Jacques Stephen Alexis, Vaikom Muhammad Basheer, Abdelaziz Baraka Sakin, Yahia Belaskri, Jean-Marie Blas de Roblès, Chantal Creusot, René Depestre, Boubacar Boris Diop, Pascal Garnier, Hubert Haddad, Antonyhasan Jesuthasan, Mélani Le Bris, Marcus Malte, James Noël, Auður Ava Ólafsdóttir, Makenzy Orcel, Serge Pey, Zoyâ Pirzâd, Joachim Schnerf, Laurence Vilaine, Fariba Vafi...
Founded in 1991, Zulma has been until today especially interested in contemporary literature in France and all over the world. Publishing around twelve titles each year, seeking the highest quality, in novels as well as short stories, we become totally committed to each one of our books. We have published authors from over 30 countries and translated texts from more than 20 languages over the last 25 years. Our close relations with authors, translators and booksellers are at the core of our passion. Thanks to our paperback series we can offer the great work we publish to a wider readership.

Among our authors are some prestigious French and francophone writers such as Jean-Marie Blas de Roblès (Prix Médicis 2008), Hubert Haddad (Prix Renaudot poche 2009), Dany Laferrière (member of the Académie française), Marcus Malte (Prix Femina 2016), Boubacar Boris Diop (Senegal) or Makenzy Orcel (Haiti). We also publish contemporary literature in translation: Kei Miller (Jamaica), David Toscana (Mexico), Mayra Santos Febres (Puerto Rico), Leo Perutz (Czech Republic), Razvan Radulescu (Romania), Pramoedya Ananta Toer (Indonesia), R. K. Narayan (India), Eileen Chang (China), Ricardo Piglia (Argentina)…

Last but not least, Zulma also publishes and represents international authors who are now translated all around the world: Auður Ava Ólafsdóttir (Iceland), Zoyâ Pirzâd (Iran), Benny Barbash (Israel), Hwang Sok-yong (South Korea) or Abdelaziz Baraka Sakin (Sudan) to name but a few.

In February 2019, Zulma opened a non fiction series : the reflexive twin of our literary publications. With three new titles a year, uncompromising authors and intrinsic literary qualities, we aim to propose another vision of the world to French readers – as we have been doing for over 25 years through literature. The series features authors such as Shoshana Zuboff (United States), Timothy Morton (England), Pankaj Mishra (India), Michael Sfard (Israel), Tiffany Watt Smith (England), Srečko Horvat (Croatia)…

Some of our literary awards:
Médicis Prize 2019 – Miss Islande (Miss Iceland), by Auður Ava Ólafsdóttir
Orange Prize 2018 – Cetee nuit (This night), by Joachim Schnerf
Nordic Council Literature Prize 2018 – Or (Hotel Silence), by Auður Ava Ólafsdóttir
Littérature-Monde Prize 2018 – Íslenskir kónar (Icelandic Kings), by Einar Már Guðmundsson
Prix du Premier Roman (foreign literature) 2018 – The Sum of our Follies, by Shi-Li Kow
Littérature-Monde Prize 2017 – Le Messiah of Darfur, by Abdelaziz Baraka Sakin
Femina Prize 2016 – Le Garçon (The Boy), by Marcus Malte
Littérature-Monde Prize 2016 – L’Ombre animale (Animal shadow), by Makenzy Orcel
Prix du Premier Roman (foreign literature) 2015 – Noites de Alface (Lettuce Nights), by Vanessa Barbara
Fnac Prize 2014 – The Bellwether Revivals, by Benjamin Wood
Renaudot Prize (paperback edition) 2009 – Palestine, by Hubert Haddad
Médicis Prize 2008 – Where Tigers Are at Home (Là où les tigres sont chez eux), Jean-Marie Blas de Roblès
ELLE magazine Reader’s Prize (thriller category) 2007 – Garden of Love, by Marcus Malte
AUÐUR AVA ÓLAFSDÓTTIR
THE HUMAN ANIMAL / DYRALIF

LJÓSMÓDIR is the icelandic word for midwife. It is composed of two words: LJÓS meaning light and MODIR meaning mother. In Iceland, a midwife is a mother of light.

