

# Slovenian Illustration

An Unexpected Abundance

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Jure Brglez	Maja Kastelic	Marija Nabernik	Damijan Stepančič
Suzi Bricelj	Samira Kentrič	Silvan Omerzu	Hana Stupica
Matej de Cecco	Anka Kočevar	Andreja Peklar	Matej Stupica
Zvonko Čoh	Tanja Komadina	Maja Poljanc	Igor Šinkovec
Trina Čuček Meršol	Ana Košir	Lila Prap	Peter Škerl
Danijel Demšar	Maša Kozjek	Arjan Pregl	Andrej Štular
Jurij Devetak	Gašper Krajnc	Tereza Prepadnik	Gorazd Vahen
Bojana Dimitrovski	David Krančan	Petra Preželj	Tinka Volarič
Tina Dobrajc	Tomaž Lavrič	Ana Razpotnik Donati	Žarko Vrezec
Jure Engelsberger	Polona Lovšin	Jelka Reichman	Jaka Vukotič
Milan Erič	Izar Lunaček	Liana Saje Wang	Huiqin Wang
Milanka Fabjančič	Marjan Manček	Aleš Sedmak	Meta Wraber
Jelka Godec Schmidt	Ana Maraž	Luka Seme	Ana Zavadlav
Ančka Gošnik Godec	Matija Medved	Tanja Semion	Maša P. Žmitek
Miha Hančič	Ivan Mitrevski	Zoran Smiljanić	
Ciril Horjak	Eva Mlinar	Alenka Sottler	

An unexpected  
abundance of  
illustration that  
carries the stories  
of Slovenia beyond  
its linguistic borders  
through universal  
visual poetry.

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## From Slovenian illustration to illustration

What is Slovenian illustration? Can illustration as a universal language even be defined nationally? Is there anything specific enough to characterise something as broad as illustration in the area populated by a predominantly Slovenian-speaking community of around two million inhabitants? Can we limit stylistic influences, the flow of thought, emotions, and experiences that do not recognise socially established boundaries? Can we determine what it is that is supposed to be Slovenian in illustration?

Slovenia is still a young country, having achieved its independence only 32 years ago, and when defining phenomena such as illustration – which most often exists in dialogue with the written word – the tendency is still to look for a specific, identifying, Slovenian essence within.

The first book in the Slovenian language, *Katekizem*, printed in the middle of the 16th century in a German-speaking area, already contains illustrations, reprints by German-speaking illustrators. But the official beginnings of the development of Slovenian illustration are placed within a later period, after the Springtime of Nations in 1848. During that time, Slovenian-speaking artists with a fortified national consciousness began to publish works in Slovenian-language books and periodicals, although most of them continued to draw for foreign-language publications as well. A growing number of local editors and publishers recognised the value of illustrations, but their commissions were modest due to limited resources. Works in the Realistic and Art Nouveau style nevertheless evolved to enviable levels.

An important shift in the style and development of illustration took place during the Second World War, when the majority of the population successfully

resisted the occupation and publications went underground along with the printing presses. Graphics by the Partisan resistance movement became an artistic reflection of local emancipation, the style became simpler and more expressive due to the difficult conditions, and the number of female illustrators increased as well.

After the victory in the war, the intelligentsia enthusiastically focused their creative efforts on children's and young adult literature of the highest quality. The Mladinska Knjiga Publishing House was founded with the mission of spreading visual literacy and reading skills among the youngest. In the same year, 1945, the Academy of Figurative Arts (later renamed the Academy of Fine Arts and Design) was founded. Home-schooled creators were motivated with professional awards, and the Slovenian-speaking professional community actively participated in the International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY), as well as the Bologna Children's Book Fair

from the very beginning. The numerous awards received abroad contributed to the concept of an informal Ljubljana School of Illustration taking shape, while illustration became an independent profession and increasingly found its way into books for adults. The self-sufficiency of illustration as a medium was also strengthened by the establishment of the Illustrators' Section of the Slovenian Association of Fine Arts Societies. In 1993, two years after Slovenia declared its independence, the first Slovenian Biennial of Illustration, whose extensive exhibitions and awards raise awareness about the importance of illustration among the wider public, was organised. As exhibits outside the confines of text, the displayed illustrations shone a light on the wide range of skills, imagination, and techniques used by their authors in works of fiction, magazines, and scholarly press.

In 2007, the formally organised Slovenian Biennial of Illustration was joined by –

and confronted by – the Independent Biennial. By allowing alternative forms of illustration, as well as expanding into 3D, wall painting, and montage by both trained and untrained authors, it democratised the professional space of illustration, breaking down the boundaries set by print and the requirements for the continuity and relevance of published works. As part of the Visual Communication study programme, the Academy of Fine Arts and Design started to implement specialised studies of illustration in 2009.

Slovenian illustrators consistently receive acclaim and awards, and their works have been reprinted in all major international environments. Illustration exhibitions and spaces that support them multiplied, particularly with the establishment of the Center of Illustration in 2022. Specialising in illustration in the Slovenian area, the Center operates not just as an exhibition venue, but also as a professional

organisation that connects spaces and organisations, as well as taking care of the professionalisation of the field.

Today we can safely say that illustration is flourishing in Slovenia. It is not restricted by the written word or national confines, and it is correct that we avoid the need to define it precisely, that we allow it to keep reinventing and contradicting itself.

Before you is a small but highly concentrated bloom of this wonder that we create in the universal language of illustration.



# Marta Bartolj

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Marta Bartolj (1979) is an illustrator and author. She received her master's degree from the Academy of Fine Arts and Design (ALUO). Her master's thesis, also published as a book titled *Every Little Kindness*, received an ALUO Student Award, the Special Prize for Outstanding Wordless Picture Book at the Kristina Brenkova Awards, and the Golden Pear Rating. The book has also been included in the White Ravens selection and the biennial IBBY Silent Books Collection, placed on the IBBY Honour List, and shortlisted for an Ananas Illustration Award at the Beijing International Book Fair. The American edition of *Every Little Kindness*, to which eight publishers around the world have already acquired the rights, won the Ezra Jack Keats Award Honor, was shortlisted for the illustration exhibition at the Bologna Children's Book Fair, and was displayed as part of The BRAW Amazing Bookshelf. It ranked among the 20 best books of the year on Amazon, and among the ten best books of the year in *People Magazine*.

Every Little Kindness | mixed media | 2016

Marta Bartolj, *Kje si?* (*Every Little Kindness*), Miš, 2018





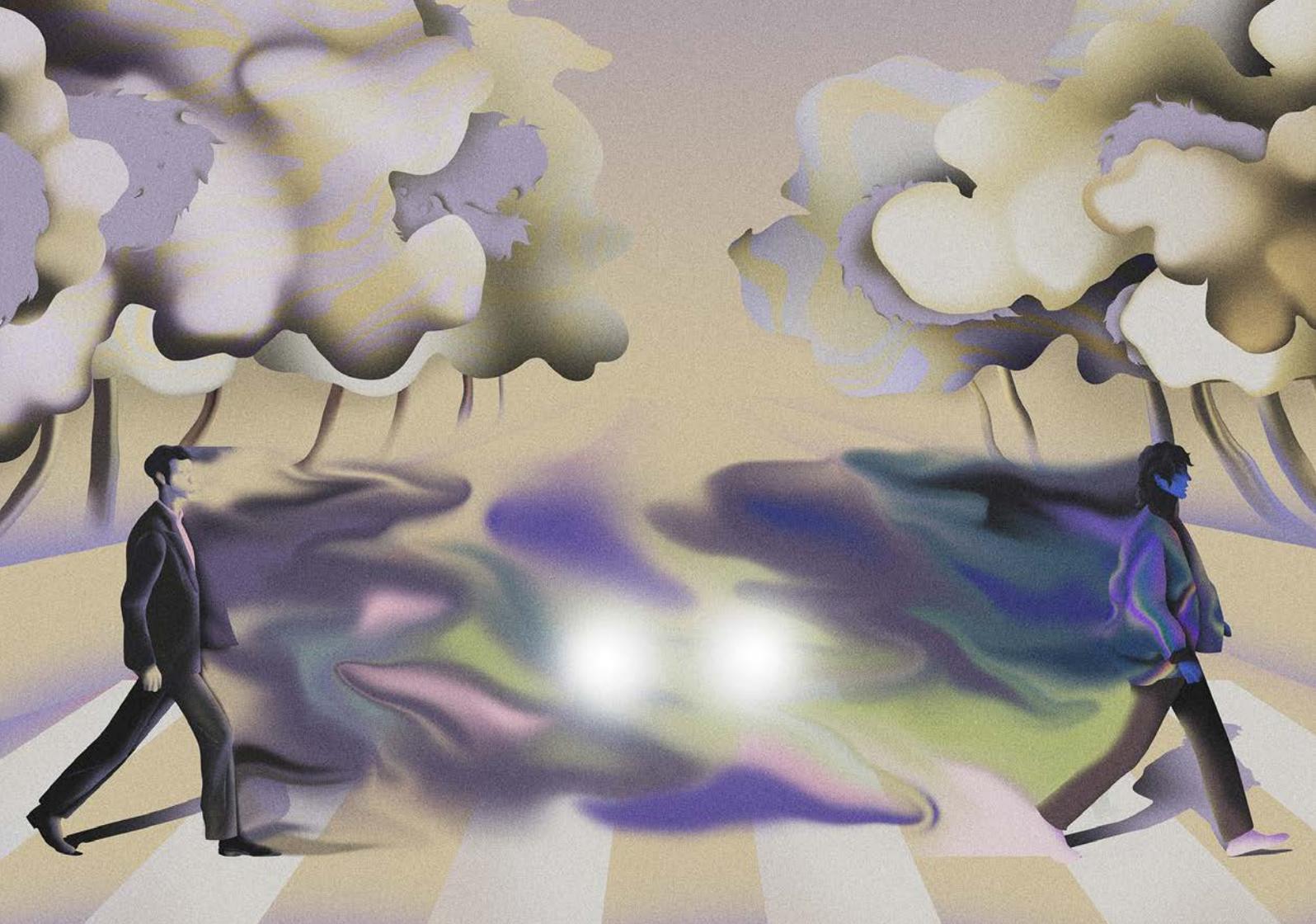
# Jure Brglez

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Jure Brglez (1993) is a graphic designer, illustrator, and animator. In 2015, he debuted his first solo exhibition at Kino Šiška. His works have been featured at the DobraVaga Gallery several times, including in the AppointMENT music poster exhibitions, the group exhibition project *JOŽE*, and the Fresh Fish commercial exhibitions. He designed the visual identity of the Fabula 2021, MENT Ljubljana 2023 (together with Tina Ocvirk), and Slovenian Book Days festivals, a bunch of visuals for the Cankar Centre, illustrations for the Maribor Puppet Theatre, and several book covers and issues of the magazine *Adept*. His works can be found on album covers, beer packaging, and among the visuals for the project *Lahkonočnice: Slovenian Good Night Stories*. His illustrated animations for the documentary project *His Name Is My Name* received honours at the Webby Awards, as well as the Special Jury Award for Creative Technology at the International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam. He is the recipient of the Hinko Smrekar Special Award in Recognition of a Young Artist, he was longlisted at the 2022 AOI World Illustration Awards, and he was a finalist of the Young Guns 20 competition.

The Man Who Saw Everything | digital media | 2021

Deborah Levy, *Mož, ki je videl vse* (The Man Who Saw Everything), Beletrina, 2021





# Suzi Bricelj

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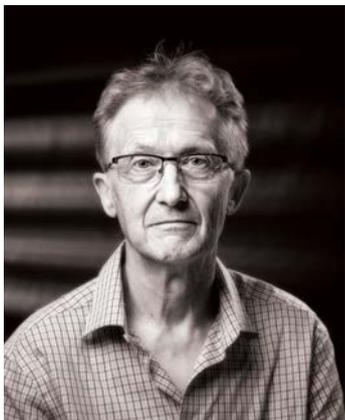
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Suzi Bricelj (1971) graduated from the Academy of Fine Arts and Design (ALUO) in Ljubljana, then enrolled at the Department of Visual Communication at the Academy of Fine Arts and Design in Bratislava. She attended postgraduate studies at the École Supérieure des Arts Graphiques and the École Nationale Supérieure des Arts Décoratifs in Paris. She has illustrated more than 40 picture books, books, and textbooks so far. As an assistant professor at the ALUO Department of Visual Communication Design, she chairs and lectures on Illustration. She has received a number of awards and accolades for her work, including the Golden Bird Award, the University Prešeren Award, the Hinko Smrekar Distinction, the Best Book Design Award in the Children's and Young Adult category, the Levstik Award, and the Kristina Brenkova Award. Books with her illustrations have repeatedly received the Golden Pear Rating, and she has been included in the White Ravens selection. Her illustrations have been displayed at both solo shows and numerous curated illustration exhibitions in Slovenia and abroad, including at illustration biennials in Ljubljana, Zagreb, and Bratislava.

You and I | mixed media | 2015

Vinko Möderndorfer, *Pesmi in pesmičice* (Poems and Poemettes), Mladinska knjiga, 2015





# Zvonko Čoh

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Zvonko Čoh (1956) is an illustrator and animator. At the start of his career, he focused mostly on animated films, with his oeuvre including more than 20 TV spots and short films. He received the Best Animation Award at the International Animated Film Festival in Treviso for the short film *Kiss Me, Soft Eraser*. He received numerous awards, including the Prešeren Fund Award, for the feature-length animated film *Socialisation of a Bull?* which he collaborated on with Milan Erič. As an illustrator, he initially focused more on young adult books and worked with children's periodicals, but now he primarily focuses on children's illustration. His oeuvre includes more than 100 illustrated children's and young adult books, which have received numerous awards, including the Golden Pen of Belgrade and the Levstik Award. His series of illustrated books about Kekec received the Hinko Smrekar Award, while his book *Puss in Boots* received the Best Book Design Award in the Children's and Young Adult category. In 2015, Čoh received the Levstik Lifetime Achievement Award.

Rabbit Wedding | mixed media | 2016

Zvonko Čoh, *Čoharije* (Čohisms), Mladinska knjiga, 2016





# Trina Čuček Meršol

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Trina Čuček Meršol (1997) received accolades for outstanding academic achievements during her studies at the Academy of Fine Arts and Design and displayed her works in several group and other occasional exhibitions. She is interested in both scientific and artistic illustration. Her botanical illustrations adorned the Morostig – The House of Nature and Pile Dwellers exhibition in the Ljubljana Marshes. Most recently, she illustrated the book *Beansophy* by Irena Štaudohar.

