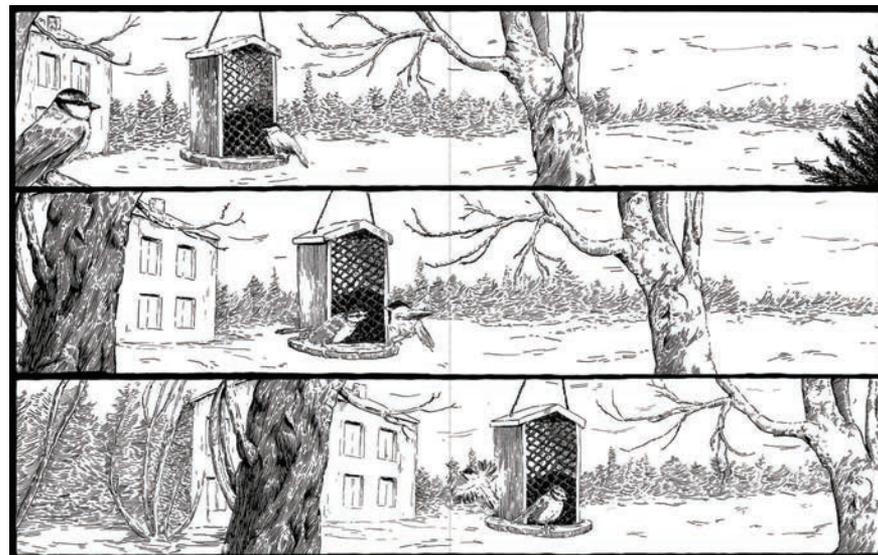
Meža meitene Maija by Viesturs Ķerus
Illustrations by Didzis Upens
7+ | hardcover | 16.5x21 cm | 64 pages
ISBN 978-9934-574-32-0

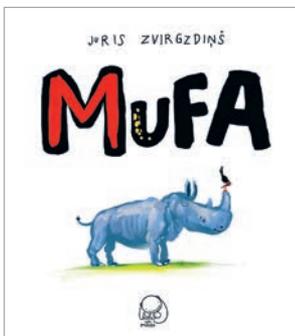
The Annual Prize for Literature 2020,
International Jānis Baltvilks Prize in Children's
Literature and Book Art for the best debut 2020

Foreign rights sold: Lithuanian
English sample translation available

Maija and her family live in an old ranger's house in the forest. She goes for walks and expeditions with her ornithologist father, who tells her stories about birds, introduces her to wild animals, and explains natural processes, making every day an adventure and proving that nature can be an endless source of activities and excitement.

growing up in nature — forest — ornithology — slow living — relationship with father





MUFFA

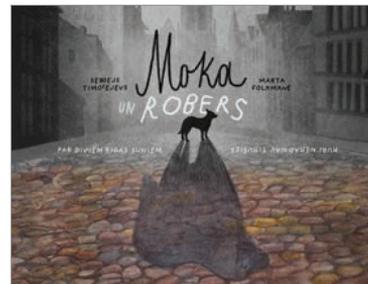
Muffa by Juris Zvirgzdiņš
 Illustrations by Reinis Pētersons
 7+ | hardcover | 22x26 cm | 96 pages
 ISBN 978-9984-820-32-3

The National Book Art Contest Award 'Golden Apple Tree' 2012, Latvian Children's Jury Award 2011, White Ravens 2012 Collection, shortlisted for Premio Strega Ragazze e Ragazzi 2021 (in category 8+)

Foreign rights sold: Italian , Simplified Chinese
 English translation available

An adventure story of a rhino's journey from Northern Europe to Africa. Born in Norway, Muffa is an orphan whom Ibu, the zookeeper, is looking after. Muffa learns to talk and read in every language, which is useful when they set off on an epic voyage through many countries to reach Africa, coming across icy seas, unsavoury humans, new friends, and inspiring adventures along the way.

a talking animal — friendship — adventurous journey — European countries — Africa — poaching



MOCCA AND ROBBER

Mokka un Robbers by Sergejs Timofejevs
 Illustrations by Marta Folkmane
 5+ | hardcover | 26x20 cm | 112 pages
 ISBN 978-9934-633-29-4

Foreign rights: All languages available
 English sample translation available

Mokka, a gentle coffee-coloured dog, is terrified of fireworks, so his owner soothes him with tales of Robber, a loyal Newfoundland who once belonged to composer Richard Wagner. Through Mokka's curious eyes, the story explores Wagner's life in 19th-century Riga, his escape from creditors, and his journey to London and Paris with Robber by his side. This heartwarming tale weaves together history, music, and the deep bond between humans and dogs while telling it in a way that makes history accessible for its young readers.

dog lovers – Richard Wagner – dogs in history – animal companions – empathy – visual storytelling





BIRDS WATCH US TOO

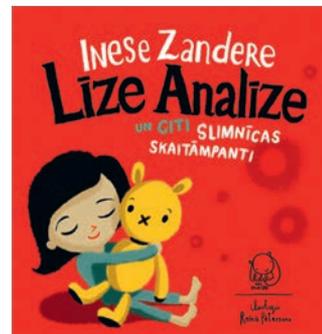
Putni mūs redz by Inese Zandere
 Illustrations by Aleksandra Runde
 5+ | hardcover | 17x24 cm | 56 pages
 ISBN 978-9934-574-80-1

International Jānis Baltvilks Prize in Children's Literature and Book Art 2024, White Ravens 2024 collection

Foreign rights: All languages available
 English sample translation available

We often hear of birdwatching, but birds watch humans too! This collection of 41 poems represents many bird species in different environments — river, garden, meadow, sea, and forest. The personal connection with the poet is ever-present, as she playfully depicts the scenes so children can identify with the main heroes — the birds. The combination of atmospheric poems with beautifully stylised illustrations makes this book a treat for readers of all ages.

bird species — varied natural environments — observation — contemporary poetry



ALL BETTER!

