



**Georgia**  
**Made by Characters**  
Guest of Honour  
Frankfurter Buchmesse 2018



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

# Georgia – Made by Characters

**Press kit Georgia, Guest of Honour  
Frankfurter Buchmesse 2018  
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### **Guest of Honour Organisation**

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

**#georgiancharacters**

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Press release, 9 October 2018

# Georgia – Made by Characters

## The Guest of Honour at the Frankfurter Buchmesse 2018 is just as unique and artistic as its alphabet

FRANKFURT. Georgia, an age-old cultural nation, is Guest of Honour at the Frankfurter Buchmesse on 10–14 October 2018. The Georgian 'characters', the 33 elegantly curved letters of the unique alphabet, are included on UNESCO's cultural heritage list and have inspired the theme of this year's guest country appearance: Georgia – Made by Characters. The country on the threshold between Europe and the Caucasus is not only presenting the stories and works set down in this fascinating script, but also the characters behind them: authors, artists, musicians – in short, the Georgians themselves. Over the course of the guest country year, more than 150 new books have been published in the German-speaking market, and 70 German-language publishing houses have titles from or about Georgia in their programmes. A total of 200 books have been translated from Georgian into German since the founding of the Georgian National Book Center (2014) and the launch of the translation support programme (2011). More than 70 authors are coming to Germany to present their works in person at the Frankfurter Buchmesse and in the city of Frankfurt at a total of 350 events – from readings to conferences. Around 100 cultural events provide an opportunity to further explore the country. The centre of the Guest of Honour appearance is the Pavilion at the book fair site, the design of which was inspired by the 33 letters. An extensive literary and cultural programme of outstanding quality is presented here every day: from readings and discussions to classical and electronic music.

### From classics to contemporary – new books from and about Georgia

From historical epics and sharp-tongued satires to personal reports from the Gulag – the new releases in German reflect Georgia's historical and cultural diversity, which has a tradition that reaches back to the fifth century and to the hagiographic work *The Martyrdom of the Holy Queen Shushanik*.

A huge range of genres are also covered: novels, crime fiction, short stories, myths and fairy tales, Georgian epics, poetry anthologies, non-fiction, collections of critical essays and books for children and young adults. German readers can now also discover a number of classics of Georgian literature such as Shota Rustaveli's twelfth-century national epic *The Knight in the Panther's Skin*, a modern prose version of which has just been published under the title *Der Held im Pardellfell*, told by Tilman Spreckelsen and illustrated by Kat Menschik (Galiani Verlag). Seven books by Mikheil Javakhishvili (1880–1937), the father of modern Georgian prose, are available in German. Otar Tschiladse (1933–2009) was a representative of world literature twice nominated for the Nobel Prize for Literature: this year sees the publications in German of *Awelum* and *Der Korb* and *Der Garten der Dariatschangi* (Matthes & Seitz Berlin).

### More than 70 Georgian authors will be attending the Frankfurter Buchmesse

More than 70 Georgian authors will be making guest appearances and presenting their books in Frankfurt. Among them is Aka Morchiladze, one of the most highly respected contemporary Georgian writers. The author, who lives in London, has written more than 30 books, and a number of these have now been published in German for the first time: *Santa*



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*Esperanza* and *Obolé* (both with Mitteldeutscher Verlag), and *Reise nach Karabach* and *Der Filmvorführer* (both with Weidle Verlag). He and Nino Haratischvili, who is probably the best-known Georgian author in Germany, will speak at the opening ceremony of the Frankfurter Buchmesse. The Hamburg-based author presents her new book *Die Katze und der General* (Frankfurter Verlagsanstalt). Other active and engaged Georgian women writers will also be making appearances, among them Naira Gelashvili, a writer who is loved for her unconventional prose and who delivered a passionate plea for the power of imagination in her 1982 book *Ich fahre nach Madrid* (Verbrecher Verlag), which was published in Georgia under difficult circumstances. Tamta Melashvili, an activist in the feminist movement, will be presenting her latest work *Marines Engel* (Wieser Verlag), in which she seeks to understand through literature the origins of injustice, inequality and oppression. Ana Kordzaia-Samadashvili's novel *Wer hat die Tschaika getötet?* (Verlag Hans Schiler) is a plea for tolerance, while Nana Ekvimishvili gives the rebellious women and girls of Georgian society a voice and a face in her book *Das Birnenfeld* (Suhrkamp Verlag).

In *Heiliges Dunkel – Die letzten Tage des Gulag* (Mitteldeutscher Verlag), Levan Berdzenishvili, former Director of the Georgian National Library, opens up a dark chapter in the country's history with a reportage on his time as a political prisoner. With his classic novel *Das erste Gewand* (Carl Hanser Verlag), Guram Dochanashvili created a fable about tyranny and longing – a virtuosic literary masterpiece. Archil Kikodze captures the Georgian zeitgeist perfectly in his latest novel *Südelefant* (Ullstein Verlag). And, finally, Lasha Bugadze, who is always at the centre of public interest thanks to the sharp satirical edge with which he dissects social and political subjects, presents his new book *Der erste Russe* (Frankfurter Verlagsanstalt) in Frankfurt. Poetry, a very popular genre in Georgia, is also well represented, with some of the country's best-known poets – such as Besik Kharanauli – making appearances in Frankfurt.

You can find a list of new publications at [www.georgia-characters.com/Translations.aspx](http://www.georgia-characters.com/Translations.aspx)

### **Surrounded by the 33 letters: The Guest of Honour Pavilion at the Frankfurter Buchmesse**

The Guest of Honour Pavilion (Forum/Level 1) is the main place where you can experience the diversity of Georgian literature and culture. The letters of the Georgian alphabet, which was added to UNESCO's intangible cultural heritage list in 2016, play a prominent role in the space designed by the George Bokhua Studio and Multiverse Architecture in Tbilisi. Not only are the new Georgian publications presented in the environment inspired by the 33 characters – 33 doors will also open here, 33 songs will sound out, 33 boats will sail and 33 loaves of bread will be baked. The Pavilion is the stage for an extensive programme of readings and live music. Each day of the book fair comes to an end with the Happy Hour at 5 p.m., which includes anything from the techno sounds of the resident DJ from Tbilisi's famous Bassiani nightclub or a performance by the Georgian National Ballet Sukhishvili. Georgian wine and typical Georgian delicacies will really whet the appetite of visitors. And the guest country programme will come to a close in a grand finale – the traditional Handover Ceremony with Georgian author Zurab Karumidze and Norwegian writer Åsne Seierstad (14 Oct, 3.30 p.m.).

Visitors can also encounter Georgian authors, artists and creatives in events and readings around the rest of the book fair site, for example, at Georgia's National Stand (Hall 5.0, B100), at the Literature for Children and Young Adults Stand (Hall 3.0, F152) at THE ARTS+ (Hall 4.1, N67, N71 etc), on the Agora, and in the Gourmet Gallery (Hall 3.1, L140, L146). „Science – Made by Characters“ and the Georgia's Innovation and Technology Agency will present themselves (Hall 4.2, E93, B85). There is also a whole host of lectures and readings in other places, such as during the city's reading festival OPEN BOOKS, and at BOOKFEST, the festival of the Frankfurter Buchmesse.

### **Exhibitions, performances, films: Georgia in Frankfurt**

Outside the book fair, countless other events – from theatre productions and performances to exhibitions – provide even more insights into Georgia's diverse cultural landscape. The programme presented by Frankfurt's museums and cultural institutions combines the best of prehistory, ancient and contemporary art, photography, architecture, design, typography and illustration. Highlights include the exhibition 'Medea's Love and the Quest for the Golden Fleece' at the Liebieghaus Skulpturensammlung, with exceptional archaeological finds and antique artworks from Georgia, as well as 'Gold & Wine. Georgia's Oldest Treasures' organised by the Archäologisches Museum Frankfurt. Under the title 'Tiflis on my Mind' at the Klingspor Museum in Offenbach, the Georgian alphabet will be the central focus of an exhibition for the first time. Lovers of contemporary art can look forward to the screening 'All is fair in Dreams and War' by Andro Wekua, one of Georgia's most popular contemporary artists, and the first solo exhibition dedicated to Thea Djordjadze, one of Georgia's most high-profile artists. World-famous musicians are on hand to provide a musical taster of the guest country, including the pianist Khatia Buniatishvili at the book fair opening ceremony, the jazz pianist Beka Gochiashvili and many others at the concert from the cultural TV channel ARTE, and – last but not least – the violinist Lisa Batiashvili with the Georgian Philharmonic Orchestra and the Gori Women's Choir in a concert at the Alte Oper Frankfurt. The programme also includes a series of productions by leading Georgian theatre ensembles, including the renowned Rezo Gabriadze Puppet Theatre, the Tumanishvili Film Actors Theatre and the Tskhinvali State Theatre. There is also plenty to keep film lovers happy, including a film series at the Deutsches Filmmuseum and a book launch and film screening dedicated to the Georgian filmmaker, scriptwriter, actor and painter Kote Mikaberidze.

### **Georgia is cooking – culinary experiences around Frankfurt**

Not only in the Georgia Pavilion or the Gourmet Gallery can book fair visitors experience a taste of Georgia. Using the tagline 'Georgia is cooking', promoter **Leon Joskowitz** joins forces with five top Georgian chefs and culinary ambassadors – like the celebrated chef **Tekuna Gachechiladze** – to share the experience of the country's culinary diversity around Frankfurt, for example, during the 'Books n' Wines' series.

More information can be found at [www.georgia-characters.com](http://www.georgia-characters.com)

# Statements



“I am very much looking forward to Georgia’s Guest of Honour appearance. After a very intense period of preparation, we can now celebrate the results at the Frankfurter Buchmesse 2018: Georgia, an awe-inspiring country in the Caucasus, is bringing its rich culture and history to Germany, offering an invaluable opportunity for exploration and discovery. Around 70 authors will present their work in Frankfurt. Over the course of the guest country year, more than 150 titles were translated from Georgian into German – making the Georgian characters come alive for us. 16 Frankfurt museums are exhibiting art, architecture and design from Georgia, and there will also be plenty of musical and culinary discoveries. I truly hope that this year as Guest of Honour will open many doors for Georgia, and that Georgian literature will find its way from Frankfurt and out into the world.”

*Juergen Boos, President of the Frankfurter Buchmesse*



“The Frankfurter Buchmesse represents an event of such amplitude, that the emotions gained here last for the whole year. From 2017 to 2018 have been replete with symbolic and significant milestones. The first German settlements appeared in Georgia over 200 years ago. 25 years ago Germany and Georgia re-established diplomatic relations and it is the 100th anniversary since the Republic of Germany recognized the independence of Georgia’s first republic, sharing our nations strive for freedom. Since then, Germany’s strong political, socio-economic and cultural support towards Georgia has been truly invaluable. Even today, there is virtually no cultural activity in which Georgia and Germany do not cooperate. Undoubtedly, this vibrant relationship could not exist without active one on one relationships. In addition to maintaining friendly relations it is of paramount importance for our nations to raise awareness of each other’s cultures, lifestyle and values. Visa liberalization made this process irreversible.

The event, which highlights this process is Frankfurter Buchmesse 2018, where Georgia appears as the Guest of Honour. Needless to say, the Frankfurter Buchmesse naturally becomes the best platform not only for our authors to interact, but for the whole country to present itself through literature and culture. Europe will rediscover a modern, vibrant country with a rich history and culture. A country that shares fundamental European values and aspirations. Having said what a great opportunity the Frankfurter Buchmesse is, we do recognise the responsibility we carry. Therefore, I would like to express our immense gratitude to the Frankfurter Buchmesse and its team for the trust they have put in us. I am delighted to know that German publishing houses are increasingly interested in

Georgian authors. Their works have been translated into German language and put on display in the most prestigious venues.

Georgia will have an opportunity to showcase its culture and values in Germany throughout the whole year. We strongly believe that these activities will support Georgia's further integration into Europe thus raising awareness of the Georgian culture."

