



OFF_PRESS
ANNUAL REPORT 2011

**OFF_PRESS IS A UK-BASED
INDEPENDENT PUBLISHER FOCUSED
ON PROMOTING CONTEMPORARY
CREATIVE WRITING IN ENGLISH
AND POLISH TRANSLATION, USING
MULTIMEDIA AND LIVE EVENTS
TO CELEBRATE LITERATURE AND
STORYTELLING IN DIFFERENT
LANGUAGES, GENRES
AND FORMATS ALL AROUND
THE WORLD.**

OUR AIMS ARE FIVEFOLD:

- encourage the reading of literature in translation
- bring writers together around our independent press
- create a bridge between English and Polish literary worlds
- publish books, films and music under the OFF_PRESS banner
- use multimedia tools and networks to promote literature worldwide

THE STORY SO FAR

In following our aim of promoting books and bringing together artists creating in different languages, we have published over 50 authors this year alone, contributing to the growing trend for reading literature in translation, in the UK and beyond.

In 2011, our second year of existence, we focused on promoting Polish poetry. OFF_PRESS produced ten books in total (including a trilogy and two books under one combined title), all of them in Polish and English translation, with films on DVD shot specifically for each book. We have published the work of writers and translators from Poland, the UK and the US. Our authors include both emerging talents as well as the most established names in the canon of central European literature, many of them winners of Poland's most prestigious literary prizes.

Many of the books are hand-made by artists based in the UK using various binding styles, including ancient Japanese techniques, helping to provide an income and outlet for their talents. Producing books in this way has generated a lot of interest and given OFF_PRESS a unique selling point at a time when many are writing print media off as a dying format.

At the same time, OFF_PRESS is very much keeping up with digital times - our website, use of multimedia as part of live literature events, work with film makers and musicians and, most importantly, translations into the most widely read language in the world, means we continue in our mission to link with artists, organisations and readers around the globe.

Our participation in international literary festivals both in the UK and in Poland has helped achieve these aims. Through numerous trips across Europe, including over a dozen public readings and several literary events, we have successfully brought Polish literature to the attention of British readers and translations into English to Polish audiences.

We have secured distribution of our books in shops across Poland and will be devoting 2012 to securing distribution throughout the EU and beyond. Towards the end of the year we secured our first sources of financial support from the Polish Cultural Institute in London and the Ministry of Culture in Poland.

Marek Kazmierski | *Editor*

2011 IN BRIEF

AUTHORS

50

BOOKS

10

ONLINE PUBLICATIONS

53

DOCUMENTARIES

6

EVENTS AND CONFERENCES

5

MEETINGS WITH WRITERS

8

BOOKS

FREE OVER BLOOD

VARIOUS AUTHORS

FREE OVER BLOOD contains the work of some of Poland's best known poets, including Jacek Dehnel, Justyna Bargielska, Mariusz Grzebalski, Roman Honet, Joanna Mueller, Marta Podgórnik, Andrzej Sosnowski, Dariusz Suska and Eugeniusz Tkaczyszyn-Dycki. Each poet presents five pieces of verse, in the original Polish and in English translation.

ISBN 978-0-9563946-2-0

Pages 283 - Languages English / Polish

ANTHOLOGIA #2

VARIOUS AUTHORS

This anthology contains the work of several generations of Polish poets, all of them widely published in Poland's most respected literary and popular titles, selected from a national poetry competition OFF_PRESS organised in association with Zeszyty Poetyckie.

ISBN 978-0-9563946-3-7

Pages 285 - Languages English / Polish

VIENNA HIGH LIFE

JAKOBE MANSZTAJN

Written in Gdansk over a period of some eight years, winner of prestigious literary nominations and awards in Poland, translated and hand-bound in London, with a specially filmed DVD, giving a greater insight into the book and the work of its author.

This is the first time this particular book has been published in English.

ISBN 978-0-9563946-4-4

Pages 285 - Languages English / Polish

SMENA'S MEMORY

WIOLETTA GRZEGORZEWSKA

A collection of poems from one of Poland's most interesting poets, it spans the course of an already rich publishing career, from early poems covering childhood, the experience of growing up in post-Communist Poland and early life challenges, to her most recent struggles with life in England and the continuation of her existence as a woman of letters.

ISBN 978-0-9563946-8-2

Pages 112 - Languages English / Polish

NOTHING OF THIS

JOANNA LECH

This young poet from Krakow has already published two highly accomplished volumes of poetry, edited by some of Poland's most established poets, winning numerous awards and nominations.

The book is presented in a limited edition hand-bound format and contains the poems, available for the first ever time in both Polish and English translations.

ISBN 978-0-9563946-7-5

Pages 174 - Languages English / Polish

CODE OF CHANGE

RAFAŁ GAWIN

Rafał Gawin's award winning debut collection of poetry published by OFF_PRESS (UK) and Zeszyty Poetyckie (Poland).

The book contains both the original Polish language poems as well as their English translations.

