



HAY FESTIVAL
EUROPA28

News release – Monday 27 May 2019

HAY FESTIVAL EUROPA28 SELECTION UNVEILED – 28 WOMEN TO EXPLORE THE FUTURE OF EUROPE

Hay Festival has today announced the selection of women writers, artists and scientists taking part in a new global project reimagining the future of Europe. Their short stories and essays will be shared through a new anthology, *Europa28: Visions for the Future*, at Hay Festival Europa28 in Rijeka 2020 – European Capital of Culture, Croatia, and at other events around the world.

These 28 women, one from each European country, represent a multi-disciplinary snapshot of the best minds of our time, including novelist Leïla Slimani, entrepreneur Hilary Cottam, activist Janne Teller, anthropologist Gloria Wekker, and actress Lisa Dwan.

HAY FESTIVAL EUROPA28: VISIONS FOR THE FUTURE OF EUROPE FULL SELECTION

Asja Bakić – poet, writer, translator (Croatia)
Zsófia Bán – writer, critic, scholar (Hungary)
Annelies Beck – writer, journalist (Belgium)
Silvia Bencivelli – scientific journalist (Italy)
Hilary Cottam – entrepreneur, activist (UK)
Lisa Dwan – performer, director (Ireland)
Yvonne Hofstetter – lawyer, essayist (Germany)
Nora Ikstena – essayist (Latvia)
Maarja Kangro – poet, translator (Estonia)
Kapka Kassabova – poet, writer (Bulgaria)
Sofia Kouvelaki – activist (Greece)
Carine Krecke – artist (Luxembourg)
Caroline Muscat – journalist (Malta)
Nora Nadjarian – poet, writer (Cyprus)
Ioana Nicolaie – author (Romania)
Bronka Nowicka – director, screenwriter, poet (Poland)
Tereza Nvotova – director, actress (Slovakia)
Anna Pessoa – author (Portugal)
Edurne Portela – author (Spain)
Júlyia Rabinowich – writer, painter, interpreter (Austria)
Karolina Ramqvist – writer (Sweden)
Apolena Rychlikova – filmmaker and journalist (Czech Republic)
Renata Salecl – philosopher, sociologist (Slovenia)
Leïla Slimani – author (France)
Janne Teller – author, activist (Denmark)
Saara Turunen – playwright, director, author (Finland)
Zydrune Vitaite – entrepreneur, economist (Lithuania)
Gloria Wekker – anthropologist (Netherlands)

In March 2020 the anthology, *Europa28: Visions for the Future*, edited by Sophie Hughes and Sarah Cleave, will be published by Comma Press in the UK and Fraktura in Croatia, featuring short stories and essays from the selected writers on the subject of what Europe means to them. Find out more at commapress.co.uk/books/europa28/.



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On 3-5 June 2020 the new festival, Hay Festival Europa28, will take place in Rijeka 2020 – European Capital of Culture, Croatia, featuring talks, debates and performances over three days in collaboration with the Festival of the European Short Story and Rijeka University. And over the next 12 months, the selected writers, artists and thinkers will be showcased at Hay Festival events in Mexico, Spain, Chile, Peru, Colombia and Wales, and through festivals and bookshops across Europe.

The project is co-funded by Creative Europe Programme of the European Union through Wom@rts, which aims to promote an equal, shared presence of women as active agents in the artistic arena, and runs a wide range of cultural activities in different European cities leading up to 2020.

Cristina Fuentes, Hay Festival international director, said: “Europe is a continent in perpetual change, it has been the birthplace to some of the world's most unifying works of art and its most terrifying ideologies. Hay Festival Europa28 seeks to unearth the new ideas and art that can lead us forwards in this moment of political and cultural division, driven by an inspiring group of women who share their visions as beacons to guide the next generation. Our new anthology and events will be spaces in which to think and to hope. Join us.”

Sarah Cleave, Publishing Manager at Comma Press, said: “As a publisher, Comma is committed to platforming writers and writing that challenge readers and offer new perspectives on global issues. The stories and essays gathered in this anthology do exactly that; they examine both the idea and the reality of Europe and put forward a set of ideas – a creative manifesto if you like – on how we might rebuild it for the better.”