Potato (*Solanum Tuberosum*) | watercolours | 2022

Irena Štaudohar, *Fizolozofija: čudeži vrtnarjenja* (*Beansophy: The Miracles of Gardening*), Mladinska knjiga, 2022





# Matej de Cecco

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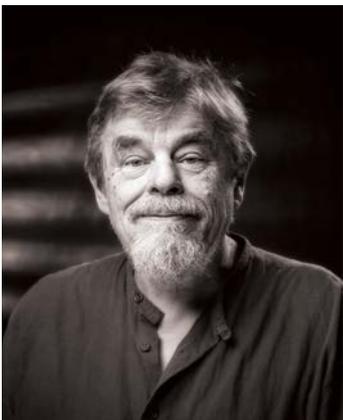
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Matej de Cecco (1979) is a comics artist, illustrator, translator, and editor. He studied translation and visual arts. For a while, he was the editor of the magazine *Stripburger*. As a translator, he mainly translated works related to drawing, and gradually began drawing more and more himself. From 2006 to 2008, he drew comic strips for the magazine *Pil Plus*. He illustrated the reissue of Desa Muck's *Deadly Seriously* collection, with the book *Deadly Seriously About School* receiving the IBBY Slovenian Section's My Favourite Book Award. The book *Charming Experiments With Plants* received the Golden Pear Rating. Since 2008, he has collaborated with Boštjan Gorenc Pižama on the comic strip *Šnofi's Gang*, which is published in the magazine *Pil*. The adventures of Šnofi's gang have also been published in three books. De Cecco has collaborated with several Slovenian publishers, agencies, and institutes, provided illustrations for museum exhibitions and publications, and participated in various advertising campaigns. His illustrations can also be found in textbooks, mobile apps, and games.

Šnofi's Gang | digital media | 2021

Boštjan Gorenc, Matej de Cecco, *Šnofijeva družčina 4* (Šnofi's Gang 4), Mladinska knjiga, 2021





# Danijel Demšar

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Danijel Demšar (1954) graduated from the Academy of Fine Arts and Design. Initially an art teacher at a primary school, he abandoned the teaching profession after receiving the Levstik Award and devoted himself to illustrating books and designing puppets in various puppet theatres. He collaborated regularly with the magazine *Ciciban*. In 1992, he co-initiated the establishment of the Illustrators' Section of the Slovenian Association of Fine Arts Societies. For several years since 2004, he served as one of its two vice-presidents. In his work, he focuses on painting, graphic art, book illustration, and puppet theatre (designing sets, costumes, and puppets). He has developed a special process for etching colours on paper and printing from paper to paper with the help of computer printing. His works have been featured in 40 solo and 60 group exhibitions in Slovenia and abroad. He has illustrated 51 books, created 12 puppet shows, and designed three theatre sets. He has received nine awards for his work, including the Hinko Smrekar Award, the Hinko Smrekar Lifetime Achievement Award, and the Levstik Lifetime Achievement Award, and has been named to the IBBY Honour List.

The Angel of Peace | mixed media | 2011  
Tone Pavček, *Angeli* (Angels), Mladinska knjiga, 2012





# Jurij Devetak

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Jurij Devetak (1997) was born in Trieste. After finishing his studies, he enrolled at the Scuola Internazionale di Comics in Padua, where he studied comics for three years. Since 2018, he has been working with various Slovenian newspapers and magazines, including those of Slovenians in neighbouring countries. As an illustrator, he worked with the *Dnevnikov Objektiv* newspaper supplement for two years. In 2022, his first graphic novel *Necropolis* (based on the famous autobiographical novel by Boris Pahor) was published. His children's comic *Deva From Devin*, co-authored with the Slovenian writer and poet Marko Kravos, was published in 2023. Both books have been translated into German and Italian.

Camp Inmates | drawing ink | 2022

Boris Pahor, Jurij Devetak, *Nekropola* (Necropolis), Mladinska knjiga, 2022





# Bojana Dimitrovski

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Bojana Dimitrovski (1974) is an illustrator and painter inspired by the psychology of characters, the alien, and the unusual. She has illustrated more than 17 books, including the ballad fairy tale *A Moonlight String* by Svetlana Makarovič and the picture book *The Fire* by Neli Kodrič Filipič. The illustrations for *The Fire* were displayed at the Ljubljana Town Hall in 2016. Together with the Serbian writer Dana Todorović, she created a trilogy featuring the cat Cecil. In 2019, she received the Hinko Smrekar Accolade for her illustrations in the book *Slovakian Folktales*. Since 2012, she has regularly illustrated young adult and children's magazines in Slovenia. In 2022, she illustrated the picture book *Greta the Cat* by Vinko Möderndorfer, which was nominated for the Levstik Award. Since 2021, she has been living in Sweden, where she is a member of Svenska Tecknare, the association of Swedish illustrators and graphic designers.

The Cat's Hat | watercolours | 2012

Dana Todorović, *Kako je Vilko vzljubil zimo* (Cecil and the Joys of Winter), Mladinska knjiga, 2012





# Tina Dobrajc

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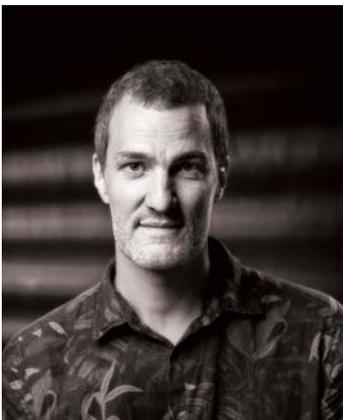
— [centerilustracije.si](http://centerilustracije.si)

Tina Dobrajc (1984) obtained her master's degree in painting from the Academy of Fine Arts and Design. Her paintings have been featured in solo exhibitions and are regularly included in group exhibitions. As an illustrator, she is active in the field of children's and young adult illustration. She illustrated several children's picture books for various Slovenian publishers, with the books also translated into multiple languages. She received the Hinko Smrekar Distinction for Aleš Šteger's young adult novel *Kurent*, and the Special Prize for Outstanding Integration of Artistic Genres at the Kristina Brenkova Awards for the children's picture book *Sofia and the Ballet Slippers* by Helena Kraljič. Maša Ogrizek's book *Fox Moon*, with illustrations by Dobrajc, received the Večernica Award and was nominated for the Desetnica Award. Dobrajc is also the recipient of the Rihard Jakopič Honourable Mention for Achievements in Painting.

Katalena (Lovers) | mixed media | 2020

Svetlana Makarovič, *Baladne pravljice* (Ballad Fairy Tales), Cankarjeva založba, 2021





# Jure Engelsberger

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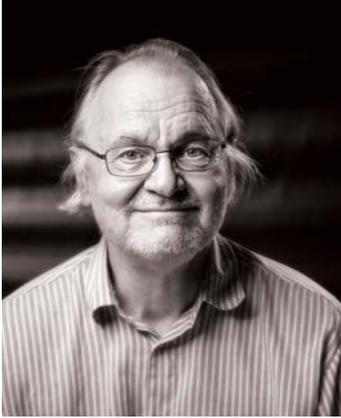
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Jure Engelsberger (1977) has been drawing and illustrating since childhood. In secondary school, he founded the punk band Racija, which recorded three albums of original music between 1995 and 2000. He graduated from the Academy of Fine Arts and Design (ALUO) and continued his education in Helsinki. He worked with comics, classic animation, and newspaper illustration. He also designed CDs and concert posters, as well as played guitar or drums in various bands (Demeter, Ramzes 3., Obala Kanibala). Since 2011, he has focused exclusively on illustrating children's and young adult books. In his free time, he is still passionate about music and kamishibai, which he also performs. He has received numerous honourable mentions, nominations and awards, including the Award for Typographic Excellence, the Golden Bird Award for Design and Illustration, Honourable Mention for Excellence at the Brumen Biennial, the ALUO Student Award, the Golden Kamishibai Award, and the Hinko Smrekar Accolade. Books with his illustrations have received the Večernica Award, the Cankar Accolade, and the Golden Pear Rating.

I Am You and You Are Me | mixed media | 2022

Vinko Möderndorfer, *Romeo in Julija iz sosednje ulice* (Romeo and Juliet on the Next Street Over), Miš, 2022





# Milan Erič

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Milan Erič (1956), a formally trained painter, works in painting, animated film, and illustration. In 1982, together with Zvonko Čoh, he made the animated film *Try to Move 2x*, which received the Golden Bird Award and the Župančič Award. Between 1988 and 1990, he drew illustrations for the magazine *Mladina*. He collaborated with Čoh on the animated film *Socialisation of a Bull?* which received an award at the Festival of Slovenian Film, the Prešeren Fund Award, and the Humour Award at the Stuttgart International Festival of Animated Film. Erič has also received the Hinko Smrekar Distinction, the Hinko Smrekar Award, the Rihard Jakopič Lifetime Achievement Award, and, together with Čoh, the Lifetime Achievement Award of the Slovenian Animated Film Association.

A Mayfly | coloured pencils | 2016

*Kaj je zeleno in leti po zraku* (What Is Green and Flies Through the Air), ZDSLU, 2016





# Milanka Fabjančič

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Milanka Fabjančič (1981) is a formally trained painter, illustrator, and author of animated films. She graduated in painting from the Academy of Fine Arts and Design (ALUO) with the animated film *Uncle and Doggy*. During her studies, she received the ALUO Student Award for her animated feature-length visualisation *Puna Syndicate*. Her illustration received an accolade at the International Festival of Fine Arts in Kranj. Her most prominent work on the international level is the short hand-drawn animation *Liliana* (2019), which received a Special Jury Mention at the AnimatekaPRO Pitch animated film festival, the Vesna Award for Best Animated Film, the Slovenian Animated Film Association Award for Best Concept Design, and the Creative Innovation in Animation Award at the International Filmmaker Festival of New York. In 2022, she created the five-part animated web series *PASTISH*, in collaboration with Marion Foucart. She is currently working on a new original animation titled *Octopus Banana Hotchpotch*.

Group Self-Portrait | pencil | 2018

Milanka Fabjančič, *Avtorski planer* (Agenda), self-published, 2018





# Jelka Godec Schmidt

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Jelka Godec Schmidt (1958) is a renowned illustrator, painter, comics artist, and writer. Over a period of almost fifty years, more than a hundred children's and young adult books with her illustrations have been published. She has illustrated numerous textbooks and educational non-fiction texts, as well as designed several calendars, posters, and puppets for the puppeteer Cveto Sever. Since 1995, her works have been exhibited regularly in the Slovenian Biennial of Illustration, and she has also held many solo exhibitions. She has also devoted herself to writing children's books, especially comic books (*The Happy Cow Kindergarten*, *Cicigang*) and original picture books. Her series *Losey the Elf and the Chameleon* has been translated into multiple languages. Her original stories are collected in the anthology *Hooray, Hurrah!!* She has received numerous awards for her work, including the Levstik Award, the Hinko Smrekar Award, and the Levstik Lifetime Achievement Award.

The World of Fairy Tales | mixed media | 2008

Jelka Godec Schmidt, *Jumpajdija, jumpajda! V vrtec, v gozd, okrog sveta* (Hooray, Hurrah! To Kindergarten, to the Forest, Around the World), Mladinska knjiga, 2023





# Ančka Gošnik Godec

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Ančka Gošnik Godec (1927) is a formally trained painter and illustrator from a generation of illustrators who were key to the development and establishment of this artistic discipline in Slovenia. In the very beginning of her creative career, her works were published in the *Ciciban*, *Pionir*, and *Pionirski list* magazines, followed by illustrations for many well-known books. Her depictions of folk tales, gathered in several volumes, have also left their mark on many generations of Slovenians. Gošnik Godec is a painter with a strong sense of the Slovenian landscape and Slovenian material heritage, and her illustrations often carry ethnological worth as a result. She has illustrated around 130 books, and many of her images have been collected in the anthology *The Golden Bird* (2011). She has received numerous awards, including the Levstik Award multiple times, the Levstik Lifetime Achievement Award, the Hinko Smrekar Lifetime Achievement Award, and the IBBY International Accolade.

Herbs of the Little Witch | tempera | 1994/1995  
Polonca Kovač, *Zelišča male čarovnice* (Herbs of the Little Witch), DZS, 1995





# Miha Hančič

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Miha Hančič (1986), who signs his works as *miha ha*, is an illustrator and comics author. He graduated from the Faculty of Education with a thesis on original comics. He adapted the story *You Cannot Please Everyone All the Time* for *Stripburger* magazine's collection *Fairy Tale Comics* (2017). Together with Ram Cunta, he created the comic book *Tik Went to the Woods for Firewood* (2022), a rather special comic book in which the order of reading is not important, as the story picks up and winds down on every spread, letting the reader continue anywhere in the book. In recent years, he has been mostly working in tandem with writer Maša Ogrizek. Together they created the world of Cluckrishna and her aunt Cluckrissa in the books *Cluckrissa in the City* (2018), *Cackleville* (2021), and *Luke From the Block* (2022). Numerous books with his illustrations have received the Golden Pear Rating. His illustrations have already been exhibited twice in the Slovenian Biennial of Illustration. He also draws for the *Ciciban*, *Cicido*, and *Mavrica* magazines. Together with Ram Cunta, he runs comics workshops for children.

Park | pencil and digital media | 2021

Maša Ogrizek and Miha Hančič, *Koko mesto* (Cackleville), Miš, 2021



# PARK

THERE IS A BIG PARK IN CACKLEVILLE.  
KRISHNA MADE HERSELF A GARDEN IN IT  
AND CHILDREN LOVE PLAYING IN THE PARK.  
WHAT DO THEY GET UP TO?



MY NEW SKATEBOARD IS EVEN FASTER!



TAG, YOU'RE IT!





