



**Georgia**  
**Made by Characters**  
Guest of Honour  
Frankfurter Buchmesse 2018



10.-14. Oktober 2018  
**FRANKFURTER**  
**BUCHMESSE**  
Ehregast Georgien

# Georgia – Made by Characters

Georgia – Guest of Honour, Frankfurter Buchmesse 2018 – presents its programme of literature and culture in Frankfurt

Press kit for the press conference at the Architekturmuseum Frankfurt, 8 May 2018

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### Guest of Honour Organisation

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The digital press kit and images can be found in the press section of our website.

**#georgiancharacters**

[www.georgia-characters.com](http://www.georgia-characters.com)



**Georgia**  
**Made by Characters**  
Guest of Honour  
Frankfurter Buchmesse 2018



10.–14. Oktober 2018  
**FRANKFURTER**  
**BUCHMESSE**  
Ehrengast Georgien

## Content

- Press release, 8 May 2018  
*„Georgia – Made by Characters“: a programme of literature and culture in Frankfurt*
- Statements, Speakers at the Press Conference, 8 May 2018
- Georgian Authors at Frankfurter Buchmesse (preliminary status May 2018)
- The Cultural Programme – Made by Characters
- Programme of the Institutions and Museums in Frankfurt
- Guest of Honour Pavilion – Made by Characters
- Literature Programme – Made by Characters
- Literary Events – Made by Characters
- Authors and Books in the German Language – Made by Characters
- Presence of “Georgia –Guest of Honour” at Frankfurter Buchmesse 2018 – Made by Characters
- Events May /J une – Made by Characters
- “Georgia is Cooking” – Culinary Festival in Frankfurt
- Tourism, Wine and Innovation – Made by Characters
- “MenCare Campaign” – Frankfurter Buchmesse 2018
- Facts and Figures
- The Guest of Honour Team
- Partners and Sponsors



**Georgia**  
**Made by Characters**  
Guest of Honour  
Frankfurter Buchmesse 2018



10.–14. Oktober 2018  
**FRANKFURTER**  
**BUCHMESSE**  
Ehrengast Georgien

„Georgia – Made by Characters“

Guest of Honour of Frankfurter Buchmesse 2018

## **“Georgia – Made by Characters”:** a programme of literature and culture in Frankfurt

**Up to 70 Georgian authors will attend at Frankfurter Buchmesse**

**The Guest of Honour Pavilion invites guests to a literary and cultural tour of discovery – Made by Characters**

**Frankfurt area museums and institutions offer a rich programme**

FRANKFURT. With Georgia as this year's Guest of Honour, Frankfurter Buchmesse is highlighting a nation with a centuries-old culture from 10-14 October. Under the tagline “Georgia – Made by Characters”, Georgia showcases more than its literature and new releases in German translation: It is also offering a far-reaching programme to provide diverse perspectives of the country's rich cultural landscape at various cultural venues in Frankfurt. Today, the **Deutsches Architekturmuseum** (German Museum of Architecture) in Frankfurt hosted the official unveiling of the Guest of Honour Pavilion concept for Frankfurter Buchmesse, accompanied by a presentation of the cultural programme and the Georgian authors who will travel to Frankfurt in October.

“Georgia's geographical position between Europe and the Caucasus, and its unique identity despite – or perhaps because of – the various cultural and political influences, have made the country into one of the most exciting Guests of Honour in recent times”, says Juergen Boos, President of Frankfurter Buchmesse. „It has been incredibly exciting to see how the programme takes shape and to get a glimpse of the wide range of topics. We have reached a milestone today: there are currently 80 Georgian titles translated into German,“ Juergen Boos continues.

### **Georgian authors and literary programme – Made by Characters**

The Georgian National Book Center (GNBC) has already announced 60 authors who will present their works in German translation at the book fair in October. A final list of authors will be announced in the coming months. Some have already commenced literary tours throughout German-speaking countries, and their works are already well known to the audience. Today Medea Metreveli, the Director of the GNBC, confirmed that Aka Morchiladze, one of the most famous authors in modern Georgian literature, together with Nino Kharatishvili, renowned German author of Georgian origin, will be the key speakers of the project Georgia Guest of Honour at the Frankfurter Buchmesse 2018. The works of the Georgian authors cover all genres of Georgian literature: from short stories, novels and epics to poetry collections, detective stories and children's books, as well as non-fiction and essay collections. Around 100 new German translations from more than 60 publishers have been announced or already published, a number that will continue to increase up until the book fair. However, it is not only the authors who are coming to Frankfurt, the most important Georgian literature prize will, too: the SABA Literary Award. The award ceremony will be held on the 12 October at Kaisersaal – historical city hall of Frankfurt.

The comprehensive literary programme is already underway. One of the highlights is the Georgian Illustration Programme. Up to 20 Georgian illustrators will present their works in Berlin, Frankfurt and Hamburg. Berlin Book Island festival will host the exhibition 'My Image of Georgia' in cooperation with kulturkind e.V. on 29 May, while the



**Georgia**  
**Made by Characters**  
Guest of Honour  
Frankfurter Buchmesse 2018



10.–14. Oktober 2018  
**FRANKFURTER**  
**BUCHMESSE**  
Ehrengast Georgien

Struwwelpeter-Museum will welcome Georgian illustrators with their exhibition 'Tsikara - Museum in Museum' in October. Starting in spring, the book shop campaign throughout Germany will inform about this year's Guest of Honour and its rich literature.

### **Guest of Honour Pavilion – Made by Characters**

The depth of Georgia's culture and literature can be discovered at the Guest of Honour Pavilion "Made by Characters". George Bokhua Studio and Multiverse Architects from Tbilisi take their inspiration for the concept and design from the 33 looping letters of Georgia's unique alphabet: 33 doors will be opened; 33 songs will be heard; 33 boats will sail; and 33 breads will be baked. The pavilion also provides a stage for new releases of Georgian literature. Every year, publishers from around the world can also present their current releases that focus on the Guest of Honour. Publishers can register to partake in the exhibition "Books on Georgia" for free.