***Mikheil Batiashvili, Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sport***



"Working for a long time with your team together on a project that, as you believe, opens great opportunities for your country and its future, you feel particularly responsible. Georgia's participation as Guest of Honour at the Frankfurter Buchmesse has proved to be precisely such a project for the Georgian National Book Center. It is a major challenge, which motivated each of us to do what we love to do with passion and energy increased tenfold. Why? Because we believe that, we, together with Georgian writers, could tell the story of our country better and more precisely and the rest of the world could hear our voice better from here. And this is exactly what we need today ... We have a lot to say and to share. The linguistic barrier has already been overcome and Georgian literature is starting a genuine journey in various countries around the world and first and foremost in Germany. Georgian literature that is created in an unique alphabet managed to find readers in more than 30 countries in just four or five years and this process is irreversible. We are grateful to all of our foreign publisher partners for this. Working with them was a major experience for us.

Georgia is a small country that has been open to the world around for centuries. That is why Georgia is the way it is ... with a diverse culture and fascinating history, and rich in interesting elements from both the European and Oriental traditions. It is daring, boisterous, fun-loving, and, at the same time, a little melancholic ...

The slogan 'Georgia Made by Characters' represents the intense feeling we want to bring to Frankfurt. Our character is the main factor determining our identity, which is Georgia's most powerful force in becoming established in the independent and free world. The path we follow each day as a country to hold on to this independence is very complicated. On the other hand, this complexity makes us even more responsible for maintaining our country and its culture and identity; it shapes our character and makes us even stronger and more principled. I would like to thank all our German and international partners on behalf of Georgia for their support and contribution as we have had a major achievement together with them."

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



“In my opinion, something that is very good for Georgian writers is happening today. It is good not only for those, who are creating poetry and prose today, but also for those, who have used the ancient, new, and most recent versions of the Georgian alphabet over the past 1,500 years to express their sentiments and experience and to communicate what they have seen and heard.

Moreover, it is good even for those, who used to make copies of manuscripts before printing was introduced in Georgia. They ensured immortality of literature, often being writers themselves. These 1,500 years are a long time. And when you consider that Georgia is a small country and its historic past mostly consists of struggle for survival, literature can probably be regarded as one of the pillars of survival.

Over the past centuries, Georgians have translated a lot from Greek, Latin, Persian, and Armenian and have gone even further in the East. But in the meantime, Georgia itself has remained largely unknown to the outside world. We know a lot about others, but others know little about us.

Shota Rustaveli, the author of the epic poem *The Knight in the Panther's Skin*, is a good example in this context. The language of the poem is understandable even today and the poetry is exceptional. Shota Rustaveli is an author with the experience of world civilisation behind him. He knows everything about the world and the world knows nothing about him. This is sad, but this is what our history is. As regards *The Knight in the Panther's Skin*, it has become a kind of civic constitution. The traditions based on the love, friendship, and relations that endure through thick and thin characteristic of Rustaveli's heroes probably have had no less power than laws. Literature has not only been literature for us. It has been a reliable support for life and identity. That is why something very good indeed is happening today for centuries-old and unknown Georgian literature.”

**Aka Morchiladze**, author, key speaker at the Opening Ceremony of the Frankfurt Buchmesse 2018





“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 it has and how important it 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 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 straight forwardness and perfection, but in the human ambivalence, which every political, social, historical narrative contains.”

***Nino Haratischwili***, author and playwright, key speaker at the Opening Ceremony of the Frankfurter Buchmesse 2018

# Georgian Authors at Frankfurter Buchmesse

All events with the authors can be found at: [www.georgia-characters.com/Program.aspx](http://www.georgia-characters.com/Program.aspx)

## Aka Morchiladze



### **Key speaker at the Opening Ceremony of the Frankfurter Buchmesse 2018.**

Aka Morchiladze, a pseudonym of Giorgi Akhvlediani, (born in 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 a 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, including the SABA Georgian Literature Award prize for 'Best Novel of the Year' for *Obolé* in 2011. He lives and works in London.

### **German book titles since 2010:**

*Santa Esperanza*, Mitteldeutscher Verlag, 2018

*Reise nach Karabach*, Weidle Verlag, 2018

*Der Filmvorführer*, Weidle Verlag, 2018

*Obolé*, Mitteldeutscher Verlag, 2018

*Schatten auf dem Weg. Unbekannte Geschichten aus der Sowjetzeit in Georgien*, Mitteldeutscher Verlag, 2018

*Georgische Schrift und Typographie. Geschichte und Gegenwart*, Helmut Buske Verlag, 2017

*Georgische Gegenwartsliteratur. Eine Anthologie georgisch-deutsch*, Reichert Verlag, 2010

## Haratischwili, Nino



### Key speaker at the Opening Ceremony of the Frankfurter Buchmesse 2018

Nino Haratischwili (born in 1983 in Tbilissi) is an author who was born in Georgia, but writes in German. She is a prize-winning playwright and director. In 2010, she won the Adelbert von Chamisso Prize. Haratischwili's first novel *Juja* (2010) was included in the longlist of the German Book Prize and the shortlist of the ZDF Aspekte Literature Prize. In 2011, the novel won the debut prize of Buddenbrookhaus Lübeck. In the same year, her second novel, *Mein sanfter Zwilling*, won the Hotlist der Unabhängigen Verlage (Hotlist of Independent Publishers) Prize. Her novel *Das achte Leben (Für Brilka)* won her the Crossing Borders grant from the Robert Bosch Stiftung, as well as the Literaturpreis des Kulturkreises der Deutschen Wirtschaft and the Anna Seghers Prize. In 2018 her new novel *Die Katze und der General* was published, which was on the shortlist of the Deutscher Buchpreis. Nino Haratischwili lives in Hamburg, Germany.

### German book titles since 2010:

*Die Katze und der General*, Frankfurter Verlagsanstalt, 2018

*Bittere Bonbons, Georgische Geschichten*, edition fünf, 2018

*Georgien. Eine literarische Einladung*, Verlag Klaus Wagenbach, 2018

*Zwischen Orient und Okzident. Theaterstücke aus Georgien*, Theater der Zeit, 2015

*Das Achte Leben (Für Brilka)*, Frankfurter Verlagsanstalt, 2014

*Techno der Jaguare. Neue Erzählerinnen aus Georgien*, Frankfurter Verlagsanstalt, 2013 *Mein sanfter Zwilling*, Frankfurter Verlagsanstalt, 2011

## Abashidze, Zura



Zura Abashidze (born in 1995 in Batumi) is a writer, journalist, activist and blogger. His stories are written with the distinctive voice of the new generation, with thematic diversity and an unmistakable style. At various times, his stories have been used for the Gender Studies syllabus at Tbilisi State University. Abashidze has received the Georgian SABA Literature Award for 'Best Debut of the Year'.

### German book titles since 2010:

*Wie tötet man Billy Elliot?* Größenwahn Verlag, 2018

## Abo Iashagashvili



Abo Iashagashvili (nicknamed 'Iashagashvili', born in 1977 in Tbilisi) studied history and philosophy in Tbilisi, Munich and Berlin. As an enthusiastic traveller and lover of history, he found his ideal job as a mountain guide. He has written five novels and several short stories, and has also published articles in various literary journals and magazines. He was awarded 'Best Novel' in the 2005 SABA Literature Awards for his first novel.

### German book titles since 2010:

*Royal Mary. Ein Mord in Tiflis*, edition.fotoTAPETA, 2017

### Adamashvili, Beka



Beka Adamashvili (born in 1990 in Tbilisi) is an author and blogger. He is currently working as a copywriter for a creative company. His debut novel, *Bestseller*, was very popular, especially among young readers. His Georgian publisher humorously described the genre of the novel as “satire-parody-detective-fantasy-comedy-adventure-and- and-anything-else-we-have-missed-out”.

**German book titles since 2010:**

*Bestseller*, Voland & Quist, 2017

### Alkhazishvili, Givi



Givi Alkhazishvili (born in 1944 in Kutaisi) is a poet, prose writer, essayist and translator. He studied Georgian philology and has been publishing poems since the 1960s. He has also worked for literary journals and publishers since the 1970s, in a managerial capacity in some cases. During the late 1990s and early 2000s he gave lectures on literature. His poems have been translated into a number of languages. He was awarded the State Prize in 1998 and the SABA Award, Georgia's most important literary prize, in 2011.

**German book titles since 2010:**

*Georgiens Herz ist ... mit Poesie infiziert*, Größenwahn Verlag, 2018

„Ich aber will dem Kaukasos zu...“. *Eine Anthologie georgischer Lyrik*, Pop Verlag, 2015

### Amaglobeli, Rati



Rati Amaglobeli (born in 1977 in Tbilisi) is a master of experimental poetry. His live performances, often accompanied by electronic music, have made him a star of contemporary poetry in Georgia and a welcome guest at various international literary festivals. He is a co-founder of the SABA Literature Award. He was the President of the Georgian PEN-Centre from 2011 to 2018.

**German book titles since 2010:**

*Geheißen: Kains Ernte oder: der Tod der Logik*, Dağyeli Verlag, 2018

### Anphimiadi, Diana



Diana Anphimiadi (born in 1982 in Tbilisi) is a poet, publicist, linguist and translator. As a linguist, she deals with the instrument of language in different ways. She is also well-versed in literary history – from mythology to the modern age. Her Greek heritage is reflected in her poetry in a special way.

**German book titles since 2010:**

*Wahrsagen durch Marmelade. Geschichten und Rezepte aus Georgien*, Wieser Verlag, 2018

*Georgiens Herz ist ... mit Poesie infiziert*, Größenwahn Verlag, 2018

*Sonntag der beleuchteten Geschichten in gemalter Sprache*, Drava Verlag, 2018

*Barbare*, Wieser Verlag 2018

*Fenster*, Wieser Verlag, 2017

*„Ich aber will dem Kaukasos zu...“*. Eine Anthologie georgischer Lyrik, Pop Verlag, 2015

### Bakanidze, Luka



Luka Bakanidze (born in 1982 in Tbilisi) entered Georgia's literary scene with his poems. He gained popularity by writing texts for the journal *Literaturuli Palitra*, whose readers enjoyed his authentic style and extraordinary topics. His collection of short stories *Where Are You, Lazar?* won him the SABA Literature Award in 2017.

**German book titles since 2010:**

*Das dritte Ufer*, KLAKE Verlag, 2018

### Bakuradze, Shalva



Shalva Bakuradze (born in 1973 in Sokhumi) is a Georgian poet and performer. He graduated from Tbilisi State University's West European Studies programme. His work was first published in the 1990s. His poetry has been translated into German, English, Russian, Slovak and other languages.

**German book titles since 2010:**

*Aus der Ferne. Neue Georgische Lyrik*, Corvinus Presse Berlin, 2018

### Barbakadze, Dato



Dato Barbakadze (born in 1966 in Tbilisi) is a writer, essayist and translator. He has received numerous literary prizes for his literature and translations. His works have been published in more than 30 books, literary magazines and anthologies. He is a member of the European Writers' Union Kogge and Austrian PEN-Club.

**German book titles since 2010:**

*Das Gebet. Und andere Gedichte*, Pop Verlag, 2018

*Georgische Kurzgeschichten*, Helmut Buske Verlag, 2016

*Die Unmöglichkeit des Wortes*, Pop Verlag, 2016

### Benidze, Salome



Salome Benidze (born in 1986 in Kutaisi) studied journalism and political science in Tbilisi, Vilnius and Thessaloniki. In 2012, she received the SABA Literature Award for 'Best Debut of the Year'. Her book *The City on the Water* received a Tsinandali Award in 2016 in the category 'Best Prose Collection'. She works as a translator and has translated several authors into Georgian, including Milorad Pavić and Salman Rushdie. She is currently working as a public relations specialist and is actively engaged in civil activities to defend women's rights.

**German book titles since 2010:**

*Die Stadt auf dem Wasser*, AvivA Verlag, 2017

### Berdzenishvili, Levan



Levan Berdzenishvili (born in 1953 in Batumi) studied classical philology. He earned his PhD with a dissertation about Aristophanes. Berdzenishvili is also a translator and also used to be the Director of the Georgian National Library. From 1984 to 1987, Berdzenishvili was sent to a prison camp as a political prisoner for 'Anti-soviet agitation and propaganda'. In 1996, he became active in politics. He is a member of the Georgian Parliament.

**German book titles since 2010:**

*Heiliges Dunkel. Die letzten Tage des Gulag*, Mitteldeutscher Verlag, 2018

### Bibliashvili, Zaza



Zaza Bibliashvili (born in 1972 in Karaleti near Gori) studied Journalism at Tbilisi State University and has been published since 1985. He is the author of poetry, prose and essay collections, and he has worked as a press correspondent, military journalist and an editor for comic, business and political publications. He has written scripts for TV comedies and TV series, and has worked as a filmmaker. Bibliashvili has won the Tsinandali Prize for Literature.