# Ciril Horjak

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Ciril Horjak (1975) is a comics artist, illustrator, animator, and lecturer. His first graphic novel *Ride* was published in 2003. He drew live on air in an interactive radio show for several years. He has published comics and illustrations in magazines, newspapers, and books, including *Večer* since 2006 (more than 1,800 illustrations so far), *Delo*, the bulletin *Avtoceste*, *Den Politiken* (which selected his illustration among more than 400 drawings from all over the world in 2021), *The Guardian*, *Le Monde*, *Die Zeit*, *Chicago Tribune*, and others. In 2023, he finished the graphic novel *King Ubu*, based on the play by Alfred Jarry. In 2008, he received the Most Innovative HR Practice Award for the comics-based training he designed for the company Slorest. He is the author of the first Slovenian textbook on comics *The Smallest Biggest Encyclopaedia of Comics*. He regularly leads workshops for young adults, migrants, and others. As a guest lecturer, he lectures on comics at various Slovenian faculties. For his educational work, he received an award from the Slovenian Institute for Adult Education, and for his illustrations in *Večer*, he received an award from the Society of Slovenian Journalists.

The Unbearable Lightness of Choice | fountain pen and digital media | 2011  
*Večer* newspaper, 2011





# Marjanca Jemec Božič

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Marjanca Jemec Božič (1928) is a formally trained painter and illustrator. Since 1955, her colourful tongue-in-cheek images have adorned magazines, textbooks, and more than 200 books. During her long creative journey, she has illustrated works by all the main Slovenian writers and poets who write for children. Her images in picture books such as *Spot the Dinosaur* by Leopold Suhodolčan, *The Little Monkey Nana* by Josip Ribičič, *In the City* by Polonca Kovač, *Juri Muri in Africa* by Tone Pavček, and *The Little Mill* by Anja Štefan represent an essential part of the Slovenian legacy of children's literature. A large part of her rich oeuvre is represented by the *The Fairy Tale Flower* (2013) anthology. Her collaboration with the *Ciciban* magazine goes back to the very beginnings of the magazine, more than seven decades ago. Her works have also been displayed in numerous group and solo exhibitions. She received an award for TV illustration in Japan, the first UNICEF Award for a greeting card illustration, multiple Levstik Awards, the Kajuh Award, the Levstik Lifetime Achievement Award, and the Hinko Smrekar Lifetime Achievement Award.

The Little Monkey Nana | mixed media | 1982

Josip Ribičič, *Nana mala opica* (The Little Monkey Nana), Mladinska knjiga, 1982





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Maja Kastelic (1981) is a formally trained painter, illustrator, and author of children's picture books. In addition to art, she studied philosophy and theory of visual culture. For a long time, she was involved in the restoration of wall paintings, but since 2015, she has devoted herself exclusively to illustration. She has received numerous accolades and awards for her work, including the Biennial of Illustration Bratislava Plaque, the Etisalat Award for Arabic Children's Literature, and placement on the IBBY Honour List. Her works have been featured in the prestigious Illustrators' Exhibition at the Bologna Children's Book Fair, while her books *A Boy and a House* and *First Love* have been included in the White Ravens selection. She has participated in numerous curated selections, including the Biennial of Illustration Bratislava, Le Immagini della Fantasia in Treviso, Troisdorf Bilderbuchpreis, dPICTUS in Frankfurt, and the Nami Concours in South Korea. Her first original picture book *A Boy and a House* was also adapted into a puppet show. She works with the most reputable Slovenian and foreign publishers, and her picture books have been published in 21 languages around the world.

Adam and the Tuba | acrylic ink and digital media | 2021

Žiga X Gombač, *Adam und seine Tuba (Adam and His Tuba)*, NordSüd Verlag, 2022





# Samira Kentrić

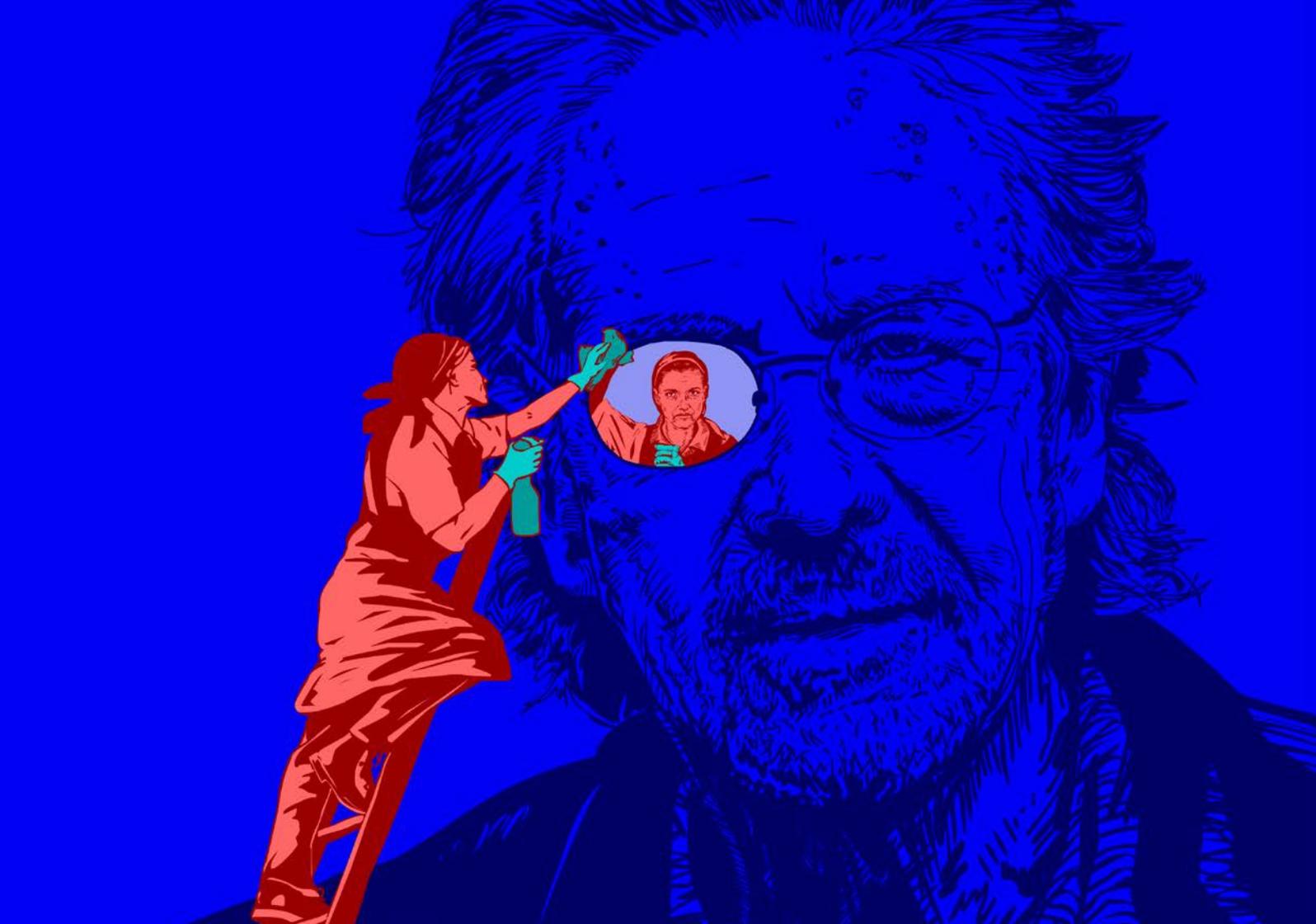
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Samira Kentrić (1976) writes articles and original books, and creates book covers and illustrations in which she fuses public, political speech with the intimacy of everyday life. She is the author of three graphic novels: the autobiographical novel *Balkanalia* (2015) about growing up during the post-Yugoslav transition, *A Letter to Adna* (2016), a socially engaged story about the fate of refugees on the way to the EU, and *Adna* (2020), a novel about finding one's place in society following tragic events. She received the Special Book Award from the Motovun Group of International Publishers for *Balkanalia*. The Bulgarian translation of the novel was included in an annual selection of the 15 best books published in Bulgaria. The German translation was selected as the Young Adult Book of the Month by the German Academy for Children's and Young Adult Literature, as well as included in the *Börsenblatt* magazine's list of 14 recommended books translated from Slovenian. In 2022, her illustration for the cover of the street paper *Kralji ulice* received the Best Cover Award from the International Network of Street Papers.

Azra and Handke | digital drawing | 2021

*Kralji ulice* street paper, 2021





# Anka Kočevar

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Anka Kočevar (1982) illustrates books and texts for the *Ciciban*, *Cicido*, and *Galeb* magazines. In her illustrations, she explores the various directions of artistic expression, which sometimes leads her to a dramatically realistic drawing, and at other times to flat surface images of a humorous or lyrical nature, made with collaging. She received a Special Mention at the Slovenian Biennial of Illustration for her illustrations in the documentary film *A Thousand Hours of Bitterness for a Single Hour of Joy*. The book *All Sorts of Parents and Children*, which she illustrated, was nominated for the Book of the Year Award at the Slovenian Book Fair, as well as the Desetnica Award. In addition to illustrating literature, she also works in the field of animated film. Her credentials as an animator include working on the film *Steakhouse* by director Špela Čadež, which premiered at the Locarno International Film Festival, received several Grands Prix and the Jury Award in Annecy, and made the list of Oscar candidates.

Suiren Discovers Fire | gouache and ballpoint pen | 2022

Tina Ilgo et al., *Kitajski miti in legende* (Chinese Myths and Legends), Miš, 2022





# Tanja Komadina

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Tanja Komadina (1976) is an illustrator, comics artist, graphic designer, and art editor at the Mladinska Knjiga Publishing House. She is interested in the intense interweaving of text and artistic images, which results in imaginatively illustrated literary works. She mainly illustrates children's fiction, collaborates with children's magazines, and creates comics and novel covers for adults. She provided the artwork for a Maribor Puppet Theatre puppet show with characters, adapted from a comic book. Her works in the fields of comics and illustration have received the Golden Pear Rating. Several of the books she illustrated have been included in the White Ravens selection (*A Fine Bicycle*, *Behind Nine Trees*, *The Secret KRVZ Society*). Her comic book *A Fine Bicycle* has been translated into Swedish. She has exhibited her works in Slovenia and abroad, receiving accolades, nominations, and awards for them, including a nomination for the Kristina Brenkova Original Slovenian Picture Book Award for *The Magic Bone*, as well as the Levstik Award for her illustrations in the book *The Lady With the Hat* by Maša Ogrizek.

The Magic Bone | mixed media | 2022

Majda Koren, *Čarobna kost* (The Magic Bone), Mladinska knjiga, 2022





# Ana Košir

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Ana Košir (1970), a formally trained painter and illustrator, graduated from the Academy of Fine Arts and Design. She is the author of numerous illustrations for both adults and young readers, with most of her work aimed at children. She regularly collaborates with the *Ciciban* and *Cicido* magazines. She illustrated the book series *Annie* by Desa Muck, which received the IBBY Slovenian Section's My Favourite Book Award five times, Andrej Rozman Roza's collection *Mister Philodendron*, *Little Foxes* by Anita Leskovec, *My Feelings*, *Your Feelings* by Martina Peštaj, *The Magic Wardrobe* by Jana Bauer, and many other books. Currently, she is working on a new series, *Paulina*, with Desa Muck. She also wrote and illustrated an original picture book about astronomy, *Dora's Stargazer*.

Paulina | acrylic paint and coloured pencils | 2023

Desa Muck, *Pavlina ga pihne* (Paulina Brings the House Down), Mladinska knjiga, 2023





# Maša Kozjek

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Maša Kozjek (1974) is an illustrator who has already illustrated more than 30 children's books, and also collaborates with magazines. She received the Golden Bird Award for her illustrations in Miroslav Košuta's book *The Ladder and the Little Cheese* and Kajetan Kovič's *The Cat Fair*. Between 2012 and 2017, she illustrated and designed Desa Muck's successful ten-part children's series about pets *Maggie the Magic Flea*. Miroslav Košuta's richly illustrated anthology *A Bear with a Tiny Mouse on His Shoulder* was nominated for the Levstik Award in addition to receiving the Golden Pear Rating. Kozjek's latest picture book *The Enormous Turnip* by Alexei Tolstoy also received the Golden Pear Rating.

The Turnip Still Hasn't Moved | acrylic paint and coloured pencils | 2022  
Aleksej Tolstoj, *Repa velikanka* (The Enormous Turnip), Mladinska knjiga, 2022





# Gašper Krajnc

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Gašper Krajnc (1985) is a comics artist and illustrator. As a self-taught artist, he did not take up drawing seriously until he was 25. He came to comics from animation with the comic book *Mode: Imagination*. In 2016, he self-published his debut *RITE*. In collaboration with screenwriter Marijan Pušavec, he published his first graphic novel *Malgaj*. In 2020, he created both the drawings and the script for his first solo graphic novel *City Birds*, following it up with the second part of his planned “bird” trilogy, *Village Birds*. He received the Zlatirepec Best Original Comic Award for *City Birds*, as well as the Centre of Creativity's Made in Slovenia Badge of Excellence under the auspices of the Displej Gallery. His works have been included in various apps, he has created technical, fashion, and promotional illustrations and comics, designed posters, illustrated textbooks and numerous books, and prepared weekly comic strips for the newspaper *Megafon*.