Lize Analize un citi slimnīcas skaitāmpanti
 by Inese Zandere
 Illustrations by Reinis Pētersons
 5+ | hardcover | 21x21 cm | 32 pages
 ISBN 978-9984-820-46-0

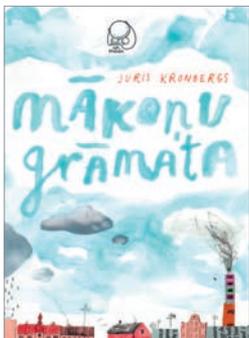
The Annual Prize for Literature 2013, The National Book Art Contest Award 'Golden Apple Tree' 2013, Latvian Children's Jury Award 2013

Foreign rights sold: Estonian, English, Spanish, Greek
 English translation available

This poetry collection offers a different view on unpleasant yet relatable things like having a fever, seeing a doctor, going for a blood test, or staying at a hospital. The colourful and humorous illustrations create a safe and fun environment, emphasising the element of playfulness in the poems.

medical procedures — doctor visits — hospital stays — overcoming fear — rhyming poetry





THE BOOK OF CLOUDS

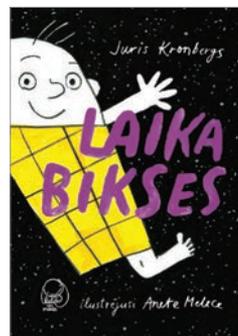
Mākoņu grāmata by Juris Kronbergs
 Illustrations by Anete Melece
 7+ | flexi-cover | 14.8x21 cm | 64 pages
 ISBN 978-9984-820-27-9

International Jānis Baltvilks Prize in Children's
 Literature and Book Art 2011 (the Special Jury's Award)

Foreign rights sold: Korean, English (UK),
 Spanish (World), Catalan
 English translation available

Essentially a collection of a cloud watcher's notes, this poetry collection looks at the habits, character, roles, and thoughts of clouds which are often very similar to those of humans. Working with a blend of scientific research and vivid fantasy, the author reminds us that what we see in the sky depends on how we see ourselves.

types of clouds — cloud watching — personification — contemporary poetry



TIME'S TROUSERS — A BOOK OF TIME

Laika bikses by Juris Kronbergs
 Illustrations by Anete Melece
 7+ | hardcover | 14.8x21 cm | 80 pages
 ISBN 978-9934-574-31-3

Foreign rights sold: Korean
 English translation available

In this work, the author directs his attention towards time, portraying it as a living being that has various habits and human characteristics. A child's desire to speed up the flow of time meets an adult's fear of time. Along with the poems, the book contains aphorisms, puns, and jokes that help keep the book's rhythm lively and imaginative.

the concept of time — the passage of time — word play — contemporary poetry





THE TALKING DOGS

Runājošie suņi by Elina Brasliņa
Based on an animated feature film by Edmunds Jansons
6+ | hardcover | 21x28 cm | 64 pages
ISBN 978-9934-574-23-8

The National Book Art Contest Award 'Golden Apple Tree' 2019, White Ravens 2020 collection

Foreign rights sold: French, German, Italian
English translation available

A story of two children — Jacob and Mimmi — who join forces with a horde of talking dogs to save their community from a wealthy developer and his plan to convert their cosy neighbourhood into a district of faceless glass skyscrapers. The book is based on the feature animation film *Jacob, Mimmi and the Talking Dogs* and depicts a real-life suburb of Riga that is known for its authentic wooden buildings. As well as being packed full of thrilling action, this tale reminds us about the real meaning of friendship, teamwork, and staying true to our values.

talking dogs — summer holidays — life in the suburbs — community values — urban conservation — heroism

The feature animated film *Jacob, Mimmi and the Talking Dogs* (2019) was directed by Edmunds Jansons (Atom Art, Latvia) and co-produced by Letko (Poland). The film is 70 minutes long. It has been selected for more than 75 festivals and also included in the programme 'Latvian Films for the Latvian Centenary'. The film was shortlisted for the annual Frankfurter Buchmesse Film Awards programme to honour film and book adaptations about the industry, for the Adaptation for Children or Young Adults category.



The trailer on Vimeo
The film has been sold to France, Netherlands, Belgium, Spain.