**German book titles since 2010:**

*Georgiens Herz ist ... mit Poesie infiziert*, Größenwahn Verlag, 2018

### Buachidze, Andro



Andro Buachidze (born in 1957 in Tbilisi) is a poet, critic, essayist and translator. He graduated from Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University with a degree in philology. He has worked as a deputy editor at the public literary journal Mnatobi, as an editor for the literary magazines Tsiskari and Saunje, and at the Giorgi Leonidze State Museum of Georgian Literature. Andro Buachidze has won several literary prizes in Georgia, including the SABA Literature Award, which he won both in 2005 and 2017.

**German book titles since 2010:**

*Die elektrischen Glühbirnen: Lyrik aus Georgien*, Edition Virgines, 2018

### Bugadze, Lasha



Lasha Bugadze (born in 1977 in Tbilisi) is the author of numerous novels and plays that have been performed in various European cities. His works have been translated into multiple languages and have received many literary awards. In Georgia, Bugadze has also become famous as a result of his literary programmes, which are broadcast on radio and TV. He is also a talented cartoonist.

**German book titles since 2010:**

*Der erste Russe*, Frankfurter Verlagsanstalt, 2018

*LUCRECIA515*, Frankfurter Verlagsanstalt, 2017

*Der Literaturexpress*, Frankfurter Verlagsanstalt, 2016

*Zwischen Orient und Okzident. Theaterstücke aus Georgien*, Theater der Zeit, 2015

*Georgische Gegenwartsliteratur. Eine Anthologie georgisch–deutsch*, Reichert Verlag, 2010

### Burchuladze, Zaza



Zaza Burchuladze (born in 1973 in Tbilisi) translated Fyodor Dostoyevsky and Daniil Charms into Georgian. He studied art history and painting at the Tbilisi State Academy of Arts. He has received several literary awards for his novels. Today, he lives and works in Berlin.

**German book titles since 2010:**

*Der aufblasbare Engel*, Blumenbar, 2018

*Georgien. Eine literarische Einladung*, Verlag Klaus Wagenbach, 2018

*Touristenfrühstück*, Blumenbar, 2017

*ADIBAS*, Blumenbar, 2015

*Georgische Gegenwartsliteratur. Eine Anthologie georgisch–deutsch*, Reichert Verlag, 2010

### Chekurishvili, Bela



Bela Chekurishvili (born in 1974 in Gurjaani) studied philology at Tbilisi State University. She later worked as a cultural journalist in Tbilisi. Currently, she is studying at the University of Bonn. She is an author of four poetry collections and one collection of short stories. Her poems were published in several anthologies in Georgia and abroad.

**German book titles since 2010:**

*Barfuß*, Das Wunderhorn, 2018

*Aus der Ferne. Neue Georgische Lyrik*, Corvinus Presse Berlin, 2018

*Wir, die Apfelbäume*, Das Wunderhorn, 2016



### Chkvanava, Gela



After leaving school, Gela Chkvanava (born in 1967 in Sukhumi) was drafted into the army and assigned to an anti-aircraft and anti-missile unit in Petersburg. After his military service, he returned to Sukhumi and studied philology until his studies were interrupted by the Abkhazia war. Chkvanava's house burned down, together with his manuscripts. He now lives as an exile in Akhalkalaki. He has won various literary prizes in Georgia.

**German book titles since 2010:**

*Unerledigte Geschichten*, Voland & Quist, 2018

### Dochanashvili, Guram



Guram Dochanashvili (born in 1939 in Tbilisi) is a Georgian prose writer and historian by profession, whose literary works have been popular since the 1970s. He was an active participant in archaeological excavations and played in the university orchestra. He was head of the prose department of the Mnatobi journal and headed the prose section of the Academy of Sciences. Since 1985, he has been the main editor at the Georgian Film studio. Today, Guram Dochanashvili is one of the most popular writers in Georgia and his novel *The First Robe* (1980) is a modern Georgian classic.

**German book titles since 2010:**

*Das erste Gewand*, Hanser Literaturverlage, 2018

### Ekvtimishvili, Nana



Nana Ekvtimishvili (born in 1978 in Tbilisi) is an author and director. She studied at Film University Babelsberg. Together with Simon Gross, Ekvtimishvili directed two prize-winning movies: *Long Bright Days/In Bloom* (2014) and *My Happy Family* (2017). She lives in Berlin and Tbilisi.

**German book titles since 2010:**

*Das Birnenfeld*, Suhrkamp, 2018

### Gabriadze, Rezo



The renowned Georgian artist Reso Gabriadze (born in 1936 in Kutaisi) is a painter, illustrator, sculptor, author, scriptwriter, journalist, set and costume designer, as well as much more. Life itself is always at the heart of his work. He captures the tragicomic moments of everyday life through various means, and with enormous inventiveness, creative power and intelligence.

**German book titles since 2010:**

*Gabriadze. Der Malerpoet Georgiens*, Sieveking Verlag, 2018



### Gabunia, Davit



Davit Gabunia (born in 1982 in Poti) is a two-time winner of the independent theatre award Duruji (2013–14) for the best new Georgian play of the year. He also won the SABA Literature Award (2014) for 'Best Drama'. His plays have been produced at the Royal District Theatre, the Rustaveli National Theatre and at the Poti, Batumi and Liberty theatres. Gabunia's translations include plays by Shakespeare, Strindberg, Ibsen and a number of contemporary British, Swedish and German playwrights.

**German book titles since 2010:**

*Farben der Nacht*, Rowohlt Verlag, 2018

### Gachechiladze, Revaz



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

**German book titles since 2010:**

*Georgien im weltpolitischen Kontext*, Wieser Verlag, 2017

### Gelashvili, Naira



Naira Gelashvili (born in 1947 in Signagi) is a writer, literary critic and civil society activist. She gained popularity among readers for her non-conformist prose, which eventually provoked a negative reaction from the Soviet authorities. In 1994, the author founded the cultural-educational NGO Caucasian House Centre for Cultural Relations, which plays a significant role in the peaceful cooperation of different cultures and religions among the people of the Caucasus.

**German book titles since 2010:**

*Ich fahre nach Madrid*, Verbrecher Verlag, 2018

*Ich bin sie*, Verbrecher Verlag, 2017

### Getiashvili, Rezo



Reso Getiaschvili (born in 1976 in Gurjaani) is a journalist and poet. After studying Journalism at Tbilisi State University, he became involved with environmental protection in Georgia and worked as an advisor at an international environmental organisation. He has been chairman of the 'Discover Georgia!' journalism centre since 2007, and has published three volumes of poetry.

**German book titles since 2010:**

*Georgiens Herz ist ... mit Poesie infiziert*, Größenwahn Verlag, 2018

*„Ich aber will dem Kaukasos zu...“*. Eine Anthologie georgischer Lyrik, Pop Verlag, 2015

### Gochiashvili, Ela



Ela Gochiashvili (born in 1959 in Vachnaziani) is a poet. She graduated from Tbilisi State University's faculty of journalism. She works at the Galaktion Tabidze House Museum and has published six books of poetry. Her poems have been translated into Russian, Lithuanian, French, Italian, Azeri, Dutch, German, Persian and Armenian, and have been included in anthologies of translated verse and other types of literary publications. Ela Gochiashvili has participated in various literary events, including poetry festivals in several countries.

**German book titles since 2010:**

*Ich bin Viele. Frauenstimmen aus Georgien*, Pop Verlag, 2018

*Aus der Ferne. Neue Georgische Lyrik*, Corvinus Presse Berlin, 2018

„Ich aber will dem Kaukasos zu...“. *Eine Anthologie georgischer Lyrik*, Pop Verlag, 2015

### Guruli, Iunona

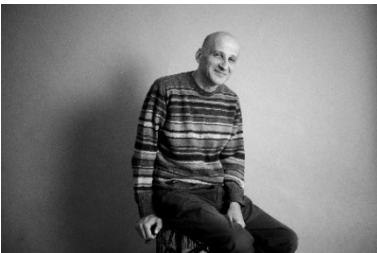


Iunona Guruli (born in 1978 in Tbilisi) studied at the Shota Rustaveli Theatre and Film University (1995–96) then read international journalism at Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University (1996–99). She has been living in Germany since 1999, studying firstly at the Leibniz University in Hannover (2000–04) followed by the Albert Ludwigs University in Freiburg (2005–09). In 2009, she obtained her Master's degree in political science and recent and modern history. Two years ago, she started translating Georgian literature into German. Her first book, *The Diagnosis*, was awarded the SABA Literature Award in 2016.

**German book titles since 2010:**

*Wenn es nur Licht gäbe, bevor es Dunkel wird*, btb Verlag, 2018

### Iatashvili, Shota



Shota Iatashvili (born in 1966 in Tbilisi) is a poet, fiction writer, translator and critic. Iatashvili has published ten poetry collections, four works of prose and a book of literary criticism. In 2007 and 2011 he won the SABA Literature Award, Georgia's most prestigious award, and won the International Poetry Award "Kievskie Lavri" (Ukraine) in 2009. His works have been translated into 25 languages and he takes part in numerous literary festivals. Currently, he is the Editor in Chief at the literary magazine Akhali Saunje and works as a consultant for the Tbilisi International Literature Festival.

**German book titles since 2010:**

*Die elektrischen Glühbirnen: Lyrik aus Georgien*, Edition Virgines, 2018

*Aus der Ferne. Neue Georgische Lyrik*, Corvinus Presse Berlin, 2018

„Ich aber will dem Kaukasos zu...“. *Eine Anthologie georgischer Lyrik*, Pop Verlag, 2015

### Jandieri, Kote



Kote Jandieri (born in 1958 in Tbilisi) is a writer and successful winemaker. Following his studies in geography and geology, he started his career as an author in 1980. His short stories, documentaries and feature films deal with social dramas resulting from the rich history of Georgia. Two collections of short stories have been published, for which he won literary prizes in Georgia. They have been translated in Mexico, Azerbaijan, Sweden and the USA.

**German book titles since 2010:**

*Petre Otskheli. In Flammen der Zeit: Georgien, Theater, Moderne*, ciconia ciconia, 2018  
*Globalisierung. Eine georgische Geschichte*, KLAK Verlag, 2018

### Janikashvili, Basa



Basa Janikashvili (born in 1974 in Tbilisi) studied at the Tbilisi State University of Theatre and Cinema. Since 1996, he has published short stories, plays and poems. His works have been performed on stage in Georgia and abroad. Basa Janikashvili's writing has been translated into English, German, French, Ukrainian and other languages. He has received various prizes in Georgia and abroad for his plays.

**German book titles since 2010:**

*Zwischen Orient und Okzident. Theaterstücke aus Georgien*, Theater der Zeit, 2015  
*Georgische Gegenwartsliteratur. Eine Anthologie georgisch-deutsch*, Reichert Verlag, 2010

### Javakhishvili, Kato



Kato Javakhishvili (born in 1979 in Tbilisi) is a poet and journalist, and has written a number of volumes of poetry and essays. She has been awarded numerous prizes for her work. Her poems have been translated into English, German, Slovakian, Lithuanian and Russian, and have been included in various anthologies and almanacs.

**German book titles since 2010:**

*Georgiens Herz ist ... mit Poesie infiziert*, Größenwahn Verlag, 2018  
*„Ich aber will dem Kaukasos zu...“*. Eine Anthologie georgischer Lyrik, Pop Verlag, 2015

### Jishkariani, Zura



Zura Jishkariani, a.k.a Dilla (born in 1985 in Sukhumi) is a multimedia artist and writer. After the civil war in Abkhazia, he lived in ghettos as a refugee. In the early 2000s, he gave up his sociology studies at university and launched the punk rock band EVA. In 2007, he started his most successful music project, *Kung-Fu Junkie*, which was disbanded 10 years later. In 2014, Jishkariani created the first ever Georgian chatbot, *Cyber-Galaktion*, which is a linguistic simulation of the most prominent Georgian poet, Galaktion Tabidze. He is actively involved in chatbot personality design and interested in how sadness, trust, joy and other emotions in people can be recreated using algorithms and logical codes. In 2016, he founded the company ZEG, which creates interactive tombstones. Jishkariani is currently working on his second novel.

