



Georgia
Made by Characters

Guest of Honour
Frankfurter Buchmesse 2018



10–14 October 2018
FRANKFURTER
BUCHMESSE
Guest of Honour Georgia

Georgia – Made by Characters

Georgia celebrates the opening of its 2018 literature programme in Leipzig
Press kit for the press conference at the Leipzig Book Fair, 15th March 2018

Contact

Press

Mirjam Flender, Kirsten Lehnert
c/o projekt2508 GmbH
Riesstraße 10
53113 Bonn, Germany
Tel: +49 228 184 967-24
press@georgia-characters.com

Guest of Honour Organisation

Ministry of Culture and Sport of Georgia
Georgian National Book Center
4 Sanapiro Str.
0105 Tbilisi, Georgia
Tel: +99 532 293 11 74
info@book.gov.ge

Facebook: facebook.com/Georgia-made-by-characters
Twitter: twitter.com/geo_characters
Instagram: instagram.com/georgian_characters/
Youtube: youtube.com/channel/UCG_qppTnXWPZ4YsSvCR0N2g

The digital press kit and images can be found in the press section of our website.



Georgia
Made by Characters

Guest of Honour
Frankfurter Buchmesse 2018



10–14 October 2018
FRANKFURTER
BUCHMESSE
Guest of Honour Georgia

Content

- Press release, 15th March 2018
Georgia celebrates the opening of its 2018 literature programme in Leipzig
- Statements, Speakers at the Press Conference, 15th March 2018
- Georgian authors in the German-speaking region (March 2018)
- Authors and Books in the German Language
- List publishing houses
- Literature Programme – Made by Characters
- Translation Programme of Georgian National Book Center
- The cultural programme – Made by Characters
- Facts and Figures
- The Guest of Honour Team
- Partners and Sponsors

Background information

The Georgian Alphabet: Unique World Heritage

Georgian Literature in short

The Book Market in Georgia



Georgia
Made by Characters
Guest of Honour
Frankfurter Buchmesse 2018



10–14 October 2018
FRANKFURTER
BUCHMESSE
Guest of Honour Georgia

Press release, 15th March 2018

Georgia celebrates the opening of its 2018 literature programme in Leipzig

Guest of Honour at the Frankfurter Buchmesse will present new books and authors from Georgia

Frankfurt / Leipzig, 15 March 2018 – “Georgia – Made by Characters” is the motto for this year’s Guest of Honour at the Frankfurter Buchmesse (10-14 October 2018). Georgia celebrates the launch of its 2018 literature programme in Leipzig and presents some of its characters – with 22 Georgian authors and 22 books translated into German, plus around 40 events at the exhibition grounds and in the city of Leipzig. The programme is organised by the Georgian National Book Center and is supported by the Georgian Ministry of Culture and Sport, the Konrad Adenauer Foundation as well as German and Georgian publishers.

Fans of literature can look forward to around 150 events across Germany, Austria and Switzerland over the coming months – including presentations and readings of fiction and non-fiction, poetry and prose, which offer an insight into the many different facets of Georgian literature. At today’s press conference, the organisers presented the latest new releases as well as the extensive March programme due to take place in cities including Cologne, Leipzig, Berlin, Frankfurt, Halle, Vienna and Salzburg.

“We are delighted that Georgia, our Guest of Honour, is celebrating the start of its literary and cultural year with the title ‘Georgia made by Characters’ here in Leipzig,” said Juergen Boos, Director of the Frankfurter Buchmesse. “Georgia represents a threshold between Europe and Asia. It lies on the old trade routes between north and south, and has therefore been the centre of centuries of continuous exchange. At the same time, a rich language and unique culture have also been preserved in the country, and these have inspired and shaped the identity of generations of writers. Georgia’s Guest of Honour presentation is accompanied by a large number of new publications, and here in Leipzig there will be a host of young literary talents to discover – talents who see themselves as being rooted in their country’s great tradition. I’m really looking forward to seeing which ‘characters’ will capture the imaginations of our visitors from around the world.”

“We want to use literature and encounters with our authors to present our country – in which numerous cultures have been living together for centuries – to people in the German-speaking world,” explained Mikheil Giorgadze, Georgia’s Minister for Culture and Sport and Project Director of the Guest of Honour appearance. “With the Georgian ‘Characters’, we are not just presenting the letters of our unique alphabet, which has been listed as an Intangible Cultural Heritage by UNESCO and which symbolises the individuality and identity of our nation, but also the writers, who have recorded their stories in this script and who reflect the country and its literary scene. We are really pleased that so many interesting personalities will be coming to Germany in the spring as ambassadors for Georgian culture and literature”, continued Giorgadze.



Georgia
Made by Characters
Guest of Honour
Frankfurter Buchmesse 2018



Georgian authors introduce themselves

After the Leipzig Book Fair, Georgian authors will start their tour to German-speaking countries to present their new books. The 22 authors who are visiting Leipzig include Aka Morchiladze – one of the most famous contemporary authors in Georgian literature. Two titles written by him, from up to 30, have so far been published in German: Santa Esperanza and Reise nach Karabach (Journey to Karabakh). Following his appearances at the Leipzig Book Fair (15–18 March), he will embark on a reading tour of Berlin, Halle and Frankfurt. The same is true of Lasha Bugadze, who is always in the spotlight thanks to his sharp social and political satire. Following his appearance in Leipzig, he will be presenting his book LUCRECIA515, which was published last autumn, in Cologne on 24 March. As for Ekaterine Togonidze, her writing focuses on people with disabilities, as well as their discrimination by the wider society, and provokes discussions on the topic. She will be presenting her latest book, Einsame Schwestern (The Lonely Sisters), in Leipzig, as well as in Berlin, Vienna and Salzburg. Lewan Berdsenishvili, former director of the Georgian National Library and Professor of Ancient Literature at the University of Tbilisi, will come to Leipzig too. He describes his time as a political prisoner in his book Heiliges Dunkel – Die letzten Tage des Gulag (The Holy Darkness – the Last Days of the Gulag). He was incarcerated in a prison camp from 1984 to 1987 as a result of his “anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda”. And Dato Barbakadze will visit the Leipzig Book Fair, presenting his new book Das Gebet (The Prayer) in Berlin afterwards. Nino Kharatishvili, a German-based author and playwright, will be in Leipzig as an ambassador for Georgian culture. “Georgian authors, filmmakers, musicians etc have managed to bring Georgia back onto the European cultural map and to draw attention to it”, she said. “The Guest of Honour appearance 2018 is the biggest proof of this. It is all the more important to use this opportunity properly – to be open and honest and, on the contrary, to hide nothing – to tell all the ambivalent, fragile stories that bring us closer to the European audience. Because connections are seldom sought in straightforwardness and perfection, but rather in human ambivalence, which of course every political, social, historical narrative contains.”

Other authors making an appearance in Leipzig include: Rati Amaglobeli, Diana Anphimiadi, Luka Bakanidze, Zaza Burchuladze, Kote Dschandieri, Rewas Gatschetschiladse, Nato Ingorokva, Zurab Karumidze, Besik Kharanauli, Zurab Rtvelashvili, Nino Sadghobelashvili, Bondo Matsaberidze, Nika Jorjaneli and Irma Shiolashvili. As a collaboration of two Guest of Honour countries at Frankfurter Buchmesse, Aleko Shugladze and Beso Khvedelidze will pitch their books together with two Norwegian authors in front of German publishers.

In addition to the Leipzig Book Fair, Georgian writers will be attending numerous readings and literary festivals between now and the autumn. They include the international literature festival in Berlin, “Poetry on the Road” in Bremen, the Literaturpflaster in Bad Berleburg, the lit.RUHR international literary festival and the Literaturtage Festival in Zofingen.



Georgia
Made by Characters
Guest of Honour
Frankfurter Buchmesse 2018



10–14 October 2018
FRANKFURTER
BUCHMESSE
Guest of Honour Georgia

New books – as diverse as the country itself

The latest releases reflect the rich diversity of the country between the traditional cultural nation, the Soviet occupation and independence. The scope spans from the great story of love (Zurab Karumidze – Dagny oder Ein Fest der Liebe / Dagny or A Love Feast) to the high-spirited caricature of the final stages of the Soviet Union (Rezo Chcheishvili – Die Himmelblauen Berge / The Sky-Blue Mountains); from a collection of fairytales (Der König, der nicht lachen konnte / The King who Couldn't Laugh) to a poetry anthology (Kartoffelernte / Potato Harvest) and to a historical encyclopaedia (Rewas Gatschetschiladse / Georgien im weltpolitischen Kontext / Georgia within the Geo-Political Context). With Avelum and Der Korb / The Basket two books of Otar Chiladze, a great Georgian classic, will be translated. And with a new prose version of Der Recke im Tigerfell / The Man in the Panther's Skin of Shota Rustaveli, one of the most important literary monuments of the 12th century, will be retold.

"What is Georgian literature? The literature of a small nation that has accumulated a lot of things to say to the world. A literature with a strong tradition, very varied, open to innovations and at the same time self-sufficient. It is a literature based on the experiences and trials of many centuries, and which is developing step by step alongside modern world literature. In other words, this literature gives us a clear picture of the character of the nation that is producing it. We are thrilled to be able to work together with 60 German-speaking publishers to generate interest in Georgian literature, our stories and, of course, our authors," explains Medea Metreveli, director of the Georgian National Book Center (GNBC). "65 books have been already published in the German language from 2011 to 2017. In 2018 around 60 new German translations will be published as well – it is a great opportunity to present our literary heritage to the German-speaking world."

Art and Culture – Made by Characters

Thanks to the extensive programme of events, featuring exhibitions, music, plays and film screenings, people in Germany can experience a whole host of cultural offerings from Georgia. The programme combines the best of prehistoric, ancient and contemporary art, photography, architecture, design, typography and illustration – examples include an exhibition on the remains of the 1.8 million-year-old hominid of Dmanisi, as well as a show featuring archaeological findings and antique works of art concerning the myth of the Argonauts.

At the Leipzig Book Fair you will find the Georgian National Book Center in hall 4, stand D309.



Georgia
Made by Characters
Guest of Honour
Frankfurter Buchmesse 2018

10–14 October 2018
**FRANKFURTER
BUCHMESSE**
Guest of Honour Georgia

Statements, Speakers at the Press Conference, 15th March 2018



“We are delighted that Georgia, our Guest of Honour, is celebrating the start of its literary and cultural year under the motto ‘Georgia made by Characters’ here in Leipzig. Georgia represents a threshold between Europe and Asia. It lies on the old trade routes between north and south, and has therefore been the centre of centuries of continuous exchange. At the same time, a rich language and unique culture have also been preserved in the country, and these have inspired and shaped the identity of generations of writers. Georgia’s guest country presentation is accompanied by a large number of new publications, and here in Leipzig there will be a host of young literary talents to discover – talents who see themselves as being rooted in their country’s great tradition. I’m really looking forward to seeing which ‘characters’ will capture the imaginations of our visitors from around the world”

Juergen Boos, President of the Frankfurter Buchmesse



„Georgia is privileged to be represented at Leipzig Book Fair. We are full of enthusiasm having an opportunity of being with you here today. Book – digital or printed symbolizes knowledge, wisdom, emotions and energy to me. Sometimes, discovering new author or new book may be a life-changing experience. Leipzig Book Fair is a classic example of the above said. Starting in Spring 2018 we plan in total about 100 cultural events in 8 German cities. Frankfurter Buchmesse will be the culmination of it. Frankfurter Buchmesse is the largest international literary event that fills guests with unforgettable emotions. I’m proud of the fact, that among hundreds of guests, Georgia and Georgian literature will be in focus. And my pride is legitimate, as Frankfurter Buchmesse with a tradition that spans for more than 500 years, is one of the best platforms for the country, to showcase itself, as well as for the writers, to present their creations to the wide public. It has been four years, since an agreement has been signed and Georgia has been proclaimed as a Guest of Honour country of this marvelous international event. A lot has changed during this period. Georgian publishers and writers managed to translate their works to different languages and to deliver their messages to foreign and German readers amongst them. Last year was a turning point for our country, as visa free travel was granted to Georgia and thus got closer to its historical roots – European Family. Throughout the year my country will have an extraordinary opportunity to promote Georgian Culture and showcase its virtues all around Germany, Austria and German speaking part of Switzerland. Through specially designed programme, European audience will be offered musical performances representing variety of genres, with the participation of the world-famous Georgian performers like Katie Melua, Liza Batishvili, Sukhishvili National Ballet and many more. Our artists will be also



Georgia
Made by Characters
Guest of Honour
Frankfurter Buchmesse 2018

10–14 October 2018
**FRANKFURTER
BUCHMESSE**
Guest of Honour Georgia

presented at River Bank Festival. Raising international awareness on Georgia will play a crucial role in encouraging Georgia's European integration process. 2018 is a symbolic year from the point of Georgian-German relations as well. 200 years ago, first German settlements appeared in Georgia; 26 years ago; diplomatic relations between the two countries were established and 2018 will mark 100th anniversary since Germany has recognized independence of the First Democratic Republic of Georgia. Germany was the first country to recognize independence of Georgia in 1991 and shared an aspiration of Georgian people to be free. We constantly feel Germany's firm support in political, economic and cultural domains. I would like to sincerely thank Leipzig Book Fair giving us this opportunity to speak with you today.

