

PRESS RELEASE

The Frankfurt Book Fair, unanimously considered the leading annual book forum in international publishing circles, will take place from 20th to 24th October in Frankfurt. Last year, due to the pandemic, the fair was held entirely online. This year, people are strongly encouraged to visit the fair in person, although while taking all the necessary precautions. At last, you'll be able to hold the books in your hands, flip through, and make note of them.

The Russian stand traditionally attracts the attention of numerous fairgoers both with its memorable design and its interesting programme of events. The Russian national stand, with an area greater than 100 square metres, will showcase the latest releases in all genres of the Russian book publishing industry: new editions of Russian classics and the works of contemporary Russian authors; books on philology and the Russian language; children's and young fiction; books on the history and geography of Russia; books on culture, philosophy, and politics. There will be a special exhibit in honour of the writer Fyodor Dostoyevsky's 200th birthday, who greatly shaped spiritual quests in the twentieth century. Overall, the Russian stand will have around 700 titles from more than fifty national publishing houses on display. The Institute for Literary Translation – the organiser of the Russian national stand under the authority of the Russian Ministry of Digital Development – will showcase foreign language translations of works by Russian authors that have been released thanks to the Institute's support.

The Russian national stand's design attracts attentions with its unique bookshelves crafted from lightwood that enables unobtrusive zoning of the exhibition space and creates a special "bookish" atmosphere. The stand's open plan, reminiscent of a reading room, invites you to familiarise yourself with the exhibition attentively and leisurely, all the while making an impression of Russia's strong book culture and rich literary traditions. Visitor routes have been meticulously designed to avoid congestion in certain areas. The stand's colour scheme emphasises bright, natural colours. The slogan "READ RUSSIA", which has already become a brand of sorts, makes the stand easy to recognise. The portraits of Russian writers which can be found along the stand's perimeter above the bookshelves are an important element of the design. These recognisable faces from the classics of nineteenth century Russian literature make up the acknowledged classics of the twentieth century. Our stand will also provide an "author's stage", which will be the main attraction all days of the fair, that will be used for seminars, round table discussions,

and meetings with writers. Informational materials in Russian and in foreign languages will be provided for both as hard copies and electronically.

The Russian stand's programme includes a great range of events. The presentation on the 37th IBBY International Congress, which was held in Moscow in 2021, will undoubtedly prove of interest. Publishing houses, writers, artists, teachers, and librarians – in short, all those who are involved with the preparations and release of books for young readers – have been awaiting this event with interest. They have been waiting for an uncharacteristically long time as the congress was planned for 2020 but was postponed due to the pandemic. A comprehensive documentary film that will close the presentation, demonstrates just how exciting and enjoyable this long-awaited meeting was.

The translator Alexander Nitzberg (Austria), who has been awarded the READ RUSSIA prize in his time, will present his new work of translation, Dostoevsky's novella *The Double* released in German, and will share some secrets of the trade as a professional translator.

As part of the stand's programme, there are fair few events with spontaneous speakers that were able to get to Frankfurt despite quarantine-related complications. This includes a discussion with the director of the Big Book prize, Georgy Urushadze, about the award's past and future seasons, the writer Maxim Osipov's presentation of his books that have been translated into German and English, and meet-the-artist events with the writers Maria Galina, Alexei Makushinsky, Yulia Yakovleva, Anna Starobinets, and with the poet Vyacheslav Kupriyanov. The round table discussion, dedicated to the female voice in contemporary Russian prose, will no doubt, spark interest. It will be held in a mixed format: some of its participants, who did not manage to come to Frankfurt at this time, will be able to voice their opinions after the end of the "live" discussion. The dialogue about the potential of detective stories also promises to be interesting. It will be led by the somewhat untraditional detectives Anna Starobinets and Yulia Yakovleva on the stage. The authors Alisa Ganieva, Olga Slavnikova, Maya Kucherskaya, German Sadulaev, and Guzel Yakhina will address visitors at the Russian stand from a screen. The *In Their Own Words* project was launched by the Institute for Literary Translation as an opportunity to hear the writers' words remotely. There are many more joyful discoveries that await those who visit the Institute's website.

The publishing house OGI has an extraordinarily interesting online-programme in store for you. For the last few years, OGI has been occupying itself with the popularisation of author's book written in the national languages of the peoples of Russia with great perseverance. We offer you a presentation on four

substantial anthologies that the publishing house has released, talks about the languages of the peoples of Russia, masterclasses in rare languages, and a meeting with Buryat calligraphy experts.

As you can see, our online events promise to be no less interesting than our in-person ones, for example the series of literary dialogues called *Moveable Type* which enjoyed much success and the Moscow Book Fair this year, or translator Vera Bishitzky's talk on her work translating Ivan Goncharov's novels. The Danish documentary "Translation", about Marie Birgitta Tetzlaff's work on translating Dostoevsky's novel, *The Brothers Karamazov*, into Danish, is also dedicated to translation work. To mark the anniversary of this great Russian writer, the Vladimir Dahl Museum of the History of Russian Literature will present a short, animated film entitled "Dostoevsky and Schiller: A Joyful Meeting", while the Marina Tsvetaeva Centre for Russian Culture in Freiburg will present the films "*Polyphony – Women and Dostoevsky*" and "*A Time of Despair: A Film Based on Anna Dostoevskaya's Diaries*". All three films will be in German.

After the fair's closing, this book exhibit will be gifted to the Russian Embassy in Berlin, and the Consulate General of the Russian Federation in Frankfurt.

Partners of the Read Russia program:



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