Auður Ava Ólafsdóttir’s new novel, THE HUMAN ANIMAL, takes place in Iceland a few days before Christmas, a time during the year when there is almost no daylight.

On the third floor on Ljósvalla street in Reykjavik lives our heroine, Dómhildur, a midwife who has inherited her apartment from her aunt, also a midwife.

While the Icelanders are preparing for a terrible storm that will hit the island, Dómhildur discovers that her aunt has left her three manuscripts. These manuscripts are reflexions on the human nature, the light and the coincidence. These are also the themes of this novel.

Auður Ava Ólafsdóttir writes with humour and poetry about the darkness during winter in Iceland but also about the return of the daylight in the spring.

“Each new novel by Ólafsdóttir is like a meeting with a marvelous friend that immediately makes you feel like you have never parted.” Madame Figaro

“Quirky and at first glance intimists, her stories are like crystal balls that no matter how small they are, can contain a whole universe. This is humanist art in the truest sense of the word.” Le Monde des livres

Award-winning writer from Iceland, Auður Ava Ólafsdóttir is praised for her fresh perspective and her dark, incisive humor. She won the Nordic Council Literature Prize in 2018 for her novel Ór (Hotel Silence) – a novel already awarded by the Icelandic Literary Prize and shortlisted for the Italian Strega Award. She was also awarded the Prix Médicis in 2019 for her novel Miss Iceland.
HUBERT HADDAD
The Mermaid of Isé / La Sirène d’Isé

After Palestine (Prix Renaudot Poche, Prix des cinq continents de la Francophonie) and his critically acclaimed novel Le Peintre d’éventail (‘The Fan Painter’), Hubert Haddad transports us to another, magical garden between land and sea.

Malgorne is the boy-child of the fragile, vulnerable Leeloo. At the Domaine des Descenderies, he is raised in the stern care of a nurse-cum-governess… And quickly finds refuge in the extravagant maze of yew, cypress, pine and larch trees designed and planted by the director, Dr Riwald. Deaf to the suck and crash of waves on the breakers, Malgorne feeds on the wind, gazing endlessly at the horizon.

From the old signal post on the barren clifftop, Peirdre stares into the ocean depths each day at dusk, haunted by the voice of her long-lost friend.

One morning, down on the shore, the washed-up body of an extraordinary sea-creature fills Peirdre and Malgorne with hope – are the mermaids returning?

A magnetic, enchanting, luminous novel.

“La Sirène d’Isé is a sumptuous, dreamlike, artfully composed tale, a delightful labyrinth in which to lose yourself.”

Transfuge

Hubert Haddad is a novelist, poet, playwright, short story writer and essayist.

He has received several literary prizes, including the Prix des Cinq Continents de la Francophonie and the Prix Renaudot Poche for Palestine a compelling political novel, more than 60 000 copies sold; the Prix Louis Guilloux for Le Peintre d’éventail, 50 000 copies sold; and the Grand Prix SGDL of literature for his entire work.

THE MERMAID OF ISE
novel, 192 pages

Original language: French

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OTHER TITLES

Chaos and Monster > Longlisted for the Renaudot Prize. “A dive into the Lodz ghetto. Fiction at the service of History.” Le Figaro littéraire

Desirable Body (Corps désirable) > English translation published by Yale University Press in August 2018

Palestine: upcoming movie adaptation by the Thinklab Production

Contact foreign rights:
rights@zulma.fr
LAURENCE VILAINE
The Giantess / La Géante

Set in a majestic, wild landscape, The Giantess is a sensitive, haunting novel of love, dreams, lies, and the paths that lead us to the light.

Noëlle has always lived at the foot of the Géante (‘Giantess’), the eternal mountain that dictates the cadence of her life, provides bundles of winter kindling, cornflowers, borage and gentian for infusions and salves. She has a witch’s knowledge of plants and the natural world, acquired from the Aunt who took them both in: Noëlle and Rimbaud, her brother who doesn’t speak but sings with the birds. She knows to expect nothing from on high, never raises her eyes to the sun. Tucked away in this far-off place, her existence is hardscrabble, like the mountain scree. Suddenly, two strangers appear, breaking and entering her life with their story. Noëlle discovers desire, yearning, and love that can lift a person up, or weigh them down. She opens herself to the power of words.

