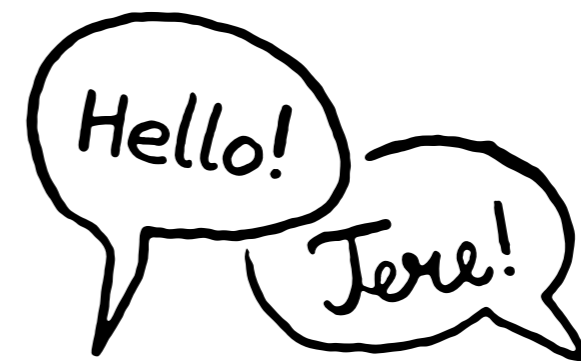


Estonian Illustration Exhibition

BOLOGNA 2025



Estonian Illustration Exhibition "Hello! Tere!"

Estonia is delighted to be the Guest of Honour at the 2025 Bologna Children's Book Fair and to greet you all at the world's doorstep to rich children's literature.

It's widely known that Estonians are avid fans of singing, reading, and nature. We have unique song festivals that bring together tens of thousands of singers on a single stage, our homes hold the most books per capita than anywhere else in the world, and our pristine biomes includes vast forests, mystical bogs and marshes, sparkling rivers and lakes, and a sea dotted by islands of every shape and size.

Nature and traditions are a chief source of inspiration for Estonian stories, the singular quality of which can be encountered in our books and illustrations alike. The exhibition "Hello! Tere!" opens the door to the world of contemporary Estonian illustration, highlighting works' ornate details, playful use of colour, and technical mastery. Featured here are 40 artists with a devotion to storytelling, creating original characters, and a more liberal creative approach nuanced by global trends. These influences have brought along a diversification of styles, an originality of emphases, and experimental modes of expression. Significant shifts can also be seen in the design and form of Estonian children's books, in which image and text are increasingly interwoven and play an equal role in conveying the story. We also have many of our own wordless picture books in which the illustrations perform the role of storyteller independently.

Estonian illustration's charm lies in its variety. Given our small population, it's remarkable that we have so many professional illustrators, each of whom enriches the field with unique styles and subtleties. It's certainly also due in part to a lack of traditional illustration courses at Estonian universities, which has given artists the freedom to walk their own paths, experiment, and create something truly unique.

In 2025, Estonia is celebrating 500 years since the very first Estonian-language book was published, though illustrated secular works for children didn't appear until the mid-19th century. Just as how the Estonian nation has experienced numerous unexpected twists and turns throughout history, so has Estonian children's literature existed in a state of perpetual transformation. Moralizing texts, rigid formats, and politicisation have gone and been replaced by whimsical, playful stories where fantasy and humour stand in the spotlight. Estonian illustrations also no longer merely mimic the text, but expand it, offering novel perspectives and adding colourful facets.

Children's literature and book illustration are highly valued and cherished elements of Estonian culture. The Estonian Children's Literature Centre is a clear example: a state organisation tasked with advancing children's literature and popularising reading among youth. In pursuit of these goals, it organises annual creative competitions and frequent illustration exhibitions, hosts events with authors, and cultivates opportunities for writers. Estonia's best-illustrated

children's books are chosen annually, and the nationally prestigious Edgar Valter Award for Illustration is given biannually.

We welcome you to this exhibition, which offers a broad and outstanding overview of the diverse and colourful world of Estonian illustration, spotlighting our illustrators' superb talents and their ability to make every book's visual language lively and memorable.