Village Birds | digital media | 2022

Gašper Kranjc, *Vaške ptice* (Village Birds), VigeVageKnjige, 2022





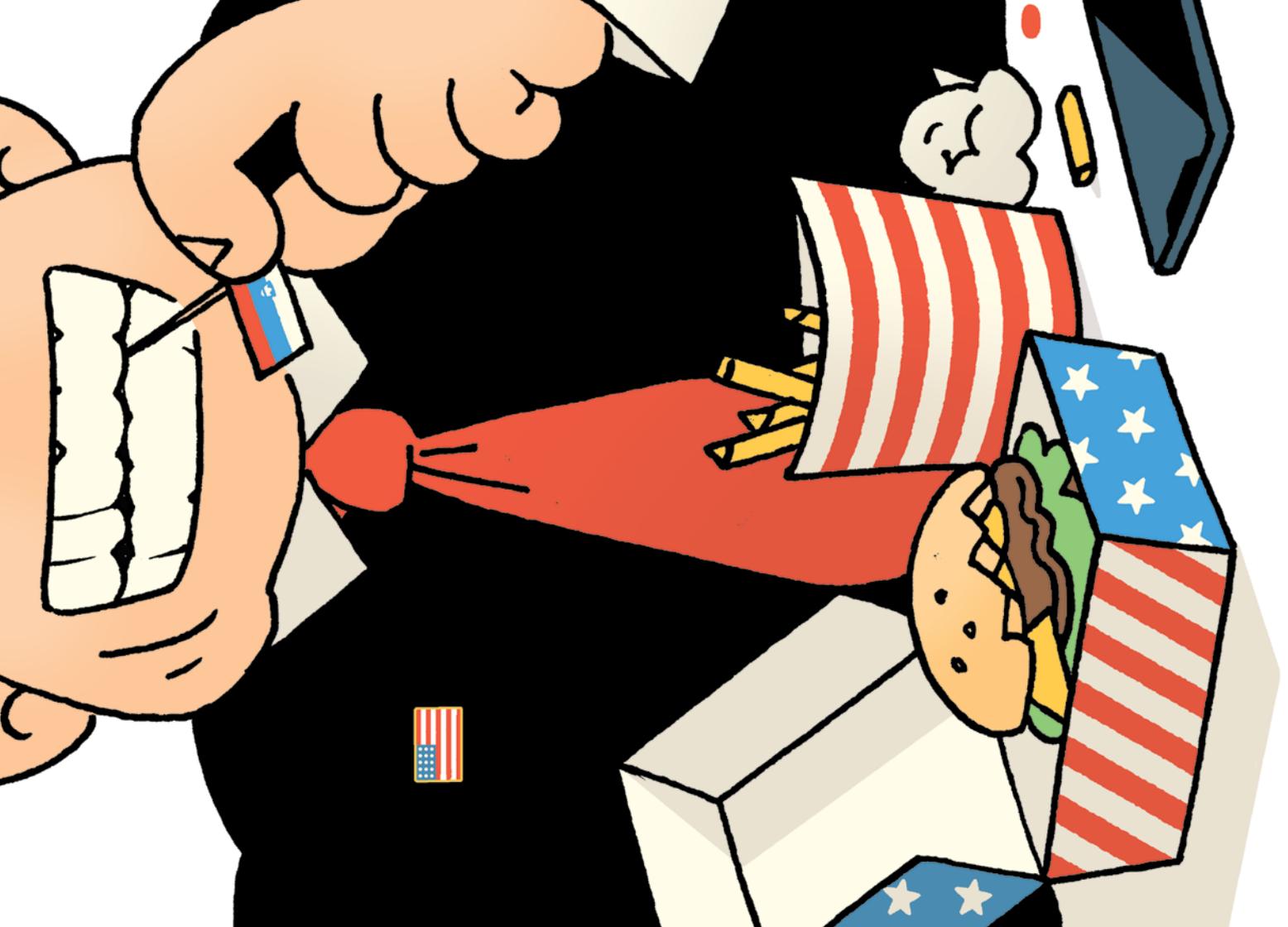
# David Krančan

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David Krančan (1984) graduated in comics from the Academy of Fine Arts and Design. In both theory and practice, he is an explorer of the dimensions of comics as an artistic expression. His stories are often wordless, with the narrative keys hidden within the imagery. He has been a member of the editorial board of the magazine *Stripburger* for 20 years. In 2008, he collaborated with Andraž Polič on the haiku comic album *On the First Track*. Since 2011, Krančan has been illustrating the front page of the *Dnevnikov Objektiv* newspaper supplement, for which he received a Distinction at the Slovenian Biennial of Illustration. In 2014, he published the children's comic *Grdina*, followed a year later by the comic book *The Drunken Rabbit*, both of which are based on the *Beasties From Resia* tales. His works have been displayed in prominent Slovenian and European galleries. *The Drunken Rabbit* received the Best Book Design Award in the Comics category at the Slovenian Book Fair. Krančan also received the Best Zine Prize in Angoulême and the Muriel Honorary Award at KomiksFEST! in Prague.

USA Visiting Slovenia (Mike Pompeo's Visit to Slovenia) | black marker, digital colouring | 2020  
*Dnevnikov Objektiv* newspaper supplement, 2020





# Tomaz Lavrič

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Tomaz Lavrič (1964) works in illustration, political caricature, and comics. As a caricaturist, he has been a permanent contributor to the magazine *Mladina* since 1988, where his best-known work, the satirical comic strip *Diarrhoea*, has been published for three decades. So far, more than forty of his comic books have been published in Slovenia and around the world. In 1999, he received the Grand Prix at the Festival de BD à Sierre in Switzerland and the Lion d'Argent at the Lion Awards in Brussels for the graphic novel *Bosnian Fables*. *Decalogue* and *Red Alert* were nominated for an Angoulême Award, while *Slovenian Classics in Comics Form 2* received a Zlatirepec Award. He also illustrated the *Kuzma the Gremlin* books by Svetlana Makarovič and *Four Black Ants* by Anja Štefan, and, most recently, his own poetry collection *Otto the Little Worm*. He held solo exhibitions at the Museum of Modern Art in 2010 and the Cankar Centre in 2015. He has received the Medal of Merit from the President of the Republic of Slovenia and the Prešeren Fund Award for his work.

Three Impolite Flies | drawing ink | 2022

Lovro Matič, *Mali črv Oto in druga golazen* (Otto the Little Worm and Other Creepy Crawlies), Mladinska knjiga, 2023





Polona Lovšin (1973) worked with Macmillan Publishers, Zondervan Kids, Templar Publishing, Penguin Books, and other publishing houses as an illustrator and designer of gift books from 2010 to 2015. Her picture books were translated and reviewed in Publishers Weekly multiple times. Later, she started focusing on projects that allow her greater artistic expression. For example, she illustrated *The Little Match Girl* by Hans Christian Andersen, depicting her in a contemporary setting. She received an Honourable Mention at the 3x3 International Illustration Show. She is interested in texts that enable her to depict emotions, especially how to bring life's painful moments, such as parental separation or death, closer to children. Her work has been nominated for the Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award and twice for the Levstik Award.

# Polona Lovšin

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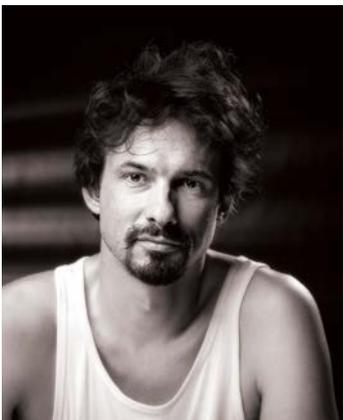
The Little Match Girl | acrylic paint | 2021

Hans Christian Andersen, *Deklica z vžigalicami* (The Little Match Girl), Sanje, 2021



hunger  
breeds  
madness

HELP ENI



# Izar Lunaček

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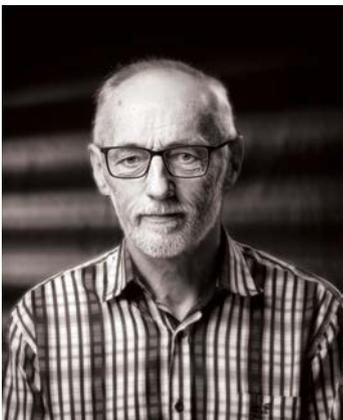
— centerilustracije.si

Izar Lunaček (1979) is a comics artist, illustrator, translator, publisher, and promoter of comics. He completed his studies in painting as well as in philosophy and comparative literature. He has been publishing comics in local newspapers and magazines (*Slovenske novice*, *Delo*, *Stripburger*, and *Mladina*) since 1999, he drew the first Slovenian webcomic *Paradise Misplaced* from 2009 to 2011, and he published his comics blog column online at *delo.si* and *ludliteratura.si* from 2014 to 2020. His comics have been collected and published in eleven books so far, including in Spain (*Paraiso extraviado*, 2013) and the USA (*Animal Noir*, 2016). In 2012, Lunaček began organising monthly comics-themed evenings, which eventually evolved into the first international comics festival in Slovenia, Stripolisfest. After two years and with the involvement of other protagonists of the Slovenian comics scene, Stripolisfest became the Tinta Festival, the main annual comics event in Slovenia today. Lunaček has had several solo exhibitions, and several of the books he collaborated on have received the Golden Pear Rating.

Jumpy Laughs | drawing ink and digital colouring | 2016

Gaja Kos, *Skokica in smeh* (Jumpy and Laughter), Ajda, 2016





Marjan Manček (1948) is a self-taught artist who made a living drawing caricatures for Slovenian and foreign newspapers and magazines during his studies in Ljubljana. He creates book illustrations, comics, and original picture books. He has illustrated more than 200 books, 33 of which were his own, designed the visual concept of five puppet shows, and created ten animated short films. He has received several accolades in Slovenia and abroad for his work. His caricatures have also been published in two European anthologies of illustrated humour and satire, *Opus International* (Paris, 1972) and *Satyricon* (Berlin, 1980). He has received the Levstik Award, the Levstik Lifetime Achievement Award, a nomination for the Hans Christian Andersen Award, and the Hinko Smrekar Lifetime Achievement Award for his illustrations.

# Marjan Manček

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Stargazers | drawing ink and watercolours | 2011

Niko Grafenauer, *Žabja radijska postaja* (The Frog Radio Station), Grafenauer, 2011





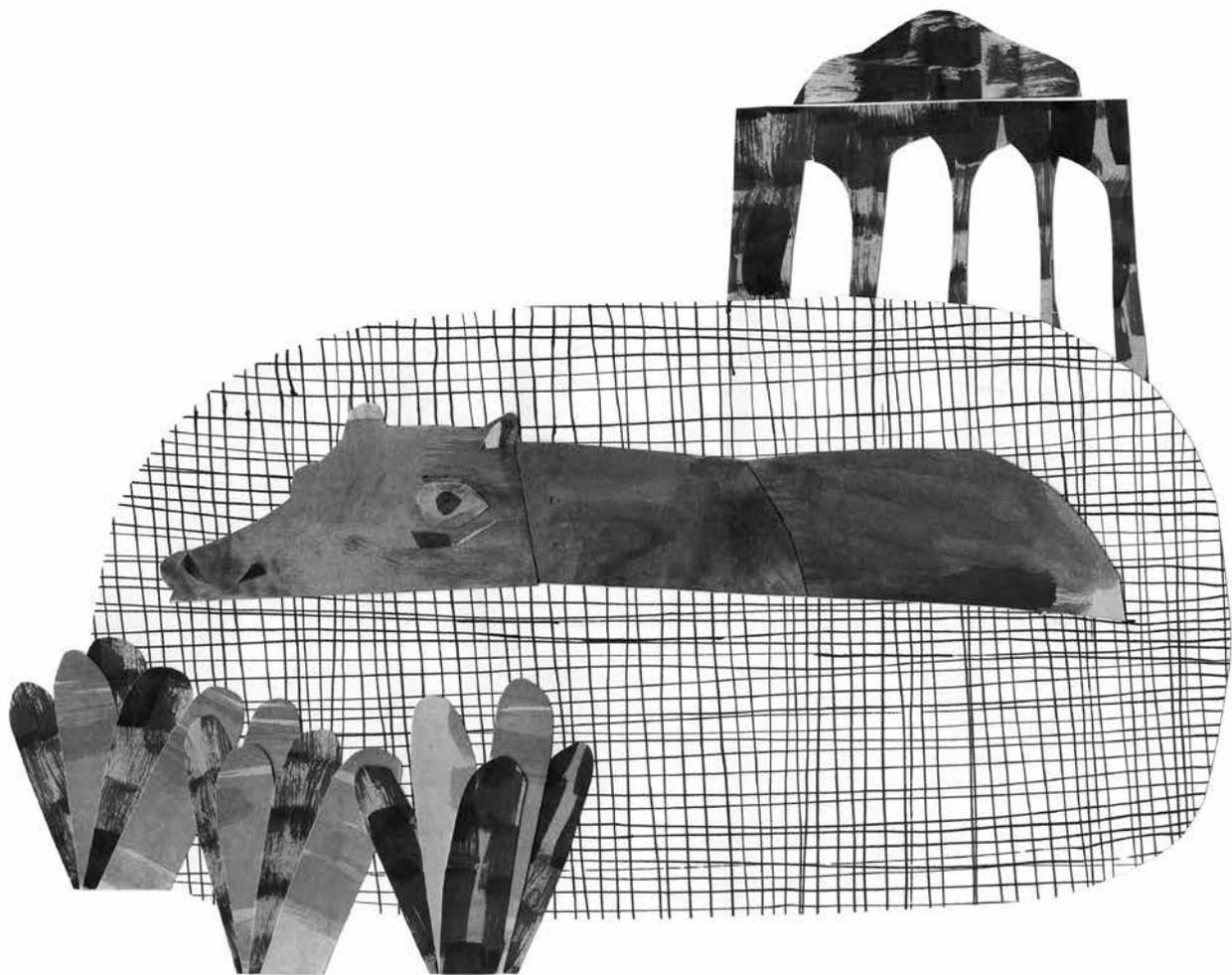
# Ana Maraž

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Ana Maraž (1985) creates highly stylised illustrations with a characteristically minimalist and flat style. She exhibits her works in Slovenia and abroad. Her illustrations have been published in the *Cicido*, *Ciciban*, and *Galeb* magazines, and can also be found in the books *How Long Is Time* by Mate Dolenc (2019), *Caress the Wind* by Miroslav Košuta (2011), and *Rainproof Soup* by Majda Koren (2023). Her illustrations in the book *Caress the Wind* received the Best Book Illustration Award at Ilustrofest in Belgrade and the Golden Pear Rating, while her illustrations for *How Long Is Time* were included in the Golden Pinwheel in Shanghai and received a Special Mention at the Slovenian Biennial of Illustration. She has also received the Hinko Smrekar Distinction.

A Hippopotamus from Hippopotamia | drawing ink and collage | 2019  
Mate Dolenc, *Kako dolg je čas* (How Long Is Time), Beletrina, 2020





# Matija Medved

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Matija Medved (1990) works in the fields of illustration, graphics, drawing, painting, animation, and design. He designs posters, illustrates books, newspapers, magazines, and provides illustrations for foreign media such as *Bloomberg Businessweek*, *The New York Times*, *Time Magazine*, *Forbes*, and *Medium*. He received the Hinko Smrekar Distinction and the TDC New York Award for Collective Work for his illustrations for a special edition of the student newspaper *Tribuna*. His illustrations for *Bloomberg Businessweek* and the visual identity of the Ljubljana Puppet Theatre were included in *American Illustration 37* and published in *3x3 Magazine*, receiving an award from the latter. His posters *I Am Frank* and *Thinging* each received a Brumen Award. His illustrations for *The New York Times* and *Time Magazine* have been included in the exhibition and catalogue of the American Society of Illustrators several times. His works have been featured in numerous group exhibitions at the National Gallery, the Jakopič Gallery, Kibla, Kino Šiška, the Meštrović Pavilion in Zagreb, the Slovenian Biennial of Illustration, the Brumen Biennial, and elsewhere. He is a member of the collective Ansambel.