### **The Cultural Programme – Made by Characters**

During the book fair, Georgian literature, authors and publishers will be front centre and stage. Away from the fair, visitors can encounter many fascinating sides of Georgian culture: Museums and institutions in Frankfurt will host exhibits on Georgia's natural history, archaeology, culture and art history, and offer showings of films and the performing arts. They will present a country full of diversity that has been influenced by eastern and western cultures for centuries, creating a unique and independent cultural identity today. **Liebieghaus Skulpturensammlung** will present "Medea's Love and the Quest for the Golden Fleece" with archaeological findings and antique works of art from Georgia that reflect the wealth of the two ancient kingdoms of Colchis and Iberia. The **Senckenbergmuseum** will present "Homo georgicus - The skull from the cradle of the first Europeans", where the oldest human remains outside of Africa – a humanoid jawbone – were found in 1991. With the title "Gold & Wine. Georgia's oldest Treasures", **Archäologisches Museum Frankfurt** (Frankfurt Archaeological Museum) is offering a comprehensive look into the early cultural developments in Georgia – from the beginning of agriculture in the Caucasus in 6000 BCE to the Trialeti culture of the middle bronze age. The **MMK Museum für Moderne Kunst Frankfurt am Main** will host the German premiere of the new film installation "Burning Palm" (2018) by Andro Wekua, one of the most popular Georgian contemporary artist abroad. Nearby in Offenbach am Main, **Klingspor Museum** will open the first-ever exhibition dedicated to the Georgian alphabet, which gained UNESCO World Heritage status in 2016; the exhibition will include a look into the history of the script. At the **Deutsches Architekturmuseum (DAM, German Museum of Architecture)**, the "Hybrid Tbilisi" exhibition is dedicated to the Georgian capital and its architecture. **Museum Angewandte Kunst** (Museum of Applied Art) tells stories from Georgia through videos, photographs, illustrations and design and fashion objects in the exhibition "Lara protects me". The Georgian Video Art Archive presents Georgian video art at the "DESCRIPTIONS" exhibition at **ATELIERFRANKFURT**. The "Picture Languages" show at **Fotografie Forum Frankfurt** invites visitors to learn about current developments in the Georgian photography scene. **PORTIKUS** will feature the first individual exhibition of Thea Djordjadze, the most profiled Georgian artist, with sculptures that interact with the space around them. Another highlight of the cultural programme includes performances by the Bouillon Group, which will offer its first overview of their work at the **Produktions- und Ausstellungsplattform basis e.V.**, Frankfurt.

**Concerts** will be held that range from classic and jazz to folk, a cappella and modern music, as well as electro-poetry. The famous musician-performers present Georgia at the leading concert venues of Germany as **Hamburg Elbphilharmonie, Berlin Konzerthaus and Philharmonie, Frankfurt Alte Oper**, as well as at the **Pavilion of the Book Fair**. Among them: Khatia Buniatishvili, Lisa Batiashvili, Nino Machaidze, Beka Gochiashvili, Nino Katamadze, Georgian



**Georgia**  
**Made by Characters**  
Guest of Honour  
Frankfurter Buchmesse 2018



10.–14. Oktober 2018  
**FRANKFURTER**  
**BUCHMESSE**  
Ehrengast Georgien

National Ballet "Sukhishvili", Folk Song Ensemble "Rustavi", Georgian Philharmonic Orchestra, Gori Women's Chamber Choir, Tbilisi Symphony Orchestra, etc.

Georgia – Guest of Honour at the Frankfurter Buchmesse 2018 together with **Schauspiel Frankfurt, Künstlerhaus Mousonturm** Frankfurt and **Karlsruhe Badisches Theater** presents a theatrical portrait of Georgia. The exclusive programme shows a new artistic presence of the country with current works of the most famous Georgian modern authors, theatres and as well as outstanding performance projects of young independent groups: Rezo Gabriadze Marionettes Theatre with "Ramona", the Rustaveli State Drama Theatre with "Styx", the Marjanishvili State Theatre with "Navigator", the Royal District Theatre with "Prometheus – 25 Years of Independence", the Music and Drama Theatre with Exercise or projects by independent companies – they all present their visions of telling histories and stories and invite audience to rediscover Georgia and its theatre "on the balcony of Europe".

**Georgian National Film Center** together with **Deutsches Filmmuseum** will be screening Georgian film series "An overview of Georgian Cinema" during Frankfurter Buchmesse – from the period of silent movies to productions that were created in 1991 to mark Georgia's independence. The award-winning animated film "The Pocket Man" by Ana Chubinidze will also be on show at **Stadtbücherei Frankfurt, Bibliothekszentrum Höchst**.

There will also be numerous presentations and readings, including **OPEN BOOKS**, the city-based reading event during Bookfair, and **BOOKFEST**, the festival of Frankfurter Buchmesse, as well as special events at **Künstlerhaus Mousonturm**. Many events will give visitors the opportunity to experience traditional food and wines from the oldest wine region in the world. This year's Guest of Honour will also be encountered by visitors to the **Frankfurter Museumsuferfest** (Frankfurt Riverside Museum Festival) from 24-26 August – with famous musicians and a diverse culinary programme. During the bookfair, **Freitagsküche**, a restaurant in Frankfurt, will become the official culinary location for the Guest of Honour outside the fair – with lunches and dinners accompanied by literary or philosophical programmes that invite visitors to savour the taste of Georgia.

**More information:** [www.georgia-characters.com](http://www.georgia-characters.com)



**Georgia**  
**Made by Characters**  
Guest of Honour  
Frankfurter Buchmesse 2018



10.–14. Oktober 2018  
**FRANKFURTER**  
**BUCHMESSE**  
Ehrengast Georgien

## Statements of the Speakers at the Press Conference, 8 May 2018



“Georgia’s geographical position between Europe and the Caucasus, and its unique identity despite – or perhaps because of – the various cultural and political influences, have made the country into one of the most exciting Guests of Honour in recent times.

The Georgian book industry has established new structures while making preparations for its Guest of Honour appearance: The Georgian National Book Center (GNBC) was founded as a direct response to the Guest of Honour status. A translation funding programme was also implemented, and the publishing companies are said to have reached a new level of professionalism with regard to the rights trade. It has been incredibly exciting to see how the programme takes shape and to get a glimpse of the wide range of topics. We have reached a milestone today: there are currently 80 Georgian titles translated into German. The close ties that emerge during the planning of such a major exhibition have an impact in both countries. Frankfurter Buchmesse, for example, is organising a large German collective stand at the Tbilisi International Book Fair with the support of the Federal Foreign Office. Numerous German authors will be on hand at the end of May. Both countries will benefit enormously from this exchange, with longevity and reciprocity as essential components of the Guest of Honour programme.”

*Juergen Boos, President of the Frankfurter Buchmesse*



“The countdown is on and we are looking forward to October, when you will get to know or explore the rich and diverse culture as well as history of a modern country. A country that shares fundamental European values and aspirations will now reunite with its historic European family.