Katrin Ehrlich

Born:
1969

Contact:
eh.katrin@gmail.com

Book:
Juhani Püttsepp
„Leierkastilugu“
The Barrel Organ Story
Pegasus, 2024



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Heiki Ernits

Born:
1953

Contact:
ernits.heiki@gmail.com

Book:
Andrus Kivirähk
„Kampsun ja päike“
The Sweater and the Sun
Varrak, 2024



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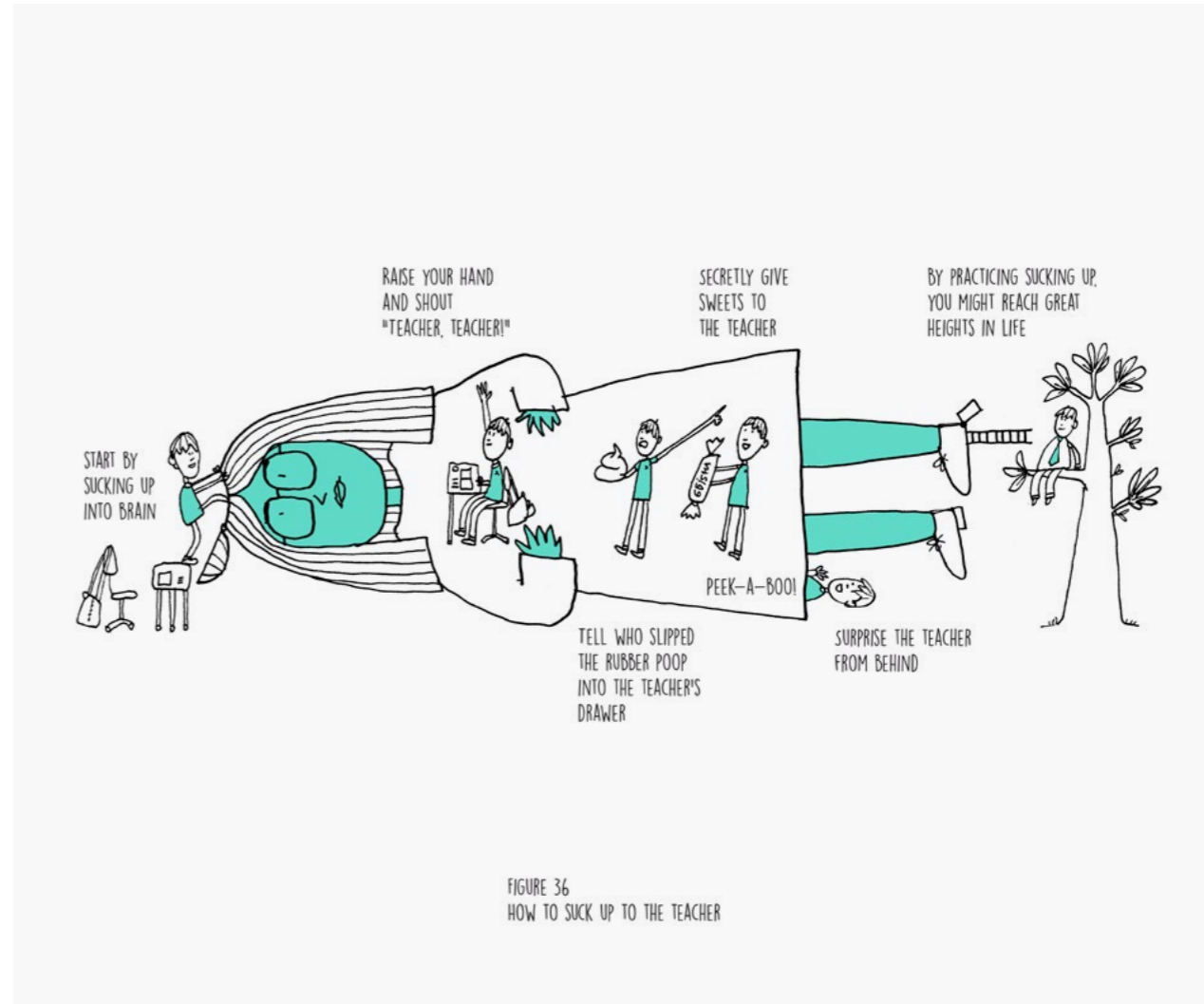


Kadri Ilves

Born:
1977

Contact:
ilveskadri77@gmail.com

Book:
Tarmo Vaarmets
„Jonniga jännis“
In a Mess with Moaning
Tammerraamat, 2023



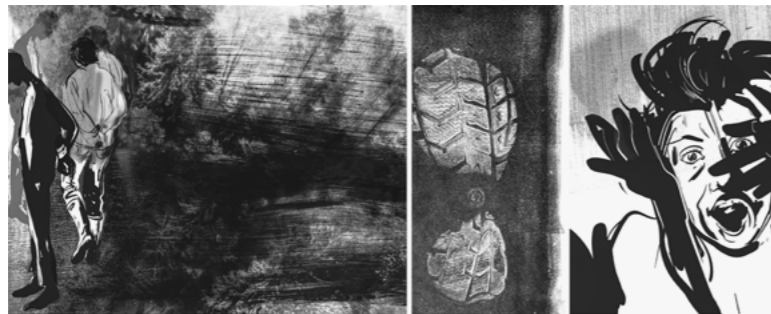
Alvar Jaakson

Born:
1968

Contact:
alvar@utopia.ee

Book:
Anti Saar
„Kuidas istuda, kuidas astuda“
How To Sit, How To Stand
Kolm Elu, 2023