“A spell-binding huis-clos.”
Frédérique Fanchette, Libération

“The reader closes this book with a touch of wonder, and admiration.”
Damien Aubel, Transfuge

Laurence Vilaine (b.1965) is the author of an acclaimed first novel (Le silence ne sera qu’un souvenir, 2011). La Géante marks her return to fiction.
‘To write is to shout in silence, to spit between the lines, to nurture a secret, to tingle all over, to thrill.’

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JEAN-MARIE BLAS DE ROBLÈS
What we are, here below / Ce qu’ici-bas nous sommes

A fantasist intellectual, confined somewhere in Chile, tells how, 40 years before, he discovered an unknown civilization living in the Lybian desert.

Who among us can swear, hand on heart, not to have invented at least some of our memories? Certainly not Augustin Harbour. Forty years ago, wandering in the southern Libyan desert, he came upon a mysterious oasis: Zindân. People arrive in Zindân from any place, and from any time, and none of the travellers washed up there knows how to get away. In truth, it seems, God himself resides there, in the company of his enchanting vestal Maruschka Matlich.

In his luxury clinic retreat on the shores of Lake Calafquèn in Chile, Augustin delves into his notebooks, sketches and annotations, to dress an inventory of his extravagant, epic journey – the inhabitants of Zindân, their bizarre mores, alimentary taboos, sexual practices, sacred objects and other telling signs – that quickly becomes a phantasmagoria.

The world of the imagination mingles with the here and now, as if for a perilous immersion in the heart of darkness.

A phenomenal work, shot through with the author’s trademark blend of fantasy, humour, virtuosity and erudition. And some quite extraordinary illustrations.

Winner of Prix Médicis 2008, shortlisted for the Goncourt Prize, Jean-Marie Blas de Roblès is a unique writer, who brings together magic realism, erudition, political satire, and the finest adventure tale tradition. Born in Algeria in 1954, he has spent some of his life in Brazil, France, Taiwan and Libya. Blas de Roblès has been translated into 14 languages, and has sold more than 200,000 copies in France.

WHAT WE ARE, HERE BELOW
Illustrated novel, 288 pages
Original language: French
Blas de Roblès has been published in 14 countries and sold more than 200,000 copies in France.

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PRAISE AND CRITICS

“One of the great curiosities of France’s rentrée littéraire 2020.”
Muriel Steinmetz, L’Humanité

“A magnificent book-object: hugely entertaining, poetic, erudite and ingenious. Repurposing as High Art... A paean to the authorial imagination.”

Bernard Quiriny, Lire

PREVIOUS TITLES

Là où les tigres sont chez eux
> 125,000 copies sold in France

La Montagne de Minuit
> 15,000 copies sold in France

La Mémoire de riz
> 52,000 copies sold in France

Dans l’épaisseur de la chair

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ABDELAZIZ BARAKA SAKIN

The Jungo / Les Jango

The Jungo, eccentric seasonal farming workers are, “wise in the dry season and crazy in the rainy season” : they are the heroes of this human comedy. Baraka Sakin wrote a magnificent tribute to all freedoms.

The Jungo are definitely priceless. They come from the other side of the border to cultivate sesame, wheat and sorghum. You can recognize them by their flashy elegance and their sense of celebration, as soon as the harvest is over: all their earnings are spent there, getting drunk on marissa and women. They are the aristocracy of the seasonal farming workers in al-Hilla, which is for them the center of the world.

Al-Hilla, that’s where two old friends decide to put down their suitcases. They are warmly welcome at the Mother’s House, who’s owner is half landlord, half mackerel. There is also Wad Amouna, a refined handyman who spreads locals gossip, Safia, a gorgeous woman on which run the wildest stories, the sweet and tender Alam Gishi... Life is smooth in the scents of roasted coffee, fragrant chicha and gum arabic… until the day the modern world and its soldiers intend to control these “princes of the earth”...