Georgia is an ancient Christian country that has always been a part of Europe. Those who have already seen Georgia’s Guest of Honour video have discovered unique alphabet and other peculiarities of Georgia. Living culture of three writing systems of the Georgian alphabet, that has been inscribed to the UNESCO List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in 2016, is at the heart of our concept and slogan: Georgia – Made by Characters.

2018 is a very symbolic year in terms of resemblance with Europe, marking 100 years since Germany recognized independence of the First Georgian Republic. It has also been about 200 years since the first German settlements appeared in Georgia. A large number of cultural buildings in Georgia were erected based on sketches from German architects. Germans have integrated well into the cultural fabric of Tbilisi, bringing a certain European charm. Even today, there is virtually no cultural activity in which Georgia and Germany do not cooperate. Of course,



**Georgia**  
**Made by Characters**  
Guest of Honour  
Frankfurter Buchmesse 2018



10.–14. Oktober 2018  
**FRANKFURTER**  
**BUCHMESSE**  
Ehrengast Georgien

this vibrant relationship could not exist without active people to people relationships.

In addition to having very closed ties and shared history, it is important for our communities to be familiar with each other's culture.

Starting in spring 2018, we will have a total of 100 cultural events in approximately 8 German cities.

Georgia will have an opportunity to showcase its culture and values throughout the whole year in Germany. We strongly believe that these activities will support Georgia's further integration into Europe and raise awareness of the Georgian culture."

***Mikheil Giorgadze**, Minister of Culture and Sport of Georgia,  
Project Director Guest of Honour*



"Over the past year, we have begun work on our project and travelled a long and challenging path together. It is no simple matter for a centuries-old literature written in a little-known language to make its mark on the map of modern world literature in just a few years, or to get international readers to start talking about our authors. Today, I can go into German book shops and see numerous publications by Georgian authors in German translation. Interesting reviews are being written about Georgian books. That naturally arouses in us a feeling of great pride.

The status of Guest of Honour at Frankfurter Buchmesse 2018 has set Georgian literature and authors off on a great and interesting journey. Furthermore, opening up to the German reading public and increasing their interest in our authors has given us additional strength and inspiration to show the qualities of Georgian culture and literature in the most varied ways possible at the book fair in 2018. The slogan *Georgia – Made by Characters* represents the intense feelings with which Georgian writers and artists prepare to meet an international audience. In fact, Georgia really was created by the Georgian alphabet. Georgia's cultural identity has been defined by the Georgian language and its literature in every epoch, a literature which has been created on the basis of a unique alphabet ever since the fifth century, without interruption.

In an era of globalization, the preservation of cultural heritage has become one of the main challenges for the people of small countries. Georgian literature and language, the main defining qualities of our identity and our statehood, are vitally dependent on special attention, protection and development. It is of symbolic importance that in the European Year of Cultural Heritage, 2018, which also happens to coincide with the hundredth anniversary of Georgia's independence, Georgia is presented at Frankfurter Buchmesse with the slogan *Georgia – Made by Characters*, telling its story with the 33 letters of its unique alphabet.

The great Georgian poet Galaktion Tabidze shares with us very precisely in one of



Georgia  
Made by Characters  
Guest of Honour  
Frankfurter Buchmesse 2018



10.–14. Oktober 2018  
**FRANKFURTER  
BUCHMESSE**  
Ehregast Georgien

his poems the mood and emotions aroused in him, as a writer, by the challenge of the Georgian language:

*I shall listen to you all day and all night, if need be,  
I shall listen to you for months and years on end,  
Say something, I implore you... but in Georgian, of course...  
Say something, but in Georgian, of course.*

I wish to express my thanks to Frankfurter Buchmesse and to all of our German partners and friends for such a generous interest in, and support for Georgian literature, and I wish every success to every Georgian author at the 2018 book fair in Frankfurt.“

**Medea Metreveli**, Director of the Georgian National Book Center





Georgia  
Made by Characters  
Guest of Honour  
Frankfurter Buchmesse 2018

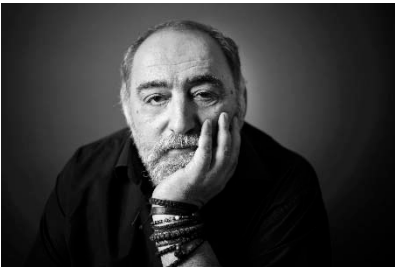


10.–14. Oktober 2018  
**FRANKFURTER  
BUCHMESSE**  
Ehrengast Georgien

## Georgian Authors at Frankfurter Buchmesse

(A final list of authors will be announced in the coming months.)

### Aka Morchiladze



#### Key speaker of "Georgia Guest of Honour at the Frankfurter Buchmesse 2018"

Aka Morchiladze, a pseudonym of Giorgi Akhvediani (born 1966 in Tbilisi), is without doubt one of the most famous authors of contemporary Georgian literature. Like his favourite writer Milorad Pavič, Aka Morchiladze is convinced that a novel's plot does not have to run from the beginning to the end of the book. He shares his theory of the emancipated reader with Umberto Eco. Aka Morchiladze studied history at Tbilisi State University, where he later taught the same subject. He has published over 20 novels and two volumes of short stories. He has been awarded numerous literary prizes in Georgia, and was awarded the SABA prize for the best novel of the year in 2011 for *Obolé*. He lives and works in London.

### Kharatishvili, Nino



#### Key speaker of "Georgia Guest of Honour at the Frankfurter Buchmesse 2018"

Nino Kharatashvili (born 1983 in Tbilissi) is an author who was born in Georgia, but writes in German. She is a prize-winning playwright and director. In 2010, she won the Adelbert von Chamisso Prize. Her first novel *Juja* (2010) was included in the longlist of the German Book Prize and the shortlist of the ZDF Aspekte Literature Prize. In 2011, it won the debut prize of Buddenbrookhaus Lübeck. In the same year, her second novel, *Mein sanfter Zwilling* (My Gentle Twin), won the Hotlist der unabhängigen Verlage (Hotlist of Independent Publishers) Prize. For the novel *Das achte Leben (Für Brilka)* [*The Eighth Life (For Brilka)*], she won the Crossing Borders grant from the Robert Bosch Stiftung, as well as the Literaturpreis des Kulturkreises der Deutschen Wirtschaft and the Anna Seghers Prize. Nino Kharatashvili lives in Hamburg, Germany.

### Abashidze, Zura



Zura Abashidze (born 1995 in Batumi) is a writer, journalist, activist and blogger. His stories are written with a distinctive voice of the new generation, with thematic diversity and an unmistakable style. At various times, his stories were used in the syllabus of Gender Studies at Tbilisi State University. Abashidze received the Georgian Literature Award SABA for Best Debut of the Year.