What I Believe About Life After Death | digital media | 2021  
*The New York Times*, 2021





# Ivan Mitrevski

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Ivan Mitrevski (1979) is an illustrator, comics artist, and writer. He mostly creates works for children and young adults. As an illustrator, he has collaborated with numerous established Slovenian authors, and in recent years he has written and illustrated several works of his own. His illustrations are a recognizable fixture of children's and young adult magazines, and can also be found in textbooks, tourist guides, advertisements, and posters. There is an abundance of humour in his illustrations, which sometimes leads him to the bizarre and the absurd. Although he is committed to art for children, he likes to tackle pressing social topics in his books, such as environmental degradation (*Bella the Wolf and the Magic Forest*, 2020), fear (*Who's Afraid of Dentists?*, 2020), or the contrast between private transport and public space (*Fleatown*, 2021). Many of his works have received the Golden Pear Rating. The comic book *Bella the Wolf and the Magic Forest* was nominated for a Zlatirepec Award in the Best Original Children's Comic category.

Fleatown | mixed media | 2021

Ivan Mitrevski, *Bolhograd: Zgodba o prav posebnem mestu* (Fleatown), Miš, 2021





# Eva Mlinar

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Eva Mlinar (1985) studied art history at the Faculty of Arts and visual communication at the Academy of Fine Arts and Design. She works in various artistic fields, with an emphasis on contemporary illustration and theatre. In her work, she enjoys exploring iconography and the history of ideas, often incorporating elements of collage into her illustrations. She regularly exhibits at biennials and illustration exhibitions in Slovenia and abroad (Croatia, Poland, Lithuania, France, Germany, Turkey, China). Together with illustrator Hana Jesih, she published the artist's book *Impressions (Ljubljana/Istanbul)* in 2018, which received the Hiii Illustration Merit Award in China. In 2019, together with writer and playwright Eva Mahkovic, she published a genre-bending literary and visual collection of grotesques, *The Bête Noire Vignettes*, which received the Book of the Year *Grand Prix* at the Slovenian Book Fair, as well as Special Mention by the President of the Jury at the Slovenian Biennial of Illustration.

Hubris | mixed media | 2019

Eva Mahkovic, *Vinjete straholjubca* (The Bête Noire Vignettes), VigeVageKnjige, 2019



**BESEDE**



# Manica K. Musil

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Manica K. Musil (1974) studied architecture. Her first project, co-authored with Mateja Katrašnik, was nominated for the Plečnik Prize and received the Grand Prix for Best Realisation at the Leonardo International Biennial of Young Architects in Minsk. She has co-authored eleven Slovenian postage stamps. Between 2011 and 2022, 15 of her children's books were published by different Slovenian publishing houses and translated into more than 15 languages. In 2016, her picture book *The Naughty Pigs* was adapted into a puppet show. She has received numerous awards, including the Best Book Design Award in the Children's and Young Adult category at the Slovenian Book Fair, several Merits, an Honourable Mention, and a Gold Medal in the 3x3 International Illustration Shows, multiple Special Prizes at BookILL Fest in Novi Sad, multiple Merits and a Best of the Best Award at the Hiii Illustration competition in China, an Honourable Mention at the Global Illustration Award competition, a Best Illustration Award at the Moscow International Book Fair, several nominations at the Little Haka competition, a Special Merit at the Croatian Biennale of Illustration, and the Glazer Credential.

Stan the Elephant | textile collage | 2017

Manica Musil, *Slon Stane* (Stan the Elephant), Pivec, 2017





# Marija Nabernik

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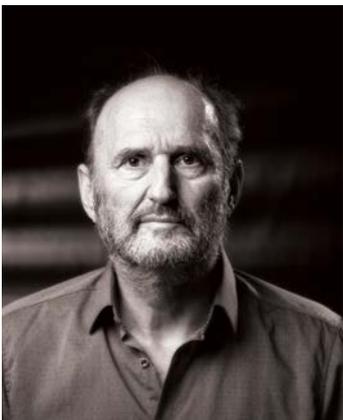
— [centerilustracije.si](http://centerilustracije.si)

Marija Nabernik (1983) is an illustrator, designer, and lecturer at the Academy of Fine Arts and Design (ALUO). She started working with illustration as a graphic design student, receiving advanced training in illustration and graphics during a study exchange at the UMPRUM Academy in Prague. She later obtained her master's degree with a thesis in the field of scientific illustration. She has worked as a visual communication designer and illustrator, devoting herself to original projects in the fields of illustration and graphic design. Her pedagogical work revolves around illustration for non-fiction and scientific books. During her studies, she received an ALUO Acknowledgement and Award, a group EEPG Gold Award, and the Primavera Award from the Maribor Fine Artists Society. She has published several professional and scientific articles, her illustrations have been included in national and international selections (Slovenian Biennial of Illustration, Castro International Watercolour Festival, Golden Pen of Belgrade, Honourable Mention in the Ilustraciencia competition).

Cinnabarite – Idrija | tempera | 2009

Aleksander Rečnik, *Minerali živosrebrnega rudišča Idrija* (Minerals of the Idrija Mercury Mine), Institut Jožef Stefan, 2012





# Silvan Omerzu

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Silvan Omerzu (1955) is a director, painter, illustrator, and puppet designer. After finishing his studies at the Pedagogical Academy, he started working at the Ljubljana Puppet Theatre, leaving for Prague in 1983 to advance his studies in puppet show scenography and puppet design. In the early 1990s, he co-founded the independent Konj Puppet Theatre and was a regular collaborator of the Minor Central Puppet Theatre in Prague. Later, he worked with various theatres in Slovenia and abroad as a freelance artist, creating numerous high-profile shows. His creative path is characterised by a distinct interdisciplinary nature, as he has never committed himself to a single artistic discipline or medium as a creator, instead simultaneously operating as a visual artist, scenographer, puppeteer, and stage director. He has illustrated numerous books for children and adults, as well as regularly contributed to the *Ciciban* and *Cicido* magazines. He has received numerous awards in Slovenia and abroad for his all-round work, including the Prešeren Fund Award.

Kroki and Friends | drawing ink and tempera | 2018

Meta Brulec, *Kroki in prijatelji* (Kroki and Friends), Mladinska knjiga, 2018





# Andreja Peklar

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Andreja Peklar (1962) is an illustrator and author of children's picture books, in which she often uses images and small miracles from nature to talk about the fundamental revelations of our existence. She graduated in painting from the Academy of Fine Arts and Design. Her favourite means of expression is the original picture book, but she has also illustrated numerous books by other authors, textbooks, as well as magazines. She has had a series of solo illustration exhibitions, and also participates in more prominent illustration selections in Slovenia and abroad. She has received a number of awards and nominations, including the Kristina Brenkova Original Slovenian Picture Book Award three times, the Hinko Smrekar Accolade, first prize at the Sharjah Exhibition for Children's Book Illustrations, the Best of the Best Award at the Hiii Illustration competition in China, and the Purple Island Award at the Nami Concours in South Korea. She has also been named to the IBBY Honour List. In 2018, her illustrations were included in one of the most prominent illustration exhibitions at the Bologna Children's Book Fair.

The Moon and I | mixed media | 2019

Andreja Peklar, *Luna in jaz (Moon and Me)*, KUD Sodobnost International, 2019





# Maja Poljanc

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Maja Poljanc (1989) is an illustrator with an original style, characterised by the frequent inclusion of elements of scientific illustration and the introduction of ornaments from Slovenian cultural heritage. In 2018, she received her master's degree in visual communication from the Academy of Fine Arts and Design. Her portfolio includes, among other things, the first encyclopaedia of Slovenian mythological creatures, *Encyclopedia Mythologica Slovenica*, for which she received the Faculty Prešeren Award and a Special Mention at the Slovenian Biennial of Illustration. Her illustrations can be found in the book *The Songs of the Travelling Cat* by Svetlana Makarovič, the fantasy novel *The World Is a Shadow (of Edgar Chaos)* by Julija Lukovnjak, *The White Horsie* by Sebastijan Pregelj, the science textbook *Skin and Skin Diseases*, the magazine *Razpotja*, and others. Her works have been exhibited at the Center of Illustration, the Vodnik Homestead, the DobraVaga Gallery, Kino Šiška, the Jakopič Gallery, the Cankar Centre, the UGM Maribor Art Gallery, Ilustrofest in Belgrade, and elsewhere.

A Map of Inkrematera | mixed media | 2023

Julija Lukovnjak, *Svet je senca (Edgarja Kaosa)* (The World Is a Shadow (of Edgar Chaos)), Goga, 2023





# Lila Prap

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Lila Prap (1955) is a children's book author. She is an architect by training, but after a few years of architectural work, design, and teaching construction subjects and art history, she devoted herself solely to creating content for children. She has written and drawn numerous original picture books, which have been translated into more than 30 languages. The most translated among them are *Why?*, *Dinosaurs?!*, *My Daddy*, *1001 Fairy Tales*, *Dog Questions*, *Cat Questions*, *Where Do Dreams Go*, and *Animals' International Dictionary*. One of her picture books (*Why?*) was adapted into a cartoon series in Japan. Her picture books have received several awards in Slovenia, both for illustration and design, and she has been nominated for a literary award. She has been named to the IBBY Honour List, and her works have also been included among the special mentions of the White Ravens selection. She was nominated for the German Children's Literature Award, the Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award, and the Hans Christian Andersen Award. Her illustrations have been displayed in various galleries around the world.

Zebra | pastels | 2002

Lila Prap, *Zakaj? (Why?)*, Mladinska knjiga, 2002





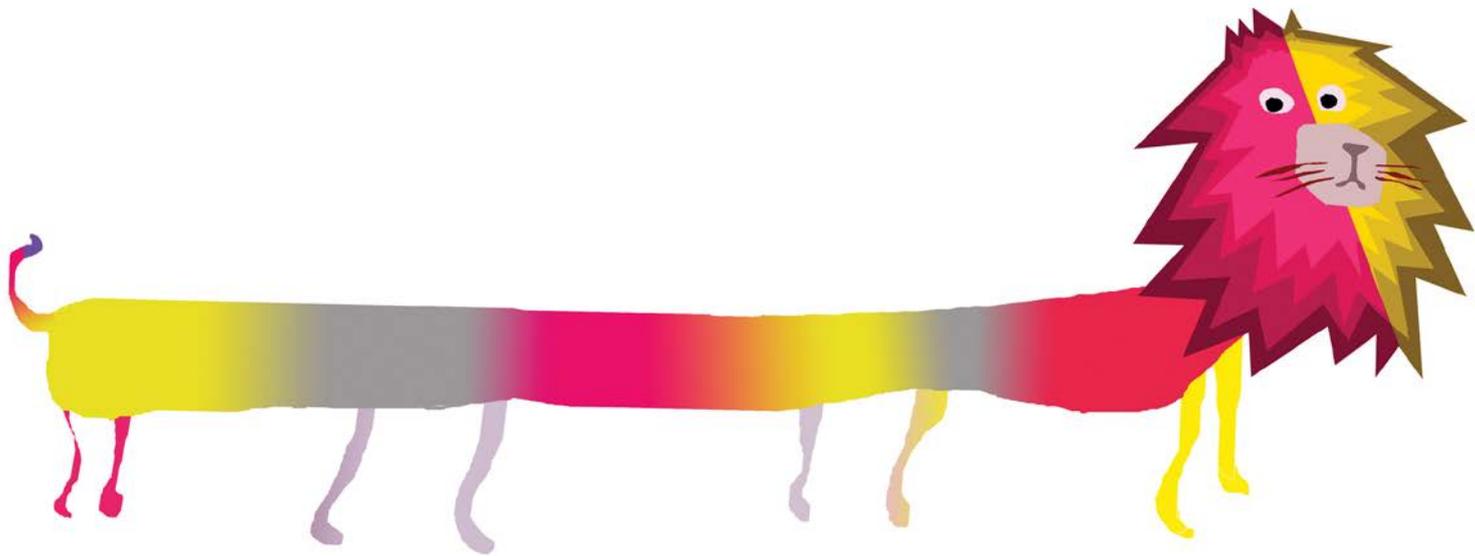
# Arjan Pregl

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Arjan Pregl (1973) graduated from the Academy of Fine Arts and Design (ALUO), where he also obtained a master's degree in painting and later also in graphic arts. He spent part of his studies at the Indiana University of Pennsylvania in the USA. He has illustrated more than 30 books, and also publishes illustrations in various magazines for children and adults. He has received various accolades and awards for his illustrations, including the Hinko Smrekar Accolade (for the book *The Star With the Cap* by Slavko Pregl), the Special Recognition at the Kristina Brenkova Awards (*It Will Not Be Blue*), the Best Book Design Award in the Poetry category at the Slovenian Book Fair (*It Will Not Be Blue*, co-authored with Tomaž Šalamun), and the Golden Pear Rating (*Have You Seen a Lion?* by Daniil Harms). He was also on the jury of the Golden Pen in Belgrade. Since 2004, he has been featured in all Slovenian Biennials of Illustration, and his works have been displayed at the Biennial of Illustration Bratislava several times. In addition to illustration, he paints, writes, and lectures at ALUO, the Faculty of Education in Maribor, and the School of Arts in Nova Gorica.

Almost Red | digital media | 2018

Daniil Harms, *Si videl leva?* (Have You Seen a Lion?), Miš, 2018





# Tereza Prepadnik

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Tereza Prepadnik (1995) works in the fields of illustration, graphics, and design. She studied visual communication design at the Academy of Fine Arts and Design, advancing her training at the Academy of Design and Crafts in Gothenburg. In her work, she is mainly interested in the meeting of humans and nature. She strives for her drawing to be as relaxed as possible, even childlike. Her works have been featured in group exhibitions at the Kresija Gallery, the Cankar Centre, the City Museum of Ljubljana, the DobraVaga Gallery, Kino Šiška, and Plečnik House, among others. She is regularly featured in the Slovenian Biennial of Illustration and the December Illustration Fair. In 2022, her book illustration debut *Bleščivka* by Špela Frlc was published, placing her on the World Illustration Awards longlist. Among other accolades, she is a co-recipient of the Brumen Award for Celtra's corporate identity and the Belgrade Architecture Salon Award for the project *The Battle for Architecture* (by Timotej Jevšenak).

