

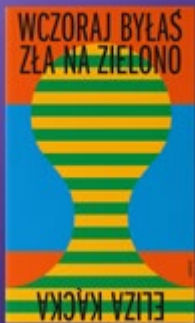


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LITERARY MEMOIR

Yesterday You Were Angry in Green

ELIZA KĄCKA

I knew I always had to be ready for the wild, weird scenario. And that we had to stick together in it.

This autobiographical prose is uncompromising and bravura. It is a story about the double experience of a certain otherness and of not fitting into a socially imposed framework. About the painstaking but beautiful process of building a difficult, non-obvious relationship. About being a mother and a daughter. About life leeway, performing the world and dredging up knowledge. About courage; about love. About living in a cocoon and emerging as a butterfly. About how much words can mean and what it's like to see them in colour.

Eliza Kącka (b. 1982) is a writer, literary scholar, critic. Author of prose books, essays, academic books and selections of poems. A columnist and contributor to the weekly *Tygodnik Powszechny*, member of the jury of the Gdynia Literary Prize.

ORIGINAL TITLE: W CZORAJ BYŁAŚ ZŁA NA ZIELONO
YEAR: 2024 · PAGES: 288

NIKE LITERARY PRIZE 2025 SHORTLIST
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ESSAY

Watch Your Step. On Collecting

KORA TEA KOWALSKA

This fascinating essay explores what makes us more willing to place certain objects in museum or private display cases than others. The author proposes her own rules for collecting, only to immediately mock them. Drawing on her experiences and wanderings around the outskirts and basements of her native Gdańsk, she reveals the abstract beauty of decaying objects sinking into entropy.

She sees in things the afterimage of the old world. She uncovers stories hidden in trifles, and their interconnections enable her to reconstruct fragments of ordinary people's lives. These stories remind us that things are not always what they seem and that you can't have everything.

Kora Tea Kowalska (b. 1984) is an archaeologist, cultural studies scholar, and academic lecturer, specializing in the theory and practice of collecting. She co-creates collections, cultural projects, exhibitions, and art installations. Author of texts on the history of material culture and the history of design. She collects discarded and obscure items and is an expert on a television program about antiques and collectors. Instagram profile: @odrzeczysklad.

ORIGINAL TITLE: PATRZ POD NOGI · YEAR: 2024 · PAGES: 256
PRIZES: NIKE LITERARY AWARD 2025 SHORTLIST · GDYNIA LITERARY
PRIZE 2025 SHORTLIST
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LITERARY MEMOIR

Things I Didn't Throw Out

MARCIN WICHA

What remains after the death of a loved one? Objects, memories, fragments of sentences? The narrator organises the books and objects left behind by his late mother. At the same time, he reconstructs her image – a strong woman who knew how to live according to her own rules in the Polish People's Republic and then in the capitalist reality. Sensitive to words, she did not allow herself to be manipulated, in the daily struggle for respect – she did not give up. She was tough. She was courageous.

Marcin Wicha (1972–2025) was a graphic designer and a writer. He designed covers, posters and logotypes. His texts appeared in various literary journals. Author of children's books, essays and collections of columns. His books have been translated into over a dozen languages and have been adapted for the stage.

ORIGINAL TITLE: RZECZY, KTÓRYCH NIE WYRZUCIŁEM

YEAR: 2017 · PAGES: 184

PRIZES: POLITYKA PASSPORT 2018 · NIKE LITERARY PRIZE 2018

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ESSAY / POLITICS

Gaza On the Culture of Extermination

PAWEŁ MOŚCICKI

The book is an attempt to consider how it is possible that not only did the Gaza genocide occur, but that it was supported and legitimized by the most important institutions and authorities of the West. The author posits that an entire culture had to be created for something like this to be possible, one whose mechanisms make genocide seem acceptable and do not elicit adequate reactions to its significance. The book uncovers the layers of this “culture of extermination,” reaching into history and the present. It draws on discussions about the legacy of the Holocaust and colonialism, current international politics, investigative journalism, and research into new technologies. From these various threads, it weaves together the first skeins of a new tradition, for which the ongoing genocide in Gaza represents a lesson that we clearly have not learned in the past.

Paweł Mościcki (b. 1981) is a philosopher and essayist; he works at the Institute of Literary Research of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Warsaw. Author of several books, of a visual atlas on migration (refugee-atlas.vnlab.org), and the blog pawelmoscicki.net. Host of the podcast *Another World*.

ORIGINAL TITLE: GAZA. RZECZ O KULTURZE EKSTERMINACJI
YEAR: 2025 · PAGES: 288 · RIGHTS AVAILABLE: WORLD



ESSAY / POLITICS

The Race Game How Capitalism Divides to Rule

PRZEMYSŁAW WIELGOSZ

We are used to interpreting racism as a set of stereotypes and prejudices. Przemysław Wielgosz offers a much deeper analysis of this phenomenon, looking for its roots in the long history of capitalism. In this fascinating book, he brings together two perspectives that have rarely been considered together: the local, relating to serfdom and the subsequent ‘racialisation’ of the working class in our part of Europe, and the global, relating to the development of slavery and the ‘invention of race’ in the North Atlantic basin. Moving freely between history and the present, drawing on studies in philosophy, sociology and economics, and - which gives the book its nerve - on familiar film images, the author shows how capitalism ‘divides and rules’, producing hierarchies and identity oppositions, and how it antagonises groups that could potentially oppose it together.