**Georgia**  
**Made by Characters**  
Guest of Honour  
Frankfurter Buchmesse 2018



10.–14. Oktober 2018  
**FRANKFURTER**  
**BUCHMESSE**  
Ehregast Georgien

### **Abo lashagashvili**

Abo lashagashvili (lashagashvili is his nickname, born 1977 in Tbilisi) studied History and Philosophy in Tbilisi, Munich and Berlin. As an enthusiastic traveler and lover of history, he found his ideal job as a mountain guide. He wrote five novels, several short stories and contributes to various literary journals and magazines, publishing articles. He was awarded the Best Novel prize for his first novel from the SABA Literary Award in 2015.

### **Adamashvili, Beka**



Beka Adamashvili (born 1990, in Tbilisi) is an author and blogger. Currently he works as a copywriter for a creative company. His debut novel Bestseller became very popular especially among young readers. His Georgian publisher humorously described the genre of the novel as 'satire-parody-detective-fantasy-comedy-adventure-and-what-have-we-missed'.

### **Amaglobeli, Rati**



Rati Amaglobeli (born 1977 in Tbilisi) is a master of experimental poetry. His live performances, often accompanied by electronic music, have made him a star of contemporary poetry in Georgia and a welcome guest at various international literary festivals. He is a cofounder of the SABA Literary Award. He has been the President of Georgian Pen Centre from 2011 to 2018.

### **Anphimiadi, Diana**



Diana Anphimiadi (born 1982 in Tbilisi) is a poet, publicist, linguist and translator. As a linguist she deals with the instrument of language in different ways. She is also well-versed in literary history – from mythology to the modern age. Her Greek heritage is reflected in her poetry in a special way.



**Georgia**  
**Made by Characters**  
Guest of Honour  
Frankfurter Buchmesse 2018

10.–14. Oktober 2018  
**FRANKFURTER**  
**BUCHMESSE**  
Ehrengast Georgien

#### **Bakanidze, Luka**



Luka Bakanidze (born 1982 in Tbilisi) entered the literary scene of Georgia with his poems. He gained popularity among the reader writing texts in the journal *Literaturuli Palitra* thanks to his authentic style and extraordinary topics. With the collection of short stories *Where Are You, Lazar* he won the SABA Literary Award in 2017.

#### **Bakuradze, Shalva**



Shalva Bakuradze (born 1973 in Sokhumi) is a Georgian poet and performer. He graduated from Tbilisi State University's West European Studies programme. He has been publishing since the 1990s. His poetry has been translated into German, English, Russian, Slovak and other languages.

#### **Barbakadze, Dato**



Dato Barbakadze (born 1966 in Tbilisi) is a writer, essayist and translator. He received numerous literary prizes for his literary and translation works. His works have been published in more than 30 books, literary magazines and anthologies. He is a member of the European Writers' Union – Kogge and Austrian Pen Club.

#### **Benidze, Salome**



Salome Benidze (born 1986 in Kutaisi) studied journalism and political science in Tbilisi, Vilnius and Thessaloniki. In 2012, she received the SABA Literary Award for Best Debut of the Year. Her book *The City on the Water* received a Tsinandali Award in 2016 in the category Best Prose Collection. She intensively works as a translator and translated several authors into Georgian, including Milorad Pavić and Salman Rushdie. Currently, she works as a public relations specialist and is actively engaged in civil activities to defend women's rights.

#### **Berdzenishvili, Levan**



Levan Berdzenishvili (born 1953 in Batumi) studied classical philology. He earned his PHD with a dissertation about Aristophanes. He is also translator. He was the Director of the Georgian National Library. From 1984 to 1987, Berdzenishvili was sent to a prison camp as a political prisoner for 'Anti-soviet agitation and propaganda'. In 1996, he became active in politics. He is a member of the Georgian Parliament.



**Georgia**  
**Made by Characters**  
Guest of Honour  
Frankfurter Buchmesse 2018



10.–14. Oktober 2018  
**FRANKFURTER**  
**BUCHMESSE**  
Ehrengast Georgien

#### **Buachdze, Andro**



Andro Buachidze (born 1957 in Tbilisi) is a poet, critic, essayist and translator. He graduated from Ivane Javakishvili Tbilisi State University with a degree in philology. He has worked as a deputy editor at the public-literary journal Mnatobi, also as an editor in literary magazines Tsiskari and Saunje and in Giorgi Leonidze State Museum of Georgian Literature. Andro Buachidze has won several literary prizes in Georgia, including the SABA Literary Award which he won both in 2005 and 2017.

#### **Bugadze, Lasha**



Lasha Bugadze (born 1977 in Tbilisi) is the author of numerous novels and plays that have been performed in numerous European cities. His works have been translated into many languages and received many literary awards. In Georgia, he is also famous thanks to his literary programmes broadcast on radio and TV. He is also a talented cartoonist.

#### **Burchuladze, Zaza**



Zaza Burchuladze (born 1973 in Tbilisi) translated Fyodor Dostoyevsky and Daniil Charms into Georgian. He studied Art History and painting at Tbilisi State Academy of Arts. For his novels, he received several literary awards. Today, he lives and works in Berlin.

#### **Chekurishvili, Bela**



Bela Chekurishvili (born 1974 in Gurjaani) studied philology at Tbilisi State University. She worked as a cultural journalist in Tbilisi. Currently, she studies at the University of Bonn. She is an author of four poetry collections and one collection of short stories. Her poems were published in several anthologies in Georgia and abroad.



**Georgia**  
**Made by Characters**  
Guest of Honour  
Frankfurter Buchmesse 2018



10.–14. Oktober 2018  
**FRANKFURTER**  
**BUCHMESSE**  
Ehrengast Georgien

**Chkvanava, Gela**



After leaving school, Gela Chkvanava (born 1967 in Sukhumi) was drafted into the army and assigned to an anti-aircraft and anti-missile unit in Petersburg. After military service, he returned to Sukhumi and studied philology until the Abkhazia war intervened. Chkvanava's house burned down, together with his manuscripts. He now lives as an exile in Akhalkalaki. He has won various literary prizes in Georgia.

**Dochanashvili, Guram**



Guram Dochanashvili (born 1939 in Tbilisi) is a Georgian prose writer and historian by profession, whose literary works have been popular since the 1970s. He was an active participant in archaeological excavations and played in the university orchestra. He was head of the prose department of the journal *Mnatobi* and headed the prose section of the Academy of Sciences. Since 1985, he has been the main editor at the Georgian Film studio. Today, Guram Dochanashvili is one of the most popular writers in Georgia and his novel *The First Robe* (1980) has become a modern Georgian classic.