I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU

Es tevi gaidīju by Maira Dobele
Illustrations by Rebeka Lukošu
5+ | hardcover | 19.4x25 cm | 72 pages
ISBN 978-9934-633-12-6

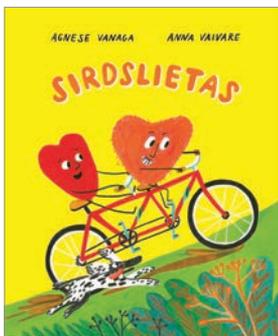
Selected for the BRAW Amazing Bookshelf 2025

Foreign rights sold: Slovenian
English translation available

Is it fair to wait for someone every day? How long is too long to wait? And why does a human get to decide that? Sponge — the dog in this story — often has to wait for his caregiver — an elderly lady named Vilma — to come home. Their relationship structures and gives meaning to both of their lives. The reader is invited to see simple life situations from a dog's point of view while being reminded that pets — just like humans — need empathy, care, and a safe environment.

animal companions — the inner world of dogs — empathy — mutual caring — the intrinsic value of a pet





HEART-TO-HEART

Sirdslietas by Agnese Vanaga
Illustrations by Anna Vaivare
6+ | softcover with flaps | 17.8x22.5 cm | 64 pages
ISBN 978-9934-574-98-6

Latvian Children's Jury Award 2025

Foreign rights sold: Czech, Greek, Lithuanian
English translation available

This comic is about two playful hearts with different personalities. By playing games, squabbling, caring for, and sometimes annoying each other, they strive to become kind and good-hearted individuals. The author and the illustrator have taken inspiration from the legendary 'Love is...' cartoons to create heart-warming and amusing comic strips that look at relationship issues and explain the importance of getting along.

best friends — relationship challenges — cohabiting — kindness — conflict resolution



THE WATER TOWER

Ūdenstornis by Lote Vilma Vitiņa
12+ | softcover | 13x19 cm | 128 pages
ISBN 978-9934-574-54-2

The Annual Latvian Literature Award 2021

Foreign rights sold: Portuguese (Brazil)
English translation available

An intimate look at the everyday world of the main character, a teenage girl, that consists of small town life, school, and a water tower. The tower comes from her imagination. It's a refuge and hiding place where anything can happen — she can talk to birds and her favourite writers or even pat a tiny blue horse. Short texts consisting of stories and poems, along with illustrations and comic strips, let the reader step into the girl's inner world as she deals with small-town boredom, a family that still treats her like a child, school with its confusing tasks, and also meeting someone who has created a 'water tower' of their own.

coming of age — teenage angst — small town life — escapism — solitude — contemporary outlook — #iamintrovert



comics



MELDRA AND THE ICKY NEIGHBORS

Meldra un negantie kaimiņi by Lote Eglīte, Elvīra Beķere
 Illustrations by Elvīra Beķere
 5+ | softcover | 16x21 cm | 128 pages

Foreign rights: All languages available

Cousins Meldra and Estere spend their summer at grandparent's home, a small townhouse surrounded by greenery. The town is full of quirky neighbours with entangled relationships, but none stir up quite as much trouble as a massive, noisy colony of rooks that has taken over a tall larch tree in Grandma Sandra's yard. In an effort to scare away the birds and save the summer, the girls find themselves caught up in an adventure involving their grumpy bird-loving neighbor, his telescope, and a web of secrets. This witty and adventurous comic is packed with humor, heart, and a sharp take on how we share our spaces—both with nature and each other.

summer adventure – cousin relationship – intergenerational — nature — funny mishaps



ANDRIS AND THE HILL CLAPPER

Andris un Kalna klapētājs by Osvalds Zebris
 Illustrations by Elvīra Beķere
 9+ | hardcover | 14.8x21 cm | 168 pages

Foreign rights: All languages available
 English sample translation available

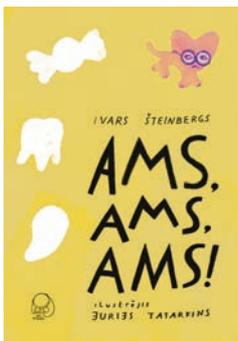
The main protagonist Andris sees the world through a web of imagined connections leading him to believe in complicated cause-and-effect relationships that shape his actions. When Andris' beloved grandmother falls ill, an unexpected figure enters his life: the mysterious Hill Clapper, a peculiar old man with a dog named Jack. Andris soon learns that this strange, eccentric man is his grandfather, estranged from his family long ago. Hill Clapper helps Andris and his friends, Kārlis and Dārta, navigate their struggles and build the fragile bridges between generations.

imagination — friendship — consequences of lying — dealing with guilty conscience — intergenerational connection



chapter books

poetry



NOM, NOM, NOM!

Ams, ams, ams! by Ivars Šteinbergs
 Illustrations by Juris Tatarkins
 5+ | hardcover | 14.5 x 21cm | 48 pages

Foreign rights: All languages available

The debut poetry collection for children includes 22 poems that are filled with unrestrained playfulness. Taking inspiration from becoming a father himself and observing dynamics within his own close relationships, the author conjures up the emotional and creative world of a modern family. The words become a playground, taking on unexpected roles and meanings. The poems weave together magical sequences of scientific terms, slang expressions, and inventive interpretations of randomly overheard words.

contemporary poetry — wordplay — slang — roles in the family



HUSH HUSH LITTLE BEAR

Čučī čučī by Ūna Laukmane
 Based on an animated short film by Māra Liniņa,
 animation studio *Atom Art*
 2+ | board book | 15.5x16.5 cm | 14 pages

Foreign rights: All languages available

While mummy and daddy bear are away gathering berries and honey, baby bears stay at home with their sheep. The cubs have a fun time playing merrily with a ball of yarn but soon enough they find themselves all tangled up and everything is turned upside down. Luckily the sheep help them put everything back in order again. The illustrations are made with textiles which visually reflects the bond between parents and children, their care and love for one another.

