The Originality of Slovenian Children's and Young-Adult Literature

The authors in the catalogue comprise a representative selection of contemporary Slovenian children's and young-adult authors. As in Europe, in the time of contemporary Slovenian literature (from 1980) and the time of postmodernism, Slovenian writers draw on the European tradition, yet develop their individual poetics, from the generation of contemporary classics (e.g. Evald Flisar, Niko Grafenauer, Tone Pavček, Svetlana Makarovič, etc.) to contemporaries who develop individual talents, e.g. reference to the European fairy tale (Anja Štefan: *Over the Hills and Far Away*, Peter Svetina: *How Jaromir Sought Happiness*), subversion and the aesthetics of the ugly (Miklavž Komelj, Andrej Rozman Roza), intertextuality with the European (contemporary) fairy tale (Jana Bauer, Barbara Simoniti, etc.) and its transcendence (e.g. E. Flisar: *Alice in Crazyland*).

In Europe there can be traced a vitalism of children's and young-adult literature in the time of internationalisation, after 1990 there are noticeable shifts toward children's and young-adult problem literature (e.g. Aksinja Kermauner, Marjana Moškrič, Janja Vidmar). Also interesting are authors who write short contemporary fairy tales (e.g. Majda Koren, Cvetka Sokolov). Characteristic of contemporary children's and young-adult literature after 2000 is the generation of educated authors with a new sensibility (M. Komelj, B. Simoniti, C. Sokolov, P. Svetina). Some authors present an idealised (Bina Štame Žnmac), others a romanticised (P. Svetina) and still others a problematized (J. Vidmar) image of the child and a dystopian childhood (E. Flisar). Important are examples of intertextuality, e.g. J. Bauer: "Scary Fairy in the Fearful Forest" – A. A. Milne: *Winnie-the-Pooh*, E. Flisar – Lewis Carroll; Feri Lainšček: *Mousy the Mouse and Whitemouse* and T. Pavček: *Romeo and Juliet* – W. Shakespeare: *Romeo and Juliet*; Andrej Rozman Roza – Roald Dahl; B. Štame Žnmac: *The Emperor and the Rose* – H. C. Andersen: *The Nightingale*; B. Simoniti: *Marshlanders* – Graham Kenneth: *The Wind in the Willows*.

Deserving of special attention are authors who bring humour to the text (A. Rozman Roza: *Selected Roza's Poems in Action*) and/or to the illustrations (Zvonko Čoh, Marjan Manček), and constructive solutions to (minor) problematic situations (M. Koren: *Mizzi from za*, M. Komelj: *How Mr and Mrs Calmed Down*). Literary texts of utmost quality bear ambiguous titles (E. Flisar: *Alice in Crazyland*, Ervin Fritz: *Crows*, A. Rozman Roza: *Selected Roza's Poems in Action*) or are part of the national canon (e.g. France Prešeren: *A Toast and The Waterman*), and have in the process of literary reception become children's or young-adult literature, especially with new illustrations (Damijan Stepančič, Zvonko Čoh) or in subversive variations (A. Rozman Roza: *Urška*).

In addition to the artistic quality, both literary and visual, humanist values in these excellent literary texts are important, because they engender critical thinking (E. Flisar: *Alice in Crazyland*, reflection (E. Fritz: *Crows*) and the use of knowledge in everyday life (e.g. ecocriticism in Svetlana's *Fairytales*), emotional literacy (I. Mlakar), sociocentrism (I. Mlakar: *How Bibi and Gusti Spread Happiness*, A. Štefan: *The Pot with Spots*) and philosophical reasoning (P. Svetina: *Hippopotamus Wisdom*, A. Štefan: *Four Black Ants*).

Authors of Slovenian children's and young-adult literature merit inclusion in future world encyclopaedias and lexicons of contemporary children's and young-adult classics and future classics, and especially those original literary characters who live in imaginative spaces and enrich the European context (e.g. *Gossipland*, *Knockitoff*, *Scary Fairy*, *Georgy Porgy*, *Cosies*, *Softpaw the Cat*, *Holymoley*, *Littlerealm*, *Rumcelj*, *Poterunja*, *Sapramouse*, etc.).

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