

Autumn 2018



**The BookBlast® 10×10 Tour
in association with Waterstones**

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The BookBlast® 10x10 Tour

A Celebration of Independent Publishing

11 September-15 November 2018
A Nationwide Festival of Independent Publishing!

A carnival of authors, poets, translators and publishers, under the banner of trailblazing writing agency BookBlast® will be travelling to major cities across England showcasing some of the finest independent-spirited literature and poetry being published today.

The BookBlast® 10x10 Tour, in association with Waterstones, will visit the 9 regions of England, celebrating risk-taking publishers who fill a unique niche discovering talent, publishing authentic and offbeat books which add value to the cultural landscape. 10 small independent trade publishers will host author-translator themed talks in 10 cities over 9 weeks, one in each city, held in flagship regional stores of Waterstones.

The tour kicks off on 11 September in Waterstones, Gower Street, London W1, nestling between UCL, Birkbeck and SOAS in the heart of Bloomsbury. With these events, BookBlast® aims to unite people in the spirit of friendship and exchange. The tour connects London and the regions.

A tour of this kind has not been done before. It has grown out of the successful celebration of independent trade publishers kicked off in 2016 via online journal The BookBlast® Diary which covers independent trade publishing and writing from France.

“Congratulations from @RSLiterature on your great tour. Sounds wonderful.” @LisaAppignanesi

Tuesday 11 September • Dedalus Books
Waterstones, 82 Gower Street, London W1 • 6.30 p.m.
Independence: A Permanent Revolution

Chair: **Eric Lane**, Chairman, **Dedalus Books** (English & European fiction).
 Dedalus was founded in 1983 as an alternative to mainstream publishing.

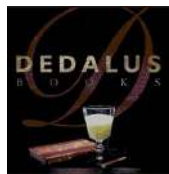
Glasgow-born award-winning novelist and former books editor of *Scotland on Sunday*, **Andrew Crumey**, has had eight novels published by Dedalus. He has been longlisted for the IMPAC and Booker prizes.
[@andrew_crumey](#)

Book focus: Short-story cycle, **The Great Chain of Unbeing**, (March 2018).
 "A delightful introduction to Crumey's singularly riddling work." – *Stuart Kelly, The Scotsman*

Margaret Jull Costa OBE is a British translator of Portuguese-and-Spanish-language fiction and poetry, including the works of Fernando Pessoa, Javier Marías, and Nobel Prize winner José Saramago. She has translated 10 works for Dedalus by Eça de Queiroz, Portugal's most celebrated 19th century writer.

Book focus: **The Crime of Father Amaro** by Eça de Queiroz, (April 2018), is a sensational novel about "a priest, prey to erotic reverie and utterly without a true clerical vocation, half seduces, half falls in love with, the daughter of his landlady" – *Michael Dirda, The Washington Post*

Cousin Bazilio by Eça de Queiroz, (2016), "Adultery, blackmail, sentimentality and lust all come under Eça's scrutiny [. . .] amid a gallery of vivid characters. Sheer brilliance." – *The Good Book Guide*



dedalusbooks.com



@dedalusbooks

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 Tickets: waterstones.com/events/the-bookblast-10x10-tour

Wednesday 12 September • Bluemoose Books
Waterstones, Newcastle • 6.30 p.m.
The Northern Influence on Books & Culture

Chair: **Kevin Duffy**, publisher, **Bluemoose Books** (new fiction, new voices).
 Founded in 2006, Bluemoose Books is an independent publisher based in Hebden Bridge West Yorkshire.

Colette Snowden lives in Manchester with her three children. She graduated from St. Andrews University and is now a journalist. [@colette_snowden](#)

Book focus: **The Secret to not Drowning**, (2015), is a thought-provoking psychological domestic drama which was Mumsnet, Book of the Month and chosen as a Brave New Reads 2016. Marion's life looks good on the surface, but she is controlled and bullied by her husband. Her only respite is a once-a-week trip to the local swimming pool. A chance meeting with an old school-friend develops into a secret relationship.