The animation film and book is based on the most well-known traditional Latvian lullaby “Hush Hush Little Bear” (*Aijā, žūžū, lāča bērni*).

lullaby adaptation — heritage — calming bedtime read — family bonds

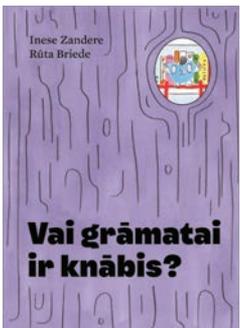


← The trailer on Vimeo



board books

early reader



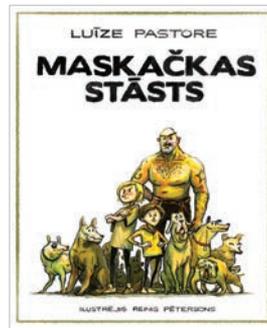
DOES A BOOK HAVE A BEAK?

Vai grāmatai ir knābis? by Inese Zandere
 Illustrations by Rūta Briede
 Published by the Latvian National Library Foundation
 3+ | hardcover | 18.5x24 cm | 56 pages
 ISBN 978-9934-9161-0-6

Foreign rights: All languages available
 English translation available

The main protagonist — Elmer the Baby Owl, his friends, and the wise Library Owl are book explorers. By learning letters and illustrating made-up stories, they discover which door to use to enter a book, how pictures can support words, and that books, in fact, do not have beaks. This book was created for 'Book Start' — the National Library of Latvia reading promotion programme for young children.

storytelling — illustration — wordplay — libraries — curiosity — creative play with a book as an object



DOG TOWN

Maskačkas stāsts by Luīze Pastore
 Illustrations by Reinis Pētersons
 Published by Neputns
 7+ | hardcover | 21x26 cm | 128 pages
 ISBN 978-9934-512-08-7

The Annual Latvian Literature Award 2014

Foreign rights sold: English, Italian

Strange things are afoot in the suburbs, where Jacob has to spend his summer holidays. With his grumpy cousin Mimi and a gang of stray dogs, they have to fight tooth and paw and stop evil Skylar Scrapper's scheme to transform the suburb into a concrete jungle.

talking dogs — summer holidays — life in the suburbs — community values — urban conservation — independent girl protagonist



chapter books



BICKI-BUCK BOOKS

Bikibuks by various authors and illustrators
Design by Rūta Briede and Artis Briedis
2+ | stapled, paperback | 10.5x14.5 cm | 20-32 pages

Foreign rights sold: English world rights for #1, #13, #16, #20, #21, #28, #30, #39, #40, #62, #65, #89, #90

A series of 101 postcard-sized poetry picture books.

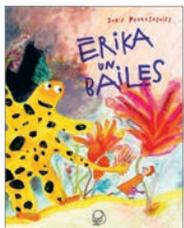


ONE HOUSE FOR ALL

Trīs draugi vienas upes krastā by Inese Zandere
Illustrations by Juris Petraškevičs
4+ | hardcover | 21x28 cm | 32 pages

Foreign rights sold: English (excluding North America)

A picture book about friendship and compromises.

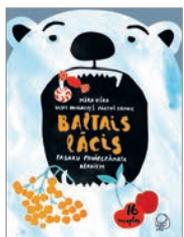


ERICA AND HER FEARS

Ērika un bailes by Juris Petraškevičs
4+ | hardcover | 21x28 cm | 32 pages

Foreign rights sold: Korean

A picture book about emotions and fear of thunderstorms.



WHITE BEAR'S COOKING ADVENTURES

Baltais lācis. Pasaku pavārgrāmata bērniem
Illustrations by Māra Viška
Text by Uldis Daugaviņš
Recipes by Mārtiņš Sirmāis
5+ | hardcover | 22.5x29.7 cm | 40 pages

Foreign rights sold: German, Russian, Lithuanian, Simplified Chinese (Mainland China only), Complex Chinese Characters (excluding Mainland China)

An adventure story follows a bear with six paws on his journey, with each page featuring a simple yet exciting food recipe that children can prepare by themselves.

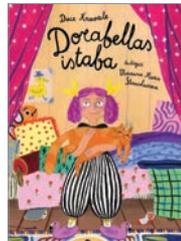


PIGTAIL AND MR. SLEEPLESSNESS

Bize un Neguļa based on an animated film by Edmunds Jansons
Illustrations by Reinis Pētersons
4+ | hardcover | 21x27 cm | 32 pages

Foreign rights sold: Macedonian

A story about a family that welcomes a new baby at Christmastime.



DORABELLE'S ROOM

Dorabellas istaba by Dace Kravale
Illustrations by Vivianna Maria Stanislavska
7+ | hardcover | 15x21 cm | 60 pages

Foreign rights sold: Arabic (World)

Dorabelle discovers that vintage items in her room talk and have fantastic stories to tell.



THE SCHOOL OF LIVING WRONG

Nepareizas dzives skola by Maira Dobele
Illustrations by Anete Melece
9+ | hardcover | 17.5x23.5 cm | 112 pages

Foreign rights sold: Lithuanian

This book comprises nine stories dealing with the daily catastrophe-filled life of a teenage girl named Mētra and her journey of self-discovery.



HOW THE SHAMMIES LEARNED

Kā Lupatiņi mācījās
Exercises adapted by Maira Dobele
Illustrations by Reinis Pētersons
3+ | hardcover | 20x23 cm | 32 pages
Talking pen

Foreign rights: All languages available, except Estonian

The Shammies is an animated cross-media project for preschool children that consists of short films, web episodes, and published books. The series *How the Shammies Learned* features five interactive picture books children can explore with a special assistant — a talking pen.