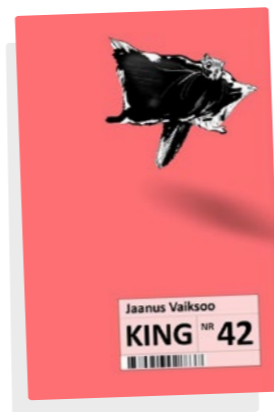


Katrin Kaev

Born:
1965

Contact:
kaev.katrin@gmail.com

Book:
Jaanus Vaiksoo
„King nr 42“
Shoe nr 42
Ärkel, 2024



Anu Kalm

Born:
1960

Contact:
anuanukalm@gmail.com

Book:
Kogumik „Pisike puu:
lapsepõlve lood ja laulud“
Collection *A Tiny Tree:*
childhood stories and songs
Eesti Lastekirjanduse Keskus,
2022





Kristi Kangilaski

Born:
1982

Contact:
kristikangilaski@gmail.com

Book:
Kristi Kangilaski
„Sõda on nagu...“
The War is Like...
Koolibri, 2024

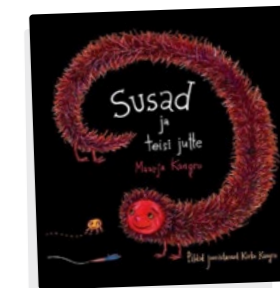


Kirke Kangro

Born:
1975

Contact:
kirke.kangro@artun.ee

Book:
Maarja Kangro
„Susad ja teisi jutte“
Skees and Other Stories
Nähtamatu Ahv, 2021