**Janikashvili, Basa**



Basa Janikashvili (born 1974 in Tbilisi) studied at Tbilisi State University of Theatre and Cinema in Tbilisi. Since 1996, he has published short stories, plays and poems. His works have been performed on stage in Georgia and abroad. Basa Janikashvili's writing has been translated into English, German, French, Ukrainian and other languages. Basa Janikashvili has received various prizes in Georgia and abroad for his plays.

**Ekvtimishvili, Nana**



Nana Ekvtimishvili (born 1978 in Tbilisi) is an author and director. She studied at Film University Babelsberg. Together with Simon Gross, she directed two prize-winning movies: "Long Bright Days / In Bloom" (2014) and "My Happy Family" (2017). She lives in Berlin and Tbilisi.



**Georgia**  
**Made by Characters**  
Guest of Honour  
Frankfurter Buchmesse 2018



10.–14. Oktober 2018  
**FRANKFURTER**  
**BUCHMESSE**  
Ehrengast Georgien

#### **Gabunia, David**



David Gabunia (born 1982 in Poti) is a two-time winner of the independent theatre award Duruji (2013-14) for the best new Georgian play of the year. He also won the SABA Literary Award (2014) for Best Drama. His plays have been produced at Royal District Theatre, Rustaveli National Theatre, Poti, Batumi and Liberty theatres. Gabunia's translations include plays by Shakespeare, Strindberg, Ibsen and number of contemporary British, Swedish and German playwrights.

#### **Gachechiladze, Revaz**



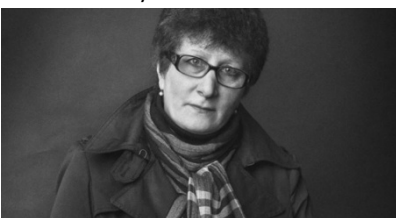
Revaz Gachechiladze (born 1943 in Tbilisi) is a professor and author of over 150 books and articles of history, as well as social and political geography. He has taught at the Universities of Tbilisi, Oxford, and Mount Holyoke College, USA. He is a Corresponding Member of the Georgian National Academy of Sciences.

#### **Gelashvili, Naira**



Naira Gelashvili (born 1947 in Signagi) is a writer, literary critic and civil society activist. She gained popularity among readers for non-conformist prose, which eventually provoked a negative reaction from the Soviet authorities. In 1994 the author founded the cultural-educational NGO Caucasian House Centre for Cultural Relations, which plays a significant role in the peaceful cooperation of different cultures and religions among the people of the Caucasus.

#### **Gochiashvili, Ela**



Ela Gochiashvili (born 1959 in Vachnaziani) is a poet. She graduated from Tbilisi State University's faculty of journalism. She works at the Galaktion Tabidze house-museum. She has published six books of poetry. Her poems have been translated into Russian, Lithuanian, French, Italian, Azeri, Dutch, German, Persian and Armenian, and have been included in anthologies of translated verse and other types of literary publications. Ela Gochiashvili has participated in various literary events, including poetry festivals in several countries.



**Georgia**  
**Made by Characters**  
Guest of Honour  
Frankfurter Buchmesse 2018



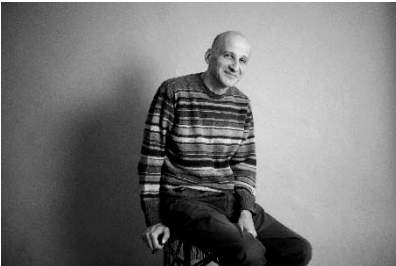
10.–14. Oktober 2018  
**FRANKFURTER**  
**BUCHMESSE**  
Ehrengast Georgien

#### **Guruli, Iunona**



Iunona Guruli (born 1978 in Tbilisi) studied at the Schota Rustaveli Theatre and Film University (1995–1996) and also studied international journalism at Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University (1996-1999). She has lived in Germany since 1999, studying first at the Leibniz University in Hanover (2000–2004) and later at the Albert-Ludwigs-University in Freiburg (2005–2009). In 2009, she obtained her Magister degree in political sciences and recent and modern history. Two years ago, she started translating Georgian Literature into German. Her first book, *The Diagnosis*, was awarded the SABA Literary Award in 2016.

#### **Iatashvili, Shota**



Shota Iatashvili (born 1966 in Tbilisi) is a poet, fiction writer, translator and critic. Iatashvili has published 10 poetry collections, 4 works of prose and a book of literary criticism. In 2007 and 2011 he won the SABA Literary Award, Georgia's most prestigious award and in 2009 the International Poetry Award "Kievskie Lavri" (Ukraine). His works have been translated into 25 languages and he is a participant in numerous literary festivals. Currently, he is the Editor-in-Chief of the literary magazine "Akhali Saunje" and works as a consultant for the Tbilisi International Literature Festival.

#### **Jandieri, Kote**



Kote Jandieri (born 1958 in Tbilisi) is a writer and successful winemaker. Following his studies in geography and geology, he started his career as an author in 1980. His short stories, documentaries and feature films deal with social dramas resulting from the rich history of Georgia. Two collections of short stories have been published, for which he won literary prizes in Georgia. They have been translated in Mexico, Azerbaijan, Sweden and the USA.



**Georgia**  
**Made by Characters**  
Guest of Honour  
Frankfurter Buchmesse 2018



10.–14. Oktober 2018  
**FRANKFURTER**  
**BUCHMESSE**  
Ehrengast Georgien

**Jishkariani, Zura**



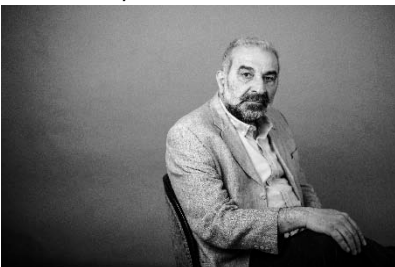
Zura Jishkariani a.k.a Dilla (born 1985 in Sukhumi) is multimedia artist and writer. After the civil war in Abkhazia he was living in ghettos under the refugee status. In the early 2000's he gave up studying sociology in university and launched punk rock band "EVA". In 2007 he started his most successful music project *Kung-Fu Junkie* which was disbanded after 10 years. In 2014 Jishkariani created the first ever Georgian chat-bot *Cyber-Galaktion* which is a linguistic simulation of the most prominent Georgian poet Galaktion Tabidze. He is actively involved in their personality design process. and interested in how sadness, trust, joy and other emotions in people are created by algorithms and logical codes. 2016 he founded the company "ZEG" which works on creating of interactive tombstones. Currently he works on his second novel.