**German book titles since 2010:**

*Georgiens Herz ist ... mit Poesie infiziert*, Größenwahn Verlag, 2018

### Jorjaneli, Nika



Nika Jorjaneli (born in 1978 in Tbilisi) is a poet and translator. In 2003, he received his Master's degree from Tbilisi State University, majoring in German language and literature. He has authored four compilations of poems and various verses are included in anthologies of modern Georgian poetry. Nika Jorjaneli worked as a German language and literature teacher for several years at a high school in Tbilisi.

**German book titles since 2010:**

*Georgiens Herz ist ... mit Poesie infiziert*, Größenwahn Verlag, 2018

*Roter Schein*, Pop Verlag, 2018

*Die Kartoffelernte. Neue Georgische Lyrik II*, Corvinus Presse Berlin, 2017

*„Ich aber will dem Kaukasos zu...“*. Eine Anthologie georgischer Lyrik, Pop Verlag, 2015

### Jorjoliani, Ruska



Ruska Jorjoliani (born in 1985 in Mestia), in the early 1990s, the family fled ethnic cleansing to Tbilisi, where Ruska Jorjoliani attended the Italian high school after regular stays with a host family in Palermo. She graduated in philosophy from University in Palermo. She won a literature competition with poems written in Italian and after this she decided to write her first novel, *Your Being Here As City* (2016), in Italian – with Boris Pasternak's words from his poem as the title.

**German book titles since 2010:**

*Du bist in einer Luft mit mir*, Rotpunktverlag, 2018

### Karumidze, Zurab



The works of Zurab Karumidze (born in 1957 in Tbilisi) include novels, short stories, novellas and a book about jazz, which won one of the most important Georgian literature awards, the SABA. He is also the publisher and co-publisher of a series of essays on Georgian politics and culture. His essay, originally penned in English, *Dagny or a Love Feast*, was put on the longlist of the International Dublin Literary Award. Zurab Karumidze serves as a consultant to the government of Georgia in the area of international politics.

**German book titles since 2010:**

*Georgien. Eine literarische Einladung*, Verlag Klaus Wagenbach, 2018

*Dagny oder Ein Feste der Liebe*, Weidle Verlag, 2017

### Kekelidze, Giorgi

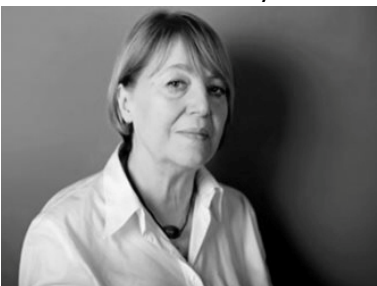


Giorgi Kekelidze (born in 1984 in Ozurgeti) is a poet, prose writer, essayist and the founder of the first Georgian digital library, lib.ge. Since 2012, Giorgi Kekelidze has been the General Director of the National Parliamentary Library of Georgia. He gives lectures on classical literature at the Free University of Tbilisi. He received the SABA Literature Award for his debut poetry collection *The Odes*. He was named 'Person of the Year' twice by a survey in the Hot Chocolate journal, both in 2010 and 2012. The author achieved great success in 2014 after his documentary prose *Gurian Diaries* instantly became the number one best-selling book of the year. His poems have been translated into English, German, Russian and Azerbaijani.

**German book titles since 2010:**

*Tomas Märchen*, Lauinger Verlag, 2018

### Ketsba-Khundadze, Lali



Lali Ketsba-Khundadze (born in 1944 in Tbilisi) is a university professor and head of the German Philology Department at Tbilisi State University. She is the editor of the Germanistische Studien journal published by the Verein Deutsche Sprache (Tbilisi/Dortmund). Her translations of journalistic works by Marion Dönhoff into Georgian won First Prize in the Goethe-Institut Tbilisi's translation competition in 1999. She was awarded the Ivane Javakhishvili Medal in 2015.

**German book titles since 2010:**

*Spiel der Laute. Deutsche Lyrik aus Georgien*, Grupello Verlag, 2018



### Kevanishvili, Eka



Eka Kevanishvili (born 1979 in Tbilisi) is a journalist and poet. She graduated with a Master's degree in International Journalism from Tbilisi State University. Since 2008, she has worked as a radio reporter for Free Europe/Radio Liberty in Tbilisi. Eka Kevanishvili recently authored an essay compilation, *Literary Profiles*, and has published three poetry collections. All three were nominated for the SABA Literature Award and the last one received the award for 'Best Poetry Collection'. She is the winner of several journalism and poetry competitions. Her poems have been translated into English, Lithuanian, Russian and other languages.

**German book titles since 2010:**

*„Ich aber will dem Kaukasos zu...“*. Eine Anthologie georgischer Lyrik, Pop Verlag, 2015  
*Georgiens Herz ist ... mit Poesie infiziert*. Größenwahn Verlag, 2018

### Kharanauli, Besik

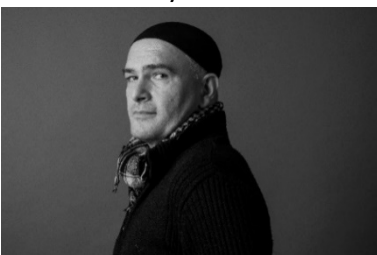


Besik Kharanauli (born in 1939 in Tianeti) is one of the best-known contemporary poets in Georgia. He has written over twenty poetry anthologies and two books of prose. Besik Kharanauli's unconventional, ironic and modernist works were a real novelty on the 20th century poetry scene. His works continue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

**German book titles since 2010:**

*Sprich mir vor, Angelina!* Fünf Poeme, Dağyeli Verlag, 2018  
*Die Kartoffelernte. Neue Georgische Lyrik II*, Corvinus Presse Berlin, 2017  
*„Ich aber will dem Kaukasos zu...“*. Eine Anthologie georgischer Lyrik, Pop Verlag, 2015

### Khvedelidze, Beso



Beso Khvedelidze (born in 1972 in Tbilisi) studied journalism at the Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University and graduated from the faculty of literature at the Tbilisi Institute of Culture. Khvedelidze was the editor of the literary magazine *Literary Paletten* (*Literaturuli palitra*), published in Tbilisi. Having written over 20 books, he has been awarded multiple prizes in Georgia and abroad.

**German book titles since 2010:**

*Georgische Kurzgeschichten*, Helmut Buske Verlag, 2016  
*Der Geschmack von Asche*, Leipziger Literaturverlag, 2014  
*Georgische Gegenwartsliteratur. Eine Anthologie georgisch-deutsch*, Reichert Verlag, 2010

### Kikodze, Archil



Archil Kikodze (born in 1972 in Tbilisi) is an author, photographer and actor. He also works in the field of ecotourism and has written several nature travel guides about nature reserves in Georgia. Nature, the changing landscape and its inhabitants, as well as travelling, all play an important role in his literary works. Kikodze has received many awards both for his writing and photography. He played one of the leading roles in the award-winning film *Blind Dates* (2013).

**German book titles since 2010:**

*Die Geschichte von einem Vogel und einem Mann*, Ullstein Verlag, 2018

*Der Südelefant*, Ullstein Verlag, 2018

*Georgien. Eine Literarische Reise*, Frankfurter Verlagsanstalt, 2018

*Auf dem Balkon Europas. Fotografien aus Georgien*, Mitteldeutscher Verlag, 2017

### Kordzaia-Samadashvili, Ana



Ana Kordzaia-Samadashvili (born in 1968 in Tbilisi) is a Georgian writer working as a translator and cultural journalist. She also teaches literature and creative writing at Ilia State University in Tbilisi. Ana Kordzaia-Samadashvili has won various Georgian literary prizes for her novels and short stories. In 2013, she was awarded the Georgian Literature Award SABA in the category 'Best Debut'. Her translation of *Die Liebhaberinnen* (*Women as Lovers*) by Elfriede Jelinek into Georgian won her a prize for the best translation from the Goethe Institut Tbilisi.

**German book titles since 2010:**

*Schuschaniks Kinder*, Verlag Hans Schiler, 2018

*Bittere Bonbons. Georgische Geschichten*, edition fünf, 2018

*Georgien. Eine Literarische Reise*, Frankfurter Verlagsanstalt, 2018

*Wer hat die Tschaika getötet?* Verlag Hans Schiler, 2016

*Ich, Margarita*, Verlag Hans Schiler, 2013

*Techno der Jaguare. Neue Erzählerinnen aus Georgien*, Frankfurter Verlagsanstalt, 2013

### Kvinikadze, Nestan (Nene)



Nestan Kvinikadze (born in 1980 in Tbilisi) is a writer, playwright and journalist. She works as a producer of the daily television programme, Midday Show, broadcast by the private Georgian company Rustavi 2. During this show, she introduces new books in a 'literary triangle', together with two other well-known authors. Nene Kvinikadze has been interested in women's issues for years. She researches Georgian women who live abroad.

**German book titles since 2010:**

*Bittere Bonbons. Georgische Geschichten*, edition fünf, 2018

*Georgien. Eine Literarische Reise*, Frankfurter Verlagsanstalt, 2018

*Die Nachtigallen von Isfahan*, Orlanda Frauenverlag, 2017

*Zwischen Orient und Okzident. Theaterstücke aus Georgien*, Theater der Zeit, 2015

*Techno der Jaguare. Neue Erzählerinnen aus Georgien*, Frankfurter Verlagsanstalt, 2013

### Lezhava, Zurab



After his military service, the life of Zurab Lezhava (born in 1960 in Tbilisi) took a dramatic turn. An argument with a Russian policeman ended in a brawl, and he was convicted of grievous bodily harm and sent to a prison camp. He spent 16 years in prison, where he began to write stories and carve wooden sculptures. On account of his naive style, literary critics compare him with the Georgian painter and autodidact Pirosmiani, ranking him among the country's most important contemporary writers. His stories stand out in modern Georgian literature for their originality. In 2010, he was awarded Georgia's highly regarded GALA Literature Prize.

**German book titles since 2010:**

*Ein Becher Blut*, Edition Monhardt, 2018

### Liqokeli, Lia



Lia Liqokeli (born in 1986 in Barisacho) grew up in a small village in the remote, high mountain region of Chewsuretien. After graduating, she moved to the capital to study at the State Theater and Film University, from where she graduated with a degree in film directing. She is considered to be the rising star on the contemporary Georgian literature scene. Her own style – a unique symbiosis of poetry and prose – has enabled her to start a new trend. Her debut poetry collection was highly acclaimed by the Georgian audience. Liqokeli was awarded the Georgian Literature Award SABA in 2014, and is also the winner of other literary awards. She is currently working as an editor at Karchkhadze Publishing.

**German book titles since 2010:**

*Bittere Bonbons. Georgische Geschichten*, edition fünf, 2018

*Ich bin Viele. Frauenstimmen aus Georgien*, Pop Verlag, 2018

*Die elektrischen Glühbirnen: Lyrik aus Georgien*, Edition Virgines, 2018

*„Ich aber will dem Kaukasos zu...“*. Eine Anthologie georgischer Lyrik, Pop Verlag, 2015

### Lobzhanidze, Giorgi



Giorgi Lobzhanidze (born in 1974 in Khashuri) is a poet, translator and orientalist. He studied in Tbilisi und Tehran. He is a professor at Tbilisi State University, translates from Iranian and Arabic into Georgian, and also works in the cultural centre Caucasian House. His most important translations include *The Quran*, *Kalila and Dimna*, and *Gulistan* by Sa'adi Shirazi, and *Ghazals* by Jalal ad-Din Rumi. Giorgi Lobzhanidze has authored five poetry collections and has received numerous literary prizes for his translations and poetry collections, including the SABA Literature Award.

**German book titles since 2010:**

*Georgiens Herz ist ... mit Poesie infiziert*, Größenwahn Verlag, 2018

*Die Kartoffelernte. Neue Georgische Lyrik II*, Corvinus Presse Berlin, 2017

*„Ich aber will dem Kaukasos zu...“*. Eine Anthologie georgischer Lyrik, Pop Verlag, 2015



### Magradse, Dato



Dato Magradse (born in 1962 in Tbilisi) is a poet and activist, and the author of the lyrics to Georgia's current national anthem, which he wrote in 2004. He studied at the Philology Faculty of Tbilisi State University, and was the editor of the Georgian literary journal *Tsiskari* for many years. He was Georgia's Minister for Culture and Monument Protection from 1992 to 1995. In 1991, he co-founded the Georgia PEN-Club, and served as its President from 1997 to 2010. Magradse has been awarded several Georgian and international literary prizes.