Tiiu Kitsik

Born:
1981

Contact:
tiiu@tiiukitsik.com

Book:
Indrek Koff
„Muri mure“
Muri's Trouble
Koolibri, 2024



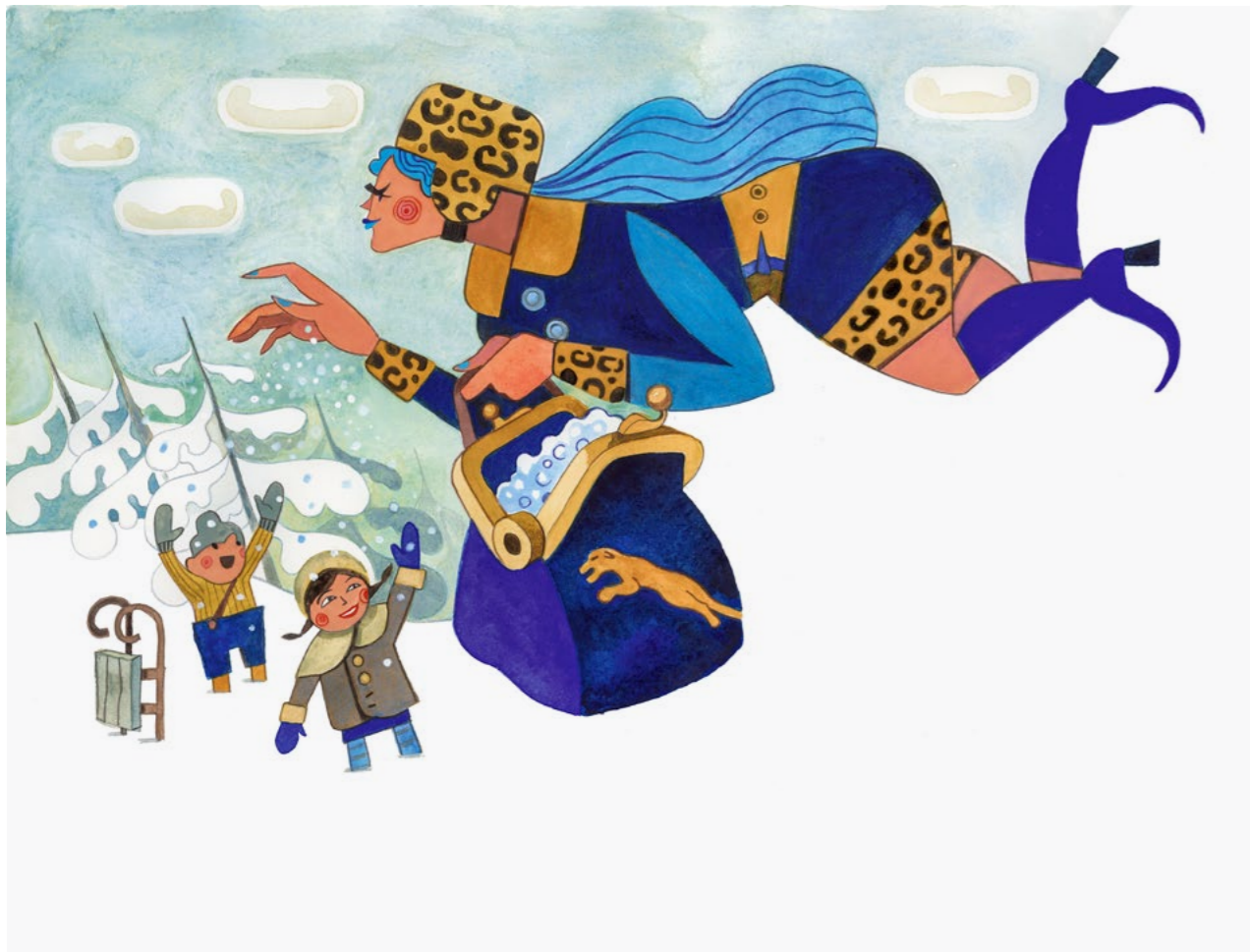
Tuulike Kivestu

Born:
1976

Contact:
tuulike.kivestu@gmail.com

Book:
Margus Haav
„Hundiema ühepajatoidu saladus“
The Wolf Mother's Secret Recipe
Koolibri, 2023





Karel Korp

Born:
1967

Contact:
karel@disainikorpe.ee

Book:
Veiko Märka
„Kuidas kuud endale
mütsid said“
How the Months Got Hats
Koolibri, 2019



Liisa Kruusmägi

Born:
1988

Contact:
Liisa.kruusmaji@gmail.com

Book:
Joanna Liivak
„Plekiraamat“
The Spot Book
Puänt, 2024





Kadi Kurema

Born:
1963

Contact:
kadiKurema@gmail.com

Book:
Indrek Koff
„Kui ma oleksin vanaisa“
If I Were a Grandpa
Härra Tee & proua Kohvi, 2020



Anne Linnamägi

Born:
1966

Contact:
linnamagia@gmail.com

Book:
Triin Soomets
„Unerong“
The Dream Train
Päike ja Pilv, 2013





**Regina
Lukk-Toompere**

Born:
1953

Contact:
reginalukk@gmail.com

Book:
Toon Tellegen
„Orava sünnipäev ja teised lood“
Squirrel's Birthday and Other Stories
Draakon & Kuu, 2021



Lumimari

Born:
1976

Contact:
lumimariart@gmail.com

Book:
Margo Parts
„Latsökönö“
Bairn
Tänapäev, 2024





Jüri Mildeberg

Born:
1965

Contact:
mildebergius9@gmail.com

Book:
Jaanus Vaiksoo
„Loode-Eesti regionaalhaigla
elulood“
*Biographies from the Northwest
Estonian Regional Hospital*
Ärkel, 2018



