

DARIA, a new book series by the University of Maribor Press dedicated to translation and Translation Studies

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DARIA, a new book series by the University of Maribor Press in Slovenia, is dedicated to presenting translations of literary, scientific and theoretical works, along with original volumes authored by researchers in translation, interpreting, and associated disciplines. A significant aspect of this series is its unique approach which aims to showcase meticulously edited, high-quality translations that are the result of collaborative efforts between students and teachers in and outside the classroom. On the whole, the series is committed to fostering creative translation and innovative new scholarship in translation and interpreting.

The series has its own domain (<https://press.um.si/index.php/ump/catalog/series/DARIA>) and is hosted on the University of Maribor Press websites, allowing for publications in both online and print formats. International scholarly submissions for monographs or edited volumes in the field of translation studies are welcomed in English and German, while translations of original works may be based on other languages. The series editor is Assistant Professor Melita Koletnik, who instructs students of English translation at the Department of Translation Studies within the Faculty of Arts at the University of Maribor. Koletnik holds a PhD in translation studies and made a transition to the academia following a decades-long career as a professional translator. By employing a meticulous and rigorous peer review process, the DARIA series is committed to upholding high standards and involves many reviewers for thorough and independent evaluation.

The idea for the series was sparked by the collaboration between Koletnik and her translation students with Rok Vilčnik, the author of the first book

to start the DARIA series. The work on his collection of fairy tales for adults, which eventually became *Cosmic Fairy Tales* in its English rendition, commenced in late 2013. What followed was a decade of translating, reading, editing, revising, and collaborating with the author, translation students and seasoned translators, English language students, professors, editors, and revisers from Slovenia and the United States. Hence, the book would not have been possible without the teamwork, support, and invaluable assistance of so many, but most importantly joint artistic directors of Theatre Gigante Isabelle Kralj and Mark Anderson of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and their generous input of time, energy and resources.

The book with the original Slovenian title *Vesoljne pravljice* includes translations of 49 fairy tales written between 1989 and 2020, which are accompanied by Vilčnik's original illustrations. The fairy tales and illustrations were conceived for his graduation thesis aimed at creating "an original approach to combining literature and visual art." They were first published in the Slovenian language in 2003, and re-published, albeit in somewhat altered and rearranged versions, almost two decades later in 2020. During the COVID-19 pandemic in 2021, the English translations prepared by the students were used as a basis for the virtual production by Theatre Gigante, *A Cosmic Fairy Tale A Day Keeps The Doctor Away*, which featured 31 of translated stories told by 31 actors from the United States, Taiwan, Italy, France, and Northern Ireland. In their earlier versions, two of the translated tales were also published in *Inventory*, a literary journal by the US Princeton University's Department of Comparative Literature in 2016.

The author of the *Cosmic Fairy Tales* Rok Vilčnik (b. 1968) is an acclaimed Slovenian author, poet, playwright, lyricist, writer for television and radio, theatre director, singer, and composer. A graduate of Visual Arts, Vilčnik discovered his passion for writing after fracturing his left arm, previously dedicated to drawing, during a bout of sleepwalking. A surge of creativity ensued, resulting in the production of four plays within a single year, among them *To [It]*, which secured him the first nomination and selection for the Grum Prize for the best Slovenian original play. To date, Vilčnik is a triple Grum Prize laureate and the two-time recipient of the Notable Comedy Quill for the best Slovenian original comedy. He published four poetry collections, five books of fiction and six compilations of plays, of which forty were put on stage in Slovenia, Croatia, the United States and other countries. Over the past two decades, he has also held a prominent role within the

Slovenian music scene, being actively involved in organising and promoting music events, supporting artists, crafting lyrics for talented musicians, and personally delivering performances.

Ultimately, the series is dedicated to Darja Hribar, a professor and founding member of the University of Maribor's Department of Translation Studies, who succumbed to cancer in 2013. Partnering with a colleague, Darja Hribar dedicated extensive efforts to establish the English and German translation programme at the Faculty of Arts in Maribor. This program, available to students since 2001, later evolved into the independent Department of Translation Studies in 2008. At the Department, Darja Hribar taught English literary translation and researched drama and translation, particularly the Theatre of the Absurd and the absurdist writer Harold Pinter. She was also a warm and caring translator trainer and mentor, who supervised diploma theses of numerous students and consistently embodied the essence of her name which, by some interpretations, signifies "the one who possesses goodness."

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