

The Fifteenth Edition of the Sopot by the Book Festival: An Anniversary Celebrating Portuguese-Language Literature and Culture

Spanning four days and taking place across one city, dozens of events will transform Sopot into Poland's literary capital for the fifteenth time. This special anniversary edition of the International Sopot by the Book Festival will take place from 20 to 23 August. The programme includes author talks, debates, workshops, film screenings, staged readings, a book fair, and events for children and young people, to name a few.

This year's festival is of special significance. It is celebrating its fifteenth anniversary, reaffirming its position as one of the country's most important literary events. Over the years, it has become a venue for meetings with acclaimed writers from around the world, as well as a space for discussions on literature and significant social issues.

The main theme of this anniversary edition is the literature and culture of Portuguese-speaking countries. The organisers have invited authors from Portugal and Brazil to come to Sopot: **Paulo Scott, Michel Laub, Itamar Vieira Junior, Afonso Cruz, José Luís Peixoto, and Gonçalo M. Tavares**. The guest line-up will also feature comic book artists: **André F. Morgado, Pedro Moura, and André Oliveira**. One of the most important contemporary African writers, **Mia Couto**, will also join the event online.

'For fifteen years, Sopot by the Book has been introducing readers to literature that does not always feature in mainstream discourse,' says Marta Czarnecka, the festival's director. 'This year's edition, which is dedicated to Portuguese-speaking countries, invites readers to discover writers who tell stories about the contemporary world in Portuguese from different geographical, social, and cultural perspectives,' she explains. 'Portuguese-language literature cannot be confined to a single narrative. We are keen to showcase its diversity, from Portugal to Brazil to Mozambique.'

As in previous years, the festival will welcome some of Poland's leading authors, including **Wojciech Tochman, Magdalena Tulli, Radek Rak, Zyta Rudzka, Maciej Płaza, Agata Romaniuk, Wojciech Nowicki, Ishbel Szatrawska, Paweł Rzewuski, Antonina Tosiek, Maciej Sieńczyk, and Magdalena Grochowska**. They will appear in segments that are already popular with the audience: **Us, Debuts, Returns, Nogaś in the Park, Miscellanea, and Young Adult by the Book**. New to this year's festival is the **Different Worlds** series, dedicated to novels and literary fiction. Meanwhile, the **About Comics, About SF/Fantasy, and About Crime Fiction** sections will be joined by a new one: **About Biographies**.

There will also be plenty of **book launches**. During the Sopot by the Book festival, events will be held to celebrate the latest works by **Katarzyna Surmiak-Domańska, *Świat przed nami nie istniał. Jak wojna zamieszkała w naszych domach* (Agora); Agnieszka Dauksza, *Niedaleko pada granat od jabłoni* (Karakter); and Julia Voss, *Hilma***

af Klint: A Biography (Polish trans. by Agata Teperek, Smak Słowa; English trans. by Anne Posten, University of Chicago Press).

Discussions will occupy an important place in the programme. Every year, they provide a platform for exploring the most significant social, historical, and cultural issues. **Kacper Dziekan, Raquel Lima, and Michelle Sales** will discuss the legacy of colonialism and its impact on contemporary societies and collective memory. **Joanna Cichocka-Gula** will host a discussion entitled 'The Spirits of Our Ancestors'. The session 'Passion according to Clarice: Women's Writing in the Portuguese-Speaking World' will focus on the work of Clarice Lispector and the contribution of Portuguese-speaking female authors to modern literature. **Gabriel Borowski, Wojciech Charchalis, and Natalia Inês Klidzio** have been invited to participate in the panel discussion, which will be hosted by **Dagny Kurdwanowska**. Another discussion, 'The Genealogy of Polish Feminism: Anna Świrszczyńska', will focus on the poet's work and its place in literary history. **Paulina Małochleb** will be joined by **Anna Marchewka, Joanna Mueller, and Katarzyna Szopa**. The anniversary of the Sopot by the Book Festival will prompt reflections on the future of literary festivals in Poland and the challenges facing organisers of such events today. Participants in the discussion 'About the Future of Literary Festivals' will include **Marta Czarnecka, Katarzyna Komar-Macyńska, and Katarzyna Krawczyk**. **Justyna Sobolewska** will host the discussion.