Anni Mäger

Born:
1977

Contact:
anni@taevas.ee

Book:
Pille Kannisto
„Britaga juhtub“
Brita's Always the One
Tänapäev, 2022



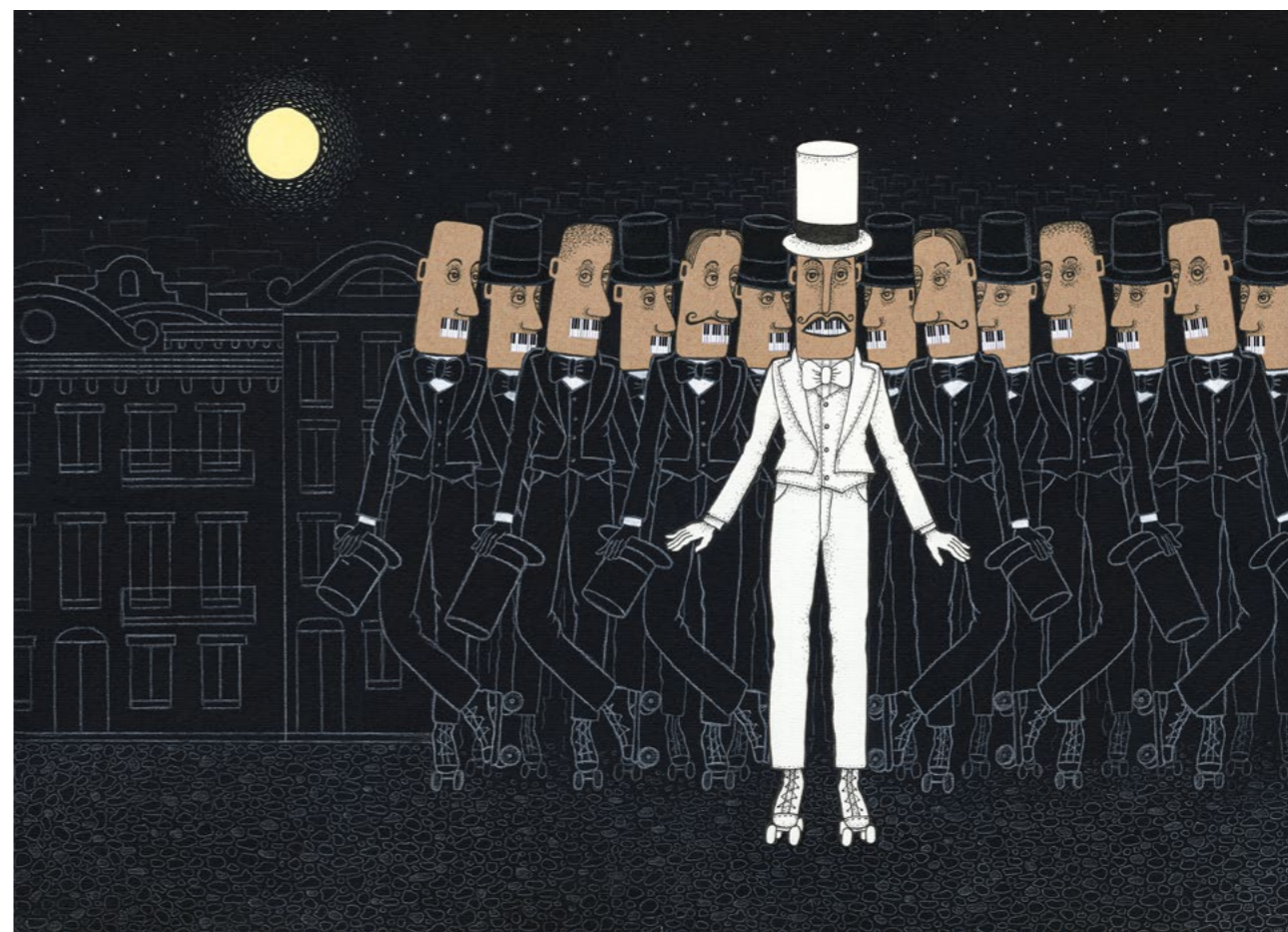


Gerda Märtens

Born:
1987

Contact:
gerda.mrtens@gmail.com

Book:
Gerda Märtens
„Virmalised“
The Northern Lights
Koolibri, 2020



Viive Noor

Born:
1955

Contact:
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Book:
Bianca Maria Tricarico
„Trummilinn“
Drum City
Koolibri, 2022





Sirly Oder

Born:
1983

Contact:
sirly.oder@gmail.com

Book:
Reeli Reinaus
„Vanalinna detektiivid. Kanada
saatkonna kuri kummitus“
*Old Town Detectives:
The Canadian Embassy's
Gruesome Ghost*
Ronk Ronk, 2023