**Jorjaneli, Nika**



Nika Jorjaneli (born 1978 in Tbilisi) is a poet and translator. In 2003, he received his Master's degree from Tbilisi State University, majoring in German Language and Literature. He has authored four compilations of poems. His various verses are included in anthologies of modern Georgian poetry. Nika Jorjaneli worked as a teacher of German language and literature for several years at a high school in Tbilisi.

**Karumidze, Zurab**



The work of Zurab Karumidze (born 1957 in Tbilisi) range from novels, short stories, novellas and a book about jazz, which won one of the most important Georgian literature prizes, SABA. He is also the publisher and co-publisher of a series of essays on Georgian politics and culture. His essay, originally penned in English, *Dagny or a Love Feast*, was put on the longlist of the Dublin International Literary Award. Zurab Karumidze serves as a consultant to the government of Georgia in the area of international politics.

**Kekelidze, Giorgi**



Giorgi Kekelidze (born 1984 in Ozurgeti) is a poet, prose writer, essayist and the founder of the first Georgian digital library lib.ge. Since 2012, Giorgi Kekelidze has been the General Director of the National Parliamentary Library of Georgia. He gives lectures on classical literature at the Free University of Tbilisi. He received the SABA Literary Award for his debut poetry collection *The Odes*. He was named "person of the year" twice by a survey in the journal 'Hot Chocolate' in 2010 and 2012. The year 2014 was especially successful for the author after his documentary prose *Gurian Diaries* instantly became the number 1 best-selling book of the year. His poems are translated into English, German, Russian and Azerbaijani.





**Georgia**  
**Made by Characters**  
Guest of Honour  
Frankfurter Buchmesse 2018



10.–14. Oktober 2018  
**FRANKFURTER**  
**BUCHMESSE**  
Ehrengast Georgien

#### **Kevanishvili Eka**



Eka Kevanishvili (born 1979 in Tbilisi) is a journalist and poet. She graduated with a Master's Degree in International Journalism from Tbilisi State University. Since 2010, she has worked as a reporter for radio Free Europe/radio liberty, Tbilisi bureau. Eka Kevanishvili recently authored an essay compilation *Literary Profiles* and has published three poetry collections. All three were nominated for the SABA Literary Award and the last one received the award for the Best Poetry Collection. She is the winner of several journalism and poetry competitions. Her poems are translated into English, Lithuanian, Russian and other languages.

#### **Kharanauli, Besik**



Besik Kharanauli (born 1939 in Tianeti) is one of the best-known contemporary poets in Georgia. He has written over twenty poetry anthologies and two books of prose. Besik Kharanauli's unconventional, ironic and modernist works were a real novelty to the 20th century poetry scene. His works continue to be relevant to this day. He has been awarded a series of important Georgian literary prizes. He was awarded the SABA literary award in 2015 for his contribution to the development of Georgian literature. He was also Georgia's nomination for the Nobel Prize for Literature.

#### **Khvedelidze, Beso**



Beso Khvedelidze (born 1972 in Tbilisi) studied journalism at Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University and graduated from the faculty of literature at Tbilisi Institute of Culture. He was the Editor of the literary magazine *Literary Paletten* (*Literaturuli palitra*), published in Tbilisi. Having written over 20 books, he has been awarded multiple prizes in Georgia and abroad.

#### **Kikodze, Archil**



Archil Kikodze (born 1972 in Tbilisi) is an author, photographer and actor. He also works in the field of ecotourism and has written several nature travel guides about nature reservations in Georgia. Nature, the changing landscape and inhabitants, and traveling all play an important role in his literary works. He has received many awards both for his writing and photography. He played one of the leading roles in the award-winning film *Blind Dates* (2013).



**Georgia**  
**Made by Characters**  
Guest of Honour  
Frankfurter Buchmesse 2018



10.–14. Oktober 2018  
**FRANKFURTER**  
**BUCHMESSE**  
Ehrengast Georgien

#### **Kordzaia-Samadashvili, Ana**



Ana Kordzaia-Samadashvili (born 1968 in Tbilisi) is Georgian writer working as a translator and cultural journalist. She also teaches literature and creative writing at Ilia State University in Tbilisi. Ana Kordzaia-Samadashvili has won various Georgian literary prizes for her novels and short stories. In 2013 she was awarded the SABA Literature Prize in the category Best Debut. For the translation of *Die Liebhaberinnen (Women as Lovers)* by Elfriede Jelinek into Georgian, she was awarded a prize for best translation by the Goethe Institut Tbilisi.

#### **Kvinikadze, Nestan (Nene)**



Nestan Kvinikadze (born 1980 in Tbilisi) is a writer, playwright and journalist. She works as a producer at the daily television show "Midday Show" of private Georgian broadcaster Rustavi 2. On that show, she works with two other well-known authors as a "Literary Triangle" to introduce new books. Nene Kvinikadze has been interested in women's issues for years. She researches Georgian women who live abroad.

#### **Lezhava, Zurab**



After military service, the life of Zurab Lezhava (born 1960 in Tbilisi) took a dramatic turn: an argument with a Russian policeman ended in a brawl, and he was convicted of grievous bodily harm and sent to a prison camp. In prison where he spent sixteen years, he began to write stories and carve wooden sculptures. On account of his naïve style, literary critics compare him with the Georgian painter and autodidact Pirosmiani and he ranks among the country's most important contemporary writers. His stories stand out in modern Georgian literature for their originality. In 2010, he was awarded Georgia's highly regarded GALA Literature Prize.

#### **Likokeli, Lia**



Lia Likokeli (born 1986 in Barisacho) grew up in a small village of the remote high mountain region Chewsuretien. After graduation, she moved to the capital to study at the State Theater and Film University. Here she obtained a degree in film directing. She is considered the rising star in the sky of contemporary Georgian literature. With her own style, a unique symbiosis of poetry and prose, she has set a new trend. Her debut poetry collection was highly acclaimed by the Georgian audience. She was awarded with national literary award SABA 2014 and with other literary awards. She is currently working as an editor of the publishing house Karchkhadze Publishing.



