

## National Literature in 21<sup>st</sup> Century: Insights and Perspectives *Nordic-Baltic Literature Forum*

**Date and time:** 5 April 2013 from 10 am to 16 pm

**Venue:** National Library of Estonia, Tallinn, Estonia

**Katarina Gäddnäs** (b. 1970; Finland) is a writer, culture journalist and project manager at the Mariehamn City Library. She studied theology at the Åbo Academy. Gäddnäs' works are focused on women's role in the society. Works: „Men göken gal” (1997); „Hon. På ludna tassar” (1999); „Jungfrutornet” (2002); „Venuspassagen” (2005) „Vitbok” (2007). Gäddnäs is a highly valued interviewer and presenter at the Nordic literature festivals. She also plays a big part in introducing Finnish and Swedish-Finnish authors to the world.

**Liāna Langa** (b. 1960; Latvia) studied painting, later philosophy and American literature of the 20<sup>th</sup> century in New York, US. She was a consultant of the project “Literature Express Europe 2000” and she is one of the founders of the Latvian Literature Center. Langa's original and brilliant poetry has made her a highly respected poet in Latvia. Her poems have been published with “Here Is the Sky, Here Is the Moonlight” (1997), “Blow the Trumpet, Scorpion!” (2001) and “Antennae Dictionary” (2006). She has received the Poetry Day Award twice (1998 and 2006) for her collections. In 2001 she also received the Annual Award for Literature. Right now she works as an editor for the literary magazine *Latvju Teksti*.

**Hrafn Andrés Harðarson** (b. 1948; Iceland) is a poet and the director of the Kopavogur Library. He studied library and information science. He has worked at a number of libraries, and also taught the subject at the University of Iceland. Hrafn has published and translated poetry, he has had an interest in Latvian literature and history through many years, as testify his many translations of renowned Latvian authors into Icelandic.

**Sigurður Ólafsson** (b. 1978; Iceland) is project manager of the Nordic Council's Children and Young People's Literature Prize's Secretariat at the Nordic House in Reykjavík. He has worked for Nordic Council's Secretariat in Copenhagen as well as a translator, a freelance journalist and an editor. He has written for [Bokmenntir.is/Literature.is](http://Bokmenntir.is/Literature.is) (English version), a website dedicated to contemporary Icelandic literature.

**Søren Vinterberg** (b. 1944; Denmark) is film, literary, and etc critic at the Danish daily *Politiken*. He holds an MA in sociology of literature and has also been an external lecturer of literature at the University of Copenhagen. During 1976-82 he was head of office at the Danish governmental department of culture. He has written books and articles about literature, reading and publishing, children's culture, cartoons, comics and animated films. He also works as a translator of novels and comics.

**Johan Unenge** (b. 1963; Sweden) is a Swedish writer, illustrator and cartoonist. He has published a number of books together with the Swedish writer Måns Gahrton. Unenge is also active in the Swedish Academy for Children and is the Swedish Reading ambassador since 2011.

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**Jan Kaus** (b. 1971; Estonia) is a writer and literary critic. He has worked at the cultural weekly *Sirp* and has also been the chairman of the Estonian Writers' Union. He has published five poetry collections, three novellas and four novels. He has gotten many acknowledgements, which include the prize of Best Young Cultural Figure (2003) and Eduard Vilde's literature award (2007). He is a member of staff of the Tallinn literature festival „HeadRead“.

**Laimantas Jonušys** (b. 1957; Lithuania) is a translator and literary critic. He has translated about 25 books from English into Lithuanian. His translated texts include novels, historical, philosophical works etc. He is also the author of two books on literary and cultural criticism.

**Silje Riise Naess** (b. 1977; Norway) has worked as head of programming at the House of Literature in Oslo since its opening in 2007. Naess has previously been the marketing manager at Arthaus – The Art Film Foundation, and head of communication for the Ibsen centenary (2006). She is currently the Norwegian member of the Nordic Council Film Prize jury, and is also president of the board of Oslo's biggest film festival, Films from the South.

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