Anne Pikkov

Born:
1974

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anne.pikkov@artun.ee

Book:
Kairi Look
„Natuke suur“
A Little Bit Big
Koolibri, 2024



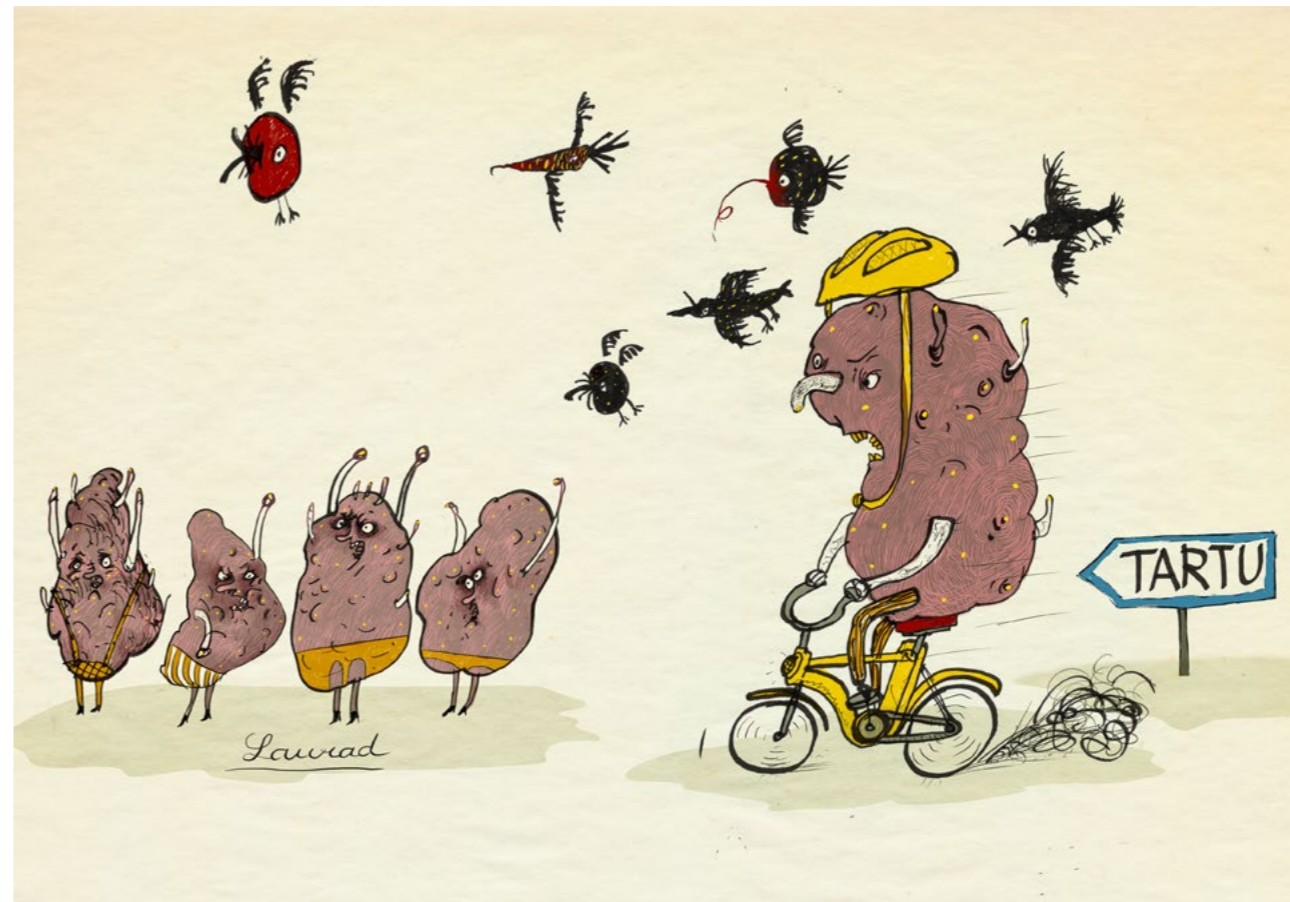


Marja-Liisa Plats

Born:
1984

Contact:
marjaplats@gmail.com

Book:
Ville Hytönen
„Maa, mille nimi on
Hampampamm“
A Land Called Hampampam
Koolibri, 2023



Olga Pärn

Born:
1976

Contact:
olga.parn@gmail.com

Book:
Aino Pervik
„NummiPealt ja mujalt“
From BonnyHead and Beyond
Tänapäev, 2018