Sunday | digital media | 2022

Špela Frlc, *Bleščivka* (Bleščivka), Mladinska knjiga, 2022





Petra Preželj (1975) is an illustrator, visual communication designer, and painter, with figurative art dominating in all three areas. She creates content for both children and adults, imaginatively intertwining these different worlds in her work. She has designed several covers and books for the Sanje Publishing House, as well as a CD for the Slovenian music band Torul. Together with the animator Virpi Kettu, she created artwork for a few music videos (such as Tara Baswani's Breakdown). Her works include children's books and a mural at the Mavrica kindergarten in Pivka. She has received the Hinko Smrekar Accolade for her original artistic approach, the Hinko Smrekar Distinction, and an Honorary Diploma at the Golden Pen of Belgrade.

# Petra Preželj

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Something in the Air | scratchboard | 2022  
Peter Svetina, *Nekaj je v zraku* (Something in the Air), KUD Sodobnost International, 2022





# Ana Razpotnik Donati

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Ana Razpotnik Donati (1978) is an illustrator who has focused mainly on children's and young adult illustration since 2005. Among others, she has illustrated works by Janja Vidmar, Peter Svetina, Tatjana Kokalj, Ida Mlakar, Sebastijan Pregelj, Mateja Gomboc, and Miroslav Košuta. She also regularly illustrates various children's magazines and participates in solo and group exhibitions. Her tongue-in-cheek style is characterised by humour, distinct colours, and an eye for detail. She received the Best Book Design Award in the Children's and Young Adult category for *The Lie and Her Groom*, which she illustrated as part of Fran Milčinski's series *The Villagers From Butale* (2009–2013). Several of her works have received the Golden Pear Rating, and she has been nominated for the Kristina Brenkova Original Slovenian Picture Book Award.

Mister Felix | mixed media | 2016

Peter Svetina, *Kako je gospod Feliks tekmoval s kolesom* (How Mister Felix Entered a Bicycle Race), Miš, 2021





# Jelka Reichman

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Jelka Reichman (1939) is a painter and one of the most important book illustrators in Slovenia. Her oeuvre spans more than 200 literary projects. She has been working with the Mladinska Knjiga Publishing House since 1964. She illustrated now famous books by Kajetan Kovič (*My Friend Piki Jacob*, *Magic Muri*, *The Doll and the Girl*, *Racket the Dragon*, *The Golden Ship*), Svetlana Makarovič (*The Fearsome Wolf*), Leopold Suhodolčan (*Stumpytumpy*), Srečko Kosovel (*Little Sweet-Tooth Bears*), Prežihov Voranc (*The Left Pocket*), Polonca Kovač (*Mišek*), the fairy tale series *The Golden Bird*, and others. Her artwork also adorns the *Cicido* and *Ciciban* magazines. Part of her extensive oeuvre is collected in the anthologies *The Miracle Garden* and *A Fir Tree has Grown*. She has received numerous awards for her work, including the Levstik Award, the Hinko Smrekar Lifetime Achievement Award, and the Levstik Lifetime Achievement Award. She is an Honorary Citizen of Ljubljana, and she has also been named Slovenian Woman of the Year.

Muri the Cat | mixed media | 1975

Kajetan Kovič, *Maček Muri (Magic Muri)*, Mladinska knjiga, 1975





# Liana Saje Wang

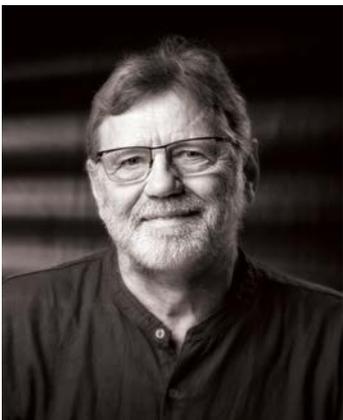
— [lianasaje@yahoo.com](mailto:lianasaje@yahoo.com)

Liana Saje Wang (1987) graduated from the Academy of Fine Arts and Design in 2016. She received an Excellence Award at the International Youth Design Competition in China for her thesis. Her illustrations for displays on the production of flax, wool, and cotton are part of the permanent exhibition *Tržič Crafts* at the Tržič Museum, which received the highest museum honour, the Valvasor Award. In 2018, Saje Wang's first picture book was published, a Chinese translation of *The Famous Goat Trial of Višnja Gora* by Josip Jurčič. From 2019 to 2022, she designed and illustrated the visual identity of events at the Vodnik Homestead in Ljubljana. She is currently working on children's illustrations for the *Ciciban* and *Cicido* magazines, as well as on artistic interpretations of adult texts. She also created the covers for the novels *Bronze and Sunflower* (Cao Wenxuan), *A Single Rose* (Muriel Barbery), and *No More than Before* (Manka Kremenšek Križman).

Nüwa Patches the Sky | mixed media | 2022

Ilgo, Tina et al, *Kitajski miti in legende* (Chinese Myths and Legends), Miš, 2022





# Aleš Sedmak

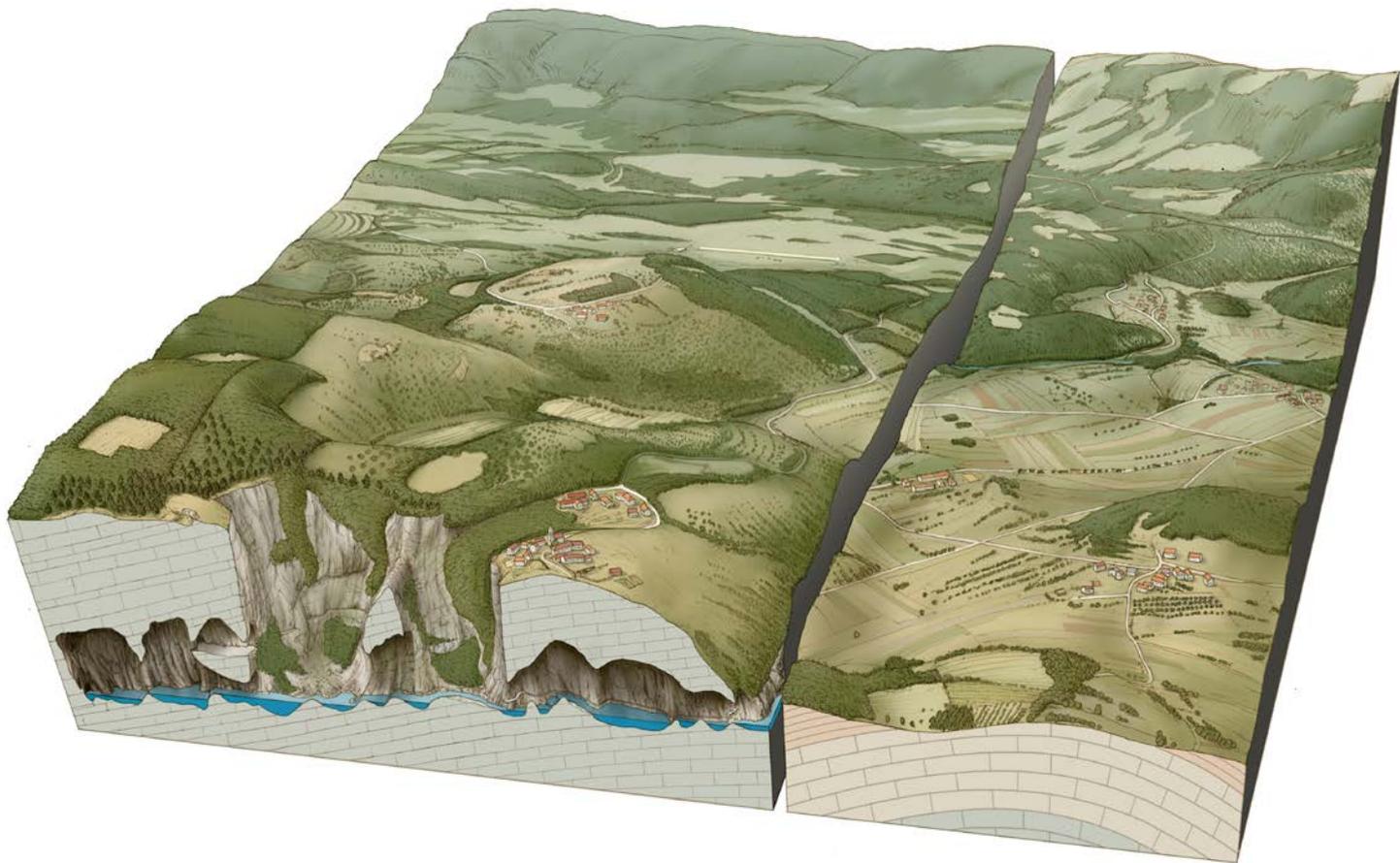
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Aleš Sedmak (1952) is a painter, printmaker, graphic designer, illustrator, and educator. Since 1998, he has been running the Kaverljag project in his studio near Koper, aimed at students of European academies who focus mainly on scientific illustration. So far, 373 books with his illustrations have been published (including 178 textbooks, 106 workbooks, 25 catalogues, 17 manuals, and eight dictionaries in the fields of geography, biology, and social sciences). His work has been regularly featured in numerous solo and group exhibitions in Slovenia and abroad. In addition to natural history illustrations and complex maps (*The Atlas of Slovenia for Primary and Secondary Schools*), he has gained renown for his project for the blind and partially sighted, *Insects Up Close* (2012), which depicted insects that are too small to touch in 3D illustrations. He has received numerous awards and accolades for his work, including the Valvasor Charter for his illustrations for the project *Romans – Glass, Clay, Stone*, Special Mention at the Slovenian Biennial of Illustration, and two government scholarships in the fields of illustration and photography.

Škocjan Caves | digitally coloured drawing | 2014

Karel Natek et al., *Atlas Slovenije za osnovne in srednje šole* (The Atlas of Slovenia for Primary and Secondary Schools), Mladinska knjiga, 2014





# Luka Seme

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Luka Seme (1987) graduated in visual communication design from the Academy of Fine Arts and Design in 2016. He works mainly with newspaper and book illustration, as well as design. He has already illustrated more than 150 front pages of the *Dnevnikov Objektiv* newspaper supplement and many other covers, books, and posters. In 2014, he received a Special Mention at the Slovenian Biennial of Illustration, in 2019 he received the Brumen Award for Excellence in Slovenian Design, and in 2017 and 2022, he received the Brumen Commendation for Excellence in Slovenian Design.

Tradition | mixed media | 2022

*Dnevnikov Objektiv* newspaper supplement, 2022





# Tanja Semion

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Tanja Semion (1987) graduated from the Academy of Fine Arts and Design, where she has been a teaching assistant since 2014. She illustrates books, has been in charge of the visual identity of the fiction collection at the Beletrina Academic Press since 2016, creates newspaper illustrations, and designs visual concepts and storyboards for animated films. She mostly creates illustrations for adults, but enjoys creating works for children and young adults the most. Her works have been featured in numerous curated exhibitions and competitions, such as the Brumen Biennial of Slovenian Design, the Slovenian Biennial of Illustration, the Global Healthcare Illustration Awards, the World Illustration Awards, the Communication Arts Illustration Competition, the 3x3 International Illustration Show, Art Books Wanted, and Zgraf. Animated films with her artwork have been screened at numerous festivals around the world, including the Festival of Slovenian Film, Animateka, the Slovenian Animated Film Review, and Animafest Zagreb. In 2019, she received the Award for Important Works of Art in the field of visual communications, the highest artistic honour awarded by the University of Ljubljana.

No Anaesthesia | mixed media | 2019

Radmila Lazić, *Brez anestezije* (No Anaesthesia), Beletrina, 2019





# Igor Šinkovec

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Igor Šinkovec (1978) is an illustrator and animator. He works with publishers in Slovenia and abroad, illustrating books and textbooks, and also contributes monthly illustrations to the *Ciciban*, *Cicido*, and *Galeb* children's magazines. His works have been featured in group and solo exhibitions and illustration biennials. He also dabbles in animation. Among other things, he created the animated short film *Egon the Hat* and was in charge of the artwork and animation for the *Professor Florijan Umek* series of educational games at the Natural History Museum in Ljubljana. Sašo Dolenc's book *From Genes to Stars*, which features illustrations by Šinkovec, received the Golden Pear Award. His illustrations for Peter Svetina's picture book *Timbuktu Timbuktu* received the Kristina Brenkova Award. He also created the artwork for a puppet show based on the picture book. He was named to the IBBY Honour List for his illustrations for the picture book *Have You Ever Tried Moon?* by Boštjan Gorenc Pižama, as well as nominated for the Levstik Award. He also received a nomination for the Levstik Award for the book *Have You Ever Ridden a Seahorse?* by the same author.

What Is Hiding in Dad's Beard | mixed media | 2017

Boštjan Gorenc, *Kaj se skriva očku v bradi* (What Is Hiding in Dad's Beard), Mladinska knjiga, 2017





# Peter Škerl

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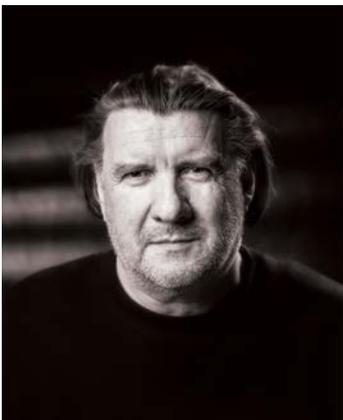
— centerilustracije.si

Peter Škerl (1973) graduated in graphic design and illustration. At the Academy of Fine Arts and Design, he evolved his illustration into a creative, comprehensively designed, and imaginative whole. With an eye for illustrating literary content, he used various painting techniques and their combinations to develop a unique artistic expression. He has co-created plays and puppet shows, initially as an amateur actor, and later also as a visual concept designer. He has received numerous awards for his work, including the Hinko Smrekar Award for his illustrations for Barbara Simoniti's *Marshfolk*, which were also included in the international illustration exhibition at the Bologna Children's Book Fair. He has been nominated for the Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award three times and the Hans Christian Andersen Award twice.