**German book titles since 2010:**

*Giacomo Ponti*, Shaker Verlag, 2018

### Maisuradze, Giorgi



Giorgi Maisuradze (born in 1970 in Tbilisi) studied history, philosophy and the history of culture at the universities of Tbilisi, Saarbrücken and Berlin. He has been working at the Berlin Literary and Culture Research Centre since 2008. Maisuradze received his PhD in Philosophy from Berlin Humboldt-University in 2009. He has been an assistant professor at the Ilia Chavchavadze Tbilisi State University since 2010. Giorgi Maisuradze is an author of several non-fiction books. In 2012, he received the SABA Literature Award for 'Best Essay and Documentary Prose of the Year' for *The Closed Society and its Watchmen*.

**German book titles since 2010:**

*Sonniges Georgien. Figuren des Nationalen im Sowjetimperium*, Kulturverlag Kadmos, 2015

### Matsaberidze, Bondo



Bondo Matsaberidze (born in 1959 in Samtredia) is a well-known children's book author in Georgia. His stories have been translated into many languages. In 2000, he founded the Bakmi publishing house, which focuses on children's literature and illustrated books. Since 1995, Matsaberidze has been a member of the Georgian Author's Organisation. He has received many awards for his books.

**German book titles since 2010:**

*Bussi und Thussi*, Drava Verlag, 2018

*Das Märchen von Bekna und Tekla*, Drava Verlag, 2017

### Matshkonashvili, Guram



Guram Matshkonashvili (born in 1989 in Tbilisi) graduated from the Georgian State Film and Theatre University and has worked as a cultural reviewer and journalist. His short documentary on a transgender woman won the UNDP and Open Society Georgia Foundation competitions (2013, 2014). He has written and directed several plays about human rights and urbanization, due to his interest in the social and spatial order of cities.

**German book titles since 2010:**

*Gldani*, Wieser Verlag, 2018

### Melashvili, Tamta



Tamta Melashvili (born in 1979 in Ambrolauri) spent a year as a migrant in Germany, where she started writing. She concluded her degree in Gender Studies at the Central European University in Budapest in 2008. She currently lives in Tbilisi, working for women's rights and gender issues. She won the Deutschen Jugendliteraturpreis in 2013 for *Abzählen* (*Count Out*).

**German book titles since 2010:**

*Marines Engel*, Wieser Verlag, 2018

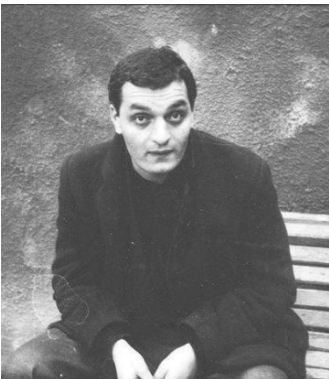
*Bittere Bonbons. Georgische Geschichten*, edition fünf, 2018

*Georgien. Eine Literarische Reise*, Frankfurter Verlagsanstalt, 2018

*Techno der Jaguare. Neue Erzählerinnen aus Georgien*, Frankfurter Verlagsanstalt, 2013

*Abzählen*, Unionsverlag, 2012

### Mosulishvili, Mikho



Micho Mossulischvili (born in 1962 in Araschenda) studied Geology and Cinematography at Tbilisi State University. Since then, he has worked as a geologist, a press correspondent and as an editor for various literary journals. He has published more than 30 books in Georgia, and has translated three of Boris Akunin's novels from Russian into Georgian. His plays are performed by Georgian theatre companies, as well as on radio and TV. A number of his works have won prestigious prizes.

**German book titles since 2010:**

*Schwäne im Schnee*, Pop Verlag, 2018

*Zwischen Orient und Okzident. Theaterstücke aus Georgien*, Theater der Zeit, 2015

### Nadareishvili, Tatia



Tatia Nadareishvili (born in 1988 in Tbilisi) studied book illustration and graphic design at the Tbilisi State Academy of the Arts. After graduating, she worked as an art therapist for children with disabilities and has been a member of the VIRGAM Book Art Centre illustrators' collective for many years. Today, she is a freelance illustrator and co-founder and manager of Illustrator (studio and concept store).

**German book titles since 2010:**

*Schlaf gut*, Baobab Books, 2017

### Nakhutsrishvili, Gaga



Gaga Nakhutsrishvili (born in 1971 in Tbilisi) is a poet and author. He studied history at Tbilisi State University. Later, he studied at the Goethe Institute in Rothenburg, Germany, and took classes in literature in Perugia, Italy. He is the author of numerous poetry collections. In 2003, Nakhutsrishvili was awarded the SABA Literature Award for the best poetry collection. He is regarded as one of the most productive poets of his generation. Gaga Nakhutsrishvili works as a lecturer at the Ilia State University, Tbilisi.

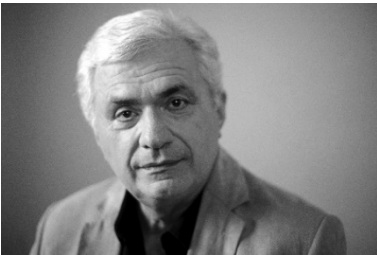
**German book titles since 2010:**

*Die elektrischen Glühbirnen: Lyrik aus Georgien*, Edition Virgines, 2018

*Meer – Sehnsucht*, ciconia ciconia, 2018

*„Ich aber will dem Kaukasos zu...“. Eine Anthologie georgischer Lyrik*, Pop Verlag, 2015

### Odisharia, Guram



Guram Odisharia (born in 1951 in Sochumi) is a Georgian poet and writer. At various times, he has been a correspondent for Abkhazian radio broadcasting, a reporter for the Abkhazian regional newspaper, editor-in-chief of the magazine Ritsa and director of the Abkhazia branch of Merani Publishing. Odisharia spent the entire Abkhaz-Georgian conflict period in Sukhumi, not leaving his native city until 27 September 1993, the day that Sukhumi fell. Since then, he has been active in the field of conflictology and has regularly participated in Georgian-Abkhaz peace talks. In 2012, he became the Minister of Culture and Monument Protection of Georgia, holding the position until 2014.

**German book titles since 2010:**

*Georgien, Tbilisi, Rustaveli Prospekt*, Reichert Verlag, 2018

*Der Pass der Flüchtlinge*, Reichert Verlag, 2015

### **Pkhakadze, Tamri**



Tamri Pkhakadze (born in 1957 in Tbilisi) has a PhD in philology. Quite a few of her works have been staged in various theatres, including *Kitchen Gardening in a War Zone*, which has been performed in four different cities. The author has read her own works on the Georgian radio programme *The Golden Fund* and has performed several readings for military units. The author often incites a big emotional reaction when meeting with readers and during public readings.

**German book titles since 2010:**

*Gärtnern im Kriegsgebiet. Und andere Erzählungen*, Dağyeli Verlag, 2018

### **Ratiani, Zviad**



Zviad Ratiani (born in 1971 in Tbilisi) is a poet and translator. He has published six poetry collections and has also been heavily involved in the translation of English and German poetry into Georgian. Among his numerous translations, Zviad Ratiani has introduced Georgian readers to major works such as the poetry of T. S. Eliot, Ezra Pound, Robert Lowell, Ted Hughes, Rainer-Maria Rilke, Derek Walcott, Mark Strand and Paul Celan. Ratiani received the Goethe Institute Prize in 1999 for his translation of Celan. He has won several prizes and awards, including the SABA Literature Award in 2010 for *The Negative*, as well as the LITERA Prize in 2016 for his last poetry collection *You Are Allowed*. Both awards were for the category 'Best Poetry Collection of the Year'.

**German book titles since 2010:**

*Requiem für die Lebenden*, KLAKE Verlag, 2018

*Georgiens Herz ist ... mit Poesie infiziert*, Größenwahn Verlag, 2018

*Aus der Ferne. Neue Georgische Lyrik*, Corvinus Presse Berlin, 2018

*„Ich aber will dem Kaukasos zu...“*. Eine Anthologie georgischer Lyrik, Pop Verlag, 2015

### **Rtveliashvili, Zurab**



Zurab Rtveliashvili (born in 1967 in Karaganda) is a poet, performance artist and human rights activist. He took a degree in jurisprudence at Tbilisi State University. In his early youth (1987–90), he was actively involved in the anti-Soviet dissident movement and participated in the National Liberation movement of Georgia. His civil disobedience texts sparked the pacifist Rose Revolution in Georgia in 2003, in which Rtveliashvili played a leading role. Over the following years, he was continuously arrested for his performances and served a short sentence as a prisoner of conscience. In 2012, he won Voloshin's International Creative Symposium. He has published five poetry collections.

**German book titles since 2010:**

*Diktatur der Poesie*, KLAKE Verlag, 2018

*„Ich aber will dem Kaukasos zu...“*. Eine Anthologie georgischer Lyrik, Pop Verlag, 2015

### Samniashvili, Lela



Lela Samniashvili (born in 1977 in Gori) is a poet and translator. She graduated from the Ilia Chavchavadze University of Foreign Languages where she studied simultaneous translation. In 2007, she completed her Master's degree at Oslo University. Her poetry collections have been nominated for numerous literary prizes, winning on many occasions. Lela Samniashvili's poems have been translated into English, Dutch, Italian, Azerbaijani and Russian and have been published in several anthologies in these languages.

**German book titles since 2010:**

*Georgiens Herz ist ... mit Poesie infiziert*, Größenwahn Verlag, 2018

*Ich bin Viele. Frauenstimmen aus Georgien*, Pop Verlag, 2018

„Ich aber will dem Kaukasos zu...“. *Eine Anthologie georgischer Lyrik*, Pop Verlag, 2015

### Shamugia, Paata



Paata Shamugia (born in 1983 in Gali, Abkhazia) graduated from Tbilisi State University (Faculty of Philology). His book, *Anti-Tqaosani* (a wordplay on the famous Georgian medieval epic poem *The Knight in Panther's Skin*), provoked much controversy and for several months was widely discussed in the Georgian press and TV as it was boldly taking issue with the country's most prominent literary text. In 2011, Paata Shamugia received the SABA Literature Award in the category 'Best Poetry Collection' for *Akathistos*. In 2012, the art magazine *Hot Chocolate* named him Person of the Year. Since 2011, Paata Shamugia has been a member and web editor of the Georgian PEN-Centre. His poetry collection *Schizosociety* won another SABA Literature Award in 2014 and thus made Paata Shamugia the first contemporary poet in Georgia to win this prestigious award twice in the same category.

**German book titles since 2010:**

*Georgiens Herz ist ... mit Poesie infiziert*, Größenwahn Verlag, 2018

„Ich aber will dem Kaukasos zu...“. *Eine Anthologie georgischer Lyrik*, Pop Verlag, 2015

### Shiolashvili, Irma



The poet, journalist and translator Irma Shiolashvili (born in 1974 in Dedoplistskaro) studied Journalism at Tbilisi State University. Alongside her studies, she produced TV programmes about contemporary Georgian writers. In 2005, she gained a PhD in Bonn, where she still lives and works. She was accepted as a member of *Die Kogge*, a European association of authors, in 2007.

**German book titles since 2010:**

*Kopfüber*, Pop Verlag, 2018

*Eine Brücke aus bunten Blättern*, Pop Verlag, 2012

### Shugladze, Aleko

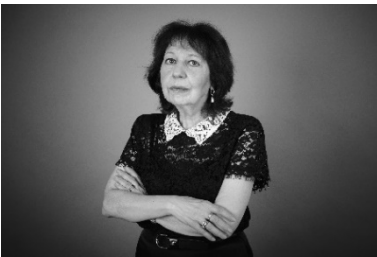


Aleko Shugladze (born in 1965 in Tbilisi) is an author and bookseller. Before publishing his much-discussed novel *Hide and Seek*, he withdrew from Georgia's literary scene for more than 15 years to live in India. The novel won the prestigious SABA Award in 2017. Shugladze has worked as a performance artist in Margo Korabliova's Performance Theatre and as a film director for the Caucasian Centre. He has filmed around ten documentary films with anti-violence themes and has also worked as a scriptwriter.