“New Arabic voice from Sudan. Vitality and singularity of its characters, freedom, lightness of the tone, a superb and provocative airy prose.” Le Monde

Abdelaziz Baraka Sakin was born in Sudan in 1963. The author of seven novels and seven collections of short stories, he won the Al Tayeb Saleh award for international creative writing in 2009 for Les Jangos. His work was banned by Sudanese authorities then. A celebrated writer in Sudan, he now lives in Austria.

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MARCUS MALTE

Roadsides / Aires

A stunning chronicle of intersecting destinies, Aires is a novel of our society. Funny and touching, rich and precise, like ten different novels in one.

They are on the road, every one lost in his thoughts. Life runs by in the rhythm of radio news, slogans, all the stories they tell themselves — modern life, often cruel, sometimes funny, with its false winners and true losers. Frédéric, a whistle-blower turned truck driver, Catherine, that tries to lead her life of a top manager of a global corporation, a writer without readers, leaving for the Faraway, or Sylvain, an impulsive buyer taking his son to Disneyland. Their destinies will inevitably end by crossing paths.

A caustic novel that denounces, in a striking style with devastating humor all the excesses of our society, its failings and its bankruptcies.

“Àires is a strangely desperate novel about our unfulfilled passage on earth.” Christine Ferniot, Télérama

“There are books like this that change the way you look at the world or a part of your daily life, and Aires is one of them.” Alexandra Schwartzbrod, Libération

“The novel denounces the failings and lies of our society, and opens our eyes. The writing (...) moves from detective fiction to poetry.” Yves Viollier, La Vie

“Aires is somewhere between the social novel, the satire and the anticipation story, in Michel Houellebecq's Possibility of an Island.” Augustin Trapenard, 21 centimètres

Marcus Malte is widely compared to the stars of hard-boiled American crime fiction: Jim Thompson, David Goodis or Harry Crews. He is the author of Le Garçon, Prix Femina 2016, Les Harmoniques and the multi-award winning Garden of Love (winner of the 2008 French ELLE Grand Prix for crime fiction).

Roadsides

novel, 544 pages

Original language: French

Already 10,000 copies sold

RIGHTS OPTIONS

World English (Restless Books)

Italy (Fazi)

China (Zhejiang Literature)

Greece (Opera)

Praise about Marcus Malte’s previous novel Le Garçon, winner of the Prix Femina

“Marcus Malte is clearly an astonishing author, oscillating between poetry, mystery, and epic, he has the ability to surprise and it’s a delight to read.”

Alexandra Schwartzbrod,

Libération

“Malte’s outwardly simple tale of romance and war ends up being a profound meditation on wisdom.”

Publishers Weekly

“This book is a grand epic, a magnificent story that resurrects the myth of the wild child that discovers civilization. It’s a great novel of learning, and allegory of the savaging of men by war.”

Mona Ozouf,

President the Femina Prize

PREVIOUS TITLES

Le Garçon, Prix Femina 2016

(55,000 copies sold)

Fannie et Freddie

Garden of Love

Grand Prix des lectrices de Elle, catégorie policier – 90 000 copies sold

La Part des chiens

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OUR AUTHORS

French and francophone authors

Jacques Stephen Alexis
Jean-Marie Blas de Roblès — Prix Médicis 2008, Prix de la Nouvelle de l'Académie française 1982
Georges-Olivier Châteaureynaud — Prix Renaudot 1982, Prix Goncourt de la Nouvelle 2005
Chantal Creusot
Maurice Dekobra
René Depestre — Prix Goncourt de la Nouvelle 1982, Prix Renaudot 1988
Boubacar Boris Diop
Pascal Garnier
Mélani le Bris
Marcus Malte — Prix Femina 2016, Grand Prix des lectrices de Elle, catégorie policier 2008
Daniel Morvan
James Noël
Serge Pey
Joachim Schnerf — Prix Orange du livre 2018
Ingrid Thobois
Laurence Vilaine
Cécile Wajsbrot

Translated authors

Barzou Abdourazzoqov (Tadjikistan)
Vaikom Muhammad Basheer (India)
Antonythasan Jesuthasan (Sri Lanka)
Zoyâ Pirzâd (Iran) — Prix Courrier International du meilleur livre étranger 2009
Abdelaziz Baraka Sakin (Sudan) — Tayeb Saleh Prize, Prix littérature-monde 2017
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