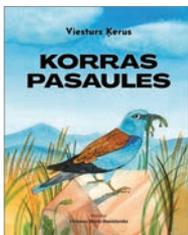


WHO'S AFRAID OF DAYCARE?

BĪstamais dārziņš by Zane Volķinšteine
Illustrations by Zane Zlemeša
7+ | hardcover | 16.5x21 cm | 64 pages

Foreign rights: All languages available

A heartwarming tale of imagination and reassurance in which big sister Etta comforts her little brother Bruno with whimsical stories about daycare adventures.



KORRA'S WORLDS

Korras pasaules by Viesturs Ķerus
Illustrations by Vivianna Maria Stanislavska
7+ | hardcover | 16.5x21 cm | 152 pages

Foreign rights: All languages available
English sample translation available

A chapter book about a young European Roller Korra's journey from hatching in a nest to exploring the world beyond across vast landscapes on his daring migration south and back.



TANGO AND TASSEL

Tango un Tūtiņa ciemās
Tango un Tūtiņa sēnēs
by Māra Zālīte
Illustrations by Anete Bajāre-Babčuka
7+ | hardcover | 16.5x21 cm | 64 pages

Foreign rights: All languages available
English sample translation available

A duology is about two dogs, Tango and Tassel, who are just like children but with four paws. They are curious about the world around them and ready to jump into adventures, often disregarding possible dangers.



CAN THE BACK ROW HEAR ME?

Vai otrā grupā mani dzird? by Inga Gaile
Illustrations by Anete Melece
5+ | hardcover | 18.4x24 cm | 64 pages

Foreign rights: All languages available

A poetry book about a family's everyday life.



MUM POEMS

Mammas dzejoļi by Ērika Bērziņa
Illustrations by Anna Vaivare
5+ | hardcover | 18.4x24 cm | 56 pages

Foreign rights: All languages available

A poetry collection that explores how the lives of a family can be seen as a game in which the rules are constantly changing as the children grow up.



DADDY

Tētis by Kārlis Vērdiņš
Illustrations by Reinis Pētersons
6+ | hardcover | 19x25 cm | 64 pages

Foreign rights sold: Spanish

Poems about dads — a caring dad who stays at home with his child while mum is away at work, a dad who makes false promises, an aggressive driver dad, and a hero dad who saves the day.



BALL IN A BOX

Kamoliņš un kastīte by Inese Zandere
Illustrations by Ernests Kļaviņš
3+ | hardcover | 14.5x19 cm | 32 pages

Foreign rights: All languages available

It is a baby-friendly book about basic shapes, the Circle and Rectangle, discovered in the process of playful learning.

CHILDREN'S EUROPE



For over ten years, Liels un Mazs has been actively contributing to the international circulation of children's literature through our project Children's Europe (Bēnu Eiropa in Latvian), supported by EU Creative Europe funding. We believe in the importance of both big and lesser-known languages and encourage translators to explore the richness of the latter. Thanks to this grant program, we have published books, translated from more than ten languages, including Estonian, Lithuanian, Finnish, Swedish, Norwegian, Icelandic, Polish, Czech, Dutch, Portuguese, German, Spanish, and French.



Eva Lindström
ALLA GÅR IVÄG
(Sweden)



Anna Elina Isoaro,
Mira Mallius
SINÄ YÖNÄ TULI TALVI
(Finland)



Torun Lian,
Øyvind Torseter
ALICE ANDERSEN
(Norway)



Dita Zipfel,
Rán Flygenring
**WIE DER WAHSINN
MIR DIE WELT ERKLÄRTE**
(Germany)



Романа Романишин,
Андрій Лесів
**ГОЛОСНО, ТИХО,
ПОШЕПКИ**
(Ukraine)



Романа Романишин,
Андрій Лесів
Я ТАК БАЧУ
(Ukraine)



Романа Романишин,
Андрій Лесів
**ВІЙНА, ЩО ЗМІНИЛА
РОЇДО**
(Ukraine)



Lene Ask,
Mari Kanstad Johnsen
D FOR TIGER
(Norway)



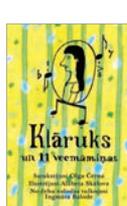
Wolf Erlbruch
ENTE, TOD UND TULPE
(Germany)



Kitty Crowther
**JE VEUX UN CHIEN ET
PEU IMPORTE LEQUEL**
(Belgium)



Elisabeth Steinkellner,
Anna Gusella
PAPIER KLAVIER
(Germany)



Olga Černá,
Alžběta Skálová
KLÁRKA A 11 BABIČEK
(Czech Republic)



Ulf Stark,
Linda Bondestam
**DJUR SOM
INGEN SETT UTMOM VI**
(Sweden)



Shaun Tan
**TALES FROM OUTER
SUBURBIA**
(Australia)



Jurga Vilė,
Lina Itagaki
SIBIRO HAIKU
(Lithuania)



Julia Billet,
Claire Fauvel
**LA GUERRA DE
CATHERINE**
(France)



Erlend Loe,
Kim Hiorthøy
**HVEM RUMPET
BRUNOSTEN?**
(Norway)



José Jorge Letria,
André Letria
A GUERRA
(Portugal)



Indrek Koff,
Elna Sidre
KUHU LAPSED SAID?
(Estonia)