**Georgia**  
**Made by Characters**  
Guest of Honour  
Frankfurter Buchmesse 2018



10.–14. Oktober 2018  
**FRANKFURTER**  
**BUCHMESSE**  
Ehrengast Georgien

#### **Lobzhanidze, Giorgi**



Giorgi Lobzhanidze (born 1974 in Khashuri) is a poet, translator and orientalist. He studied in Tbilisi und Tehran. He is a professor at Tbilisi State University and translates from Iranian and Arabic languages into Georgian. At the same time, he works in the cultural centre Caucasian House. His most important translations are *The Quran*, *Kalila and Dimna*, *Gulistan* by Sa'adi Shirazi, *Ghazals* by Jalal ad-Din Rumi etc. Giorgi Lobzhanidze has authored five poetry collections. He received numerous literary prizes for his translations and poetry collections, among them the SABA Literary Award.

#### **Maisuradze, Giorgi**



Giorgi Maisuradze (born 1970 in Tbilisi) studied History, Philosophy, and the History of Culture at universities in Tbilisi, Saarbrücken and Berlin. He has worked at Berlin Literary and Culture Research Centre since 2008. Maisuradze received his Ph.D. in Philosophy at Berlin Humboldt University in 2009. He has been Assistant Professor at Ilia Chavchavadze Tbilisi State University since 2010. Giorgi Maisuradze is an author of several non-fiction books. In 2012, he received the SABA Literary Award for the Best Essays and Documentary Prose of the Year for *The Closed Society and its Watchmen*.

#### **Matsaberidze, Bondo**



Bondo Matsaberidze (born 1959 in Samtredia) is a well-known children's book author in Georgia. His stories have been translated into many languages. In 2000, he founded the Bakmi publishing house, which focuses on children's literature and illustrated books. Since 1995, he has been a member of the Georgian Author's Organisation. He has received many awards for his books.

#### **Matshkonashvili, Guram**



Guram Matshkonashvili (born 1989 in Tbilisi) graduated from Georgian State Film and Theatre University, worked as cultural reviewer, journalist. His short documentary on a transgender woman won the UNDP and Open Society Georgia Foundation competitions (2013, 2014). He has written and directed several plays about human rights and urbanization, due to his interest in the social and spatial order of cities.



**Georgia**  
**Made by Characters**  
Guest of Honour  
Frankfurter Buchmesse 2018



10.–14. Oktober 2018  
**FRANKFURTER**  
**BUCHMESSE**  
Ehregast Georgien

#### **Melashvili, Tamta**



Tamta Melashvili (born 1979 in Ambrolauri) spent a year as a migrant in Germany, where she started writing. She concluded her degree in Gender Studies at the Central European University in Budapest in 2008. She currently lives in Tbilisi working for women's rights and gender issues. She won the Deutschen Jugendliteraturpreis in 2013 for *Abzählen (Count Out)*.

#### **Nadareishvili, Tatia**



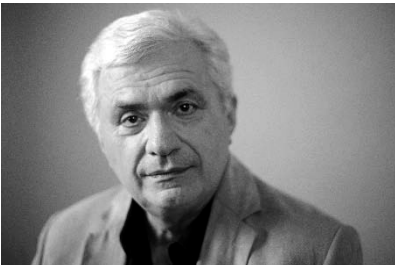
Tatia Nadareishvili (born 1988 in Tiflis) studied book illustration and graphic design at the Tbilisi State Academy of the Arts. After graduating, she worked as an art therapist for children with disabilities, and has been a member of the VIRGAM Book Art Centre illustrators' collective for many years. Today, she is a freelance illustrator and co-founder and manager of Illustrator (Studio und Concept Store).

#### **Nakhutsrishvili, Gaga**



Gaga Nakhutsrishvili (born 1971 in Tiflis) is a poet and author. He studied history at Tbilisi State University. Later he studied at the Goethe Institute in Rothenburg, Germany, and took classes in literature in Perugia, Italy. He is the author of numerous poetry collections. In 2003, the author was awarded the SABA Literary Award for the best poetry collection. He is regarded as one of the most productive poets of his generation. Gaga Nakhutsrishvili works as a lecturer at the Ilia State University, Tbilisi.

#### **Odisharia, Guram**



Guram Odisharia (born 1951 in Sochumi) is a Georgian poet and writer. At various times he has been a correspondent for Abkhazian radio broadcasting, a reporter for the Abkhazian regional newspaper, Editor-in-Chief of the magazine Ritsa and Director of the Abkhazia branch of Merani Publishing. Odisharia spent the entire Abkhaz–Georgian conflict period in Sukhumi, leaving his native city only on 27 September 1993, the day that Sukhumi fell. Since then he has been active in the field of conflictology and has regularly participated in Georgian–Abkhaz peace talks. In 2012, he became the Minister of Culture and Monument Protection of Georgia, holding the post until 2014.



**Georgia**  
**Made by Characters**  
Guest of Honour  
Frankfurter Buchmesse 2018



10.–14. Oktober 2018  
**FRANKFURTER**  
**BUCHMESSE**  
Ehrengast Georgien

#### **Pkhakadze, Tamri**



Tamri Pkhakadze (born 1957 in Tbilisi) has a PhD in philology. Quite a few of her works have been staged in various theatres, among them *Kitchen Gardening in a War Zone*, which has been performed in four different cities. The author has read her own works on the Georgian radio programme *The Golden Fund* and she has several times given readings to military units. There has been a big emotional response at various meetings between the author and her readers and at her public readings.

#### **Ratiani, Zviad**



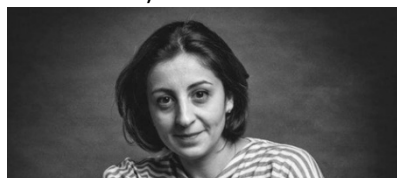
Zviad Ratiani (born 1971 in Tbilisi) is a poet and translator. He has published six poetry collections and has at the same time worked intensively on translations of English and German poetry into Georgian. Among his numerous translations, Zviad Ratiani has introduced to Georgian readers such major work as the poetry of T.S. Eliot, Ezra Pound, Robert Lowell, Ted Hughes, Rainer-Maria Rilke, Derek Walcott, Mark Strand and Paul Celan. For the Celan translation, Ratiani received the Goethe Institute Prize in 1999. He won several prizes and awards, among them the SABA Literary Award in 2010 for the *Negative*, as well as the LITERA Prize in 2016 for his last poetry collection *You Are Allowed*. Both awards were for the category The Best Poetry Collection of the Year.

#### **Rtveliashvili, Zurab**



Zurab Rtveliashvili (born 1967 in Karaganda) is a poet, performance artist and human rights activist. He took a degree in jurisprudence at Tbilisi State University. In his early youth (1987–1990) he was actively involved in the anti-Soviet dissident movement and participated in the National Liberation movement of Georgia. His civil disobedience texts acted in 2003 as both the starting point and leader of the pacifist "Rose Revolution" in Georgia. In the following years, he was continuously arrested for his performances as well as serving a shorter prison sentence as a prisoner of conscience. In 2012, he won Voloshin's International Creative Symposium. He has published five poetry collections.