**German book titles since 2010:**

*Versteckspiel*, KLAKE Verlag, 2018

### Sturua, Lia



Lia Sturua (born in 1939 in Tbilisi) graduated in philology from Tbilisi State University. She gave lectures at the university and was also a senior research worker at the Shota Rustaveli Institute for Georgian Literature. Since 1999, she has been a literature consultant at the Galaktion Tabidze Museum. Her first collection of poems was published in 1962, followed by twelve other books. As well as poetry, Lia Sturua has published a number of fine prose collections, essays and articles. In 1997, a Norwegian television company made a film about her. Lia Sturua has won many awards and literary prizes, including the Galaktion Tabidze Award (1988), the Georgian State Award (1995) for Artistic Work, the Shota Rustaveli State Prize (2000), and two SABA Literature Awards for 'Best Poetry Collection' in 2013 and for her 'Contribution to Georgian Literature' in 2017.

**German book titles since 2010:**

*Enzelpalogramm*, Edition Monhardt, 2018

### Tandashvili, Tamar



Tamar Tandashvili (born in 1973 in Tbilisi) studied literary sciences and psychology. She publishes a popular blog and works as a psychologist and activist, particularly standing up for the rights of women and sexual minorities. *Löwenzahnwirbelsturm in Orange* (2016) was her first novel to be translated into German, and *Materikon* was released in Georgia in 2017, spawning an intense debate.

**German book titles since 2010:**

*Löwenzahnwirbelsturm in Orange*, Residenz Verlag, 2018



### Tarkhnishvili, Nino



Nino Tarkhnishvili (born in 1979 in Tbilisi) is a writer and journalist. She graduated from Tbilisi State University with a degree in International Journalism and she is currently working as a reporter for Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty. Beyond her career as a journalist, she also writes short stories. She has received several literary prizes for her short prose.

**German book titles since 2010:**

*Bittere Bonbons. Georgische Geschichten*, edition fünf, 2018

### Tavdgiridze, Khatuna



Khatuna Tavdgiridze (born in 1974 in Batumi) is an author, folklorist and professor of mythology at Batumi University. Her interdisciplinary research focuses on various fields such as archaic cultures, comparative mythology, political mythology, medieval studies and religious studies. She is currently working as a professor at the Georgian-American Institute and at the Grigol-Robakidze University, where she lectures on comparative mythology and political mythology. She has written several scientific articles and monographs.

**German book titles since 2010:**

*Der Fisch mit zwei Schatten. Die Träume der Könige*, Wieser Verlag, 2018

### Tavelidze, Irma



Since completing her degree in philology, Irma Tavelidze (born in 1973 in Gori) has lived in Tbilisi, working as a translator from English and French (she has translated the work of Michel Houellebecq, J.M. Coetzee and Paul Auster, among others). She started her career as a writer in 1999. In 2008, she won the TSERO literary competition, a prize awarded by readers. Her works have been translated into French, German, Swedish and other languages.

**German book titles since 2010:**

*Die Erfindung des Ostens. Georgische Erzählungen*, edition.fotoTAPETA, 2018

### Togonidze, Ekaterine



Ekaterine Togonidze (born in 1981 in Tiflis) has dedicated her literary skills to people with disabilities and how they are discriminated against by society, making it a topic of wider discussion. She has worked for several years as a journalist. Her works have received several awards, such as Georgia's renowned SABA Literature Award in 2012.

**German book titles since 2010:**

*Einsame Schwestern*, Septime Verlag, 2018

*Techno der Jaguare. Neue Erzählerinnen aus Georgien*, Frankfurter Verlagsanstalt, 2013

## Topuria, Tea



Tea Topuria (born in 1977 in Suchumi) is an author and poet. She studied Journalism at Tbilisi State University and worked as a journalist in the field of human rights and the environment for Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty in Tbilisi. The author has also written books for children, and was nominated as the Georgian representative for the Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award in 2014 and 2015. Tea Topuria has won numerous prestigious literary awards.

**German book titles since 2010:**

*Land unter im Zoo*, Edition Orient, 2018

*Bittere Bonbons. Georgische Geschichten*, edition fünf, 2018

*Ich bin Viele. Frauenstimmen aus Georgien*, Pop Verlag, 2018

## Turashvili, Dato



Dato (David) Turashvili (born in 1966 in Tbilisi) is a lecturer in modern literature in Tbilisi. He has written several collections of prose as well as scripts. He was a leader of the student protests in 1988/89, participated in the Rose Revolution, and is an advocate of prisoners' rights.

**German book titles since 2010:**

*Tamar, Where Are You?*, bt:st Verlag, 2018

*Georgien. Eine literarische Einladung*, Verlag Klaus Wagenbach, 2018

*Westflug*, Verlag Klaus Wagenbach, 2014

*Georgische Gegenwartsliteratur*, Reichert Verlag, 2010

## Zaza Koshkadze



Zaza Koshkadze (pseudonym of Levan Tsertsvadze, born in 1982 in Dedoplistskaro) writes prose, poetry, scripts and short stories. His poems have been translated into Slovak, Czech, Ukrainian, Polish, English, Turkish, Greek and German. He founded the *Insomnia Fiction Festival* for the promotion of fantasy and horror literature in Georgia in 2013 and took part in the *World Science Fiction Convention* in the USA in 2015. His volume of poetry was nominated in the Best Debut category to the *SABA Literature Award* in 2013.

**German book titles since 2010:**

*Georgiens Herz ist ... mit Poesie infiziert*, Größenwahn Verlag, 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:

Anthea Verlag  
Arco Verlag  
Aufbau/Blumenbar  
AvivA Verlag  
Baobab Books  
Btb Verlag  
Carl Hanser Verlag  
ciconia ciconia Verlag  
Corvinus Presse  
Dagyeli Verlag  
Daltas-Verlag  
Dörlemann Verlag  
Drava Verlag  
edition fünf  
Edition Monhardt  
Edition Orient  
Edition Virgines  
Edition.fotoTAPETA  
Frankfurter Verlagsanstalt  
Galiani Berlin  
Größenwahn Verlag  
Gollenstein Verlag  
Helmut Buske Verlag  
KLAK Verlag  
Kröner Verlag  
Lauinger Verlag  
Leipziger Literaturverlag  
Leopold Stocker Verlag

Löcker Verlag  
Matthes & Seitz Berlin  
Michael Imhof Verlag  
Mitteldeutscher Verlag  
Nora Verlag  
NordSüd Verlag  
Orlanda Verlag  
Paramon Verlag  
Passanten Verlag  
Pop Verlag  
Reichert Verlag  
Residenz Verlag  
Rotpunkt Verlag  
Rowohlt Verlag  
Septime Verlag  
Shaker Verlag  
Suhrkamp Verlag  
Theater der Zeit  
Ullstein Buchverlage  
Unionsverlag  
Verbrecher Verlag  
Verlag Das Wunderhorn  
Verlag Hans Schiler  
Verlag Klaus Wagenbach  
Volland & Quist  
Weidle Verlag  
Wieser Verlag  
Wolke Verlag



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

# The Guest of Honour Pavilion Concept

Made by **George Bokhua Studio and Multiverse Architects**

“Do you want to experience Georgia? Come with us – it’s going to be a great adventure! We will open 33 doors, will need 33 keys, pass 33 mountains and 33 valleys, sail the ocean with 33 ships, conquer 33 castles, flee 33 labyrinths, sing 33 songs, bake 33 breads, put down the roots of vines on the 33<sup>rd</sup> day, and at the end of the road we’ll write a book with 33 letters, the story of how 33 characters reveal Georgia to us.

Adornments, pictograms, letterforms and ancient Khevsurian ornaments – what you see now is the soul of Georgia. Before this wide horizon you will feel the zeitgeist of our country. This is our literature, music, architecture and history, our past and present told in curious and mysterious symbols. Symbols you encounter anew after each step, symbols that tell you different **stories**.

The **Main Stage – Georgian Characters** and the **Small Stage – Georgian Characters** will host the main cultural and literary events. Georgian writers and artists who represent very different generations and literary voices are going to discuss the issues that are most crucial for our country. The slogan ‘Georgia Made by Characters’ embodies the intense feeling that we want to bring to Frankfurt.

If you need some refreshment or fancy a quick snack, we recommend a visit to **Café Supra**, where you can discover Georgian cuisine and wine.

**Books on Georgia** – Here, in this space, you can feel the spirit of the book – blown around with the wind, or even a storm. Here, in the centre of the storm, you will understand the spirit of Georgian culture – at times tranquil, at times passionate, yet always inspirational. The stories about love, war, adventure, friendship and poetry will blow you away. This is a place to sit, rest and dive into another world. The Georgian spirit will also be evoked visually on the big screens: stunning views of Georgian nature, depictions of Georgian letters, old Georgian film and theatre posters, 19<sup>th</sup> century photographs of Georgia and works by the modernist artist Petre Otskheli.

Ingeniously designed in the likeness of an old Georgian hall, the **Hub of Reflections** will exhibit images of the Georgian capital Tbilisi by Magnum Photos. Magnum photographers will provide their interpretation of modern rural culture as well as views of the old city. The exhibition showcases the long relationship between Magnum photographers and the country of Georgia in general, and its capital Tbilisi in particular. Covering a period of more than 70 years, the exhibition starts with photographs by Robert Capa, who visited Tbilisi with John Steinbeck in 1947, the year Magnum Photos was founded. The exhibition ends with the latest works by Martin Parr.

**Hub of Symbols** will host events related to digital typesetting and typeface design. Monotype will help you get familiar with the Georgian alphabet, and you can touch the type and see how it is produced. The printing stations will print a set of Georgian letters on a postcard of your choosing. Feel the Georgian letters and symbols on your skin. Between 1 p.m. and 2 p.m., our illustrators will be there to help you assemble the Georgian letters and create words in a pop-up book

format. You will also have the chance to draw the beautiful shapes of Georgian letters using seals.

How does the Georgian language sound? Most letters are impossible to pronounce, some are hard on your years, while others are soft like a lullaby. In the **Hub of Emotions**, you can feel the language as a harmonious ambient tune and discover how the people feel through a set of video installations. The Hub of Emotions is an interactive audio-visual experience that merges contemporary experimental music and elements of Georgian folk. The pattern of the music is procedural, and it is created by the motion of the people on the spot. Every sound you hear in the installation is resampled, synthesized and morphed from the spoken Georgian alphabet. The visuals in the hub convey every basic human emotion, complementing the audio aspect. The big screens display the slow-motion videos of contemporary Georgian writers – experts in human emotion. The facial gestures they make can be perceived as a portrayal of the emotional state of our nation. The audio-visual atmosphere created in this hub will be a truly unique experience for all visitors.

At the end of the journey we will dive into the letterforms. For the particularly curious, we have gathered all the major forces that shape Georgia and turned them into a visual adventure. From history to politics, from myth to reality, Georgia's leading writers and artists have handpicked 33 outstanding stories to offer you a glimpse of our collective subconscious. **33 Large Scale Sculptures – Follow the Letters** will tell yet more stories about what Georgia is: 'Georgia is a small country, but you need to take a deep breath if you're going to understand it, because Georgia progresses not step by step, but in leaps and bounds' (Aka Morchiladze)."

# Georgian Characters at the Frankfurter Buchmesse

## **Georgian National Stand** with specialist programme (Hall 5.0, B100)

*Organised by the Georgian Publishers and Booksellers Association.*

Presenting Georgian publishers and authors. The most important Georgian editions of the recent years with up to 40 publishers will be exhibited at the stand. As a main platform for the Guest of Honour publishing programme, the stand will be hosting a series of events, including book presentations, panel discussions and business networking events, etc.

## **Education, Science, Innovation and Technology** (Hall 4.2)

### **Science – Made by Characters** (E93)

*Organised by the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport of Georgia.*

This stand highlights outstanding scientific editions in the field of Ancient Studies, Lexicology, Caucasian Studies, Art Studies and Musicology. The latter comprises the Georgian professional sheet music. The stand also showcases film scripts and Georgian folk tales for children in English, German and French, complete with exclusive illustrations.

### **Georgia's Innovation and Technology Agency** (B85)

This stand presents two Georgian start-up companies and offers visitors the unique experience of Georgia's innovative landscape, which is enriched with sensory sensations complete with 360-degree view. It portrays previous centuries' famous Georgian innovators and their piece of innovation.