Edward van de Vendel,
Anoush Elman,
Annet Schaap
MISKA
(Netherlands)



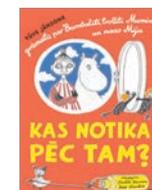
Johanna Schaible
**DET VAR EN GÅNG OCH
BLIR SÅ MYCKET MER**
(Sweden)



Kristin Roskifte
**ALLE SAMMEN
TELLER**
(Norway)



Janosch
**ACH, SO SCHÖN IST
PANAMA**
(Germany)



Tove Jansson
HUR GICK DET SEN?
(Finland)

Liels and Mazs believe that a book should be an outstanding object in its own right. We carefully consider its design to ensure it resonates with our readers and reflects our distinctive style. This philosophy also extends to our translated literature—we often create our own book covers and original illustrations and develop a unique design to give each title a recognizable identity.



Moni Nilsson
TSATSIKI OCH MORSAN
(Sweden)
Latvian edition illustrated
by Svens Neilands



Katarina von Bredow
ALT SOM INTE SYNS
(Sweden)
Cover illustration for
Latvian edition
by Patrīcija Māra Vilšone



Aino Pervik
KUNKSMOOR
(Estonia)
Latvian edition illustrated
by Aleksandra Runde



Maria Parr
TONJE GLIMMERDAL
(Norway)
Latvian edition illustrated
by Reinis Pētersons



Guus Kuijer
**HET GROTE BOEK VAN
MADELIEF**
(Netherlands)
Latvian edition
illustrated
by Anete Bajāre-Babčuka



Jacques Vriens
MEESTER JAAP
(Netherlands)
Latvian edition
illustrated
by Edmunds Jansons



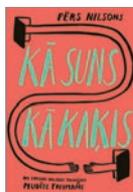
Edward van de Vendel
**DE DAGEN VAN DE
BLUEGRASSLIEFDES**
(Netherlands)
Cover illustration for
Latvian edition
by Elina Brasliņa



Jacques Vriens
**ACHTSTE-GROEPERS
HUILEN NIET**
(Netherlands)
Latvian edition
illustrated
by Edmunds Jansons



Henrika Andersson
**EMMA GLORIA OCH DEN
RÖDA LÅNGTANSBOKEN**
(Sweden)
Cover illustration for
Latvian edition
by Rūta Briede



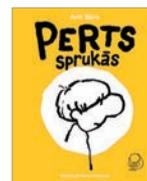
Per Nilsson
SOM HUND SOM KATT
(Sweden)
Cover illustration for
Latvian edition
by Rūta Briede



Sigrid Agnethe Hansen
SER DU DETTE?
(Norway)
Cover illustration for
Latvian edition
by Rūta Briede



Henrika Andersson
EN SKÄRVA AV SJÄLEN
(Finland)
Cover illustration for
Latvian edition
by Rūta Briede



Anti Saar
PĀRT (bundle edition)
(Estonia)
Latvian edition
illustrated
by Reinis Pētersons



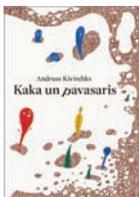
Ulf Stark
**MIN VĀN PERCY,
BUFFALO BILL
OCH JAG**
(Sweden)
Latvian edition
illustrated
by Reinis Pētersons



Paul van Loon
DE GRIEZELBUS
(Netherlands)
Latvian edition
illustrated
by Reinis Pētersons



Maria Parr
KEEPEREN OG HAVET
(Norway)
Latvian edition
illustrated
by Reinis Pētersons



Andrus Kivirähk
KAKA JA KEVAD
(Estonia)
Latvian edition illustrated
by Edmunds Jansons



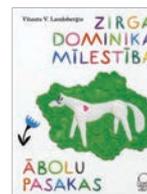
Andrus Kivirähk
**KARNEVAL JA
KARTULISALAT**
(Estonia)
Latvian edition illustrated
by Edmunds Jansons



Andrus Kivirähk
TONTA JA FACEBOOK
(Estonia)
Latvian edition illustrated
by Edmunds Jansons



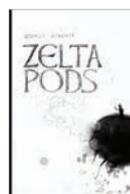
Piret Raud
TOBIAS JA TEINE B
(Estonia)
Latvian edition illustrated
by Mārtiņš Zutis



Vytautas V. Landsbergis
**ARKLIO DOMINYKO
MEILĒ. OBUOLIŲ
PASAKOS**
(Lithuania)
Latvian edition
illustrated by Ilze Abika



Leelo Tungal
SELTISMEES LAPS
(Estonia)
Cover illustration for
Latvian edition
by Reinis Pētersons



James Stephens
THE CROCK OF GOLD
(Ireland)
Latvian edition
illustrated
by Reinis Pētersons



Andri Snær Magnason
**SAGAN AF BLÁA
HNETTINUM**
(Iceland)
Latvian edition
illustrated
by Kristīne Martinova

READ MORE ABOUT THE AUTHORS AND ILLUSTRATORS



Inese Zandere (1958) is our national treasure and writes poems that children read, sing, and memorise. Her work is lyrical and cheerful but quite serious and philosophical at the same time. She has recently turned to writing fairy tales and other stories for children.



Anete Melece (1983) works in Latvia and Switzerland in illustration, comics, and animation. She is a witty observer of small, mundane details and offers a daring visual narrative to the story. Anete is one of Latvia's most successful and talented illustrators, and has also proven herself as a writer.