Mikheil Giorgadze, *Minister of Culture and Sport of Georgia,*
Project Director Guest of Honour



"Many countries have already a honour to be guests at the Frankfurter Buchmesse and many others will have opportunity to present their literature and culture at this very important platform. All of them have different missions and stories to tell. The main reason why Guest of Honour project is so interesting and colorful is because the communication language of all countries is so diverse and unique.

With the Guest of Honour appearance, for the first time, Georgian authors and their books have the opportunity to overcome the huge language barriers and find readers in different countries of the world. The fact that Georgian literature is scarcely known in other countries is due to many historical circumstances during our recent history. Under the Soviet occupation between 1921 and 1991, Georgian literature was translated only very sporadically. Since independence, Georgian literature has succeeded in regaining its great literary tradition, which is so rich in genres, while also establishing its own identity in an entirely different and experimental way. Our presentation shall be our response to the challenges set by the modern world. It is the response of a country as small as ours, a country that wants to share its historical and cultural experiences with the whole world.

Despite geo-political processes, historic and cultural memory of our people perceived their homeland as inseparable part of world of western democratic values and, being at the crossroads of western and eastern civilizations, we tried to preserve our identity, character, language and culture. This is the story behind of our presentation which will be told to you through our alphabet.

„Nothing in Georgia is so like Georgia as the Georgian alphabet. Nothing suits Georgian words and Georgian moods so well as the Georgian alphabet does, and nothing is so Georgian as the Georgian alphabet'. These words belong to Georgian writer Aka Morchiladze. Yes, because Georgian Alphabet and Language were and remain one of the strongest mechanisms for preserving for all times Georgia's existence."

Medea Metreveli, *Director of the Georgian National Book Center*

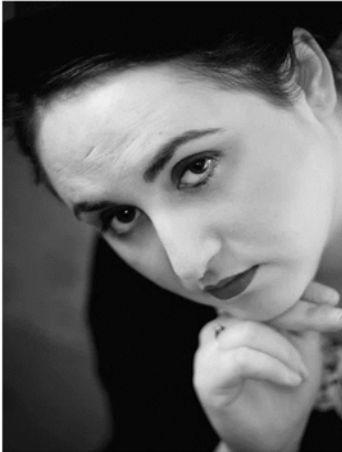


Georgia
Made by Characters

Guest of Honour
Frankfurter Buchmesse 2018



10–14 October 2018
**FRANKFURTER
BUCHMESSE**
Guest of Honour Georgia



„Being the Guest of Honour at the Frankfurter Buchmesse 2018 is a tremendous opportunity for Georgian literature and Georgian culture in general. When I moved to Germany in 2003 nobody knew where Georgia was. I constantly had to explain that this is not the US state or a Russian province. The fact that in this country I hear again and again that someone would like to travel to Georgia or really does it, and the desire for exchange and curiosity for the small country are the proof of what the culture is able to afford what power she has and how important she is. I am convinced that this interest is primarily due to the work of many individuals and especially cultural workers. Georgian authors, filmmakers, musicians etc have managed to bring Georgia back to the European cultural map and to draw attention to it. The Guest of Honour appearance 2018 is the biggest proof of this. It is all the more important to use this opportunity properly – to be open and honest, to hide nothing, on the contrary – to tell all the ambivalent, fragile stories that bring us closer to the European audience. Because the connections are seldom sought in the straightforwardness and perfection, but in the human ambivalence, which every political, social, historical narrative contains.“

Nino Kharatishvili, *writer, playwright*



Georgia
Made by Characters
Guest of Honour
Frankfurter Buchmesse 2018

10–14 October 2018
**FRANKFURTER
BUCHMESSE**
Guest of Honour Georgia

Georgian authors in the German-speaking region (March 2018)

Aka Morchiladze



Aka Morchiladze, a pseudonym of Giorgi Akhvdiani (born 1966 in Tbilisi), is without doubt one of the most famous authors of contemporary Georgian literature. Like his favourite writer Milorad Pavič, Aka Morchiladze is convinced that a novel's plot does not have to run from the beginning to the end of the book. He shares his theory of the emancipated reader with Umberto Eco. Aka Morchiladze studied history at Tbilisi State University, where he later taught the same subject. He has published over 20 novels and two volumes of short stories. He has been awarded numerous literary prizes in Georgia, and was awarded the SABA prize for the best novel of the year in 2011 for *Obolé*. He lives and works in London.

Latest books:

Santa Esperanza, Mitteldeutscher Verlag, 2018

Reise nach Karabach (engl. title: *Journey to Karabakh*), Weidle Verlag, 2018

Appearing in Leipzig: 15th - 18th March; in Berlin: 19th - 21st March; in Frankfurt: 22nd - 23rd March

Events:

Friday 16th March, 5pm, Leipzig Book Fair, Forum OstSüdOst, Hall 4, Stand D401

Georgian Script and Typography, with Aka Morchiladze and Michael Hechinger

Presented by: Jonas Löffler

Published by: Buske Verlag, 2018

Saturday 17th March, 10:30pm, Leipzig Book Fair,

Forum Literatur, Hall 5, Stand K600

Book presentation: *Santa Esperanza*

Presented by: Jan Wiele

Saturday 17th March, 2:30pm, Leipzig Book Fair, Hall 5, H 408

Aka Morchiladze on the Red Sofa

Presented by: Doris Akrap



Georgia
Made by Characters
 Guest of Honour
 Frankfurter Buchmesse 2018

10–14 October 2018
FRANKFURTER
BUCHMESSE
 Guest of Honour Georgia

Saturday 17th March, 7pm, Café Bau Bau,
 Karl-Tauchnitz-Straße 9-11, 04107 Leipzig
 An evening with Aka Morchiladze
 Presentation: *Santa Esperanza / Reise nach Karabach*
 Presented by: Jan Wiele

Sunday 18th March, 11:30pm, Leipzig Book Fair, Forum
 Literatur, Hall 5: Stand K600
 Presentation: *Reise nach Karabach*
 Presented by: Stefan Weidle

Tuesday 20th March, 8pm, Der Zauberberg bookshop,
 Bundesallee 133, 12161 Berlin
 Presentation / reading: *Reise nach Karabach*
 Presented by: Stefan Weidle

Thursday 22nd March, 7:30pm, Weltenleser bookshop,
 Oeder Weg 40, 60318 Frankfurt am Main
 Presentation: *Santa Esperanza / Reise nach Karabach*
 Presented by: Manana Tandashvili

Amaghlobeli, Rati



Rati Amaghlobeli (born in 1977 in Tbilisi) is a master of experimental poetry. His readings, which are often accompanied by electronic music, have made him a star of Georgia's contemporary literary scene and he is a popular guest at international literature festivals. Rati Amaghlobeli co-founded the SABA literature project in 2003 and has been director of the project ever since. This project is responsible for presenting the most important literary prize in Georgia. He was president of the Georgian P.E.N. Centre between 2011 and 2018. He holds weekly public lectures about poetry on literary programmes and at events. Although the poet pushes the boundary between sound and semantics to its limit, he never goes so far as to reduce the poem to pure sounds.

Appearing in Leipzig: 15th - 17th March

Events:

Friday 16th March, 7pm, naTo,
 Karl-Liebknecht-Straße 46, 04275 Leipzig
New literature from Georgia
 Lasha Bugadze, Zaza Burchuladze, Rati Amaghlobeli



Georgia
Made by Characters
 Guest of Honour
 Frankfurter Buchmesse 2018

10–14 October 2018
FRANKFURTER
BUCHMESSE
 Guest of Honour Georgia

Readings with musical performance
 Music: Gogi Dzodzuashvili
 Presented by: Nino Kharatishvili

Friday 16th March, 3 pm, Leipzig Book Fair, Hall 5 G406,
 Stand: Neues Deutschland
Georgia on my mind: Literatur im Grenzland (Georgia on my mind: Literature in the border country)
 Rati Amaghlobeli
 Dayeli Verlag, 2018

Anphimiadi, Diana



Diana Anphimiadi (born in 1982 in Tbilisi) studied linguistics at Tbilisi State University. She is currently writing her doctoral thesis on comparative literature and corpus linguistics. Her books have won multiple awards. Her poems have been translated into English, Greek, German and Russian. As a linguist, Diana Anphimiadi deals with the instrument of language in various different ways. She avoids interpretations and onomatopoeic language. She is also well-versed in the history of literature – from mythology to modern literature. She reflects her Greek origins in a unique way through her poetry.

Latest book:

Wahrsagen durch Marmelade (engl. translation: Fortune-Telling through Jam), Wieser Verlag, 2017

Appearing in Leipzig: 16th - 19th March

Events:

Saturday 17th March, 9pm

Schaubühne Lindenfels, Grüner Salon,
 Karl-Heine-Straße 50, 04229 Leipzig

Readings: *Balkan meets Caucasus* (The Balkans meet the Caucasus) with Diana Anphimiadi & Sebastian Pregel

Presented by: Erika Hornbogner, Lojze Wieser

Sunday 18th March, 2:30pm

Leipzig Book Fair, Forum OstSüdOst, Hall 4, Stand D401

Book presentation: *Wahrsagen durch Marmelade*

Presented by: Erika Hornbogner, Lojze Wieser



Georgia
Made by Characters
Guest of Honour
Frankfurter Buchmesse 2018

10–14 October 2018
**FRANKFURTER
BUCHMESSE**
Guest of Honour Georgia

Bakanidze, Luka



Luka Bakanidze (born in 1982 in Tbilisi) is not just an author and a journalist; he is also one of the best fishermen amongst the Georgian writers. He is part of the Georgian literary scene thanks to his poems. He received his first literary recognition through his writing in the *Literaturuli Palitra* journal, thanks to his authentic style and extraordinary subject matter. He won the important Georgian literary prize SABA 2017 for his volume of stories entitled *Wo bist Du, Lazar* (engl. translation: *Where are you, Lazar?*)

Latest book:

Das dritte Ufer (engl. translation: *The Third Shore*)

KLAK Verlag, 2018

Appearing in Leipzig: 16th - 18th March

Event:

Saturday 17th March, 1pm, Leipzig Book Fair,
Forum OstSüdOst: Hall 4, Stand D401

Book presentation: *Das dritte Ufer*

Presented by: Jörg Becken

Barbakadse, Dato



Dato Barbakadse (born in 1966 in Tbilisi) is a writer, essayist and translator. He has won several awards and scholarships for his literary work and translations, which span over 30 published books and numerous articles in literary journals and anthologies. He worked in Germany as a freelance writer between 2002 and 2005, whilst also studying philosophy, sociology and ancient history at the University of Münster. He is a member of the European Authors' Association *Die Kogge* and the Austrian P.E.N. Club.