Animal Farm | washed drawing | 2014

George Orwell, *Živalska farma* (Animal Farm), Mladinska knjiga, 2014





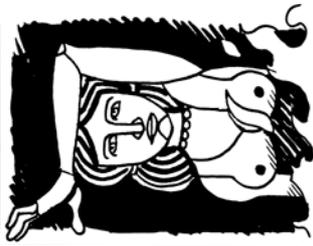
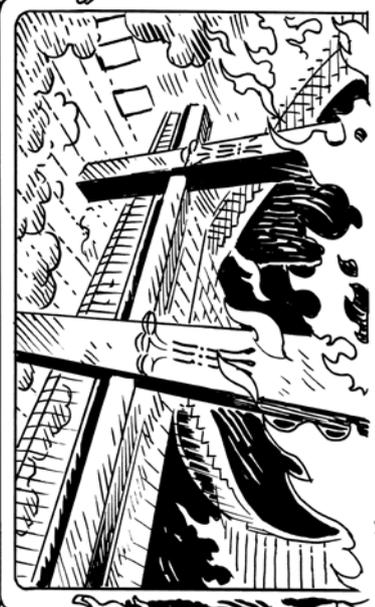
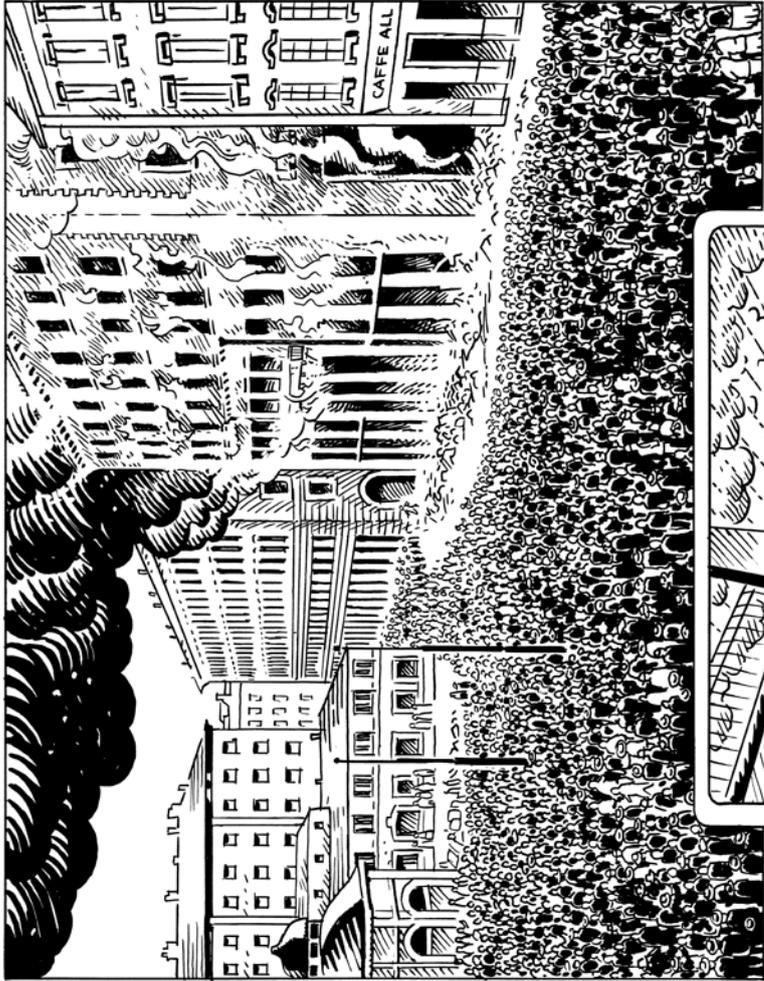
# Zoran Smiljanić

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Zoran Smiljanić (1961) has drawn around 1,700 comic book pages. His early comics were politically engaged, explicit, and provocative. In 1987, he published his first graphic novel *Hardfuckers*, provoking the socialist government at the time. He addressed the Slovenian past and present in the *War Stories* and *Family Stories* cycles. Since 2000, he has tackled historical and biographical topics. Together with co-scriptwriter Marijan Pušavec, he created the most extensive Slovenian graphic epic, *Mexikaners*, which contains 350 hand-coloured pages. In the graphic novel *The Final Flight of Toni Mrlak*, he discusses the dark aspects of the Slovenian War of Independence. This was followed by the biographies of Plečnik, Kajuh, and Cankar. The latter received the Book of the Year Award at the Slovenian Book Fair and the Zlatirepec Award. He also received the latter for his historical graphic novel *Black Flame: The Arson of the Slovenian National Centre in Trieste* (2020). He is the recipient of the Hudi Maček Award and the City of Kranj Award for his contributions to the recognition and unique landscape of Slovenian comics. His comics have been translated into German, Italian, English, and Czech.

Black Flame: The Arson of the Slovenian National Centre in Trieste | drawing ink | 2020  
Ivan and Zoran Smiljanić, *Črni plamen: požig Narodnega doma v Trstu* (*Black Flame: The Arson of the Slovenian National Centre in Trieste*), ZRC, 2020



# HOTEL BALKAN





# Alenka Sottler

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Alenka Sottler (1958) has illustrated more than 50 books and been featured in numerous solo exhibitions and selections. She focuses mainly on interpreting classic and contemporary fairy tales. For her illustrator's interpretation of Grimms' *Cinderella*, she received the Golden Apple at the Biennial of Illustration Bratislava, a nomination for the Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award, and the Grand Prix at the Croatian Biennale of Illustration. She was also shortlisted in the House of Illustration and The Folio Society's inaugural Book Illustration Competition in London. Her series of illustrations for adults *Good Morning*, which was displayed in two independent exhibitions at the Kibla and Alkatraz galleries, received the Prešeren Fund Award. She was nominated for the Hans Christian Andersen Award and also received the Gold Medal for Book Illustration from the Society of Illustrators in New York, of which she is an invited member. In 2022, she illustrated the acclaimed book *The Original Bambi*, published by Princeton University Press.

The Hunt | mixed media | 2022

Jack Zipes, *The Original Bambi: The Story of a Life in the Forest*, Princeton University Press, 2022





# Alenka Spacal

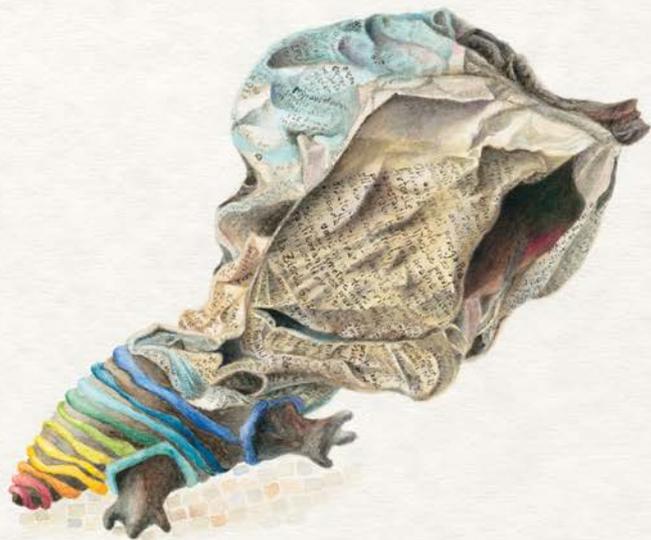
— [alenka.spacal@bajalka.si](mailto:alenka.spacal@bajalka.si)

— [centerilustracije.si](http://centerilustracije.si)

Alenka Spacal (1975) is a writer, illustrator, and storyteller. She holds a bachelor's and master's degree in philosophy and a doctorate in sociology from the Faculty of Arts. As a freelancer, she works under the auspices of the Bajalka Institute for Publishing and the Art of Storytelling. She has authored five picture books: *The Plasticine Girl and the Newspaper* (2022), *The Little Bean Flees Before the Bean Soup* (2019), *Wise Bird Thoughts* (2018), *What Is Your Name?* (2018), and *The Rainbow Masquerade* (2013). In addition to illustration, she is also a storyteller. Her works have been featured in solo and group exhibitions in Slovenia and abroad. She has received the Books Merit at the iJungle Illustration Awards and a nomination at the Hiii Illustration competition in China for *The Little Bean Flees Before the Bean Soup*, as well as a Special Merit at the 3x3 International Illustration Show for *Wise Bird Thoughts*.

Two Masks | watercolours and acrylic paint | 2022

Alenka Spacal, *Plastelinčica in časopis* (The Plasticine Girl and the Newspaper), Bajalka, 2022





# Damijan Stepančič

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Damijan Stepančič (1969) studied design at the Academy of Fine Arts and Design, but realised he is better suited to a classical approach when dealing with the fundamental problems of art and transferred to painting. He devotes most of his time to children's and young adult illustration, and he has been collaborating with newspapers and magazines for both young readers and adults. In addition to painting and illustration, he also works in comics, animation, and with puppets, as well as provides artwork for textbooks and manuals. He has illustrated or provided artwork for more than a hundred fiction books and more than a hundred textbooks, co-authored numerous comic books, and held multiple solo exhibitions. Many of the books he has illustrated have received the Golden Pear Rating or Award. He has received numerous awards, including the Best Original Idea Award at the Slovenian Biennial of Illustration, the Hinko Smrekar Distinction, the Levstik Award, the Hinko Smrekar Award, and the Kristina Brenkova Award. He has been named to the IBBY Honour List, as well as nominated for the Hans Christian Andersen Award and multiple Astrid Lindgren Memorial Awards.

A Toast | mixed media | 2013

France Prešeren, *Zdravljica* (A Toast), Mladinska knjiga, 2013





# Hana Stupica

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Hana Stupica (1988) has displayed her works in several solo and group exhibitions and published them in the *Ciciban* and *Cicido* magazines. She has illustrated numerous books, including Anja Štefan's *The World Is Like a Merry-Go-Round* and *Rabbit's House*, *The Mitten*, *Schönwerth's Fairy Tales*, and Darja Marinšek's *The Forgetful Centipede*. She also designed the visual concept for a Ljubljana Puppet Theatre show based on Štefan's *Rabbit's House*. She has illustrated advertising campaigns and collaborated with the fashion brand Just a Corpse. She also creates her own collection of useful products, taking her masterful images – an intertwining of noble painting and illustration tradition with contemporary forms of visual art – from books, incorporating them into everyday life. She is the youngest recipient of the Hinko Smrekar Award and was nominated for the Levstik Award and the Kristina Brenkova Award. She received the Best Book Illustration Award at Ilustrofest in Belgrade. At the Slovenian Advertising Festival, she received a Special Commendation for Best Illustration in Advertising, and her illustrations for Fedora Wines received the Hinko Smrekar Distinction and the Brumen Award.

The Rabbit's House | mixed media | 2021

Anja Štefan, *Zajčkova hišica* (Rabbit's House), Mladinska knjiga, 2021



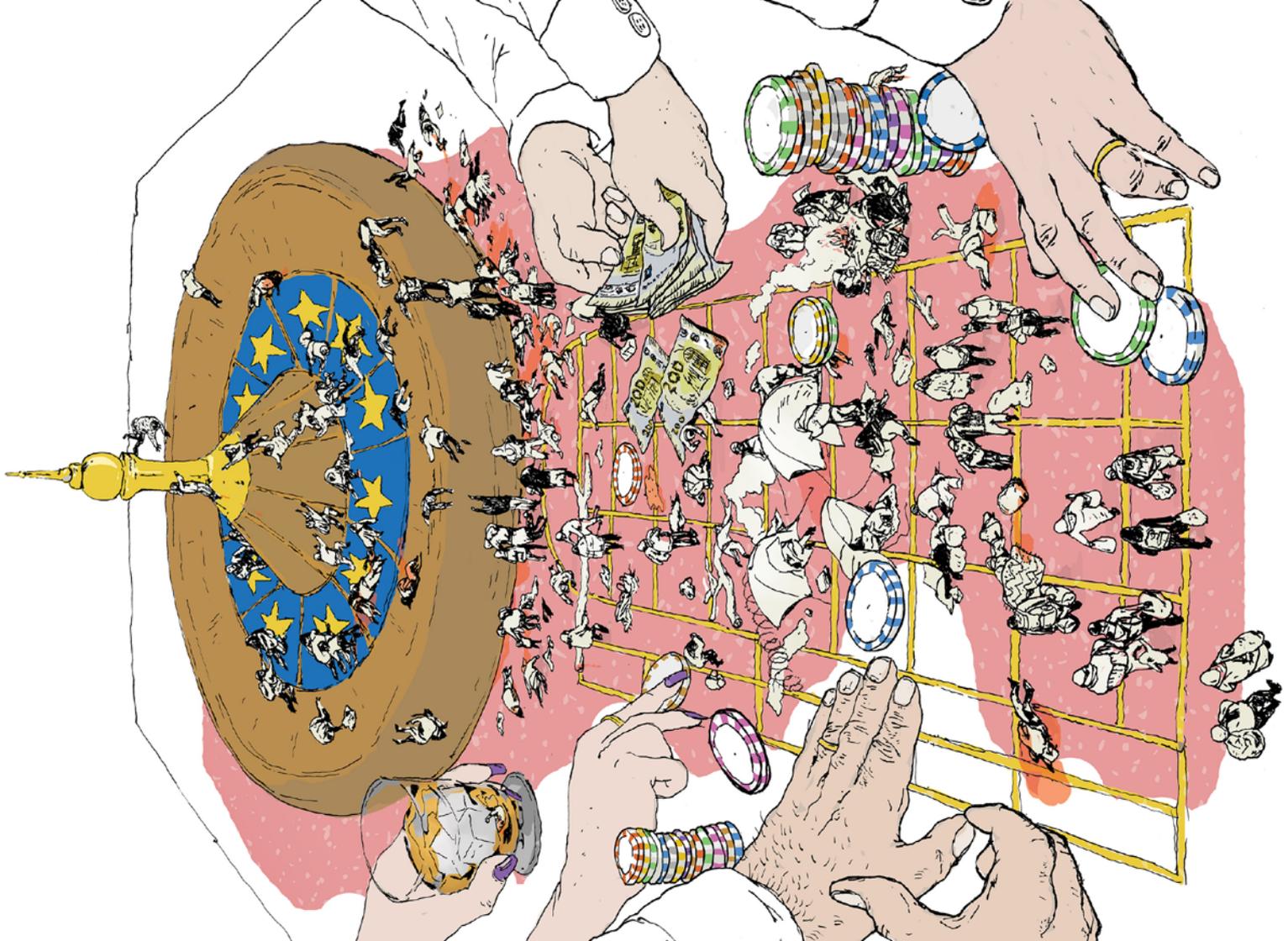


# Matej Stupica

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Matej Stupica (1987) is active in various artistic fields. He creates and co-creates installations, drawings, stage shows, artist's books, paintings, comics, illustrations for books, newspapers, audio releases, etc. He is a recipient of the Faculty Prešeren Award. He has participated in solo and group exhibitions in Slovenia and abroad, in both contemporary art and illustration, including twice in the Triennial of Contemporary Art U3 and five times in the Slovenian Biennial of Illustration. Since 2006, he has been publishing illustrations in the *Dnevnikov Objektiv* newspaper supplement. He has received two Hinko Smrekar Distinctions and a Special Commendation for his illustrations. He has received two TRESK Festival Awards for his album artwork for the label Sploh, as well as a Special Mention for a poster for the label Zvočni Prepahi. Since 2012, he has also been working in tandem with artist Lenka Đorojević, with their installation *Monomat* receiving the OHO Award.