Dan Micklethwaite is an award-winning short-story author and novelist who does most of his writing in a shed in West Yorkshire. [@Dan_M_Writer](#)

Book focus: Shortlisted for The Guardian's "Not the Booker Prize" in 2016, **The Less than Perfect Legend of Donna Creosote**, (2016), is a modern, inner-city fairy tale. Donna Crick-Oakley lives at the top of a tower block in Huddersfield in a flat that's literally carpeted with books. She's become so immersed in the fairy tales and fantasies they contain that even when she does go outside, she relies on them for inspiration and to mediate the experience.



bluemoosebooks.com



@Ofmooseandmen

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Thursday 20 September • Comma Press
Waterstones, Leeds • 6.30 p.m.
Birmingham & Leeds: A Tale of Two Cities

Chair: **Sarah Cleave**, publishing manager, **Comma Press** (ground-breaking short stories) is based in Manchester with a mission to put the short story at the heart of contemporary narrative culture.

C.D. Rose has written stories set in different cities around the world, published in Best British Stories 2018, *Gorse*, *The Lonely Crowd* and *Lighthouse* magazines, and Comma's *Parenthesis* and *Book of Birmingham* anthologies. @cdrose_writer

Book focus: **The Book of Birmingham: A City in Short Fiction**, (September 2018), edited by Kavita Bhanot, is part of Comma's popular "Reading the City" series. Bringing together fiction from some of the city's most talented writers, *The Book of Birmingham* showcases and celebrates original and unusual writing, in all its forms.

Ian Duhig was the eighth of eleven children born to Irish parents with a liking for poetry. He has won several competitions and awards and his short stories have featured in various Comma Press anthologies. @ianduhig

Book focus: **The Book of Leeds: A City in Short Fiction**, (2006), edited by Tom Palmer & Maria Crossan, is a collection of stories that take place at oblique angles to the larger events in the city's history, or against wider currents that have shaped the social and cultural landscape of today's Leeds: a modern city with both problems and promise.



comma^{press}.co.uk



@comma^{press}

Thursday 27 September • Istros Books
Waterstones, Nottingham • 6.30 p.m.
The End of the World? The Balkans write the Holocaust

Chair: **Susan Curtis**, translator & founding director, **Istros Books** (books from the Balkans). Founded in 2011 to showcase the very best fiction and non-fiction from the Balkan region to an audience of English speakers.

Book focus: **Doppelgänger** by **Daša Drndić**, (September 2018) trs. S.D. Curtis & Celia Hawkesworth, (October 2018), consists of two stories that skillfully revisit the question of "doubles", and how an individual is perpetually caught between their own beliefs and those imposed on them by society.

Christina Pribičević-Zorić was educated at Boston University and the Sorbonne. She worked for 20 years as a broadcaster at the English Language Service, Radio Belgrade, the BBC in London, and for The Hague at the International Criminal Tribunal for Yugoslavia. She has translated over 35 translated works of fiction and non-fiction from Bosnian/Croatian/Montenegrin/Serbian and French into English.

Book focus: **The House of Remembering and Forgetting**, (2017), by Filip David, is the story of a father who makes a hole in the floor of a train destined for a death camp. He pushes his two sons on to the tracks as a bid for freedom. "A profound book, immense in its wisdom and courage."
 – *The Los Angeles Review of Books*

Georgia de Chamberet is currently translating *The Disappearance of Josef Mengele* by Olivier Guez for Verso Books for publication in 2019. She will contribute to the discussion by looking at the anatomy of evil and ask if justice can be done when war criminals are brought to trial.



istrosbooks.com



@istros_books

Thursday 4 October • Peirene Press
Waterstones, Brighton • 6.30 p.m.
Inside Out: Voices of the Diaspora

Chair: **Meike Ziervogel**, publisher and novelist at Peirene Press (World Literature in translation). Her alter ego, "The Nymph" regularly writes about *The Pain & Passion of a Small Publisher* for Peirene online; a must-read blog.