Latest book:

Das Gebet (engl. translation: *The Prayer*)

Pop Verlag, 2018

Appearing in Leipzig: 18th March; in Berlin: 19th/20th March

Events:

Sunday 18th March, 11am, Leipzig Book Fair,
Forum OstSüdOst: Hall 4, Romanian stand E501

Romanian-Georgian Literary Congress

Dato Barbakadse, Steffi Chotiwari, Maja Lisowski, Traian Pop
and Barbara Zeizinger, Presented by: Horst Samson



Georgia
Made by Characters
Guest of Honour
Frankfurter Buchmesse 2018

10–14 October 2018
FRANKFURTER
BUCHMESSE
Guest of Honour Georgia

Monday 19th March, 7:30pm, Fantom e.V. – Netzwerk für Kunst und Geschichte(n) Hektorstraße 9-10, 10711 Berlin
Book presentation: *Das Gebet* (Poetry anthology)
Presented by: Traian Pop

Tuesday 20th March, 6pm, Humboldt University of Berlin, Room 535, Unter den Linden 6, 10099 Berlin
Book presentation: *Das Gebet, Man spricht nicht über den Tod* (engl. translation: *You Don't Talk about Death*), *So liebte man in Georgien* (engl. translation: *This is How You Showed Love in Georgia*), Presented by: Steffi Chotiwari-Jünger

Berdzenishvili, Levan



Levan Berdzenishvili (born in 1953 in Batumi) studied classical philology and wrote his doctoral thesis on Aristophanes. He was director of the Georgian National Library and a lecturer in ancient literature at Tbilisi State University. He was incarcerated in a prison camp from 1984 to 1987 as a result of his "anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda". He has been involved in politics since 1996 and is a member of the Georgian Parliament. Berdzenishvili has written numerous books and essays.

Latest book:

Heiliges Dunkel – Die letzten Tage des Gulag (engl. translation: *The Holy Darkness – the Last Days of the Gulag*)
Mitteldeutscher Verlag, 2018

Appearing in Leipzig: 14th - 16th March

Events:

Thursday 15th March, 2:30pm, Leipzig Book Fair,
Forum Literatur, Hall 5, Stand K600
Book presentation: *Heiliges Dunkel*
Presented by: Roman Pliske



Georgia
Made by Characters

Guest of Honour
Frankfurter Buchmesse 2018

10–14 October 2018
**FRANKFURTER
BUCHMESSE**
Guest of Honour Georgia

Bugadze, Lasha



Lasha Bugadze (born in 1977 in Tbilisi) has been an interesting figure within society for many years thanks to his sharp social and political satire. His work is appreciated to a varying degree. In 2001, he published his novella *Der erste Russe* (engl. translation: *The First Russian*), which caused a serious scandal and outraged the clergy. This event inspired him to write a new novel, which will be published in 2018 by the Frankfurter Verlagsanstalt. As a result, the topic of censorship is of extreme importance to the author. Lasha Bugadze has been presenting a television programme on this subject for many years, and also published a book based on the issues discussed in the programme.

Latest book:

LUCRECIA515

Frankfurter Verlagsanstalt, 2017

Appearing in Leipzig: 15th - 17th March;
in Cologne: 24th March

Events:

Friday 16th March, 1:30pm, Leipzig Book Fair,
Forum OstSüdOst: Hall 4, Stand D401
Book presentation: *LUCRECIA515*
Presented by: Joachim Unseld

Friday 16th March, 7pm, naTo,
Karl-Liebknecht-Straße 46, 04275 Leipzig
New literature from Georgia
Lasha Bugadze, Zaza Burchuladze, Rati Amaghlobeli
Readings with musical performance, music: Gogi
Dzodzuashvili
Presented by: Nino Kharatishvili

Saturday 24th March, 6pm, Altes Pfandhaus, Kartäuserwall
20, 50678 Cologne
German-Georgian encounters / LUCRECIA515
Presented by: Tilo Herde



Georgia
Made by Characters
Guest of Honour
Frankfurter Buchmesse 2018

10–14 October 2018
**FRANKFURTER
BUCHMESSE**
Guest of Honour Georgia

Burchuladze, Zaza



Zaza Burchuladze (born in 1973 in Tbilisi) has translated Fyodor Dostoevsky and Daniil Kharms into Georgian. He studied fine art and painting at the Tbilisi State Academy of Arts. Up until 2001, he published his works in Georgia under the pseudonym Gregor Samsa (a reference to the famous story *The Metamorphosis* by Franz Kafka). In 2007, he played the leading role in *Jako's Refugee*, the film adaptation of a novel by Micheil Dschawachishvili. He lives and works in Berlin. He has received several awards for his novels. In 2015, his novel *adibas* was published by Blumenbar, and was awarded the prize of "the best book design" by the Buchkunst Foundation.

Latest book:

Touristenfrühstück (engl. translation: *Tourist Breakfast*)
Blumenbar, 2016

Appearing in Leipzig: 16th - 17th March

Event:

Friday 16th March, 7pm, naTo

Karl-Liebknecht-Straße 46, 04275 Leipzig

New literature from Georgia

Lasha Bugadze, Zaza Burchuladze, Rati Amaghlobeli

Readings with musical performance

Music: Gogi Dzodzuashvili

Presented by: Nino Kharatishvili

Khvedelidze, Beso



Beso Khvedelidze (born in 1972 in Tbilisi) is a master of short stories and is also a dedicated artist. He has written over 30 books and has been awarded several Georgian and international awards. Beso Khvedelidze studied journalism and literature, as well as film between 1997 and 2000. He was the editor of the Tbilisi-based literary journal *Literaturuli palitra* (Literary Palette).

Appearing in Leipzig: 14th - 16th March

Event:

Thursday 15th March, 1pm, Authors' Pitch, Leipzig Book Fair,
Forum OstSüdOst, Hall 4, Stand D 401

Book presentation: *Die Stadt der Toten* (engl. translation *The City of the Dead*)



Georgia
Made by Characters

Guest of Honour
Frankfurter Buchmesse 2018



10–14 October 2018

FRANKFURTER
BUCHMESSE

Guest of Honour Georgia

Pitching by authors from two Guest of Honour countries at the Frankfurter Buchmesse: Georgia and Norway with Beso Khvedelidze and Aleko Shughladze.

Jandieri, Kote



Kote Jandieri (born in 1958 in Tbilisi) is a writer and successful vintner. He started his writing career in 1980, following a degree in geography and geology. His short stories and documentary and feature films are social dramas resulting from Georgia's turbulent history. Two collections of short stories have been published to date – they won the literary prizes in Georgia and have been partially translated in Mexico, Azerbaijan, Sweden and the USA.

Latest book:

Globalisierung (engl. translation: *Globalisation*)

KLAK Verlag, 2018

Appearing in Leipzig: 16th - 18th March

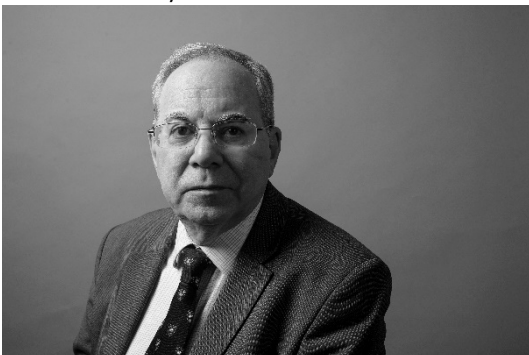
Event:

Saturday 17th March, 4pm, Leipzig Book Fair, Forum International und Übersetzerzentrum, Hall 4, Stand C505

Presentation *Globalisierung*

Presented by: Jörg Becken

Gachechiladze, Revaz



Revaz Gachechiladze (born in 1943 in Tbilisi) is a professor and author of over 150 articles and books on history and political and social geography. He has taught at the Tbilisi State University, Oxford University and Mount Holyoke College (USA). Revaz Gachechiladze is a corresponding member of the Georgian National Academy of Sciences.

Latest book:

Kulturgeschichte Georgiens (engl. translation: *Georgian Cultural History*), Wieser Verlag, 2017

Appearing in Leipzig: 14th - 16th March

Event:

Thursday 15th March, 5pm, Leipzig Book Fair, Forum International und Übersetzerzentrum, Hall 4, Stand C505

Presentation *Kulturgeschichte Georgiens*

Presented by: Erika Hornbogner, Lojze Wieser



Georgia
Made by Characters
Guest of Honour
Frankfurter Buchmesse 2018

10–14 October 2018
**FRANKFURTER
BUCHMESSE**
Guest of Honour Georgia

Gelashvili, Naira



Naira Gelashvili (born in 1947 in Signagi) is a writer, literary critic, translator and civil rights activist. She enjoys great popularity among readers in Georgia thanks to her non-conformist prose which led to disapproval and negative reactions from the Soviet authorities. In 1994, she founded the non-governmental organisation "The Caucasian House" – a centre for cultural relations, which plays a key role in the peaceful co-operation between the different cultures and religions of the people from the Caucasus.

Latest book:

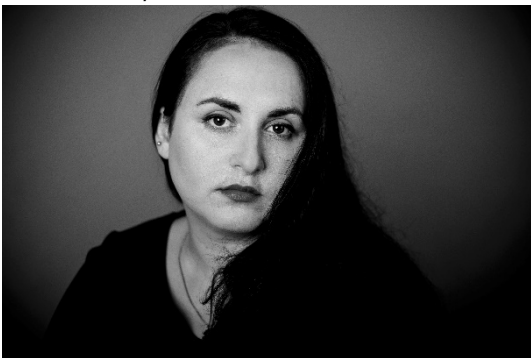
Ich fahre nach Madrid (engl. translation: *I am going to Madrid*), Verbrecher Verlag, 2018

Appearing in Cologne: 14th March

Events:

14th March, 7pm, lit.COLOGNE, reading with Boris Aljinovic, DEG - Deutsche Investitions- und Entwicklungsgesellschaft (German Investment Corporation), Kämmergasse 22, 50676 Cologne
Presented by: Günter Kaindlstorfer

Kharatishvili, Nino



Nino Kharatishvili (born in 1983 in Tbilisi) is a Georgian author who writes in German, and is also an award-winning playwright and director. She was awarded the Adelbert von Chamisso Prize in 2010. Her debut novel *Juja* (2010) was longlisted for the German Book Prize, and shortlisted for the ZDF aspekte literary prize. It also won the Debut Award presented by the Buddenbrook House in Lübeck. In the same year, she was awarded with the hotlist of independent publishers' award for her second novel, *Mein sanfter Zwilling* (engl. translation: *My Gentle Twin*). She received the Grenzgänger scholarship by the Robert Bosch Foundation for her novel *Das achte Leben (Für Brilka)* [engl. translation: *The Eighth Life (For Brilka)*] (2014), as well as the literary award from the Kulturkreis der Deutschen Wirtschaft and the Anna Seghers-Preis award. She was recently awarded the Bertolt Brecht Literature Prize. She lives in Hamburg.

Appearing in Leipzig: 14th - 17th March



Georgia
Made by Characters
 Guest of Honour
 Frankfurter Buchmesse 2018

10–14 October 2018
FRANKFURTER
BUCHMESSE
 Guest of Honour Georgia

Thursday 15th March, 7pm, German National Library,
 Deutscher Platz 1, Leipzig,
 Discussion with Nino Kharatishvili
 Presented by: Joachim Unseld

Friday 16th March, 7pm, naTo,
 Karl-Liebknecht-Straße 46, 04275 Leipzig
 Nino Kharatishvili will present discussions with Lasha
 Bugadze, Zaza Burchuladze and Rati Amaghlobeli.
 The event is supported by the Konrad Adenauer Foundation.

Ingorokva, Nato



Nato Ingorokva (born in 1969 in Makvaneti) is a poet and translator. She studied at the faculty of German language and literature at Kiev National Linguistic University. Her poems have been translated into Russian, Belarusian, Ukrainian, Lithuanian, German and English. Nato Ingorokva is editor-in-chief at the Mastsavlebeli ("Teachers") journal and at the online newspaper *mostsavlebeli.ge*. She has published four poetry anthologies and translated selected poems by Rainer Maria Rilke into Georgian.