Daina Tabūna (1985) is a fiction writer whose short stories have been published since 2000. Her debut in literature was a short story collection, *Pirmā reize* (The First Time), a brilliant contemporary coming-of-age book addressing the sensitive issues involved in acquiring experience and forming a personality. Recently, she has been nominated for The EU Prize for Literature for her novel *Witches*.



Agate Lielpētere (1995) is a visual artist and illustrator who manoeuvres through various illustration techniques, selecting one that suits the story. Her work can be described as diverse and witty, bordering on ironic. She has illustrated 6 children's books in the last couple of years, created comics, and participated in local and international illustration exhibitions.



Signe Viška (1997), author and translator, studied German language and literature and debuted in children's literature in 2021. There is a good chance that nine out of ten of Signe's stories will have a grandpa in them. She appreciates the warmth of the simple things in life and the people around her and tries to reflect this in her work. With almost 10 translated books to her credit and several more in the pipeline, she introduces Latvian readers to outstanding works of German literature for children and young adults.



Juris Zvirgzdiņš (1941–2023) wrote about travels in space and time. He collected interesting historical facts, legends, funny incidents, and events and created exciting adventures from them.



Luīze Pastore (1986) is a determined children's author whose motto is to resist boredom. Her books attract young readers with a vivid imagination and the ability to empathise with how children perceive the world. At the same time, her stories expand the readers' worldview and let children learn about important cultural codes.



Viesturs Ķerus (1984) is an ornithologist and the head of the Latvian Ornithological Society. As well as being a persistent advocate for birds in the fight against deforestation, Viesturs is an expressive writer who continues the important tradition in Latvian children's literature of scientists writing books to share their knowledge directly with young readers.



Lote Vilma Vitiņa (1993) is an illustrator, artist, and a poet. Her light and spontaneous drawings feature an interplay of simple yet lively lines and a limited colour palette that create emotionally charged figures, images, and characters.



Elina Brasliņa (1988) is an illustration superstar — quick, precise, and brilliantly talented. She can draw it all — from a black dog at night to a colourful jungle, vividly visualising images that are created in writers' imaginations. Elina always adds unexpected detail to her style, which other illustrators can only shake their heads at and say: "Why didn't I think of that?"



Kārlis Vērdiņš (1978) writes for both children and grown-ups and is one of the few authors whose poems demonstrate just how seriously he takes the fact that life is funny and that by taking life so seriously, we are funny too. Vērdiņš's poems inform children of the risks in life while still having a good laugh.



Maira Dobeļe (1976) is a children's book author who lives and works in Finland. She holds a master's degree in documentary filmmaking from Aalto University. By using a writing style that combines a great sense of reality and humour, she refers to actual issues faced by children and young adults. Her debut book for young readers, *The School of Living Wrong*, has won the Annual Latvian Literature Award.



Evija Pintāne (1985) creates works of stage design, graphics, book design, and illustration filled with a poetic and uplifting feeling of freedom, held together tightly by a carefully considered and well-structured foundation.



Didzis Upens (1991) studied at the Department of Graphic Art at the Art Academy of Latvia. *Maija and the Forest* was his diploma work and his first illustrated book. He used a rapidograph to draw the continuous thin lines, creating a classical, slightly muted visual feeling in his illustrations.



Juris Kronbergs (1946—2020) wrote poetry in Latvian and Swedish, built a solid translation link between the Latvian and Swedish cultures, and watched clouds from both sides of the Baltic Sea.



Mārtiņš Zutis (1988) has a mathematical mind and an irrational imagination, and as an artist, he bridges the space between them. He creates unusual characters that populate his comic books, animation, and illustrations.



Anete Bajāre-Babčuka (1991) is a Latvian illustrator who has studied sculpture and graphics at the Art Academy of Latvia. She enjoys reading and illustrating books and likes creating illustrations using analogue techniques, such as watercolour and pencil. She uses muted compositions and well-placed features that are just right for the feeling of the story and help the readers engage and identify with the characters.



Anna Vaivare (1987) is a professional architect and holds a master's degree in printmaking. With her mesmerising choice of colours and impressionistic painting style, Anna Vaivare's art will draw anyone into the world of her picture books. Anything can happen — all you have to do is ask: "Anna, could you draw..."



Rūta Briede (1984) illustrates books, draws comics, contributes to puppet theatre productions, and teaches Art Academy of Latvia students. Her ideas, passion, and work as the artistic editor for the picture book series *Bicki-Buck Books* have attracted a new generation of illustrators to children's publishing, given new courage to experienced veterans, and inspired artists to write the text of their own picture books.



Edmunds Jansons (1972) is a successful animation director. His original emotional illustrations enhance the imagery of stories and poems, pushing the boundaries of the written text. The artist creates a magical world of anthropomorphic and geometric beings that is ruled by the universal order of things and human relationships on which a child can safely rely.



Lauris Gundars (1958) is a playwright, director, and teacher of an entire generation of young playwrights who, since his appearance on the scene, has energised the world of children's literature. The main character of his prose is a wise, just, and determined child who can break stereotypes of the roles of different generations in society and awaken feelings of both courage and responsibility in adults.



Gunta Šnipke (1955) is a poet and an architect whose professional career is closely linked to the seaside city of Liepāja and its historic architecture. Using her clever and precise observations of the world around her, she finds equally clever and precise imagery in her writing while teaching her readers to look, feel, discover, and understand.