Jamie Bulloch is an historian and translator of German literature. He has translated 11 novels for MacLehose Press including *Look Who's Back* by Timur Vermes which was longlisted for the 2016 IMPAC award and 2015 Independent Foreign Fiction Prize. @jamiebulloch

Book focus: **The Last Summer**, (2017), is a psychological thriller by the pioneering German writer Ricarda Huch. After closing the state university because of student unrest, the governor of St Petersburg receives a death threat. His wife employs a young bodyguard, Lju, to protect her husband but Lju's political loyalties lie elsewhere.

Nashwa Gowanlock, translator, was awarded a 2014 mentorship in the British Centre for Literary Translation (BCLT) Emerging Translator mentoring scheme. She has translated numerous works of Arabic fiction and nonfiction. @Nashwagowanlock

Book focus: **Shatila Stories**, (June 2018), trs. Nashwa Gowanlock, is the result of a creative writing workshop run by Peirene in 2017 in the Shatila refugee camp in Beirut when 9 Syrian and Palestinian refugees were commissioned to create a piece of collaborative literature.

Peirene  pereinepress.com
 @pereinepress

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Thursday 11 October • Galley Beggar Press
Waterstones, Castle Street, Norwich • 6.30 p.m.
All Hail the New Modernists!

Chair: **Sam Jordison** is co-director of **Galley Beggar Press** (contemporary, experimental) in Norwich and hosts an online reading group for the *Guardian*. Galley Beggar's first breakout success was debut novel *A Girl is A Half-Formed Thing* by Eimear McBride.

Essex-born **Alex Pheby** teaches at the University of Greenwich. Alex's second novel, *Playthings*, published by Galley Beggar Press in 2015, was shortlisted for the 2016 Wellcome Book Prize.




Book focus: **Lucia**, (June 2018), is a rare portrait of the troubled life of James Joyce's only daughter who was schizophrenic.

Paul Stanbridge has worked as a pensions administrator, bookseller, receptionist, waiter, archival catalogue editor, chef, barman, ministerial drafter, learning mentor and builder.

Book focus: **Forbidden Line**, (2016), his first award-winning novel, is a gleeful fusion of *Don Quixote* and the Peasant's Revolt.

Paul Ewen is a New Zealand writer based in South London. Paul's first novel, *Francis Plug: How to be a Public Author*, (2014), and won a Society of Authors McKitterick Prize.

Book focus: **Francis Plug: Writer In Residence**, (September 2018), follows the further hilarious mishaps of loveable misfit, Francis Plug. "One thinks of Goethe, one thinks of Shelley: one thinks of Plug. He is a force of nature, he is sage, bard and prophet." – Hilary Mantel

  galleybeggar.co.uk
 @GalleyBeggars

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Thursday 18 October • Hope Road Publishing
Waterstones, Bristol • 6.30 p.m.
Trading Places: Bright City, Dark Secrets

Chair: **Rosemarie Hudson**, publisher, **HopeRoad Publishing** (African & Caribbean literature). HopeRoad promotes inclusive literature with a focus on Africa, Asia and the Caribbean, and vigorously supports neglected voices.

Peter Kalu is the Manchester-based author of three CYA novels: *Silent Striker*, *Being Me* and *Zombie XI*. He has written nine novels in all, including science fiction, crime and comedy. [@peterkalu](#)

Book focus: **The Silent Striker**, (September 2018), *“is a book full to the brim with the joy, heartache and passion for the beautiful game. Along the way it deals with racism, disability, bullying, jealousy, young love, family life and friendship. It is written in beautiful clear prose and tells a story that every lover of football and life will instantly understand.”* – Melvin Burgess.

Qaisra Shahraz is a British-Pakistani critically acclaimed novelist, scriptwriter and Founder/Director of MACFEST, Muslim Art & Culture Festival.

Book focus: Ranging widely across historical periods and national boundaries, **The Concubine and The Slave-Catcher**, (2017), Qaisra Shahraz's new collection of ten short stories is powerful and an essential read. With each unique story, Shahraz captures and enriches us with her wisdom and storytelling magic. [@QaisraShahraz](#)



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Thursday 25 October • Saqi Books
Waterstones, Birmingham • 6.30 p.m.
The Things I Would Tell You: British Muslim Women Write

Chair: **Elizabeth Briggs**, editor and marketing manager, **Saqi Books**, (writing from the Middle East). Founded in 1983 in West London, Saqi Books publish general interest and academic books on North Africa and the Middle East.