Latest book:

Die Kartoffelernte (engl. translation: *The Potato Harvest*)
 (anthology), Corvinus Presse, 2017

Appearing in Leipzig: 16th - 18th March

Events:

Friday 16th March, 9pm, Lyrikbuchhandlung, Kunstraum
 D21, Demmeringstr. 21, 04177 Leipzig
 Readings: *Die Kartoffelernte – New Georgian poetry II*,
 with Besik Kharanauli, Nato Ingorokva, Norbert Hummelt,
 Sabine Schiffner

Saturday 17th March, 4:30pm, Leipzig Book Fair, Forum
 International und Übersetzerzentrum, Hall 4, Stand C505
 Readings with Besik Kharanauli, Nato Ingorokva and Nika
 Jorjaneli

Saturday 17th March, 7:30pm, 1/achtel wine bar,
 Windscheidstraße 27, 04277 Leipzig
 Readings with Besik Kharanauli, Nato Ingorokva and Nika
 Jorjaneli



Georgia
Made by Characters

Guest of Honour
Frankfurter Buchmesse 2018

10–14 October 2018
**FRANKFURTER
BUCHMESSE**
Guest of Honour Georgia

Jorjaneli, Nika



Nika Jorjaneli (born in 1978 in Tbilisi) is a Georgian poet and translator. He completed his master degree in German language and literature at Tbilisi State University in 2003. Nika Jorjaneli worked for many years as a German language and literature teacher at a secondary school in Tbilisi. He was nominated for the 2015 SABA literary prize for his poetry anthology *Mexican Stand-off*.

Latest book:

Die Kartoffelernte (engl. translation: *The Potato Harvest*)
(anthology), Corvinus Presse, 2017

Appearing in Leipzig: 17th March

Events:

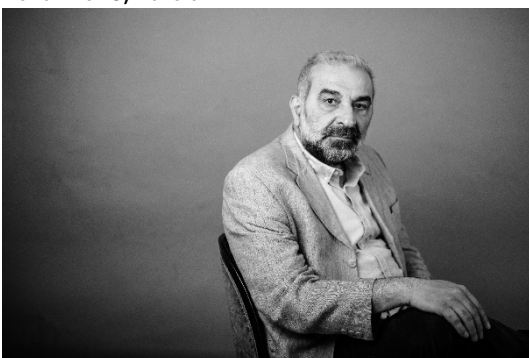
Saturday 17th March, 4:30pm, Leipzig Book Fair, Forum
International und Übersetzerzentrum, Hall 4, Stand C505

Readings: Besik Kharanauli, Nato Ingorokva and Nika Jorjaneli

Saturday 17th March, 7:30pm, 1/achtel wine bar,
Windscheidstraße 27, 04277 Leipzig

Readings: Besik Kharanauli, Nato Ingorokva and Nika Jorjaneli

Karumidze, Zurab



Zurab Karumidze (born in 1957 in Tbilisi). His works include novels, short story collections, novellas and a book about jazz, which won the important Georgian literary prize SABA. He is also the editor and co-editor of several volumes of essays concerning Georgian politics and culture. His English novel *Dagny, or A Love Feast* was longlisted for the "Dublin International Literary Award" and reached number three of the SWR Bestenliste in February 2018. Zurab Karumidze lives in Tbilisi and is as a foreign policy advisor to the Georgian government.

Latest book:

Dagny, or A Love Feast

Weidle Verlag, 2017

Appearing in Leipzig: 15th - 17th March

Event:

Friday 16th March, 5pm, Leipzig Book Fair, Forum Literatur,
Hall 5, Stand K600



Georgia
Made by Characters

Guest of Honour
Frankfurter Buchmesse 2018

10–14 October 2018
**FRANKFURTER
BUCHMESSE**
Guest of Honour Georgia

Presentation *Dagny, or A Love Feast*

Presented by: Stefan Weidle

Kharanauli, Besik



Besik Kharanauli (born 1939 in Tianeti) is one of the best-known contemporary poets in Georgia. He has written over twenty poetry anthologies and two books of prose. Besik Kharanauli's unconventional, ironic and modernist works were a real novelty to the 20th century poetry scene. His works continue to be relevant to this day. He has been awarded a series of important Georgian literary prizes. He was awarded the SABA literary award in 2015 for his contribution to the development of Georgian literature. He was also Georgia's nomination for the Nobel Prize for Literature.

Latest book:

Die Kartoffelernte (engl. translation: *The Potato Harvest*)
(anthology), Corvinus Presse, 2017

Appearing in Leipzig: 16th - 18th March

Events:

Friday 16th March, 9pm, Lyrikbuchhandlung, Kunstraum
D21, Demmeringstr. 21, 04177 Leipzig

Readings: *Die Kartoffelernte – New Georgian poetry II*,
with Besik Kharanauli, Nato Ingorokva, Norbert Hummelt,
Sabine Schiffner

Saturday 17th March, 4:30pm, Leipzig Book Fair, Forum
International und Übersetzerzentrum, Hall 4, Stand C505

Saturday 17th March, 7:30pm, 1/achtel wine bar,
Windscheidstraße 27, 04277 Leipzig

Readings: Besik Kharanauli, Nato Ingorokva and Nika Jorjaneli



Georgia
Made by Characters
Guest of Honour
Frankfurter Buchmesse 2018

10–14 October 2018
**FRANKFURTER
BUCHMESSE**
Guest of Honour Georgia

Matsaberidze, Bondo



Bondo Matsarebidze (born in 1959 in Samtredia) is a renowned children's author in Georgia. His stories have been translated into many different languages. In 2000 he founded the Bakmi publishing house, which focuses on children's literature and picture books. He has been a member of the Georgian Writers' Association since 1995. He has received several awards for his children's books.

Latest book:

Die Märchen von Bekna und Tekla (engl. translation: *The Fairytales of Bekna and Tekla*)
Drava Verlag Klagenfurt, 2017

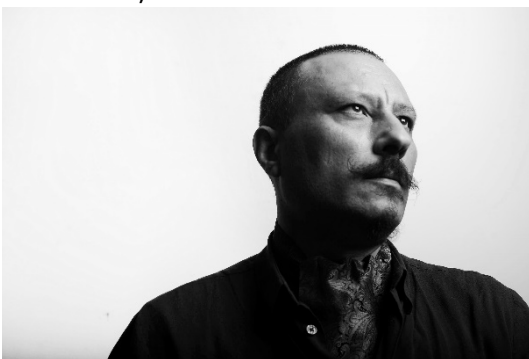
Appearing in Leipzig: 14th - 18th March

Events:

Friday 16th March, 9:30am "homeLE" family café, Georg-Schumann-Str. 130, 04155 Leipzig

Saturday 17th March, 12:30pm, Leipzig Book Fair,
Lesebude, Hall 2, Stand H500
Presentation: *Die Märchen von Bekna und Tekla*
Presented by: Erika Hornbogner, Lojze Wieser

Rtveliashvili, Zurab



Zurab Rtveliashvili (born in 1967 in Karaganda) is an experimental poet, performance artist and human rights activist and lives in Georgia and Sweden. A qualified lawyer, he was an active member of the anti-Soviet opposition and the Georgian national liberation movement. His works about civil disobedience prompted the peaceful Rose Revolution in Georgia in 2003. His outlandish performances repeatedly brought him into conflict with the authorities in Georgia. He has lived in Sweden since 2010.

Latest book:

Diktatur der Poesie (engl. translation: *The Poetry Dictatorship*)
KLAK Verlag, 2018

Appearing in Leipzig: 14th - 18th March



Georgia
Made by Characters
Guest of Honour
Frankfurter Buchmesse 2018

10–14 October 2018
FRANKFURTER
BUCHMESSE
Guest of Honour Georgia

Events:

Thursday 15th March, 7pm, Café Pan, Lindenauer Markt
21, 04177 Leipzig

Readings with music: *Anthologie Grenzporträts* (engl.
translation: *Border Portraits anthology*)

Presented by: Jörg Becken

Saturday 17th March, 6:30pm, Galerie KUB, Kantstraße 18,
04275 Leipzig

Presentation: *Anthologie Grenzporträts*

Presented by: Jörg Becken

Sadghobelashvili, Nino



Nino Sadghobelashvili (born in 1980 in Tbilisi) studied at the State Institute of Culture until 2002, specialising in literature. She worked as literary editor for a radio station and has also worked as a teacher. Some of her plays have been performed in various Georgian theatres. Her play *The Bombazine Paradise* was performed at the Lado Meskiasvili State Drama Theatre in Kutaisi in 2007 and filmed in 2010. She has been working at the Khomli film studio in Tbilisi since 2012, where she wrote the screenplay for a documentary film (*Queen Tamar*) from 2015. She is the author of two poetry anthologies, as well as stories and novels; many of which have been translated into English, Lithuanian, Armenian and Turkish.

Latest book:

Bittere Bonbons, Georgische Geschichten (engl. translation
Bitter Sweets, Georgian Stories)
edition *fünf*, 2018

Appearing in Leipzig: 16th - 18th March

Event:

Saturday 17th March, 12pm, Leipzig Book Fair, Forum
OstSüdOst, Hall 4, Stand D401

Book presentation: One of the authors of *Bittere Bonbons*,
Nino Sadghobelashvili, presents

Presented by: Barbara Weidle



Georgia
Made by Characters

Guest of Honour
Frankfurter Buchmesse 2018

10–14 October 2018
**FRANKFURTER
BUCHMESSE**
Guest of Honour Georgia

Shugladze, Aleko



Aleko Shugladze (born in 1965 in Tbilisi) is an author and bookseller, who once withdrew from the Georgian literary scene for over 15 years, before returning out of the blue and writing the novel *Das Verbergen* (engl. translation *Hiding*): it is one of the most talked-about novels in recent times and won the important Georgian literary prize SABA in 2017. In addition to the Polytechnic University, Shugladze also studied film at the art faculty of the State University of Tbilisi and later worked as an assistant director in a Georgian film studio. He worked as a performance artist in Margo Korabliova's Performance Theatre and as a film director for the "Caucasian House". He has made around ten documentary films about violence and has also worked as a screenwriter.

Appearing in Leipzig: 14th - 16th March

Event:

Thursday 15th March, 1pm, Authors' Pitch, Leipzig Book Fair, Forum OstSüdOst, Hall 4, Stand D 401

Pitching by authors from two Guest of Honour countries at the Frankfurter Buchmesse: Georgia and Norway with Aleko Shugladze and Beso Khvedelidze



Georgia
Made by Characters

Guest of Honour
Frankfurter Buchmesse 2018

10–14 October 2018
**FRANKFURTER
BUCHMESSE**
Guest of Honour Georgia

Schiolashvili, Irma



Irma Schiolashvili (born in 1974 in Dedoplistskaro) is a journalist and translator. She has been writing poems since her school years and they have been published in various literary journals. She studied journalism at the University of Tbilisi between 1991 and 1996. She also worked in the department of culture at the state television channel, where she produced programmes about contemporary Georgian writers. She moved to Germany in 1999 and studied in Bonn. In 2005 she received a PhD with her thesis on German and Georgian political post-war poetry. Her first book was published in 1992. She became one of the youngest members of the Georgian Writers' Association in 1995. In 2007 she joined the European Authors' Association *Die Kogge*. Her poems have been translated into Russian, German, English and French. Irma Schiolashvili currently lives in Bonn and works as a journalist and lecturer.

Latest book:

Kopfüber (engl. translation: *Upside Down*)

Pop Verlag, 2018

Appearing in Leipzig: 18th March

Event

Sunday 18th March, 2pm, Leipzig Book Fair, Forum
OstSüdOst, Hall 4, Romanian Stand E501

*German, Hungarian, Serbian, Polish, Georgian and
Romanian poetry from Romania and Europe*

With: Irma Schiolashvili, Christian Schenk, György Mandics,
Slavomir Gvosdenovici, Eric Giebel, Charlotte Ueckert, Uli
Rothfuss, Harald Gröhler



Georgia
Made by Characters
Guest of Honour
Frankfurter Buchmesse 2018

10–14 October 2018
**FRANKFURTER
BUCHMESSE**
Guest of Honour Georgia

Togonidze, Ekaterine



Ekaterine Togonidze (born in 1981 in Tbilisi) has been shaping the Georgian literary scene for over five years. Her works deal with people with disabilities and the discrimination they face from society, bringing the issue into the public consciousness. She worked as a journalist for many years. Her experiences in this area aren't particularly noteworthy but they are always present in her writing. She has won multiple awards for her works. In 2012 she was awarded the prestigious Georgian literary prize SABA.