Reinis Pētersons (1981) Illustrator and multimedia artist with a background in classical Fine Arts, Pētersons has illustrated over 45 books and worked on numerous animated films and stage productions. He consistently explores a range of visual styles, evolving his craft by blending traditional and avant-garde, analog and digital, the grotesque and the beautiful.



Līva Ozola (1991) completed her studies with distinction at the Art Academy of Latvia Department of Graphic Art and quickly made a name for herself in the world of illustration. Līva has a finely tuned and sensitive view of the world, which she expresses in her imaginative visual language.



Zane Volkinšteine (1983) is involved in cultural journalism and manages cultural projects. She has co-created a book about Riga's architecture for children and is interested in the contemporary circus. *Who's Afraid of Daycare?* (Bistamais dārziņš) is her debut book for children.



Rebeka Lukošus (1995) is one of Latvia's rising stars of contemporary illustration. She illustrates children's books, draws comics, is one of the organisers of the zine festival SĀBRS, and is a teacher of illustration. Her graphic style stands out with its minimalistic image design, which, in its simplicity and wit, supports the tone of any written text. Sometimes, she likes to turn her drawn characters into sculptures.



Agnese Vanaga (1985) shifted from journalism and communications to writing children's books in 2014, recognising that being a serious grown-up wasn't her thing. She has a natural talent for connecting with children and understands the secret language they cherish. She uses this ability to address significant topics through joyful and witty stories.



Egils Zirnis (1959), a journalist, poet, and a press wit, was a child when he first got obsessed with animals, creating a "Beasts of the World" collection using plasticine. Next came his studies in biology and quite a few years spent as a guide at the Natural History Museum, where his humour and imagination helped him find common ground with the young audience.



Svens Neilands (1984) is an Art Academy of Latvia graduate. Coming from the world of graffiti, he has found his way into printmaking. This talented artist has illustrated one of the poetry picture books in the *Bicki Bucks* series and has worked on several independent book projects. Sven is a witty thinker with a vivid imagination that comes to life in colourful postmodern drawings.



Artis Briedis (1977) is a designer who never gets lost in abstraction but allows the reader to experience the book as a physical object, with its form hinting at the plot and helping to reveal its secrets. Artis is a highly meticulous and sensitive book design professional whose work has often been nominated for national book design prizes. He received the Artist of the Year award at the National Book Art Contest 'Golden Apple Tree' (2025).



Krista Bitmete (1992) has studied visual arts in Denmark and Latvia. She uses a mix of digital painting and traditional techniques in her illustrations and is excited to find characters, moods, and storylines that fit together and share something new.



Aleksandra Runde (1995) has studied arts in Latvia, Poland, and Italy, specialising in printmaking techniques and illustration. She enjoys expressive brush strokes and delicate pencil lines and seeks new ways to draw hyacinths or air that smells like freshly baked bread. For her diploma book *What to Do if You're Naked in a City* (Ko darīt, ja esi nāks pilsētā), she received the BRAW Opera Prima 2024.



Elvira Beķere (1997) began creating a comic about her childhood adventures as her graduation project at the Art Academy of Latvia. With a sharp talent for both illustration and storytelling, she brings her narratives to life with remarkable speed and precision.



Lote Eglite (1982) has worked on scripts for numerous animated films, feature films, TV series, and documentaries. Her original screenplay was the foundation for the picture book *Pigtail and Mr. Sleeplessness*.



Osvalds Zebris (1975) has worked as a journalist and editor for newspapers and magazines. He debuted in prose in 2010. His novel for adults, *In the Shadow of Rooster Hill*, was awarded the European Union Prize for Literature in 2017. His prose is characterized by poetic, metaphorical expression and psychological nuance.



Jurijs Tatarkins (1989) is a Latvian illustrator, comics artist, and educator whose work investigates human nature through introspective and often humorous stories. Deeply involved in the independent publishing scene, Jurijs co-organizes a zine and small press festival.



Marta Folkmane (1999) is a visual artist and graphic designer. She holds a BA in Arts from the Art Academy of Latvia's Printmaking Department. Illustrations for *Mocca and Robber* is her first attempt at illustrating a book for children.



Ivars Šteinbergs (1991) is a poet, critic, and translator. His poetry collections for adults have received various prizes and recognitions. Šteinbergs' poetry for children reflects a modern child's creative and emotional world, shaped by the realities, vocabulary, social context, and moral priorities unique to this era.



Anita Rupeika (1989) has a master's degree in art. She has made her mark in the art of books with works that show her ability to create her world and endless levels of fantasy while firmly maintaining the importance of the main characters or the story. The artist also works successfully in animation.



Sergej Timofejev (1970) is a poet, journalist and DJ. He writes in Russian and was one of the founders of the multimedia poetry project *Orbita*. His debut work of children's literature is *The Tale of the Knight who Had a Toothache*, which was also performed by the Latvian Puppet Theatre.



Ūna Laukmane (1971) is one of the co-founders of publishing house "Liels un mazs", and the creator of its visual identity. She regularly receives critical acclaim for her work in book design and illustration. Laukmane has a wealth of experience working in animation, scenography and costume design for theatre, and also teaches in the Art Academy of Latvia.

"Liels un Mazs' sharp eye for high-quality picturebooks is apparent with the projects they originate and the titles they buy from international publishers. It's impressive that a small family-owned publishing house from a small country can make such a large international impact."

Sam McCullen
co-founder of the picturebook platform dPICTUS





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