Birmingham-born spoken word artist, playwright and poet, **Nafeesa Hamid**'s work engages with the issues of mental health, domestic violence, gender, identity and culture. [@NafeesaHamid](#)

Aliyah Holder is a spoken word poet and creative producer who founded "Her Story Live" in 2015. As part of spoken word duo A2, she is currently working on a "Random Acts" Film for Channel 4. [@aliyahhasinah](#)

Book focus: **The Things I Would Tell You: British Muslim Women Write**, (2017), edited by Sabrina Mahfouz, celebrates writing by 22 British Muslim women from Algiers to Brighton. From established literary heavyweights to emerging spoken word artists, the writers in this collection blow away the narrow image of the "Muslim Woman". Among stories of honour killings and ill-fated love in besieged locations, we also find heart-warming connections and powerful challenges to the status quo.



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Thursday 1 November • Balestier Press
Waterstones, Liverpool • 6.30 p.m.
#MeToo Moments: Yan Ge and her translator, Nicky Harman, discuss men behaving badly in China

Chair: **Roh-Suan Tung**, publisher, **Balestier Press** (contemporary Asian).
 Balestier Press publishes award-winning literature in a globalising world,
 literature in translation, young-adult fiction, and picture books.

Yan Ge is the chairperson of the China Young Writers Association.
 People's Literature magazine chose her as one of China's twenty
 future literary masters, and she was selected as Best New Writer by the
 prestigious Chinese Literature Media Prize in 2012.

Nicky Harman is a UK-based prize-winning literary translator, working from
 Chinese to English. She focuses on fiction, poetry and occasionally literary
 nonfiction.

Book focus: **The Chilli Bean Paste Clan**, (May 2018), is a rags-to-riches
 tale about a small-town Chinese family's fortunes. In preparing for their
 formidable matriarch Gran's eightieth birthday long-time sibling rivalries
 flare up with renewed vigour. Nicky Harman's dignified, pacey, idiomatic
 translation draws the reader into a world of muddle and intrigue,
 blending farce and nostalgia. The recipient of an English PEN Award.



balestier.com



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Tickets: waterstones.com/events/the-bookblast-10x10-tour

Thursday 8 November • Carcanet Press
Waterstones, Deansgate, Manchester • 6.30 p.m.
Claiming the Great Tradition: Women Recalibrate the Classics

Chair: **Michael Schmidt**, founder & publisher, **Carcanet Press**. A highly-
 regarded, leading publisher of poetry, established in 1969.

London-born poet, **Jane Draycott**, is a tutor on postgraduate writing
 programmes at Oxford University and the University of Lancaster. Her
 work has been shortlisted for the Forward Prizes for Poetry and for the
 T.S. Eliot Prize.

Book focus: one of the great treasures of the British Library, the 14th
 century poem **Pearl**, (September 2018), is a work of poetic brilliance. Its
 account of loss and consolation retains its force across 6 centuries. It is
 the winner of a Stephen Spender Prize for Translation.

Jenny Lewis teaches poetry at Oxford University. She has published
 3 collections and written 7 plays including *After Gilgamesh* (Pegasus
 Theatre, Oxford, 2011). In 2013 she embarked on a PhD at Goldsmiths,
 London University, writing a new version of the epic of Gilgamesh. The
 resulting book, *Gilgamesh Retold*, won the Warden's Prize at Goldsmiths
 as part of Jenny's "Writing Mesopotamia" project and was shortlisted for
 a Gladstone's Library Residency.