Literature will also be featured on stage during the festival. As part of the **Theatre by the Book** series, there will be a reading of an adaptation of **Grzegorz Łyś's** reportage *Bzik kolonialny: II Rzeczypospolitej przypadki zamorskie*, which will be directed by **Adam Nalepa** and produced in collaboration with the Sopot Non-Fiction Festival. The second scheduled event is a staged reading of **Tiago Rodrigues's** play *Catarina and the Beauty of Killing Fascists*, translated by **Alicja Bzura** and directed by **Tomasz Fryzeł**.

Although the festival's events are held at various locations around the city, the historic villa at 3 Goyki Street remains the heart of Sopot by the Book. Attractions awaiting visitors include **Bird Radio's** morning programmes and screenings of Portuguese-language films as part of the **Film by the Book** series. As part of **Art by the Book**, *Eleven Spirits*, an installation created by Portuguese artist **Inês Brites**, will be on display in Goyki Park throughout the festival.

The programme will feature activities designed for children and their carers. As part of **Sopot by the Book for Kids**, there will be family reading sessions and creative workshops drawing inspiration from Portuguese children's literature. The **Parents' Book Club** will also be returning this year.

Other highlights include **Translators on Duty, Workshops by the Book, a Quiz by the Book, Secret Trysts, the Festival Book Club, a historical and nature walk, a Literary Urban Game**, and a new addition: the **Silent Disco**.

The festival will also feature a **book fair**. The following publishers will present their publications at stands located in Friends' Square (Plac Przyjaciół Sopotu): Wydawnictwo

Afera, Wydawnictwo Agora, Wydawnictwo Akapit Press, Wydawnictwo Amaltea, Wydawnictwo ArtRage, Wydawnictwo BOSZ, Wydawnictwo Claroscuro, Wydawnictwo Czarne, Wydawnictwo CzuCzu, Gdańskie Wydawnictwo Psychologiczne, Goyki 3 Art Inkubator, Camões Institute, Wydawnictwo Kameleon, Wydawnictwo Książkowe Klimaty, Wydawnictwo Kultura Gniewu, Wydawnictwo Literackie, Wydawnictwo Marginesy, Wydawnictwo Marpress, Wydawnictwo Mięta, Muzeum Sopotu / Miejska Biblioteka Publiczna w Sopocie (Sopot Museum / Sopot Public Library), Wydawnictwo Muza, Nadbałtyckie Centrum Kultury w Gdańsku (Baltic Sea Cultural Centre in Gdańsk), Wydawnictwo NISZA, Wydawnictwo Obierki, Wydawnictwo Pauza, Wydawnictwo Poznańskie, Wydawnictwo Smak Słowa, Wydawnictwo Sonia Draga, Wydawnictwo Debit, Wydawnictwo timof comics, Wydawnictwo Tu się czyta, Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Gdańskiego (University of Gdańsk Press), Wydawnictwo Wojewódzkiej i Miejskiej Biblioteki Publicznej w Gdańsku (Provincial and City Public Library in Gdańsk), Wydawnictwo Zakamarki, and Wydawnictwo ZNAK.

A detailed programme of the festival is available at the link below:
www.literackisopot.pl/events

Meetings and discussions will be interpreted into Polish Sign Language.

Organisers: Goyki 3 Art Inkubator and the City of Sopot.

Patronage: The European Parliament, the Camões Institute, The Directorate-General for Books, Archives and Libraries (DGLAB), the Brazilian Embassy in Warsaw, and ZAiKS.

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www.literackisopot.pl

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www.youtube.com/goyki3