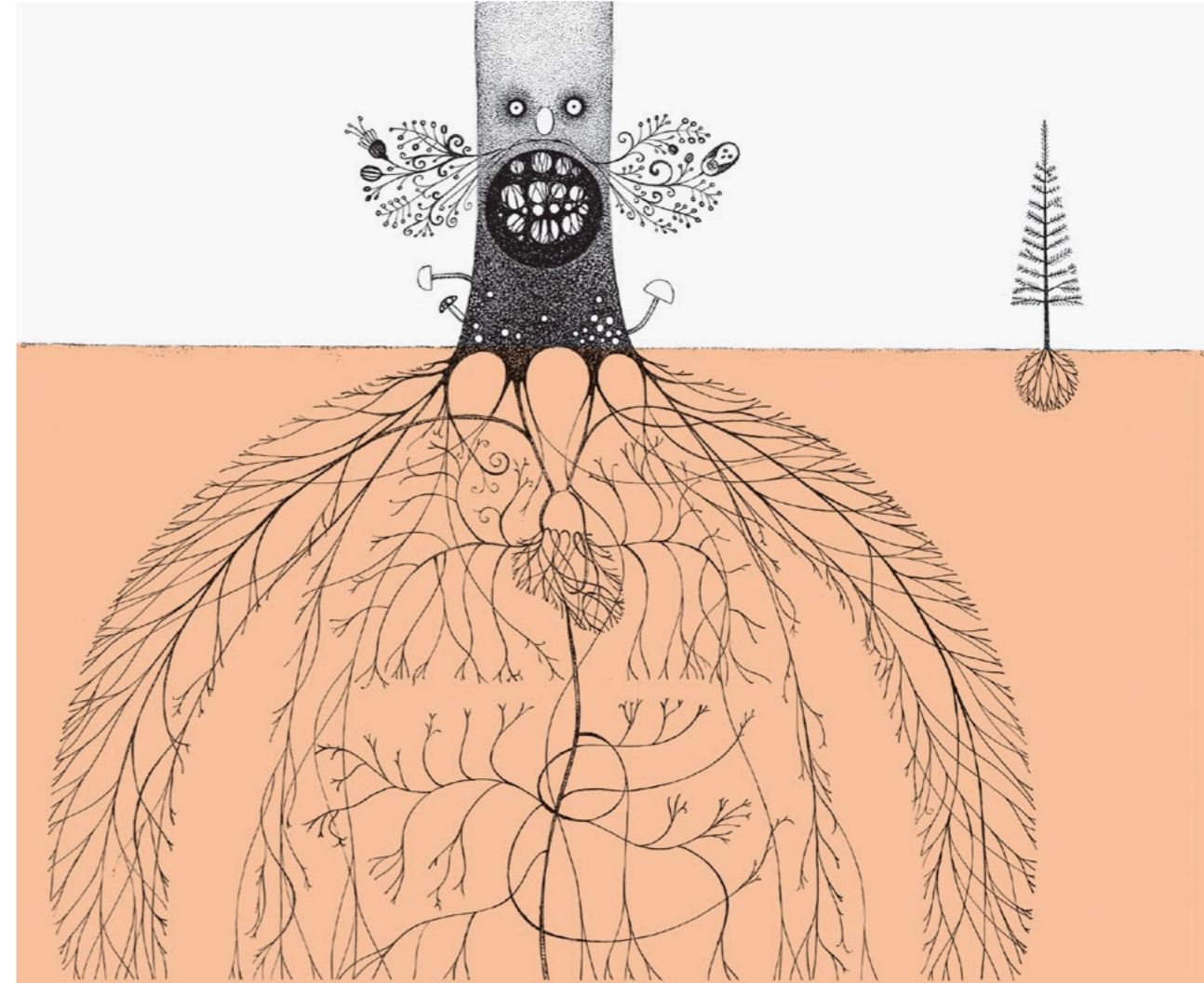


Priit Pärn

Born:
1946

Contact:
priit.parn@neti.ee

Book:
Priit Pärn
„Kilplased globaliseeruvad“
The Gothamites Go Global
Tänapäev, 2019