Latest book:

Einsame Schwestern (engl. translation: *Lonely Sisters*)
Septime Verlag Vienna, 2018

Appearing in Leipzig: 15th - 16th March; in Berlin: 17th March;
in Vienna: 19th March; in Salzburg: 20th March

Events:

Friday 16th March, 1pm, Leipzig Book Fair, Forum
OstSüdOst, Hall 4, Stand D401
Einsame Schwestern, Presented by: Jürgen Schütz

Friday 16th March, 7pm, Galerie Stritz, Breslauer Str. 14,
04299 Leipzig
Readings: *Einsame Schwestern* and *Drei Tage drei Nächte*
(engl. translation: *Three Days Three Nights*) with Ekaterine
Togonidze and Corinnan Antelmann, Presented by: Jürgen
Schütz

Saturday 17th March, 7pm, Tucholsky bookshop,
Tucholskystr. 47, 10117 Berlin
Einsame Schwestern, Presented by: Jürgen Schütz

Monday 19th March, 7pm, Hauptbücherei Wien, Urban-
Loritz-Platz 2A, 1070 Vienna
Einsame Schwestern, Presented by: Jürgen Schütz

Tuesday 20th March, 7pm, Rupertus bookshop,
Dreifaltigkeitsgasse 12, A-5020 Salzburg
Einsame Schwestern, Presented by: Jürgen Schütz



Authors and Books in the German Language

(already translated, or about to be translated)

Thanks to the work of the Georgian National Book Center since 2011, more than 65 works of Georgian literature have been published in German-speaking countries. With the support of the Georgian National Book Center in 2018 there will be 100 new titles, 60 of them in German. Literature of various genres is being translated and published in German: novels by contemporary and by classic authors, several collections of short stories, Georgian epics, several anthologies of Georgian poetry and collections by individual poets, not to mention collections of plays, documentary prose and essay-writing, children's literature and children's picture books, 'young adult' literature, detective fiction, a collection of critical essays etc.

One of the most important literary monuments of the 12th century is, to this day, **Shota Rustaveli's** epic **The Man in the Panther's Skin** (1172–1216). Among the translations into German, the best is recognized to be Hugo Huppert's translation, which, with the support of the Georgian National Book Center, has recently been re-published in Germany (Dr. Ludwig Reichert Verlag, 2014). In 2018, Galiani Berlin plans to publish Rustaveli's work in a prose version retold by Tilman Spreckelsen and with new illustrations by Kat Menshik.

Among the specimens of Georgian literature that have been translated into German, naturally enough, the novel dominates. Of Georgia's novelists, the first and foremost modern classic is considered to be **Mikheil Javakhishvili** (1880–1937), whose many novels and stories have not lost their relevance even today, and are a source of inspiration for many contemporary artists, theatre directors, playwrights and film scriptwriters. His novel *Kvachi Kvachantiradze* was published in German in Soviet times, but in 2016 a full version was published for the first time (Nora Verlag, 2016), this version containing fragments that the Soviet censor would not permit at the time. In recent years Mikheil Javakhishvili's stories have been published in a number of collections. In 2018, the same author's extremely famous novel *Jaqo's Refugees* and his selected stories will be published by Arco Verlag.

In 2013, another extremely well-known novelist, poet and playwright, **Otar Chiladze** (1933–2009), had his famous novel *A Man Was Going Down the Road* published under the title of *Dariachangi's Garden* (Matthes & Seitz Berlin, 2013); in 2018, his novels *Avelum* and *The Basket* will be published (Matthes & Seitz Berlin, 2013). Foreign critics compare Otar Chiladze to the great Latin American authors.

In 2018, Hanser Verlag will publish **Guram Dochanashvili's** (born in 1939) most famous novel *The First Raiment*. Dochanashvili is acknowledged as a living classic, and, half a century after its first publication, this novel still excites the modern reader – especially younger readers – just as it did in the period of Soviet terror, when it was written.

In 2014, Wagenbach Verlag published a novel that has been translated into more languages than any other Georgian novel: **Dato Turashvili's** (born in 1966) *The Jeans Generation* (in German, *Westflug*). Because of its subject matter, this novel leaves neither Georgian nor foreign readers unmoved. In 1983, a group of young Georgians tried to hi-jack an aircraft from Soviet Georgia and reach the West. The Soviet court sentenced most of them to death by shooting. These 'aeroplane boys' have had a number of different literary works devoted to them, among them, in particular, the Georgian rock star and poet **Irakli Charkviani's** (1961–2006) autobiographical novel *Calm Swim*, which will now be published in Germany in 2018 by Dagyeli Verlag.



The contemporary young female writer **Tamta Melashvili** (born in 1979) has had great success with her first short novel *Counting Out* (Unionsverlag, 2013), which won the 2013 Frankfurt prize for the best literary work by a young author. Set in a conflict zone, where only women and children have stayed, this story aims with a sniper's accuracy at the heart of any citizen of the country. By fall will be published her collection of short stories "Marine's Angels" by Wieser Verlag.

The recent Russo-Georgian war is the subject of **Zaza Burchuladze's** (born in 1973) novel *adibas* (Aufbau/Blumenbar, 2015), in which the novel shows us how some in Georgian society view the air raids and occupation carried out by Russia. His next novel, *Touristenfrühstück* (engl. title: *A Tourist's Breakfast*, 2016), together with a number of other important questions, deals with modern themes of his experiences living in Tbilisi and Berlin and of emigration. Ullstein Verlag will publish the prose collection *The Story of a Bird and a Man* by **Archil Kikodze** (born in 1972), a famous modern Georgian author, who has won many awards; the collection will be followed by his new, urban novel *The Southern Elephant*, which tells us the story of Tbilisi and its redemptory historical reality, as well as examining contemporary life.

The young Georgian writer **Lasha Bugadze** (born in 1972) caught the attention of the German-language press with his satirical novel *Literature Express* (Frankfurter Verlagsanstalt, 2016). The novel is the story of modern Georgian and world literary absurdities, ambitions, writers' passions, idiocies and mistakes. In the novel, 100 European writers are taken by the organizers on a train journey; for one month they travel all over Europe. By the end of 2018, two more novels by the same author will be published (*Lucrecia515*, *Kleines Land*).

In 2016 the famous writer and political activist **Naira Gelashvili** (born in 1947) presented her novel *I am that One* (Verbrecher Verlag, 2017) to a large audience at *Das Blaue Sofa* at the Leipzig Book Fair: the novel describes a thirteen-year-old girl's love for a young student. Everybody and everything opposes the girl's genuine feelings, the most genuine and substantial element for her at the time. Her mother, family, school, the school syllabus and so on are all involved, in universal opposition. Her new translation *Ich fahre nach Madrid* was presented at the lit.COLOGNE 2018.

Simultaneously, several publishing houses, among them Weidle Verlag and Mitteldeutscher Verlag, will publish in German both novels and selected documentary prose by today's best-known and most prolific Georgian writer, **Aka Morchiladze** (born in 1966). Aka Morchiladze is a very versatile writer: his reader could be either a deeply erudite intellectual, or someone who values love stories and historical novels, but might also be a fan of detective stories and mysteries, or just an ordinary reader who likes literature of good taste. Several German publishers publish his books in German, as well as the five novels *Santa Esperanza* (Mitteldeutscher Verlag, 2017), *Schatten auf dem Weg* /Mitteldeutscher Verlag, 2018, engl. translation: *Shadow on the Road*), *Reise nach Karabach* (Weidle Verlag, 2018, engl. title: *Journey to Karabakh*), *Obolé* (Mitteldeutscher Verlag, 2018) as well as *Mameluken* (Weidle Verlag, 2018, engl. title: *Mameluks*).

For short pieces of prose, the work of the modern Georgian writer **Kote Jandieri** (born in 1958) *Globalisierung* (engl. translation: *Globalisation*) is particularly noteworthy. The book will be published by Klak Verlag in 2018. These stories have justifiably been singled out as a masterpiece of short 21st century Georgian prose. In his work, an elderly peasant tells us the story of his life, which has taken place against the background of historical events developing in Georgia: from the Sovietisation of Georgia to the 1990s, a life that is completely interlinked with these events.



Georgia
Made by Characters
Guest of Honour
Frankfurter Buchmesse 2018



10–14 October 2018
**FRANKFURTER
BUCHMESSE**
Guest of Honour Georgia

Among the **poetry collections**, one work should be singled out: the complete works of **Nikoloz Baratashvili** (1817–1844) *Thoughts of the Banks of the Mtkvari River* (Arco Verlag, 2017). The publication in Germany of the great Georgian romantic poet under the auspices of UNESCO marks the 200th anniversary of his birth; in 2017 this anniversary was listed as a cultural event of international significance. In general, poetry is particularly difficult to translate, but from time immemorial Georgia has been considered a land of poetry, which is why it is important for us to have Georgian poetry represented in German translation. Consequently, we are finally able to give the German-speaking reader an opportunity to get to know over 40 modern Georgian poets as well as the work of a poet of the classical period, all published by various publishing houses. In 2018, the publisher Corvinus Presse Berlin Art Book published another collection, this time the collection *Lifting the Potatoes*, which consists of the work of seven modern poets: the title is taken from a poem by **Besik Kharanauli** (born in 1939). Besik Kharanauli is a distinguished poet in modern Georgia, the founder, one may say, of a new means of expression in Georgia. As a result, his poems are represented in this collection. Four more poetry anthologies will be published in 2018 among them Wallstein Verlag is going to publish collection of poems of several important poets from the 20th century and Grössenwahn Verlag is going to publish anthology of 32 Georgian modern poets. There is also worthy to mention that till end of 2018 more than 10 prominent Georgian modern poets from 20th and 21st centuries are going to have their individual poetry collection in German language published in Germany and Austria among them: Shota Chantladze, Badri Gugushvili, Tamaz Badzagua, Besik Kharanauli, Lia Sturua, Zviad Ratiani, Rati Amaglobeli, Zurab Rtveliashvili, Dato Barbakadze.



Georgia
Made by Characters

Guest of Honour
Frankfurter Buchmesse 2018



10–14 October 2018
FRANKFURTER
BUCHMESSE
Guest of Honour Georgia

German, Austrian and Swiss publishing houses with which the Georgian National Book Center is collaborating until now:

Alfred Kröner Verlag	Leopold Stocker Verlag
Anthea Verlag	Löcker Verlag
Arche Literatur Verlag	Michael Imhof Verlag
Arco Verlag	Mitteldeutscher Verlag
Aufbau/Blumenbar	Nora Verlag
AvivA Verlag	NordSüd Verlag
Baobab Books	Orlanda Verlag
Btb Verlag	Paramon Verlag
Carl Hanser Verlag	Passanten Verlag
ciconia ciconia Verlag	Pop Verlag Ludwigsburg
Corvinus Presse	Reichert Verlag
Dagyeli Verlag	Residenz Verlag
Daltas-Verlag	Rotpunkt Verlag
Dörlemann Verlag	Rowohlt Verlag
Dr. Ludwig Reichert Verlag	Septime Verlag
Drava Verlag	Shaker Verlag
Edition Fünf	Suhrkamp/Insel Verlag
Edition Monhardt	Theater der Zeit
Edition Orient	Ullstein Buchverlage
Edition Virgines	Unionsverlag
Edition.fotoTAPETA	Verbrecher Verlag
Frankfurter Verlagsanstalt	Verlag Das Wunderhorn
Galiani Berlin	Verlag Hans Schiler
Größenwahn Verlag	Verlag Klaus Wagenbach
Harrassowitz Verlag	Verlag Matthes & Seitz Berlin
Helmut Buske Verlag	Voland & Quist
Kulturverlag Kadmos	Wallstein Verlag
KLAK Verlag	Weidle Verlag
Albrecht Knaus Verlag	Wieser Verlag
Leipziger Literaturverlag	Wolke Verlag



Georgia
Made by Characters
Guest of Honour
Frankfurter Buchmesse 2018



10–14 October 2018
**FRANKFURTER
BUCHMESSE**
Guest of Honour Georgia

Literature Programme – Made by Characters

What is Georgian literature? The literature of a small people who have accumulated a lot of things to say to the world. A literature with a strong tradition, very varied, an interesting synthesis of oriental and occidental influences, open to innovations and at the same time self-sufficient. Its first written monument, *The Martyrdom of Shushanik*, was composed in the fifth century. Although a modern reader can read old Georgian without having to resort to a dictionary and, what is most interesting, this monument of the hagiographical genre bears the characteristic and essential marks of a novel.