Hilary Cottam, author of *Radical Help* and Hay Festival Europa28 representative for the UK, said about her part in the project: “We are in the grip of a technology revolution that is changing the contours of our continent; our public and private worlds. In response, Europe needs a sibling social revolution: bold systems, radical mindsets: new ways of supporting all to flourish. This is my work – the creation of new and radical social systems designed with and for communities across Europe. So I am honoured and delighted to be collaborating with the amazing women of Hay Festival Europa28: together we will seed something special.”

Visit hayfestival.org/europa28 to explore the full list with detailed biographies.

A digital project launched alongside today's announcement invites the public to submit their own thoughts on what Europe means to them for the chance to win a trip to Hay Festival Europa28 in Rijeka next June and a copy of the new collection. Visit hayfestival.org/europa28/competition to find out more.

The announcement was made at [the 32nd Hay Festival Wales](#), where award-winning writers, global policy makers, pioneers and innovators gathered to launch new work and debate solutions to the biggest issues of our time, from the rise of populism to the climate crisis. Meanwhile, Hay Festival Europa28 writers Hilary Cottam, Kapka Kassabova and Janne Teller joined anthology editor Sophie Hughes to preview their work in a panel discussion available on Hay Player shortly at hayfestival.org/hayplayer.

Keep up to date with Hay Festival news by signing up to the newsletter or follow the action live on:

Twitter: [@hayfestival](#) / [@hayfestival_esp](#)

Facebook: [hayfestival](#) / [hayfestivalimaginaelmundo](#)

Instagram: [@hayfestival](#)

Live updates: hayfestival.org/wales

[#HayFestival2019](#)

[#Europa28](#)



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Notes to editors

About Hay Festival hayfestival.org

Hay Festival is a not-for-profit organisation that brings readers and writers together to share stories and ideas in sustainable events around the world. The festivals inspire, examine and entertain, inviting participants to imagine the world as it is and as it might be.

Nobel Prize-winners and novelists, scientists and politicians, historians and musicians talk with audiences in a dynamic exchange of ideas. The Festival's global conversation shares the latest thinking in the arts and sciences with curious audiences live, in print and online. Hay Festival also runs wide programmes of education work supporting coming generations of writers and culturally hungry audiences of all ages.

In 1987, the festival was dreamt up around a kitchen table in Hay. Thirty-two years later, the unique marriage of exacting conversations and entertainment for all ages has travelled to editions in 30 locations, from the historic town of Cartagena in Colombia to the heart of cities in Peru, Mexico, Spain and Denmark. The organisation now reaches a global audience of hundreds of thousands every year and continues to grow and innovate, building partnerships and initiatives alongside some of the leading bodies in arts and the media.

Acclaimed author, actor and writer Stephen Fry is President of the organisation; Peter Florence is Director; and Caroline Michel, CEO of leading literary and talent agency Peters Fraser + Dunlop, is Chair of the Festival board.

About Hay Festival Foundation hayfestival.com/hay-festival-foundation

Hay Festival Foundation is a registered charity created to support the aims of Hay Festival in the UK and internationally. The Foundation brings people of all ages together to support educational initiatives and opportunities. It is committed to access, inclusion and to the pursuit of excellence. The Foundation is supported through philanthropy and charitable grants with donations welcomed at hayfestival.org/wales/patrons-and-benefactors.

Dylan Jones, editor of GQ, is Chair of the Hay Festival Foundation and works alongside trustees Rosie Boycott, Caroline Michel, Maurice Saatchi, and Alice Sherwood.

Coming up...

- Hay Festival Querétaro, Mexico (5-8 September 2019)
- Hay Festival Segovia, Spain (20-22 September 2019)
- Hay Festival Arequipa, Peru (7-10 November 2019)
- Hay Festival Hay-on-Wye Winter Weekend, Wales (28 November-1 December 2019)
- Hay Festival Medellín, Colombia (29-31 January 2020)
- Hay Festival Cartagena de Indias, Colombia (30 January-2 February 2020)
- Hay Festival Hay-on-Wye, Wales (21-31 May 2020)
- Hay Festival Europa28, Croatia (3-5 June 2020)



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About Comma Press
commapress.co.uk

Comma Press is a not-for-profit publishing initiative dedicated to promoting new writing, with an emphasis on the short story. It is committed to a spirit of risk-taking and challenging publishing, free of the commercial pressures on mainstream houses. In April 2012, Comma became one of Arts Council England's new National Portfolio Organisations (NPOs).



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