The Game | drawing ink and digital media | 2021  
*Dnevnikov Objektiv* newspaper supplement, 2021





# Gorazd Vahen

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Gorazd Vahen (1969) primarily illustrates children's books. Since graduating from the Academy of Fine Arts and Design, he has illustrated more than 30 books, seven textbooks, a bunch of poems and short stories, and a few historical manuals and guides. He has received a Special Mention by the Jury at the Slovenian Biennial of Illustration and the Hinko Smrekar Distinction for his work.

The Magic Bush | acrylic paint | 1998

Svetlana Makarovič, *Sapramiška* (Skipmouse), Mladinska knjiga, 1998





# Andrej Štular

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Andrej Štular (1967) is active in various artistic fields, intertwining illustration, comics, painting, sculpture, photography, and film, as well as puppet and scenography design, fairly equally in his work. He has participated in solo and group exhibitions in Slovenia and in international festivals in Austria, Australia, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Czechia, Finland, France, Greece, Croatia, Italy, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Korea, Latvia, North Macedonia, Morocco, Portugal, Russia, Serbia, Sweden, Spain, Thailand, Turkey, Tunisia, and elsewhere. He has published seven original books: *Chandeliers* (2000), *Compost* (2008), *I'm Alive!* (2011), *Run, the World Is Coming Down!* (2014), *Chronicles* (2015), *The Bear* (2019), and *Sharp Rhythms* (2021). He has received several awards for his works.

The Bear | assemblage | 2019

Andrej Štular, *Medved* (The Bear), Stripburger/Forum Ljubljana, 2019





# Tina Volarič

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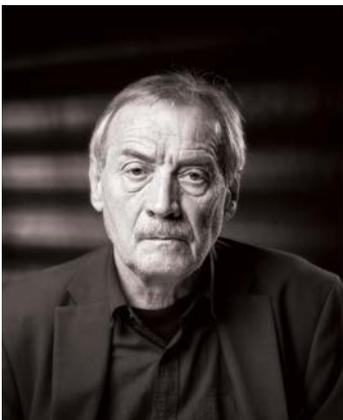
— [centerilustracije.si](http://centerilustracije.si)

Tina Volarič (1980) regularly provides illustrations for major Slovenian children's magazines, album artwork, and covers of fiction and humanities books, and designs original picture books for children and adults. From time to time, she also works on independent conceptual series that often draw on gentle nostalgia, the intimate domestic space, and memories. She is the author of the award-winning wordless picture book *The Line* (2021), which received the Golden Pear Rating and was included in the IBBY Silent Books Collection, as well as the original picture book *Nono's Wall* (2021), the picture book *Carl and Stan* by Marko Klavora and David Kožuh (2023), and others. Her debut picture book *The Story of Little Bambule and the Dizzying Giraffe* by Frane Milčinski Ježek (2010) received the Best Book Design Award at the Slovenian Book Fair. She also illustrated her award-winning poetry debut, *The Circumference of Polyphonic Silences* (2014). Her works have been featured in solo exhibitions and group selections in Slovenia, Croatia, Serbia, Italy, Poland, Portugal, and China, and she has participated in illustration biennials in Ljubljana, Zagreb, Belgrade, and Bratislava.

Tracking the Line | acrylic paint and embroidery | 2019

Tina Volarič, *Črta* (The Line), Miš, 2021





# Žarko Vrezec

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Žarko Vrezec (1950) studied at the Academy of Fine Arts and Design. Since 1977, he has held 150 solo exhibitions in Slovenia and abroad. Since 1972, he has participated in around 600 group exhibitions, exhibitions of Slovenian art, and international exhibitions. His studies have taken him around Europe (Paris, London, Madrid, Brussels, Prague, Vienna), Asia, and the USA (New York, San Francisco). He works mainly in painting, but also drawing, graphic arts, sculpture, illustration, scenography, scenic painting, and design. His works can be found in numerous museum and gallery collections, as well as in private collections in Slovenia and abroad. He has received 36 national and international awards for painting and illustration.

Longhorn Beetle / *Morimus Funereus* | coloured pencils and acrylic paint | 2021  
*Rdeči seznam ogroženih hroščev v Evropi* (European Red List of Endangered Beetles), National Institute of Biology, Ljubljana





# Jaka Vukotič

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Jaka Vukotič (1982) studied architecture, but in the end decided to focus on illustration. He co-authored the comic books *Znamenitni: Great Stories of Celebrities* (2020) and *Cukrarna. The Story of a Poetic Slovenian Soul* (2023) with Žiga X Gombač, as well as *The Reformers* with Boštjan Gorenc Pižama (2022). *Znamenitni* won the Zlatirepec Best Original Children's Comic Award, while *The Reformers* was selected for the project *Growing with a Book*. He also provided the illustrations for the books *Don't Forget the Title!* by Gaja Kos (2022), *Mouthy Men* by Kozma Ahačič (2015), *Recipe Songs* by Milan Dekleva (2023), *Super Vid* by Žiga Valetič (2022), *Borrowed Grandma Štefi* by Mateja Gomboc (2022), and *Chinese Myths and Legends* (2022). The book *Mouthy Men* received the Best Slavic Children's Book Award in the Slavic History and Culture category in Minsk, while *Don't Forget the Title!* has been included in the White Ravens selection.

Cat and Mice | digital media | 2022

Gaja Kos, *Ne pozabi na naslov!* (Don't Forget the Title!), Miš, 2022





# Huiqin Wang

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— centerilustracije.si

Huiqin Wang (1955) is a formally trained Slovenian-Chinese painter who graduated from the Nanjing Academy of Fine Arts. She has lived in Ljubljana since 1983, obtaining specialisation from the Academy of Fine Arts and Design. Wang builds artistic bridges between languages, literatures, and cultures, just like fairytale motifs travelled along the Silk and Amber Roads. In addition to painting, she works in illustration and multimedia art. Her illustrations have won several major awards. She has published three original Slovenian-Chinese picture books, writing the texts herself as well: *Hallerstein: A Slovene at the Chinese Court* (2014), *Castiglione: A Painter at the Chinese Court* (2015), and *I, Marco Polo* (2018). The text for her picture book *Little Alma on a Big Journey* (2020) was written by Milan Dekleva. These books have been translated into English, Italian, and Croatian. In 2022, Huiqin Wang and Andrej Kamnik adapted the picture book *Little Alma on a Big Journey* into an animated film, which has been screened at several festivals.

Alma Goes Around the World | mixed media | 2019

Milan Dekleva, *Mala Alma na veliki poti* (Little Alma on a Big Journey), Mladinska knjiga, 2020





# Meta Wraber

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Meta Wraber (1977) graduated in design. Her trademarks are culinary watercolours, ethereal female figures, and abstract poetic landscapes. Among other works, she provided the illustrations for an updated edition of Kajetan Kovič's poetry collection *Labrador*, as well as illustrated and designed the poetry book *In the Lap* and the book *The One Hundred Faces of Inner Strength*, both by Alenka Rebula. She designed and illustrated Klemen Košir's cookbook *Spreads for the Table*, which has been reprinted three times. In 2015, she held a solo exhibition of her monkey portraits and colour collages at Kino Šiška. Her clients include the Chloé, Vichy, and Anthropologie fashion houses, Harper's Bazaar, and the Japanese brand Afternoon Tea. She illustrated *Slovenian Stories* for Google, receiving the Golden City Gate Diamond Award. In addition to working for various foreign clients, she also designs artwork for events, book covers, and publications in Slovenia, such as the Bobri Festival and the magazine *Mentor*, where she has been the artistic director since 2014. In 2022, the Society of Illustrators shortlisted her for an exhibition at the Museum of American Illustration in New York.





# Ana Zavadlav

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Ana Zavadlav (1970) is a formally trained painter and illustrator. She graduated in painting from the Academy of Fine Arts and Design, afterwards specialising in graphic arts. Following her studies, she spent some time working as a graphic artist, but has focused mainly on book illustration for children and young adults since 2002. She regularly contributes to the *Ciciban* and *Cicido* magazines. Her works have been displayed in several solo and group exhibitions. Her illustrations for Toon Tellegen's book *The Healing of the Cricket* were exhibited at the 2019 Bologna Children's Book Fair. In 2023, some of her works for Italo Calvino's *Italian Folktales* were featured in the Fair's Italian Excellence: Illustrations for Italo Calvino competition, which featured unique and innovative interpretations of Calvino by 30 illustrators, selected from among 521 authors from 47 countries. Zavadlav has received several accolades and awards, including the Levstik Award, placement on the IBBY Honour List, and a nomination for the Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award.

*Italian Folktales* | charcoal and dry pastels | 2022

Italo Calvino, *Italijanske pravljice I & II* (*Italian Folktales I & II*), Mladinska knjiga, 2022





# Maša P. Žmitek

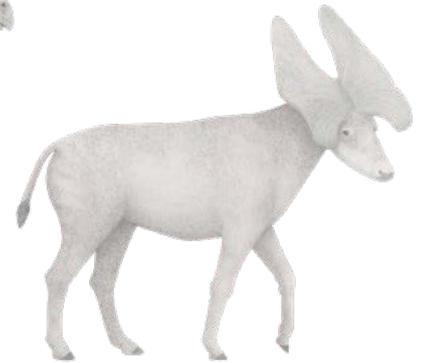
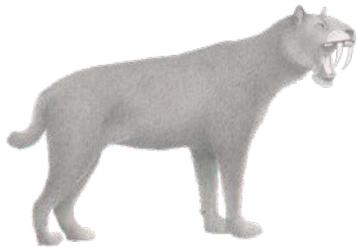
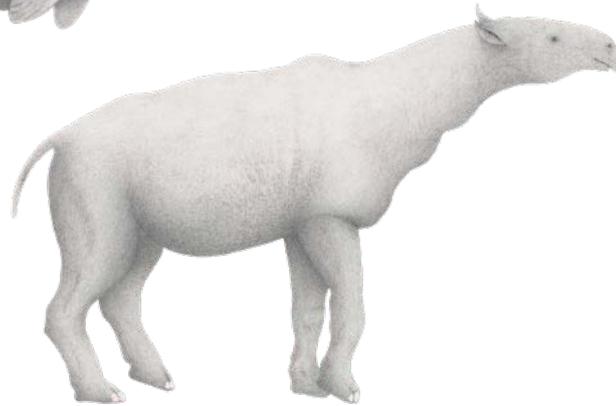
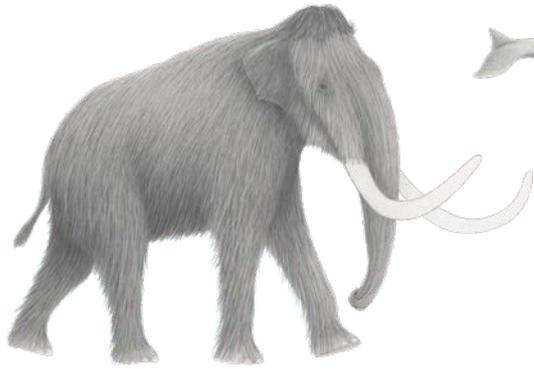
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Maša P. Žmitek (1985), working as an illustrator, curator, and producer, received her master's degree from the Academy of Fine Arts and Design. In 2018, she took over the management of the Vodnik Homestead Gallery, later establishing and managing the Slovenian Center of Illustration within the framework of the Divja Misel Institute. She is interested in artistic illustration, but devotes most of her time to scientific illustration, with a recent focus on depicting creatures from antiquity. Her analogue interactive book *Giants of Cenozoic* (Miš, 2021) breathes life into illustrations using a pre-cinematic technique. She followed it up with *Jurassic Dinosaurs* in 2023. She has illustrated several literary projects for Slovenian and foreign publishers, and her illustrations have been featured in the Slovenian Biennial of Illustration and at numerous Slovenian and foreign galleries. She received the University Prešeren Award for her master's thesis in the field of scientific illustration, the Graphis Silver Award in New York, the Brumen Award for Excellence in Slovenian Design and the Golden Pear Award.

Cenozoic Megafauna | mixed media | 2017/2018

Maša P. Žmitek, *Po sledah velikanov: sesalci kenozoika* (Giants of Cenozoic), Miš, 2021



### Selection of authors and works

Expert committee of the Slovenian Book Agency  
(Tina Bilban, Suzi Bricej, Tanja Komadina, Eva Mlinar,  
Hana Stupica, Peter Škerl, and Maša P. Žmitek).

### Exhibition design

Sara & Sara (Sara Badovinac and Sara Škarica)

### Texts

Samira Kentrić

### Catalogue editing

Andrej Hočevar

### Translation

Daniel Sheppard

### Graphic design

Ajda Fortuna

### Executive design

Teja Jalovec

### Photography

Jernej Čampelj

### Catalogue printing

Tiskarna Cicero, Begunje, d.o.o.

### Art direction, organisation, and production

Center of Illustration (represented by Maša P. Žmitek)  
Divja Misel Institute (represented by Tina Popović)

### Client

Slovenian Book Agency

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[centerilustracije.si](http://centerilustracije.si)



# SLOVENIA

GUEST OF HONOUR AT  
FRANKFURTER BUCHMESSE 2023

HONEYCOMB OF WORDS



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