What are the distinguishing features of modern Georgian literature? It is a literature based on the experiences and trials of many centuries, and which is developing step by step alongside modern world literature. In other words, this literature gives us a clear picture of the character of the nation that is producing it.

As Guest of Honour, Georgia wants to show the world how interesting the processes currently at work in Georgia have turned out to be. Over an entire year, therefore, in the pages of the Guest of Honour country programme, which starts in March 2018 at the Leipzig Book Fair, a wide range of initiatives is planned: classic public readings, book presentations, series of discussions and professional programmes for translators, such as conferences, seminars, round tables. There will be literary events accompanied by music, film and theatre elements. The programme of young Georgian illustrators is just as interesting: travelling exhibitions in Berlin and Frankfurt, workshops, discussions and various other sorts of event.

Throughout a whole year, almost 500 literary events of all sorts will be held in different literary and cultural venues in up to 30 cities across Germany, Switzerland and Austria. Almost 20 literary festivals in German-speaking Europe will be welcoming Georgian authors. With the collaboration of German publishing houses, discussions are taking place with the organizers of lit.COLOGNE, Lit.RUHR, the internationalen literaturfestival berlin, STADT LAND BUCH, poesiefestival berlin, Berliner Bücherinsel, Harbour Front Literaturfestival, Poetry On The Road, Open Books Frankfurt, Berleburger Literaturpflaster, Göttinger Literaturherbst and Schamrock – Festival der Dichterinnen, BuchBasel, Erich Fried Tage and Literaturtage Zofingen. An intensive, highly diverse programme is planned for Berlin, Hamburg and Frankfurt, while Georgian literary weeks will be organized in Saarbrücken and Freiburg.

It should be noted that the literary programme of the Guest of Honour country will have an interestingly presented scholarly and educational aspect to it. In cooperation with SOVLAB, the Soviet Past Research Laboratory, there are plans to hold a series of discussions seeking to interpret the Soviet past all over Germany. We offer interesting cycles of discussions for foreign audiences about the history of Georgian philosophy, in which Georgian and German philosophers will take part. Well-known Georgian scholars will talk about the achievements of the modern Georgian scientific scene.

Georgia will present its most authoritative literary award SABA as part of the programme on 12th October. Celebratory award ceremony will be held at Kaisersaal, historical city hall of Frankfurt. SABA is a literary award founded 16 years ago by TBC, a leading Georgian bank. It is considered to be a literary event of utmost importance in Georgia. SABA is awarded to the best of contemporary Georgian literature, with a total of 11 nominations presented annually. More than 100 authors, translators and literary critics have received the award to date. This number also includes foreign laureates who translate and publish Georgian literature in different parts of the world.



Georgia
Made by Characters

Guest of Honour
Frankfurter Buchmesse 2018



10–14 October 2018
FRANKFURTER
BUCHMESSE
Guest of Honour Georgia

As a culmination of Nino Kharatishvili's authoring project, implying tandems of German and Georgian writers (Volker Schmidt, Irma Tavelidze, Lucy Fricke, Archil Kikodze, Nestan (Nene) Kvinikadze, Fatma Aydemir, Katja Petrowskaja, Abo lashaghashvili, Stephan Reich, Ana Kordzaia-Samadashvili, Ulla Lenze and Tamta Melashvili) travelling to various regions of Georgia and creating short stories based on the traveler's impressions, will be collected and published as a book in Germany by Frankfurter Verlagsanstalt and will continue its travel on various literature festivals in Germany throughout 2018.

In order to establish a new tradition and to connect the "Guest of Honour-families" and their literature, authors from France (Guest of Honour 2017) and Norway (Guest of Honour 2019) are invited to Georgia at the end of May. Three writers from Norway, France and Georgia will travel together through the country in order to discover people, stories and new places. The project concludes with a joint discussion of Guest of Honour-countries and the director of Frankfurter Buchmesse, Juergen Boos.

Over the year, up to 70 writers from the Guest of Honour country will travel with their books to German cities and hold meetings with interested German readers and societies. The programme aims to offer interesting events to readers of all ages and interests.



Georgia
Made by Characters
Guest of Honour
Frankfurter Buchmesse 2018



10–14 October 2018
FRANKFURTER
BUCHMESSE
Guest of Honour Georgia

Guest of Honour Georgia publishing programme at Frankfurter Buchmesse 2018

The Guest of Honour publishing programme at the Frankfurter Buchmesse 2018 is organized by Georgian Publishers and Booksellers Association and consists of 3 National Stands and 5 day event program – presented at the National Stands and several stages of different halls of Frankfurter Buchmesse.

Georgian National Stand (International Publishers hall, 5.0)

Georgian National Stand is the most significant spot, which includes working hub for Georgian and foreign publishers, also presentation area, stage and auditorium for publishing program events. The programme of the National stand consists of various series regarding Georgian Publishing, its history, achievements and challenges, classic and new authors, business breakfasts, cookbook presentations followed by receptions etc. The programme will attract as professional visitors, also private visitors, who are interested in Georgian publishing and literature.

Georgian Children's Corner (Children's and Young Adults' Media hall, 3.0),

Stand presents children's books and applications by Georgian publishing houses and an exhibition of Georgian Illustration, organized in cooperation with Kulturkind. This Stand will be comfortable space for children to entertain and explore the world of Georgian fairy tales.

Georgian Art and Design Books (The ARTS + hall 4.1)

Stand consists of two parts: Exhibition of Georgian Art books, photo books, illustrated books and albums about art and design and art project, in which crosses literature, art and innovative technologies. This stand will be interesting for both, private and professional visitors, who are passionate about history and today of Georgian art and people, who create it.

Frankfurter Buchmesse 2018 – Guest of Honour of Tbilisi 20th International Book Fair

Tbilisi International Book Fair is the main event of Georgian Book market since 1997 and this year celebrates its 20th anniversary. Regarding this festive date and Georgia's Guest of Honour Status at Frankfurter Buchmesse 2018, Tbilisi Book Fair focuses on Germany and will host as a delegation of Frankfurter Buchmesse team, also German writers and publishers, as Tbilisi Book Fair's Special guests.

Cooperation Georgia, Guest of Honour, Georgian National Book Center, United Nations Population Fund (Office Georgia) and LitCam

Because of Georgia being Guest of Honour at the Frankfurter Buchmesse 2018 LitCam will cooperate with Georgia and the United Nations Population Fund (Office Georgia) to present a programme about the social and literary work of Georgia with the focus on the MenCare Campaign.

LitCam Stage, Wednesday, 10th October 2018

Gender Equality – The MenCare campaign

3:00 – 3:15pm: Introduction Speech about the MenCare Georgia

3:15 – 4:00pm How to get the campaign work

Panel discussion, UNFPA and „We Care“ representatives, UK Fatherhood Institute about the importance of fathers for the child development and the current situation in Georgia.



Georgia
Made by Characters

Guest of Honour
Frankfurter Buchmesse 2018



10–14 October 2018
FRANKFURTER
BUCHMESSE
Guest of Honour Georgia

4:00 – 5:00pm Fairy tales and reality TV shows.

Fairy tales underlying men's role in children's development; MenCare Georgia reality TV Show Fathers.

5:00 – 6:00pm Sports Heroes and role models

Levan Kobashvili as former popular Footballer and current president of the Georgian Football Federation with a popular Georgian author/actor as well as other international or/and a German „role model“.

LitCam Stage, Saturday, 14th October 2018

“Culture stadium”

At the weekend Football is the focus at the LitCam stage. Together with the German Football Association Foundation LitCam organizes a programme around Football and Culture.



Georgia
Made by Characters
Guest of Honour
Frankfurter Buchmesse 2018



10–14 October 2018
**FRANKFURTER
BUCHMESSE**
Guest of Honour Georgia

Translation Programme of Georgian National Book Center

The translation programmes of the Georgian National Book Center (GNBC) are designed for foreign and local publishing houses, willing to translate and publish Georgian and Foreign literature in translation. The programme *Georgian Literature in Translation* aims to issue subsidies to foreign publishing houses that are interested in translating and publishing Georgian literature. The budget allocated for the translation programmes by the state increases on a yearly basis to match the growing interest and demand from the international publishing sector.

To recapitulate how it all began, we can say that the path that is being followed for the promotion of contemporary Georgian literature, as well as its centuries-old heritage, has really not been an easy one. It was in 2010 that the Ministry of Culture of Georgia first announced its programme for the support of Georgian literature in translation. Since 2014, after the Georgian National Book Center was founded, within the framework of a translation programme *Georgian Literature in Translation*, every year more than a hundred applications have been received from various countries. Consequently, each year has seen significant growth in the budget for the translation programme. The Book Center offers any foreign publisher a well-developed system of translation subsidies, the aim being to support the publication in the translation of different genres of Georgian literature. The Book Center offers subsidies to cover the literary translation and printing costs, and this gives tangible support to the interest of foreign publishers in the growth of Georgian literature.

Between 2011 and 2018, a number of translations of Georgian authors have been financed within the framework of the Georgian National Book Center, covering the main genres of modern and classical Georgian literature: prose, poetry, essays, plays, cookbooks, children's and young adults' literature, etc.

Figures for 2011–2018

- 200 Georgian titles in more than 26 foreign languages
- 65 editions in the German language
- 40 foreign titles in the Georgian language

A further 100 new translations are planned as part of Georgia's appearance as Guest of Honour, among them 60 German translations.

The funding conditions set out by the Georgian National Book Center are largely oriented towards raising the interest of foreign publishing houses, that can request the following categories of subsidies:

- translation cost up to 100 %
- printing cost up to 100 %

Application forms and further information on translation subsidies are available on the GNBC website: www.book.gov.ge



Georgia
Made by Characters

Guest of Honour
Frankfurter Buchmesse 2018



10–14 October 2018

FRANKFURTER
BUCHMESSE

Guest of Honour Georgia

Translation Seminars

The Georgian National Book Center, in collaboration with the Goethe Institute and British Council, annually supports the organization of workshops for Georgian, German and English translators, with a special interest in literary genres. The participants, under the leadership of professional translators, work for five days on translations of fiction which they themselves have chosen. Seminars are held in Tbilisi, Straelen and Frankfurt. Thanks to the organization of seminars on a systematic basis, a powerful school of translators of Georgian literature into foreign languages has arisen and this is crucial to the development of the translation process.

The residency programme for translators from Georgian to German was conducted for the first time by the GNBC in cooperation with the Writers' House of Georgia.



Georgia
Made by Characters
Guest of Honour
Frankfurter Buchmesse 2018



10–14 October 2018
**FRANKFURTER
BUCHMESSE**
Guest of Honour Georgia

The cultural programme – Made by Characters

As the Guest of Honour at the 2018 Frankfurter Buchmesse, Georgia will present itself as a country that has developed over many centuries with influences from both the Eastern and Western worlds, and that now considers itself to be an autonomous cultural nation – with a centuries-old tradition. Contemporary art is of especially great significance in this regard – it is, and has been, a key medium for imparting knowledge. When Georgia was almost completely isolated as a result of the Soviet occupation, Georgian culture provided the rest of the world with an insight into the country. Music is of special importance within the rich cultural landscape of Georgia. UNESCO listed the traditional polyphonic singing as a World Cultural Heritage back in 2001. Georgian musicians (singers, pianists and violinists) are currently filling opera houses and concert halls across the world. Important testimonies of human history and the visual arts are also a key component of Georgian culture. In 1991, the oldest human remains ever discovered outside of Africa were found in Dmanisi. Visitors to the Frankfurter Buchmesse can look forward to these and plenty more fascinating discoveries from the world of art, music, theatre, science, film and nature.