Book focus: Jenny Lewis' versatile, inventive, "woman-friendly" version
 of **Gilgamesh**, (October 2018), brings alive a story that is resonant today
 as it was when first composed in Mesopotamia (modern Iraq) four
 millennia ago. Lewis is the first practising woman poet to produce a full
 poetic translation.



carcanet.co.uk



@Carcanet

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Thursday 15 November • It's a Wrap!
Closing Celebration • 6.30 p.m. London

The BookBlast® 10x10 Tour will conclude 9 weeks of inspiring, invigorating talks covering writing, politics and ideas from all over the world with a celebratory event which brings together the five London-based publishers for a final rousing discussion and libation.

Taking place at a central London venue, it will be a discussion not to be missed! Venue, tickets and co-host info to follow via

 @bookblast

 BookBlast Limited Writing Agency @bookblastofficial



The BookBlast® 10x10 Tour sponsors

Waterstones is the UK and Ireland's leading high street bookseller with 283 shops, and employs over 3,000 booksellers. Waterstones is the only national specialist book retailer of scale in the UK, with the average sized shop carrying a range of around 30,000 individual books and with over 200,000 titles in the largest shop.

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The 10x10 Tour's core sponsor, **The Miles Morland Foundation**, offers African Writing Scholarships. Calling all African writers! For information about how to enter please visit milesmorlandfoundation.com

Many thanks to the 6 other 10x10 Tour sponsors who asked to remain anonymous, your generosity is greatly appreciated.

We thank our sponsors and partners for their confidence in our work. Our vision here at BookBlast® would not have become reality without the commitment and active contribution from our sponsors and partners. Due to their support we are now able to get The BookBlast® 10x10 tour out on the road, showcasing the best of the best both offline and online, reaching all corners of the world.





Supporting Partners

The National Centre for Writing, in Norwich, aims to put literature at the heart of contemporary culture through pioneering and collaborative projects. nationalcentreforwriting.org.uk @WritersCentre

New Writing North supports writers in the north of England by way of talent and reader development programmes; prizes to writers; book groups and so on. newwritingnorth.com @NewWritingNorth

The Society of Authors, founded 1884, is the UK trade union for over 10,000 writers, illustrators and literary translators, at all stages of their careers. societyofauthors.org @Soc_of_Authors

The Publishers' Association, has a mission to strengthen the trading environment for UK publishers by providing a strong voice for the industry in government, in society and with other stakeholders in the UK, Europe and internationally. publishers.org.uk @PublishersAssoc

The Birmingham Literature Festival promotes open discussion, ideas and the fundamental importance of literature. birminghamliteraturefestival.org @BhamLitFest

Nottingham UNESCO City of Literature is dedicated to building a better world with words and establishing Nottingham as a leading destination for lovers of literature. nottinghamcityofliterature.com @NottmCityOfLit

The Children's Bookshow is a charity that aims to inspire school children with a love of reading through an annual tour of theatrical performances. thechildrensbookshow.com @ChildrensBkShow

BookBlast® writing agency, a catalyst for publishing

BookBlast® (est. 1997) is a London-based agency for editors and translators which grew out of @bookblast originally being an authors' agency.

BookBlast® has always had a cosmopolitan ethos and gravitates towards the best independent-spirited and diverse writing from around the world; breaking innovative ideas and good writing into the mainstream.

As well as its core editorial and translation services, the agency also manages several literary estates. The first bookblast.com website went live in 2000.

Georgia de Chamberet (founder director) is an editor and translator with thirty years of experience in publishing. She is the literary executor of the historian and traveller, Lesley Blanch (1904- 2007), whose memoirs she edited – *On the Wilder Shores of Love: A Bohemian Life* (Virago, 2015); and a collection of journalism and biographical essays, *Far To Go and Many To Love: People and Places* (Quartet, 2017). An earlier memoir, *Journey Into the Mind's Eye* has just been reissued by New York Review of Books Classics, (July 2018).

She will be at Ilkley Festival on 30 September and at the Isle of Wight festival on 13 October discussing *Lesley Blanch & Bohemian Women*. lesleyblanch.com @LesleyBlanch

She is on the Judging Panel – with Pete Ayrton, Fadia Faqir, Sophia Vasalou – for the 2018 Banipal Trust / Saif Ghobash Banipal Prize for Arabic Literary Translation prize administered by the Translators' Association.



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