Piret Raud

Born:
1971

Contact:
piret.raud@gmail.com

Book:
Piret Raud
„Juurtega aed“
The Rooted Garden
Tänapäev, 2020





Priit Rea

Born:
1956

Contact:
priit.rea@gmail.com

Book:
Elar Kuus
„Memme musi“
Mommy's Kiss
Tammerraamat, 2021



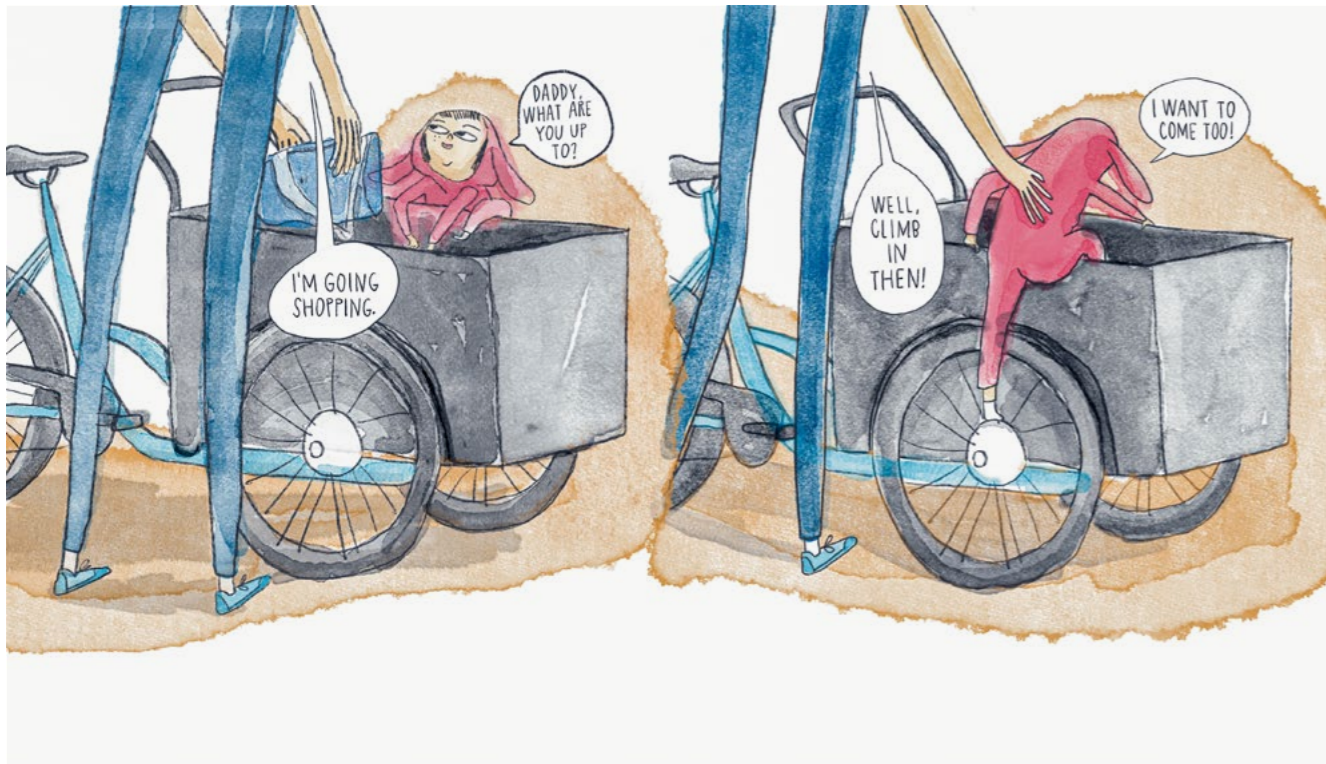
Jaan Rõõmus

Born:
1990

Contact:
jaan.roomus@gmail.com

Book:
Kätlin Kaldmaa
„Lydia“
Hunt, 2021





Ulla Saar

Born:
1975

Contact:
ulla.saar@gmail.com

Book:
Ulla Saar
„Ita ja Piuks“
Ita and Squeak
Koolibri, 2024



Stella Salumaa

Born:
1985

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Book:
Kadri Kiho
„Endel ja Kati“
Endel and Kati
Päike ja Pilv, 2022





Margit Saluste

Born:
1964

Contact:
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Book:
Margit Saluste
„Ililikuku läheb lasteaeda“
*Pookie-Boo Goes to
the Nursery School*
Koolibri, 2024

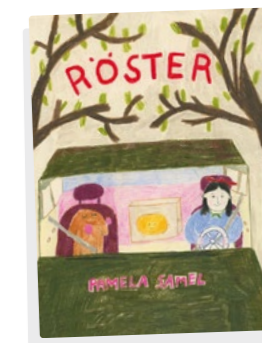


Pamela Samel

Born:
1985

Contact:
samelpamela@gmail.com

Book:
Pamela Samel
„Röster“
The Toaster
Puänt, 2023





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Estonian Illustration Exhibition *hello! Tere!*

Elina Sildre

Born:
1980

Contact:
elina.sildre@gmail.com

Book:
Kadri Hinrikus
„Taks ja Dogi“
Dachshund and Dane
Tammerraamat, 2020



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Estonian Illustration Exhibition *hello! Tere!*

Joonas Sildre

Born:
1980

Contact:
joonas.sildre@gmail.com

Book:
Joonas Sildre
„Värviline Mägi“
Colorful Mountain
Konrad Mägi Sihtasutus, 2024





Kertu Sillaste

Born:
1973

Contact:
kertuste@gmail.com

Book:
Kertu Sillaste
„Pisikeses majas“
In a Tiny House
Päike ja Pilv, 2022



Catherine Zarip

Born:
1966

Contact:
kati.zarip@gmail.com

Book:
Ilmar Tomusk
„Hundi sõbrad“
Wolf's Friends
Tammerraamat, 2018





Marju Tammik

Born:
1972

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marjutammik@hotmail.com

Book:
Piret Jaaks
„Suur saladus“
A Big Secret
Päike ja Pilv, 2024



Reda Tomingas

Born:
1979

Contact:
reda.tomingas@gmail.com

Book:
Katrin Tõnisson
„Notsu suur soov“
Piglet's Great Big Wish
Päike ja Pilv, 2024





Kristina Tort

Born:
1985

Contact:
kristinatort@hotmail.com

Book:
Karel Polt
Literally Estonian
Svenskarellö, 2023



Urmas Viik

Born:
1961

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urmas.viik@artun.ee

Book:
Kadri Tüür
„Muhu inglid“
Island Angels
Postimees Grupp, 2016





REPUBLIC OF ESTONIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE



Exhibition team: Triin Soone, Viive Noor, Mae Kivilo

Catalogue compiled by: Triin Soone
Essay text: Anneliis Lepp
English translation: Adam Cullen
Editor: Helena Kostenok
Graphic design: Stúdio Stúdio

printbest

Printed in Estonia by Print Best
© Estonian Children's Literature Centre, Tallinn 2025
ISBN 978-9916-9952-3-5



Estonian
Children's Literature
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estonia2025bologna.com