Art – Made by Characters

Georgia will be presenting the best of prehistoric, ancient and contemporary art, as well as photography, architecture, design, typography and illustration, at the Frankfurter Buchmesse. The Guest of Honour will be collaborating with a total of 12 institutions: the **Liebieghaus Skulpturensammlung** will host “Medea's Love and Quest for the Golden Fleece”, with archaeological findings and ancient works of art from Georgia, which demonstrate the wealth of the two ancient kingdoms of Colchis and Iberia. **Senckenberg Natural History Museum** will present “Discoveries from Dmanisi”. The jaw bone of a hominid was found here in 1991. It represents the oldest human remains ever discovered outside of Africa. The **Deutsches Architekturmuseum** is dedicating an exhibition to the Georgian capital of Tbilisi and its architecture. Meanwhile, the **Klingspor Museum** in Offenbach will host a unique exhibition focusing on the Georgian alphabet, which became a UNESCO World Cultural Heritage in 2016, and its history. The **Portikus** will dedicate its space to an exhibition of Georgian-born, Berlin-based artist Tea Jorjadze. Further exhibitions will be taking place in: the Archäologischen Museum Frankfurt, Atelierfrankfurt, the Produktions und Ausstellungsplattform Basis, the Fotografie Forum Frankfurt, the Museum Angewandte Kunst, Museum für Moderne Kunst (MMK) and the Struwwelpeter-Museum.

Film – Made by Characters

The famous Italian filmmaker Federico Fellini was convinced: “Georgian film is a unique phenomenon – full of life, philosophically inspiring, very wise, childlike. It has everything required to bring me to tears, and that is not easy.” Georgian cinema, which has its roots back in 1908, can look back on numerous awards and nominations at international film forums and festivals. In co-operation with the German Film Museum and the Arsenal Institut für Film und Videokunst e.V., the Georgian National Film Center will be screening a total of 15 films at the Buchmesse – from the period of silent movies to productions that were created in 1991 to mark Georgia's independence. The films include “My Grandmother” (1929) by Kote Mikaberidze and “Salt to Svanetia” (1930) by Michail Kalatosow (Mikheil Kalatozishvili). Other films to be presented include films by Mikheil Chiaureli, Michail Kalatosow and Nikolai Schengelaia from the so-called formalism period, which was subjected to censorship by the Soviet Union – as well as feature films and documentary films from the 1950s. The award-winning animated film “The Pocket Man” by Ana Chubinidze will also be on show.

Theatre – Made by Characters

Georgian theatre, as we know it today, was established 25 years ago, when the country gained independence from the Soviet Union. War, unrest, revolutions, stories of hope, individual and collective ideas – Georgian theatre is characterised



Georgia
Made by Characters
Guest of Honour
Frankfurter Buchmesse 2018



10–14 October 2018
FRANKFURTER
BUCHMESSE
Guest of Honour Georgia

by all of these aspects. The first professional theatre group was formed in the 18th century. In the late 20th century, following independence, there was a strong draw from society towards theatre. This era of freedom, with all of its struggles, unrest and social changes, as well as wars in the dark 1990s, marks the history of post-Soviet theatre in Georgia. Nowadays, the theatrical programme incorporates both modern and classical pieces; productions by famous state and independent theatres, as well as from young theatre groups with new artistic approaches and creative conception and storytelling methods, including through the use of new technologies. The following theatres will be present at the Buchmesse: Rustaveli State Drama Theatre, Marjanishvili State Drama Theatre, Gabriadze Theatre, Royal District Theatre, Music and Drama Theatre, Sokhumi State Theatre, as well as other independent theatres and projects from across the country.

Music – Made by Characters

Georgia can look back on a very long history of musical culture. The Georgian folk polyphony “Chakrulo” is one of a total of 27 compositions, which NASA sent into space on the Voyager spaceship back in 1977. UNESCO listed Georgian folk music as a World Cultural Heritage back in 2001. Georgia will be presenting its musical diversity at the Buchmesse. There will be live performances from the world-famous violinist Lisa Batiashvili, the Georgian National Ballet “Sukhishvili” – the first and only folk group to have performed in the Teatro alla Scala to date, renowned Georgian jazz pianist Beka Gochiashvili, the vocal ensemble “Rustavi”, the Georgian Philharmonic Orchestra under the direction of Nikoloz Rachveli, and the Tbilisi Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Vakhtang Kakhidze, as well as many other artists.

Cuisine – Made by Characters

Georgia's cuisine is as diverse as the country itself. Besides regional characteristics, you can also find many influences from other countries – from Mediterranean to Indian cuisine. At the 2018 Buchmesse, Georgian chefs will be putting their skills on show at several events, including the opening ceremony and happy hour in the Guest of Honour's pavilion. Guests will have the chance to sample traditional food and wine from Georgia. A major highlight: professional chef Tekuna Gachechiladze renowned for her new Georgian fusion cuisine will prepare food together with German colleague Leon Joskowicz who is coordinating the culinary program “Georgia is Cooking”.

Wine – Made by Characters

Georgia is the birthplace of wine-growing: it is the only country in the world where it has been proven that wine has been growing there for over 8,000 years. Georgian wine production is distinguished by its great variety of grapes. Up to 500 different grape varieties are known and cultivated in Georgia. During the Buchmesse, visitors have the chance to taste these unique wines and spirits. Each year, the Georgian Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture organises numerous activities in Germany and other countries in conjunction with the Georgian National Wine Agency, including participation in trade shows such as “International Green Week”, “Pro Wine”, “Anuga” etc.



Georgia
Made by Characters
 Guest of Honour
 Frankfurter Buchmesse 2018



10–14 October 2018
FRANKFURTER
BUCHMESSE
 Guest of Honour Georgia

Facts and Figures

“Georgia – Made by Characters” organisation

Website	www.georgia-characters.com
Contact	info@georgia-characters.com
Project Director	Mikheil Giorgadze
Director of the Georgian National Book Center	Medea Metreveli
Head of Literary Programme	Maia Danelia
Head of Cultural Programme	Manana Berikashvili, Deputy Minister of Culture and Monument Protection of Georgia
Graphic design	BRID Agency, www.brid.me
Concept pavilion Guest of Honour 2018	George Bokhua Studio
Design pavilion Guest of Honour 2018	MUA Multiverse Architecture and Tamara Kvesitadze
Press contact	Mirjam Flender, Kirsten Lehnert c/o projekt2508 GmbH, Bonn, Germany press@georgia-characters.com
Head of Guest of Honour Programme of Frankfurter Buchmesse	Simone Bühler, buehler@book-fair.com

The book market in Georgia

Population	3.7 million
Area	about 70,000 km ²
Gross domestic product	2016: US\$ 14.22 billion
Gross domestic product per person	2016: US\$ 3,842.4
Published books in Georgia	2015: 4,173 2014: 2,964 2013: 3,745
Sales per year	2015: 12,974,198 Lari (about € 4.26 m*)
Average book price	2015: 11.75 Lari (€ 3.86*)
Translated titles in Georgia	45% of all published titles are translations mostly from Germany, France, UK, USA, Poland, Hungary, Italy, Turkey, Canada, Mexico, Greece, Estonia and Ukraine
Publishing houses	2015: about 100
Biggest publishers in Georgia	Palitra L 27 Bakur Sulakauri Publishing Intelekti Publishers
Number of book stores	50, including 41 small ones
Share of book sales via internet	2015: 19% 2013: 6%
Translation GNBC 2011-2017	200 Georgian titles have been translated into more than 28 languages 60 published titles in German 40 foreign titles in the Georgian language

* Figures in Euro according to the conversion rate March 2018



**Georgia
Made by Characters**

Guest of Honour
Frankfurter Buchmesse 2018



10–14 October 2018
**FRANKFURTER
BUCHMESSE**
Guest of Honour Georgia

The Guest of Honour Team

Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection of Georgia together with the Georgian National Book Center, are the main coordinating structures for the programme of Georgia Guest of Honour at the Frankfurter Buchmesse 2018.

Mikheil Giorgadze

Project Director

Medea Metreveli

Director of Georgian National Book Center, metreveli@book.gov.ge

Further Contacts:

Literature Programme

Head of: Maia Danelia

danelia@book.gov.ge

Manager: Nino Nadibaidze

nadibaidze@book.gov.ge

Translation Programme

Manager: Irine Chogoshvili

chogoshvili@book.gov.ge

Cultural Programme

Coordinator: Salome Sepashvili

ssepashvili@culture.gov.ge

Exhibition Programme

David Lortkipanidze

Ana Riaboshenko

Giorgi Kalandia

Head of Theatre Programme

Ekaterina Mazmishvili, Tbilisi International Festival Of Theatre

Head of Film Programme

Zurab Maghalashvili, Head of Georgian National Film Center

Head of Music & Performance Programme

Nino Nakhutsrishvili, Head of National Music Center

Social Relations and Marketing

Tornike Guruli

guruli@book.gov.ge



Georgia
Made by Characters

Guest of Honour
Frankfurter Buchmesse 2018



10–14 October 2018
FRANKFURTER
BUCHMESSE
Guest of Honour Georgia

Partners and Sponsors

Partners

Georgian Publishers and Booksellers Association
The Writers' House
The Centre for Cultural Relations Caucasian House
The National Parliamentary Library of Georgia
Museum of Georgian Literature
Georgian National Museum
Georgian State Museum of Theatre, Music, Cinema and Choreography - Art Palace
Georgian National Film Centre
Kote Marjanishvili State Drama Theatre
National Musical Center of Georgia
Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia
Tbilisi State University
Ilia State University
Georgian National Center of Manuscripts
Georgia's Innovation and Technology Agency
Georgian National Tourism Administration
Ministry of Agriculture of Georgia
National Wine Agency of Georgia
SOVLAB - Soviet past research laboratory
Expo Georgia
Embassy of Georgia in the Federal Republic of Germany
Consulate General of Georgia in Frankfurt am Main, Germany
Creative Georgia
National Bank Of Georgia
The Goethe Institute in Tbilisi
Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung / Regional Programme Political Dialogue South Caucasus
Literary award SABA
Frankfurter Literatursalon Euterpe
DVV International Regional Office for Caucasus and Turkey

Sponsors

International Charity Foundation Cartu
weinland-georgien.de
Buneburi Winery
Khareba Winery
Marani Winery
M Squared
TBC Bank



Background information

The Georgian Alphabet: Unique World Heritage

From the book Georgian Script & Typography History, Modern Age, Tbilisi, 2016

The Georgian alphabet is old and is used for Georgian alone. The long and interesting history of the modern Georgian alphabet lies in the obscure depths of many centuries. This alphabet evolved in three stages: asomtavruli (5th-9th or 10th centuries), nuskhuri (9th-11th) and mkhedruli (9th/10th until today). When a new version of the alphabet appeared, the older ones were not forgotten: All three forms co-existed. The most ancient samples of Georgian writing are in asomtavruli. The form of 5th century asomtavruli inscriptions found in Palestine and Georgia show that this writing system was even then long-established. The layout of the asomtavruli alphabet is simple and plain. It is based on shapes such as the circle, the semicircle and the straight line. Each letter is perfectly proportioned and fills up an imaginary square either fully or halfway. Asomtavruli is also known as mrgvlovani (rounded) alphabet. Studying Georgian written language, Ivane Javakhishvili pointed out the resemblances between the letters and presumed that they were based on Semitic scripts. He also pointed out traces of Phoenician script.

Other Georgian and foreign scholars have also written about the Semitic origins of Georgian Alphabet. The theory of its Aramaic roots has had more advocates. In 1940, a bilingual gravestone was found in Armaziskhevi. The gravestone dates back to the 2nd century AD and confirms the fact that Greek and Aramaic were both used in that period in Georgia. The majority of scholars tend to believe that Greek alphabet served as the basis for the Georgian one. Since the 19th century, Georgian and foreign scholars had been trying to determine when Georgian script first appeared. Some scholars thought that it developed back in the Hellenic era in West Georgia. Others believed that it appeared even earlier.

According to Ivane Javakhishvili, the Georgian writing system has been used since the 7th century BC. Some scholars lean towards the idea that the first alphabet appeared in Georgia after the declaration of Christianity as the state religion. Their opponents suppose that pre-Christian specimens of writing were destroyed, as were pagan idols and numerous household and cultural elements. There are also scholars who share the views of Ramaz Pataridze, who, on the basis of mathematical and astronomical analysis, presumes that Georgia alphabet was created by the priests of ancient Kolchheti-Iberia in accordance with the calendar.