## **Children**

### **Publishers of books for children and young adults** (Hall 3.0, F152)

*Organised by the Georgian Publishers and Booksellers Association.*

This stand presents Georgian children's literature today – tales and adventure stories, illustrated and interactive books, digital games and apps. The design of the stand is complemented with illustrations by Georgian artists.

### **Magicland** (Hall 3.0, K119)

Magicland presents the picture book illustration of Georgia in all its artistic and thematic diversity. 17 illustrators have translated Georgian fairy tales and myths in pictures, showing riddles and mysteries. In addition, they grapple with amicable ease with topics such as friendship and living together.

**Frankfurt Kids Foyer** (Hall 5.1/6.1, U56, A1)

A selection of 50 Georgian children's books will also be exhibited in the Frankfurt Kids Foyer, with illustrations by Georgian artists displayed on screens there.

**THE ARTS+** (Hall 4.1)

**The Georgian Stand** (N67)

*Organised by the Georgian Publishers and Booksellers Association.*

Showcasing Georgian culture as viewed through the prism of its visual arts and innovations. The first of the stand's three spaces will exhibit Georgian art and design books. In the second, Monotype presents unique Georgian script, while the third offers an opportunity to learn about the unique artificial intelligence project "Oraculum 0.1" (The Talking Avatars).

**Bassiani at the Museumsinsel** (N71)

Georgian club Bassiani will be presented at the collective stand of the Museumsinsel together with MOMEM. Bassiani will share their story, a story of new cultural and youth movements in modern Georgia, a story of deep and important changes. Bassiani wants to portray the way, which isolation-era generation of post-soviet Georgia is travelling to transform from strict and conservative to open, free and equality-based society. In this process, rave culture and techno scene have played a significant role. This movement has created safe spaces for Georgian youth to freely gather, interact and express themselves. To portray this movement, Bassiani will be presenting its own journey through records, posters and other symbolic items at Frankfurter Buchmesse.

**Chatbot Installation** (N83)

This permanent installation will showcase the mechanics and function of chatbots. Using screens and keyboards, project authors and presenters will help visitors interact with different chatbots of their creation and demonstrate how to design one.

**"My image of Georgia"** (P37)

The exhibition "My image of Georgia" unites tradition and modern life and reproduces the images with which the eleven participating artists present the typical features and symbols of their country. "We have to describe the world in our own words," says the accompanying catalog (Minedition), and these words are of impressive openness and expressiveness.

**"Welcome Georgia – მოგესალმები" – Posters by Young Designers** (Café, R35)

Since 2006, the Frankfurter Buchmesse has been organising this competition for young designers in cooperation with the Department of Culture of the City of Frankfurt with the aim of welcoming the Guest of Honour in a creative way. This year, students from 20 colleges from all over Germany and Switzerland have participated in the competition and submitted 292 designs. The exhibition presents the ten winning motifs for welcoming the Guest of Honour, Georgia. It also shows the three winners of the partner competition "Welcome Germany at the Tbilisi Book Fair", organised by the Goethe-Institut in Georgia with the participation of students from the Tbilisi School of Visual Art, Architecture & Design.

## **Gourmet Gallery (Hall 3.1)**

### **Georgian National Tourism Administration (L140)**

The Georgian National Tourism Administration will be present at the Gourmet Gallery, where guests will have the opportunity to find out all they want to know about the country tailored precisely to their preference. Guests will be able to choose various thematic catalogues created for different taste profiles. During the exhibition all interested individuals are welcome to wander through Georgia by using our VR (Virtual Reality) glasses.

### **Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture (L146)**

This stand presents the Georgian alphabet – UNESCO intangible cultural heritage – Georgian wine from the “cradle of wine” and cultural elements.

## **Agora**

### **Giffer Photo Booth und Magic Selfie Mirror**

Visitors can take crazy gifs and photos in the most crowded space of the Frankfurter Buchmesse and share them with friends via giffer and Magic Selfie Mirror. Giffer is the next-generation photo booth: it allows people to take and share moving pictures. Magic Selfie Mirror captures full-length photos using a touchscreen reflective screen. The pictures are printed in less than 10 seconds.

## **Programme – Georgian Characters on Stage**

- **Guest of Honour Pavilion** (Forum, Level 1)
- **Stage at the Georgian Publishers Stand** (Hall 5.0, B100)
- **Frankfurt Pavilion** (Agora)
- **THE ARTS+** (Hall 4.1, M53/R55)
- **Frankfurt Kids Stage** (Hall 5/6 Foyer, A1)
- **Gourmet Gallery: Show Kitchen & Gourmet Salon** (Hall 3.1, L99/L137)
- **Education Stage** (Hall 4.2, C94)
- **Independent Publishers' Reading Island** (Hall 4.1, D36)
- **LitCam Stage** (Hall 3.1, B33)
- **International Stage** (Hall 5.1, A128)

## **Guest of Honour Handover Ceremony**

2018 Guest of Honour Georgia – 2019 Guest of Honour Norway

Sunday, 14 October 2018, 3.30 p.m. in Georgia's Guest of Honour Pavilion (Forum, Level 1)

With the authors Zurab Karumidze (Georgia) and Åsne Seierstad (Norway)

Musical performance from Norway: Mathias Eick, Kjetil Bjerkestrand, Herborg Kråkevik

Chaired by Thomas Böhm

# Art & Culture – Made by Characters

## Georgia's cultural programme – Guest of Honour at the Frankfurter Buchmesse

Georgia has been shaped by its long history and age-old traditions. At the Frankfurter Buchmesse, this year's Guest of Honour presents itself as a country that – absorbing influences from both the east and the west – has developed into a distinct and independent cultural nation. Art has always played a vital role in this process. It is, and always has been, an important medium for communicating knowledge, and it helped to preserve Georgia's cultural identity when it was under threat. When Georgia found itself almost completely isolated as a result of the Soviet occupation, it was Georgian art and culture that afforded the rest of the world insights into the country. Music enjoys a particularly high status in Georgia's rich cultural landscape. UNESCO declared traditional Georgian polyphonic singing an intangible cultural heritage in 2001. Today, musicians from Georgia (singers, pianists and violinists) fill opera houses and concert halls around the world. Important evidence of human history and works of visual art are other key aspects of Georgian culture. The oldest known human remains outside of Africa were discovered in Dmanisi in 1991. Visitors to the Frankfurter Buchmesse can look forward to these and many more fascinating discoveries from the worlds of art, music, theatre, science and film.

### Art – Made by Characters

In Frankfurt, Georgia will be presenting the best of prehistoric, ancient and contemporary art, as well as highlights from the fields of photography, architecture, design, typography and illustration. The programme opened with an exhibition by the performance collective **Bouillon Group** on the basis e.V. production and exhibition platform (until 14 October). At ATELIERFRANKFURT, the Georgian Video Art Archive is showing the video art exhibition **DESCRIPTIONS** (until 14 October). **Thea Djordjadze**, one of Georgia's most high-profile artists, presents her first solo exhibition at PORTIKUS (until 11 November). With **Lara protects me**, the Museum Angewandte Kunst uses video works, photographs, paintings, and art and design objects to tell stories of reconciliation in Georgia (until 20 January 2019). **Picture Languages** (until 18 November) at the Fotografie Forum Frankfurt focuses on current trends in photography in Georgia, while the **Hybrid Tbilisi** exhibition (until 13 January 2019) at the Deutsches Architekturmuseum (DAM) explores the architecture and transformation of the capital Tbilisi. **Tiflis on my Mind** (until 18 November) at the Klingspor Museum in Offenbach puts the Georgian alphabet at the centre of an exhibition for the first time. The **Tsikara, Museum in a Museum** exhibition at the Struwwelpeter Museum shows illustrations, sculptures, prints, installations and posters of charismatic heroes and their magical objects (until 6 January 2019). Featuring significant loan pieces from the Georgian National Museum, the **Medea's Love and the Quest for the Golden Fleece** exhibition at the Liebieghaus Skulpturensammlung presents important archaeological finds and ancient artworks from Georgia that illustrate the wealth of the two ancient kingdoms of Colchis and Iberia (until 10 February 2019). Under the title **Gold & Wine. Georgia's Oldest Treasures**, the Archäologisches Museum Frankfurt reveals a comprehensive picture of early cultural developments in Georgia – from the beginnings of agriculture in the Caucasus from 6000 B.C. to the Trialeti culture of the Middle Bronze Age around 2100–1700 B.C. (until 10 February 2019). The Senckenberg Museum exhibition **Homo georgicus** is dedicated to the

oldest known human remains outside of Africa, which were discovered in Dmanisi in Georgia in 1991 (11 October–18 November 2018). **The Other Soviet Man** in the Ausstellungshalle is an exhibition of pictures by the award-winning Georgian photographer Guram Tikanadze (11 October–4 November). Under the title **All is fair in Dreams and War**, the MMK Museum für Moderne Kunst Frankfurt presents a reading and film screening with Andro Wekua, one of Georgia's most popular contemporary artists (11 October).

### **Music – Made by Characters**

Georgia has a long and proud musical tradition. Not only is the Georgian polyphonic folk song 'Chakrulo' listed as a UNESCO intangible world heritage masterpiece, it was also one of the 27 selected compositions sent into space by NASA on the Voyager spacecraft in 1977. Now, as part of the Frankfurter Buchmesse, Georgia presents all its musical diversity. The world-famous Georgian pianist **Khatia Buniatishvili** will perform during the opening ceremony of the **Georgian Pavilion** on 9 October. Over the course of the following days, the **Sukhishvili Georgian National Ballet, DJ Gigi Jikia and Masterknot**, and many others will also appear at the Guest of Honour Pavilion. On 12 October, the Georgian composer and poet David Evgenidze will give a guest performance at the Künstlerhaus Mousonturm in Frankfurt. Another musical highlight is a concert featuring **Lisa Batiashvili, the Gori Women's Choir, the Trinity Cathedral Choir** and the **Georgian Philharmonic Orchestra** conducted by Nikoloz Rachveli in the Alte Oper Frankfurt. In addition, the French/German cultural TV channel ARTE, in cooperation with the Guest of Honour Georgia, presents Lisa Batiashvili, Dudana Mazmanishvili, Beka Gochiashvili, Nikoloz Rachveli, Natia Todua, Maximilian Hornung, kordz and notable Georgian DJs.

### **Theatre – Made by Characters**

For the Georgians, the theatre is an expression of their attitude to life – it has always reflected the mood of the country. The contemporary theatre programme moves fluidly between the past and the future: innovative artistic approaches are emerging today with new dramas and classics of Georgian theatre, and with performances by established state theatre companies as well as by independent companies and emerging theatre groups. Georgian theatre is characterised by creativity and modern thinking, by new texts and innovative visions of storytelling. It is lively, social and engaging, with artists demonstrating palpable courage in every context. The Guest of Honour theatre programme represents modern Georgia, a country that is reflecting on its 25 years of independence. The programme includes productions by theatre companies with a range of approaches and artistic ideas, among them the **Rustaveli National Theatre, the Marjanishvili Theatre, the Rezo Gabriadze Puppet Theatre, the Royal District Theatre, the Sokhumi State Theatre** and **other independent projects**.

### **Film – Made by Characters**

Georgia's Guest of Honour appearance is an opportunity for German audiences to discover the fascinating world of Georgian film, which is known for its unique poetic, metaphoric imagery and which is closely bound to the country's impressive landscapes and turbulent history. The Filmmuseum Frankfurt presents a **series of Georgian films and discussions**. The Frankfurt Höchst City Library presents the animated film **The Pocket Man** by the young illustrator Ana Chubinidze, and also dedicates an exhibition to the film. In addition, the first monograph on the acclaimed Georgian **avant-garde film director Kote Mikaberidze** will be presented.





At the beginning of this year, Georgia took part in the 68<sup>th</sup> International Film Festival in Berlin with a diverse line-up of films, introducing Georgia as a film nation not only to the film industry, but also to a broad audience. In Cannes this year, a Georgian book – Aka Morchiladze's novel *Obolé*– was presented for the first time ever to the international film industry in the film festival section 'Shoot the Book'. And at the 28<sup>th</sup> FILMKUNSTFEST Mecklenburg-Vorpommern in Schwerin this spring, there was a special focus on Georgia.