Przemysław Wielgosz (b. 1969) is a journalist, publisher and curator. Editor-in-chief of the Polish edition of ‘Le Monde diplomatique’ and of the book series: Library of Le Monde diplomatique and Library of Economic Alternatives. He has published broadly in many Polish and international journals.

ORIGINAL TITLE: GRA W RASY · YEAR: 2021 · PAGES: 336
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ESSAY / ARCHITECTURE

The Gray Hour Time for a New Architecture

FILIP SPRINGER

‘I sometimes wonder why we talk so much about air travel, clothing chains, plastic straws and electric cars, and so little about buildings. Suffice it to say that the carbon footprint resulting from the construction, use and eventual dismantling of buildings accounts for around 40 per cent of global emissions,’ writes Filip Springer in his latest essay. So it’s time to ask how architecture should change in the face of environmental catastrophe. Should we be building at all? What kind of future are contemporary architects designing for us? What place should the environment have in design? Do we have the right to jeopardise our children’s future for the sake of our own comfort? And finally, who does architecture serve?

Filip Springer (b. 1982) is a writer and a photographer. Author of books on space and architecture. His books have been nominated for the most prestigious literary prizes in Poland and translated into English, German, Russian, Hungarian and Chinese.

ORIGINAL TITLE: SZARA GODZINA. CZAS NA NOWĄ ARCHITEKTURĘ
YEAR: 2024 · PAGES: 256 · RIGHTS AVAILABLE: WORLD



LITERARY REPORTAGE

Miedziąka History of a Disappearance

FILIP SPRINGER

The desire to uncover the truth about why Miedziąka, a provincial mountain-top town in Lower Silesia with a history stretching back 700 years, literally vanished from the face of the earth between the 1960s and 1980s, turns a journalistic search for documentary evidence into an existential quest of epic proportions. Was the town simply swallowed by the mountain beneath it, the victim of extra-ordinary geology, or was it deliberately demolished by politicians with dark secrets to hide? Written in the popular Polish reportage genre, rather than as literary fiction, the book nevertheless possesses many features of a thriller: mystery, tension, suspense, horror – all of which are admirably conveyed by the English translation. History of a Disappearance is a tale of traumatic loss for the people who once lived in Miedziąka.... The book's most significant achievement is therefore its restoration of individuals – not normally the focus of writers of history or ideologues of change. A town forgotten by the end of the 20th century has been resurrected.

Ursula Phillips, European Literature Network

ORIGINAL TITLE: MIEDZIĄKA. HISTORIA ZNIKANIA
YEAR: 2011 • PAGES: 272

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ESSAY

Renunciation

ZOFIA ZALESKA

In Western culture, activity is valued positively, while powerlessness is associated with illness. Those who refuse to act are viewed with suspicion. However, in a world of war and dramatic inequality – a world of excess and doubt – the category of renunciation becomes inspiring. It can also be an opportunity to preserve freedom and dignity.

The author creates a subjective catalogue of omissions. Among the figures featured in the book are Arthur Rimbaud, J.D. Salinger, the heroines of Elena Ferrante's prose, Roland Barthes, and anonymous women who do everything. Also included are Ralph Ellison and children affected by resignation syndrome. Examining their motivations provides an opportunity to reflect on contemporary culture and creative strategies in times that demand spasmodic activity.

Zofia Zaleska (b.1981) is a cultural studies scholar, regular contributor to the weekly *Tygodnik Powszechny* and biweekly *Dwutygodnik*.



LITERARY FICTION

Wiatracyjna Roundabout

MAREK BIEŃCZYK

The narrator of this ambiguous prose wanders the streets of Warsaw's Grochów district, following the paths of his own inspiration and imagination. It is difficult to discern what is pure fantasy, mystification, or a trace of memory. However, it is easy to fall into an undefined clearing, immerse oneself in a multitude of sounds and colors. There, one can meet the more or less ghostly characters that populate this microcosm. Bieńczyk creates a wonderful, Schulzian mythology of his neighborhood—unfinished and incomplete and therefore all the more demanding of a story. “This is what imagination needs once we understand that the place where we happen to live is final. As a kind of consolation or balance, it takes on depth and seems to reveal corridors leading back to the first generations of pterodactyls or bacteria beginning the difficult task of processing.”

Marek Bieńczyk (b. 1956) is a writer and translator of French literature. He has published over a dozen books, including novels, essays and wine chronicles. Recipient of numerous awards.

ORIGINAL TITLE: RONDO WIATRACZNA · YEAR: 2025 · PAGES: 288
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Recent acquisitions

Denis Johnson, *Angels, Tree of Smoke*

Raja Shehadeh & Penny Johnson, *Forgotten*

Mona Chollet, *Résister à la culpabilisation*

Chester Himes, *A Rage in Harlem, The Real Cool Killers*

Don Norman, *Emotional Design*

Barry Hannah, *Airships*

Silvia Federici, *Caliban and the Witch*

Violette Leduc, *L'Asphyxie*

Grégoire Chamayou, *Théorie du drone*

Elias Khoury, *Stella Maris*

Melanie Mitchell, *Artificial Intelligence*

Kōbō Abe, *Dai-Yon Kampyōki*

Eliot Weinberger, *Ghosts of Birds*

Frantz Fanon, *Les Damnés de la Terre*

James Baldwin, *complete œuvre*

Azar Nafisi, *Reading Dangerously, Reading Lolita in Teheran*

Didier Eribon, *Vie, vieillesse et mort d'une femme du peuple*

Achille Mbembe, *Brutalisme*

Begoña Gómez Urzaiz, *Las Abandonadoras*