The next Georgian writing system, which evolved from asomtavruli, is nuskhuri (Nuskha-Khutsuri, 'cursive-ecclesiastic'). The oldest known inscription in nuskhuri is the Sinai Homiliary, dated 864 AD. Starting from the 10th century nuskhuri was used in many texts. Nuskhuri developed as a writing style because of the need for faster writing and an increased demand for books. Its use saved materials and time.

Mkhedruli first appeared in the 10th century and is a result of the complicated development of nuskhuri, though in a way it preserves the rounded nature of asomtavruli. Mkhedruli letters, like nuskhuri ones, are written without lifting the writing utensil, with a few exceptions. Like nuskhuri, mkhedruli letters can also be connected. In the early stages of mkhedruli, the system of connecting the letters was so complicated that it is often difficult to distinguish one letter from another, particularly in ornamental texts.



Georgia
Made by Characters

Guest of Honour
Frankfurter Buchmesse 2018



10–14 October 2018
FRANKFURTER
BUCHMESSE
Guest of Honour Georgia

The earliest inscriptions discovered in Georgia and beyond the borders of the country make it obvious that the Georgian alphabet had already had quite a long history of development by the 5th century. Judging from the relevant archaeological layers, the scholars Levan Chilashvili, Zaza Aleksidze and Ramaz Pataridze think that inscriptions found in Nekresi at the end of the 20th century date back to the 1st–3rd centuries BC, the pre-Christian period. The Italian archaeologist Virgilio Corbo discovered ancient Georgian inlaid inscriptions in the ruins of a Georgian monastery in the Judean Desert near Jerusalem in 1952. One of the inscriptions dates back to the 430s AD. It is unlikely that the Georgian alphabet first appeared as late as the 5th century, as the traditions and the writing culture of that time appear to be highly developed. The Martyrdom of St. Shushanik written by Iakob Khutsesi (Tsurtaveli) in 476–483 confirms the high artistic and literary standard which already existed in Georgia in that period. Inscriptions and manuscripts are very different things but these sources, once combined, can reveal many details of our history from ancient folios and texts inscribed on church walls and floors. Thousands of ancient manuscripts of ecclesiastical and secular literature have been preserved through numerous wars and times of misfortune and today bring to life ancient literature as well as the history of the Georgian alphabet.



Georgian Literature in short

Zaal Andronikashvili, Literary scollar

Despite being a small country situated to the south of the Caucasus mountains and on the east coast of the Black Sea, Georgia can still boast the literature that looks back on a long tradition. Georgian is a South-Caucasian language, which is not related to any other language family. The original alphabet and the literature in its own language contribute to Georgia's unique identity and determines its cultural footprint. The first written examples of the Georgian language (4th century AD) are associated with the translation of the Bible. Therefore, Georgian literature, from its origins, has been blessed with external contacts by means of translation. An interest in other cultures has been retained — both the West and the East have an equal share as the sources of inspiration for its culture. With about five million readers Georgian literature can indeed be referred to as a small literature. However, it shines out on the world literary horizon and has a rich uninterrupted history. Within more than 1500 years it has accumulated a treasury of poetic and prosaic forms, styles, rhetoric figures, motifs, which still supply Georgian writers with abundant repertoire of expressive means and devices.

In the 5th century Iakob Tsurtaveli wrote the first original work of hagiography in Georgian: The Martyrdom of the Holy Queen Shushanik. The next 500 years passed under the banner of Christianity: we have lives and passions of Georgian saints; family dramas and love stories, historical narration, as well as descriptions of nature that mark their literary debuts in Georgia primarily in Christian clothing. Georgian poetry, too, derives from the liturgy.

When centres of education moved from monasteries to the palaces of kings and princes in the 10th century the demand for secular literature emerged. It was Shota Rustaveli who revolutionized Georgia's literature and culture in the 12th century. The Knight in the Panther Skin, a moving story of love and friendship performed in the geographical context that stretches from China to Italy, placed monogamous love on the same level with the love of God in what was once a fully charged Christian environment thus canonizing secular literature. Rustaveli's work, which to date is considered the culmination of Georgian literature, introduced a new literary canon: the epical became more important than the lyrical, poetry was valued higher than prose, fiction ousted realism. Later developments in Georgian literature are either direct or indirect references to Rustaveli's literary revolution.

It was not until the 17th century that experiments with new forms and genres began: historical poems lay the foundation for realistic literary trends. Sulkhan-Saba Orbeliani (1658–1725), a great lexicographer and translator, brought prose back from exile with his elegant and laconic collection of fables A Book of Wisdom and Lies.

Davit Guramishvili (1702–1792) revived lyrical poetry and enriched it with many new forms. In his main work, the Davitiani, an amalgam of autobiography and political history, it is love, lamentation, nostalgia and the pastoral which define his lyrical spectrum.

The epicurean trend in Georgian literature is linked to the capital city, Tbilisi, and goes back to Besiki (1750–1791) and Sayat-Nova (1712–1801). They are the pioneers of Tbilisi's decadent popular and multi-ethnic city culture, which sustained through romanticism up to the 1920s, and strongly informed the contemporary Georgian novel. In the 1920s Tbilisi would grow into the centre of a supra-regional, multilingual and international avant-garde. This development was interrupted by the Bolshevik conquest of Georgia in 1921 and ultimately destroyed by Stalin's terror machinery.



The end of the Georgian monarchy and the country's incorporation into the Russian empire in 1801 gave Georgian literature an additional, political, status. Over the next 200 years it would deal with political and social issues. The nation had redeemed its cultural identity from the literature in the 19th century. Romanticism both mourned the disappearance of the state and contoured the development for new Georgia, bringing Georgian literature closer to European literature in terms of themes and forms, however without interrupting its dialogue with Persian poetry. Georgian romanticism would be hard to imagine without its relationship with Russian romanticism, which takes on an important role intertextually and which, later, through translations and original poetry radiates back into Russian literature. Nikoloz Baratashvili (1817–1845) wrote a poem Merani (Pegasus) about a rider who defies fate by riding off to his own destruction, the apogee of Georgian romantic poetry.

National and social are the two great sets of themes: they engage in polemic in Georgia, in the form of controversy between Romanticism and Realism. Georgian literature discovers its own folk and finds, under the influence of Russian romanticism, a paradigmatic, unspoiled and true Georgian personality in the Caucasian mountains. Georgian literature of the 19th century has two great stars. Alexander Kazbegi (1848–1893), an impoverished aristocratic eccentric who spent seven years as a shepherd in the Caucasian mountains, not only revealed to Georgian readers the unknown world of the highlands, but made it the centre of his political plots, which opposed Russian colonialism. He made novel canonical genre of Georgian literature. Vazha Pshavela (1865–1915) discovered the folk language and dialect of the eastern Georgian province of Pshavi and made it a part of Georgian high literature. He re-animated archaic myths and bestowed tragic magnitude upon the conflict between Christians and Muslims.

Georgian literature has a striking deficit of drama, which originated only in the 19th century and first acquired national importance in comedies.

The beginning of the 20th century is another time when Georgian poetry flourished. The symbolist poets' group The Blue Horns dominated Tbilisi's literary life. Galaktion Tabidze, the last great poet and, given the 130 metrical forms he used, the richest poet of Georgia, carried this tradition, uninterrupted by Stalin's terror right to his suicide in 1959. Otherwise, the 20th century is the century of novel for Georgia. Unlike the first Georgian social novels of the 19th century, the great novels of the 20th century (Mikheil Javakhishvili, Konstantine Gamsakhurdia, Grigol Robakidze, Chabua Amirejibi) deal with the loss of political independence to Soviet Russia. The question of Georgianness remains crucial to them and is often sought in the mythologized past. This leads to a sort of Georgian magical realism (above all in the work of Otar Chiladze).

The literature of transition re-discovers private spaces. It distances itself from the writer's pathos and the semi-intellectual claims to leadership of the previous generations. Contemporary Georgian literature is concerned with the problems of freedom, challenges the ancestral values and authority, questions the patriarchal social order, discovers geographical and social peripheries, researches the obscure and yet to be analysed Soviet past, reflects upon civil wars and ethnic conflicts, projects violence in everyday life as well as wartime violence, deals with refugees and social outcasts. All of the above is undertaken in the light of its own tradition, as well as that of the entire literary spectrum from South America to Japan.



The Book Market in Georgia

In 2015, approximately 100 publishing houses were registered in Georgia. For the purpose of this research, 55 active publishing houses were singled out, most of which are small publishers, while only a small number of major or medium-size publishers are represented in the Georgian publishing market. Most publishing activity is centred in Tbilisi. Of 55 publishing houses most are registered in Tbilisi. 34 publishers took part in the research.

The tendency shows that since 2013, the number of publications has been increasing each year: the total number of books published in 2013 was 1,363 titles, whereas in 2015 the number reached 1,491, which amounts to an approximate increase of 9%.

Between 2013 and 2015, on average, the print runs published were 1,000. It can be said that this number has not changed since 2013. It is interesting that in the Georgian book market there are some large publishers, too, whose print runs have reached a maximum of 7,500 in 2013 and 2015. In Georgia the minimum print run for any particular title has been 100 copies.

In 2015, the total sales by the publishing houses included in the research amounted to 10,707,203 lari. By analysing the information on income, it has become possible to establish the total income, not only of the 34 publishing houses taking part, but also of those which refused to take part in the research. For 2015, therefore, the data amounted to a minimum addition of 2,266,995 lari, which makes a total of 12,974,198 lari.

Of the publishing houses taking part in the research for 2015, 47% had their main source of income (over 50%) from fiction and poetry. The other 53% obtained their income basically from a number of types: academic and professional literature, or from school textbooks, from reference books and, in a number of cases, from children's literature.

In the publishing market for 2015, Georgian literature titles formed a relatively high proportion: of the titles published 55% were basically in the field of Georgian literature, and 45% were translated texts.

The Use of Distribution Channels 2013 – 2015

The distribution and sale of books published by book publishers was mostly through companies involved in distribution. In 2013–2015 most publishers (69% in 2015, 63% in 2014, 59% in 2013) used distributors or similar companies to sell their books. It should be noted that each year there is an increase in the practice of selling books by direct contact with shops.

As for the internet, 19% of orders for printed books are directed through that channel, which is a threefold increase for the number of users of the same channel in 2013 (6%).



Georgia
Made by Characters

Guest of Honour
Frankfurter Buchmesse 2018



10–14 October 2018
**FRANKFURTER
BUCHMESSE**
Guest of Honour Georgia

Book Publishing 2013 – 2015

In Georgia it is the Georgian National Parliamentary Library which assigns ISBN numbers to register all books published in the country. This data base is also supplemented by obligatory deposits of copies. On the basis of this data base, 4,173 titles were published in Georgia in 2015. This number includes books published by any publisher, individual producer, physical person or institute or company. From 2013 to 2015 there has been a growth in the number of titles published, and it is in 2015 that the greatest number of titles was published (2013: 3.745; 2014: 2.964; 2015: 4.173).

Top 10 Publishing Houses by the Percentage of Published Titles for 2015

(Semi-structured interviews with 34 publishing houses)

Palitra L	27%
Bakur Sulakauri Publishing	19%
Intelekti Publishers	13%
Newspaper Sakartvelos Matsne	7%
Books in Batumi Publishing	4%
Arete	4%
Griffon	3%
Artanuji	2%
Nekeri	2%
Adjara	2%
andere Verlage	17%

Average Book Price

The research has revealed that by 2015 the average selling price of the book in Georgia was 11.75 GEL (4.42 Euro). Between 2013 and 2015 we observe an increase in book-selling prices on the book market.

Book Stores

According to 2014 data of the National Statistics Office of Georgia, in 2014 around 50 book stores were registered, most of them small-sized companies. Specifically, the number of small stores is 41; only “Biblus” is in the category of large companies. Nowadays there are two large and relatively long-standing e-book stores operating in the e-book market: saba.com.ge and lit.ge. Apart from those shops, there are several new websites operating in the e-book market: www.ebooks.ge, www.ibooks.ge, www.readerwill.com.

In 2013 – 2016 years, the majority, namely 60%, of titles presented on websites of e-book stores, was Georgian literature; 39% was translated literature. E-book stores offer their customers foreign-language literature in a very small number, the share being only 1%.