ISBN 978-0-9563946-4-4

Pages 285 - Languages English / Polish

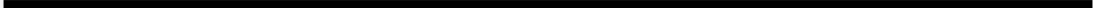
SHOULD NOT HAVE BEEN BORN

GRZEGORZ KWIATKOWSKI

This trilogy represents the complete works by one of Poland's most promising young poets, Grzegorz Kwiatkowski, available for the first ever time in English translation. Each individually numbered book is hand-stitched using the Japanese Yotsume Toji binding method and made specifically to individual order.

ISBN 978-0-9563946-6-8

Pages 283 - Languages English / Polish



DOCUMENTARY FILMS AND EVENTS

By producing individual documentary films for each of our books, we aim to increase awareness of culture and literature at opposite ends of Europe, as well as to add value to the book purchase (each film comes on a separate DVD).



EVERYTHING POETRY STILL

Inspired by the writings of Edward Stachura, a Polish writer and poet, Marek Kazmierski takes the business of translating on the road... by plane, train, coach, ship, motorcycle and other forms of transport, he traverses the whole of Poland to learn more about the country and the poetry he is translating along the way.



THROUGH THE GREY ZONE

Documentary film as literary adventure - Lilian Tietjen (a German filmmaker), Sam Taradash (an American writer) and Marek Kazmierski (a British translator) try to race across seven Polish cities in seven days to show its most recent history as seen through the eyes of both Polish and migrant writers settled there.



CONTROL MADNESS

CONTROL MADNESS, a half-hour documentary on DVD especially commissioned for this publication, shows Grzegorz Kwiatkowski in his home town of Gdansk, covering the themes which drive his poetry and his music.



I DIDN'T WANT TO BOTHER GOD ANYWAY

Following Jakobe Mansztajn around his home town of Sopot in Poland, this half-hour documentary, shot especially to coincide with the publication of his book in English translation, offers a greater insight into the author, his life and the sources of his work.



FEAST OF FOOLS

A half-hour documentary film, focusing on Festa Fatuorum, a poetry and theatre festival in Gniezno, Poland. The DVD also includes an interview with Rafał Gawin, focusing on his experiences, the work on this bi-lingual book and wider issues in contemporary Polish poetry.



OFF_PRESS POLISH TOUR 2011

Covering 5 cities in one week, from Sopot in the north of the country to Krakow in the south, OFF_PRESS hosted seven literary events in arts centres, bookshops and clubs across Poland. This included meetings with five of our authors, screenings of some of our films and readings in both Polish and English. It was covered by the national media, including Gazeta Wyborcza, Radio ZET and RMF Classic.



ONCE UPON A DEADLINE

OFF_PRESS was asked to invite six Polish writers from six different cities in Europe to take part in this one-off literary extravaganza. As part of the Polish Arts Festival, they spent the day visiting six secret locations in Southend. Accompanied by British writer-partners, their job was to write a story based on their experiences and read them before a live audience.



BACK2

INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF POETRY IN SOPOT

In May of 2011, Dr David Malcolm of Gdansk University organised a week-long festival in the seaside resort of Sopot, showcasing some of the finest international poetry and performance, much of it in translation from other languages. OFF_PRESS was invited to screen a selection of films and to present Grzegorz Kwiatkowski and Jakobe Mansztajn, both of whom read their work and answered audience questions. Following this event, OFF_PRESS has been asked to present a wider programme in the 2012 edition of BACK2.

POLISH LITERATURE SINCE 1989 CONFERENCE

Held at University College London School of Slavonic and East European Studies, this three-day event covered a fascinating range of themes and subjects relating to Polish literature and history. OFF_PRESS opened the poetry panel with a lecture given by Marek Kazmierski on modern Polish poetry, which was followed by readings of Wioletta Grzegorzewska's poems in Polish and in English translation.

LOOKING AHEAD

In the coming year we will be carrying forward momentum from a very busy 2011, diving into new projects, reaching to for new audiences and strengthening partnerships with like-minded individuals and organisations.

Having devoted this year to poetry, in 2012 we are going to publish mainly prose and other genres of writing, including a planned series of non-fiction titles. We are already in negotiations with various authors and organisations concerning the publication of novels, short stories and essays. In addition, we aim to enhance our distribution channels, set up new funding schemes and develop marketing activities to promote new and existing titles.

The main aims for 2012:

- secure distribution through bookshops and on-line retailers
- strengthen links with other literary and arts organisations
- secure publicity and reviews in international publications
- continue raising our media profile in Europe and beyond
- participate in international arts festivals and book fairs
- secure further funding from public and private sources

THANKS

We would like to extend our thanks to all those whose support, advice and commitment made this year possible, including individual authors, artists, administrators and designers.

We are also grateful for the chance to strengthen our partnerships with organisations such as the Polish Cultural Institute in London, University of Gdansk, University College London, Hungry Arts, Deconstruction Project, the European Literature Network and others. In the coming years, we aim to connect with new distributors, publishers and cultural organisations.

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