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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

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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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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 ESSAY

My Muscles Come from Love. On Motherhood

PAULINA MAŁOCHLEB

Motherhood as a constant performance.

This is not a book about motherhood as a private experience or family as a safe haven. It is a book about shame as a tool of control, and about unacknowledged work that sustains all of social life. It is also the story of a family neglected by the state but well served by the market. It is about the body: giving birth, feeding, being tired and devoid of sublimity, yet caught up in the daily violence of norms, aesthetics and expectations.

Ultimately, however, Paulina Małochleb primarily talks about love – a feeling obscured by thick layers of fatigue for which there is no language. To access it, you must search literature, art and your own memories until you encounter a small, sweaty hand. A touch that anchors you.

Paulina Małochleb (b. 1982) is a researcher, lecturer, and literary critic known for her sharp wit. She has published in *Polityka*, *Krytyka Polityczna*, *dwutygodnik.com* among others. This is her literary debut.



ESSAY / POLITICS & SOCIETY

Weather for Revolutionaries. How to Change the World During a Catastrophe

PRZEMYSŁAW WIELGOSZ

Today's ideological climate is permeated by a fatalistic consensus: we are living in an era of decline. Things will not get better, we need to tighten our belts and cut back on our excessive expectations. The circumstances are indeed not encouraging, but the belief that this is the end of history is a dead end. We must place the decline of the world as we know it in history, look for similarities and analogies, find precedents, in short: make it part of history, not the end of it. By doing so, we demystify the current accumulation of crises, with global warming at the forefront, without downplaying their scale, origins, threats or the need to address them.

The key to demystification is using the past as a source of inspiration for the future. We should explore the history of societies in the face of climatic, economic, health, political etc. crises, regardless of whether they were caused by humans or not. While this perspective is less dramatic than narratives focused on melting glaciers, desertification and species extinction, it is more compelling and useful politically. After all, while the wrath of nature can, at most, paralyse us, the wrath caused by social injustice can help us to change the world.

ORIGINAL TITLE: POGODA DLA REWOLUCJONISTÓW ·
YEAR: 2026 · RIGHTS AVAILABLE: WORLD ·
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ESSAY / ARCHITECTURE

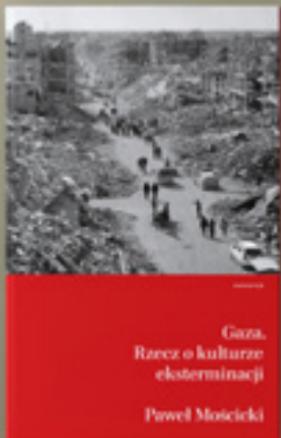
The Gray Hour. Time for a New Architecture

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



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



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

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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Recent acquisitions

Simone de Beauvoir, *Une mort très douce*

Claudia Rankine, *Citizen*

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*

Kōbō Abe, *Dai-Yon Kampyōki*

Eliot Weinberger, *Ghosts of Birds*

Frantz Fanon, *Les Damnés de la Terre*

James Baldwin, complete œuvre

Begoña Gómez Urzaiz, *Las Abandonadoras*