You can download the Guest of Honour's full **Culture and Literature Programme – Autumn 2018** from the 'Catalogues' page of the website [www.georgia-characters.com](http://www.georgia-characters.com).

# Facts and Figures

## “Georgia – Made by Characters” organisation

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## Georgia

Population	3.7 million
Area	about 70,000 km <sup>2</sup>
Gross domestic product	2016: US\$ 14.22 billion
Gross domestic product per person	2016: US\$ 3,842.4

## The book market in Georgia

Published books in Georgia	2015: 4,173 2014: 2,964 2013: 3,745
Sales per year	2015: 12,974,198 Lari (about € 4.26 Million*)
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



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Publishing houses	2015: about 100
Biggest publishers in Georgia	Palitra L 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 2011-2018	250 Georgian titles have been translated into 30 languages More than 150 published titles in German 50 foreign titles in the Georgian language

\* Figures in Euro according to the conversion rate September 2018

## The Guest of Honour Team

Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport 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.

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**Culinary:** Gourmet Gallery; Emma Metzner; Freitagsküche

## Background

# The Georgian Alphabet: Unique World Heritage

**Aka Morchidze, Preface 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 (5<sup>th</sup>–9<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup> centuries), nuskhuri (9<sup>th</sup>–11<sup>th</sup>) and mkhedruli (9<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 19<sup>th</sup> 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 7<sup>th</sup> 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 Kolkheti-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 10<sup>th</sup> 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 10<sup>th</sup> 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.

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 5<sup>th</sup> 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 20<sup>th</sup> century date back to the 1<sup>st</sup>–3<sup>rd</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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.

# Books by Georgian authors in German

**Zaal Andronikashvili, Literary scollar**

Georgian literature is characterised by three elements: With around five million readers, Georgian literature can be referred to as a **small literature**. However, it can look back at a rich tradition of **1,500 years** during which it has accumulated a treasury of poetic and prosaic forms, rhetorical figures, styles and motifs that still supply Georgian writers with an abundant repertoire of expressive means and devices. Georgian literature has been influenced by translation from its very beginnings. The emergence of the Georgian script and of Georgian literature are both associated with Bible translation in the fourth century. The reception of other literatures has been a key element in Georgian literature ever since.

Georgian literature is a **literature of the border**. Unlike western European literature, whose canon is oriented exclusively around Greek and Roman antiquity, Georgian literature was influenced by classical Greece and Christianity as well as classical Persian and Arabic cultures and literatures. Out of this fusion of eastern and western literary canons emerged the most important work of Georgian literature: *The Man in the Panther's Skin* by **Shota Rustaveli** (1172–1216) (German: *Der Recke im Tigerfell*, Reichert Verlag, 2014). In 2018, Galiani Berlin published Rustaveli's work in a prose version retold by Tilman Spreckelsen and with new illustrations by Kat Menschik (*Der Held im Pardelfell. Eine Georgische Sage von Schota Rustaveli*, Galiani, 2018).

After Rustaveli, poetry dominated Georgian literature for half a millennium, barely challenged by prose. **Sulkhan-Saba Orbeliani** (1658–1725), the great lexicographer and translator, brought prose back from exile with his elegant and laconic collection of fables, *A Book of Wisdom and Lies (Weisheit der Lüge*, Edition Orient, 2018). Georgian poetry experienced another heyday with romanticism. **Nikoloz Baratashvili's** (1817–1845) poem *Merani*, about a horse rider who defies fate by riding off to his own destruction, is regarded as a masterpiece of Georgian literature (*Gedanken am Flusse Mtkvari*, Arco Verlag, 2018).

Georgian literature had two stars in the 19<sup>th</sup> century: **Alexandre Qasbegi** (1848–1890) opened up the unknown world of the mountains for Georgian readers, which he used as the focus of his political debate directed against Russian colonialism. **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.

At the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Tbilisi became the capital of an international (Georgian–Russian–Armenian) avant-garde movement. **The Blue Horns**, a group of symbolist poets, dominated literary life in the city. This development came to an end with the Bolshevik invasion of 1921, which brought about the collapse of the Georgian Democratic Republic and made Georgia a part of the Soviet Union. **Galaktion Tabidse** (1892–1959), Georgia's last great poet and – given the 130 metrical forms he used – its richest, continued this tradition, interrupted for a time by the terror of the Stalin regime, right up to his suicide in 1959.



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Otherwise, 20<sup>th</sup> century and contemporary literature in Georgia are dominated by prose, and the novel in particular. It is also novels that are most often translated into German. One of the best-known modernist Georgian novelists is the still-popular **Mikheil Javakhishvili** (1880–1937), who fell victim to the brutalities of the Stalin regime. His novel *Kvachi Kvachantiradze* was translated into German by Kristiane Lichtenfeld (German title: *Das fürstliche Leben des Kwatschi K.*) during Soviet times; a full, uncensored version was not published in Germany until 2016 (Nora Verlag). Javakhishvili's Stalin parody *Jaqo's Dispossessed* (*Jakos Kostgänger*) was published by Arco Verlag in 2018. **Otar Chiladze** (1933–2009) is one of the most important Georgian authors of the post-war generation. Almost all his works are now available in German translation: *A Man was Going Down the Road* (*Der Garten der Dariatschangi*, 2014), a topical political reworking of the myth of the Argonauts; *Avelum* (*Awelum*, 2018) a novel that chronicles and reflects on the collapse of the Soviet Empire; and *The Basket* (*Der Korb*, 2018), a novel of guilt and expiation (all published by Matthes & Seitz Berlin). Cult Georgian author **Guram Dochanashvili's** (born in 1939) magical-realist novel *The First Raiment* (*Das erste Gewand*) is published by Carl Hanser Verlag. **Chabua Amirejibi's** cult novel *Data Tutaschchia* has established a place for itself in Georgia's 20<sup>th</sup> century literary canon (*Data Tutaschchia: Der edle Räuber vom Kaukasus*, Kröner Verlag, 2018). Post-Soviet Georgian prose is highly innovative both thematically and formally. It has served up a new view of history, a new literary style aligned with spoken language, and a new symbolic geography. It also explored subjects that had previously been taboo. While the 20<sup>th</sup> century novel usually engaged with Georgian history, after the fall of the Soviet Union writers rediscovered the contemporary world and the private sphere. The founding texts of contemporary Georgian literature – **Keti Nizharadze's** *The Self Portrait* (1987), **Kote Jandieri's** *Family Chronicle* (1987) and **Aka Morchiladze's** *Journey to Karabakh* (1992) – are about the coming of age of a new generation – now no longer shaped by Soviet influence – that seeks a new way of life. Aka Morchiladze (born in 1966) is Georgia's most popular author. His complex, multidimensional and polyphonic prose covers an unbelievable range of styles, forms and genres, and is now also reaching a German audience. His books have been published by several German publishers; among them the novels *Santa Esperanza* (Mitteldeutscher Verlag, 2017), *Shadow on the Road* (*Schatten auf dem Weg*, Mitteldeutscher Verlag, 2018), *Journey to Karabakh* (*Reise nach Karabach*, Weidle Verlag, 2018), *Obolé* (Mitteldeutscher Verlag, 2018) and *The Projectionist* (*Der Filmvorführer*, Weidle Verlag, 2018).

Contemporary Georgian literature often engages with the values and authority of the fathers' generation. In *The First Russian* (*Der erste Russe*, Frankfurter Verlagsanstalt, 2018), **Lasha Bugadze** (born in 1977) documents the end of the Shevardnadze era in Georgia in a unique way. **Archil Kikodze** masterfully reconstructs the genealogy of the slow but unstoppable transformation experienced in Georgia in *The Southern Elephant* and *The Story of a Bird and a Man* (*Der Südelefant* and *Die Geschichte von einem Vogel und einem Mann*, Ullstein Verlag, 2018).

Authors such as **Kote Jandieri** (born in 1958) in *Globalisation. A Georgian History* (*Globalisierung. Eine georgische Geschichte*, KLAK Verlag, 2018), **Dato Turashvili** (born in 1966) in *The Jeans Generation* (*Westflug*, Wagenbach, 2014) and **Irakli Charkviani** (1961–2006) in *A Calm Swim* (*Dahinschwimmen*, Dayeli, 2018) all deal with the Soviet past, while **Zurab Karumidze** (born in 1957) in *Dagny, or a Love Feast* (*Dagny oder Ein Fest der Liebe*, Weidle Verlag, 2017) and **Abo Iashaghashvili** (born in 1977) in *Royal Mary* (edition.fotoTAPETA, 2017) explore the old, multinational Tbilisi of the *fin de siècle* period. A new generation of women writers such as the award-winning **Tamta Melashvili** (born in 1979) challenge Georgia's patriarchal social order. Her poignant novel *Counting Out* (*Abzählen*, Unionsverlag, 2012), which won the Deutscher Jugendliteraturpreis, tells the tragic story of two teenage girls in the conflict zone. **Tamar Tandashvili's** (born in 1973) debut novel *Snowstorm of Orange Dandelions* (*Löwenzahnwirbelsturm in Orange*, Residenz-Verlag, 2018) and **Ana Kordsaia-Samadashvili's** (born in 1968) crime novel *Who killed Chaika?* (*Wer hat die Tschaika getötet?*, Verlag Hans Schiler, 2016) both thematise violence against women. *Bitter Sweets* (*Bittere Bonbons*, edition fünf, 2018) and *Techno of the Jaguars* (*Techno der Jaguare*, Frankfurter Verlagsanstalt, 2013) are prose anthologies by Georgian women writers. Authors such as **Zurab Lezhava** (born 1960) in *A Beaker of Blood* (*Ein Becher Blut*, Edition Mohnhardt, 2018),



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**Nana Ekvimishvili** in *The Pear Field* (*Das Birnenfeld*, Suhrkamp, 2018), **Gela Tschkwanawa** in *Unfinished Stories* (*Unerledigte Geschichten*, Voland & Quist, 2018), **Guram Odisharia** in *The Pass of the Persecuted* (*Der Pass der Flüchtlinge*, Reichert Verlag, 2015) and **Luka Bakanidze** in *The Third Bank* (*Das dritte Ufer*, KLAK Verlag, 2018) rediscover the social periphery, reflect on violence in war and in everyday life, and engage with refugees and social outsiders. The recent Russo-Georgian War is the subject of **Zaza Burchuladze's** (born in 1973) novel *Adibas* (Aufbau/Blumenbar, 2015). In *A Tourist's Breakfast* (*Touristenfrühstück*, Aufbau/Blumenbar, 2017) he deals with modern themes arising from his experiences living in Tbilisi and in Berlin after emigrating.

Georgian poetry is also well represented in German translation. Corvinus Presse has published two anthologies of Georgian poetry: *From a Distance: New Georgian Poetry* (*Aus der Ferne: Neue georgische Lyrik*, 2015) and *Lifting the Potatoes* (*Kartoffelernte*, 2018). Wallstein Verlag has published poetry collections by a number of important 20<sup>th</sup> century poets, and Größenwahn Verlag will also be publishing an anthology of 32 modern Georgian poets. Pop-Verlag has published an anthology of Georgian poetry from the last 800 years. *Dictate, Angelina!* (*Sprich mir vor, Angelina*) is a volume of poems by **Besik Kharanuli** (born in 1939) published by Dageyeli Verlag. Several other Georgian poets have had collections published in Germany and Austria: **Rati Amaglobeli**, **Tamaz Badzagua**, **Dato Barbakadze**, **Shota Chantladze**, **Badri Gugushvili**, **Zviad Ratiani**, **Zurab Rtveliashvili**, **Amiran Simonishvili**, **Lia Sturua** and **Bela Chekurishvili**.

Around 15 children's books are being published in German to mark Georgia's Guest of Honour appearance. The collection of Georgian fairy tales *The King Who Could Not Laugh* (*Der König, der nicht lachen konnte*) was published by NordSüd-Verlag in collaboration with the Book Art Center in Tbilisi in 2017. The volume's twenty-one fairy tales were illustrated by a total of 14 Georgian illustrators – most of whom represent the younger generation of artists. Insel Taschenbuchverlag has also published an extensive collection of Georgian fairy tales. Baobab Books has published *Sleep Well* (*Schlaf gut*), in which the young Georgian artist Tatia Nadareishvili tells an enchanting story about a young boy who seeks advice from various animals on how to fall asleep.