

Hong Kong Baptist University's International Writes' Workshop
2021 Writers-in-Residence

Anna Tolkacheva (Russia)

Media-artist, researcher and poet

Anna Tolkacheva was born in 1985 in Gorky, USSR. She obtained a master's degree in Applied Informatics and has worked as a senior programmer and researcher in the computational linguistic field in Russia and the Netherlands. In 2017, Tolkacheva obtained a diploma in New Media Art in Rodchenko Art School, Moscow. She is a co-organizer of the publishing house "Red Swallow".

Tolkacheva makes multimedia installations and projects which involve a variety of techniques such as video, interactive objects, code-art, and text. She explores new ways of creating text and accessing it through the new media, non-standard interfaces and controllers. All her works she films, codes and solders by herself. Most of her art-works can be attributed to the emerging field of the media-poetry. Tolkacheva's works are featured in a big number of exhibitions, screenings, and festivals inside and outside of Russia. Her work "The Freedom" won in the International Extra Short Film Festival 2014. She got Gran Prix in Video Poetry Film Festival "The Fifth Leg" (2012, 2016). She was a visiting artist in a number of art residences such as PolArt in Arctic circle, Norilsk; Cité Internationale Des Arts, Paris; PROGR cultural center, Bern; etc. Tolkacheva lives in Nizhny Novgorod now, but being a nomadic artist, she spends most of the time outside of her home city.

Cristina Sánchez-Andrade (Spain)

Fiction writer

Cristina Sánchez-Andrade is a powerful voice in contemporary Spanish literature, author of nine novels. She made a splash in English and round the world with her novel *The Winterlings*, praised as radically new, original and unusual, gaining outstanding critical acclaim and winning several prizes, including an English PEN Award in 2016. Sánchez-Andrade writes gripping, sensual and elegant prose, described as between the magic realism of Gabriel Garcia Marquez and the southern gothic of Flannery O'Connor. She studied law and media and writes and reviews for various Spanish newspapers and literary magazines.

Gabriel Payares (Venezuela)

Fiction writer

Born in England of Venezuelan parents, raised in Venezuela and currently living in Argentina, Payares is one of the most talented young writers from his country. Author of three short story collections: *Cuando bajaron las aguas* [When the Waters Receded] (2008), *Hotel* (2012), and *Lo irreparable* [The Irreparable] (2016, 2017), which have been awarded several national prizes in Venezuela, he has a Bachelor's degree in Literature, and a Master's degree both in Latin American Literature and in Creative Writing. His works appear in local anthologies and different Latin American literary magazines, and are currently being translated to English. He has lived in Buenos Aires since 2014.

Gili Haimovich (Israel)

Poet and Translator

Gili Haimovich is a bilingual Israeli poet and translator, with a Canadian background. She is the author of ten poetry books, four in English and six in Hebrew. Her most recent books are *Promised Lands* (2020) and the collection *Lullaby* (2021). She won the international Italian poetry competitions *I colori dell'anima* for best foreign poet (2020), the *Ossi di Seppia* international Italian competition (2019), a grant for excellency by the Ministry of Culture of Israel (2015) among other prizes, and she's nominated for the 2021 American Pushcart Prize for a poem translation from Hebrew. Both of her last books in Hebrew, *Landing Lights* (2017) and *Baby Girl* (2014), won grants from The Acum Association of Authors and her second book, *Reflected Like Joy* (2002), won The Pais Grant for Culture. Her poems are translated into 30 languages including book length translations in Serbian and French as well as a multilingual book of her poem *Note*. Her work is featured in anthologies, festivals and journals worldwide such as: *World Literature Today*, *Poetry International*, *International Poetry Review*, *The Literary Review of Canada*, *101 Jewish Poems for the Third Millennium*, *Tok – Writing the New Toronto* and *New Voices - Contemporary Writers Confronting the Holocaust* as well as major publications in Israel such as *The Most Beautiful Poems in Hebrew – A Hundred Years of Israeli Poetry*, *A Naked Queen – An Anthology of Israeli Social Protest Poetry*. Gili also practices visual art, teaching creative writing in Israel and abroad and has a background as a writing focused intermodal arts therapist.

Vladimir Poleganov (Bulgaria)**Fiction writer, screenwriter, translator**

Vladimir Poleganov is a Bulgarian writer, translator, and screenwriter. He is the author of one collection of short stories, *The Deconstruction of Thomas S* (St. Kliment Ohridski University Press, 2013) and one novel, *The Other Dream* (Colibri, 2016) for which he won the Helikon Prize for Best Fiction Book of the Year in 2017. His short stories have appeared in various literary magazines in Bulgaria and abroad. "The Birds", a short story, was featured in Dalkey Archive Press' anthology *Best European Fiction 2016*. In 2016, he participated in the University of Iowa's International Writing Program. He has translated novels by writers such as Thomas Pynchon, Octavia E. Butler, and George Saunders into Bulgarian. He is currently working on a PhD in Bulgarian literature at Sofia University where he also teaches a course on fantastic literature.