#### **Samniashvili, Lela**



Lela Samsniashvili (born 1977 in Gori) is a poet and translator. She graduated from Ilia Chavchavadze University of Foreign Languages where she studied Simultaneous Translation. In 2007, she completed her Master's Degree at Oslo University. Her poetry collections have been nominated for and awarded with numerous literary prizes. Lela Samniashvili's poems are translated into English, Dutch, Italian, Azerbaijan and Russian and have been published in several anthologies among them.



**Georgia**  
**Made by Characters**  
Guest of Honour  
Frankfurter Buchmesse 2018



10.–14. Oktober 2018  
**FRANKFURTER**  
**BUCHMESSE**  
Ehrengast Georgien

#### Shamugia, Paata



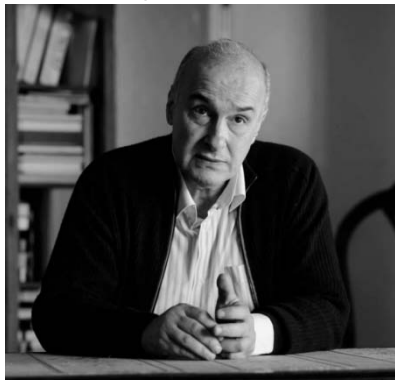
Paata Shamugia (born 1983 in Gali, Abkhazia) graduated from Tbilisi State University (faculty of philology). His book *Anti-Tqaosani* (a wordplay on the famous Georgian medieval epic poem *The Knight in Panther's Skin*) provoked much controversy and for several months was widely discussed in the Georgian press and TV, as it was boldly taking issue with the country's most prominent literary text. In 2011 Paata Shamugia received the SABA Literary Award in the category *The Best Poetry Collection for Akathistos*. In 2012, the art magazine *Hot Chocolate* named him *Person of the Year*. Since 2011, Paata Shamugia has been a member and web-editor of Georgian Pen Centre. His poetry collection *Schizosociety* won another SABA Literary Award 2014 and thus made Paata Shamugia the first contemporary poet in Georgia to win this prestigious award twice in the same category.

#### Sturua, Lia



Lia Sturua (born 1939 in Tbilisi) graduated from Tbilisi State University's philology programme. She gave lectures at the university and at the same time was a senior research-worker at Shota Rustaveli Institute for Georgian Literature. Since 1999, she has been a literature consultant at Galaktion Tabidze Museum. Her first collection of poems was published in 1962, followed by twelve other books. As well as poetry, Lia Sturua has published a number of fine prose collections, essays and articles. In 1997, a Norwegian television company made a film about her. Lia Sturua won many awards and literary prizes, including: the Galaktion Tabidze Award (1988), Georgian State Award (1995) for Artistic Work, Shota Rustaveli State Prize (2000), and two SABA Literary Awards for *The Best Poetry Collection* in 2013 and for her *Contribution to Georgian Literature* in 2017.

#### Tabukashvili, Lasha



Lasha Tabukashvili (born 1950 in Tbilisi) studied literature at Tbilisi State University. Since 1967, he has published numerous stories, poems, plays and screenplays. He has written a total of 10 plays. Many of his works have been translated into other languages and performed on stage. Tabukashvili has received several awards for his plays in Georgia, such as: "Best Play of the Year" (1997), PEN Club Prize (1997), National Shota Rustaveli Literature Prize (2006), and Theater Prize "DURUJI" (2010). He also was included in the "100 Outstanding Playwrights of All Times" catalogue of the Eugene O'Neill Centre of Playwrights.



**Georgia**  
**Made by Characters**  
Guest of Honour  
Frankfurter Buchmesse 2018



10.–14. Oktober 2018  
**FRANKFURTER**  
**BUCHMESSE**  
Ehrengast Georgien

#### **Tandashvili, Tamar**



Tamar Tandashvili (born 1973 in Tbilisi) studied literary sciences and psychology. She publishes a popular blog and works as a psychologist and activist, particularly for women's and sexual minority rights. *Snowstorm of Orange Dandelions* (2016) was her first novel to be translated into German, and in 2017 *Materikon* was released in Georgia, spawning an intense debate.

#### **Tarknishvili, Nino**



Nino Tarknishvili (born 1979 in Tbilisi) is a writer and journalist. She graduated from Tbilisi State University with a degree in International Journalism. Currently she works as reporter of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty. Beyond her career as a journalist she writes short stories. She has received several literary prizes for her short prose.

#### **Tavdgiridze, Khatuna**



Khatuna Tavdgiridze (born 1974 in Batumi) is an author, folklorist and Professor of Mythology at Batumi University. Her interdisciplinary research focuses on archaic cultures, comparative mythology, political mythology, Middle Ages studies, religious studies, etc. Currently she works as a Professor at the Georgian-American Institute and at the Grigol-Robakidze University, where she lectures on comparative mythology and political mythology. She has written several scientific articles and monographs.

#### **Tavelidze, Irma**



Since completing her degree in philology, Irma Tavelidze (born 1973 in Gori) has lived in Tbilisi, working as a translator from English and French (she has translated the work of Michel Houellebecq, J.M. Coetzee and Paul Auster, among others). In 1999, she started her career as a writer. In 2008, she won the TSERO literary competition, a prize awarded by readers. Her works have been translated into French, German, Swedish and other languages.



**Georgia**  
**Made by Characters**  
Guest of Honour  
Frankfurter Buchmesse 2018



10.–14. Oktober 2018  
**FRANKFURTER**  
**BUCHMESSE**  
Ehrengast Georgien

#### **Togonidze, Ekaterine**



Ekaterina Togonidze (born 1981 in Tiflis) has dedicated her literary skills to people with disabilities and how they are discriminated against by society, making it a topic of wider discussion. She worked for several years as a journalist. Her works have received several awards, such as Georgia's renowned SABA Literary Award in 2012.

#### **Turashvili, Dato**



Dato (David) Turashvili (born 1966 in Tbilisi) is a lecturer in modern literature in Tbilisi. He has written several collections of prose as well as scripts. He was a leader of the student protests in 1988/1989, participated in the Rose Revolution, and is an advocate for prisoners' rights.





**Georgia**  
**Made by Characters**  
Guest of Honour  
Frankfurter Buchmesse 2018



10.–14. Oktober 2018  
**FRANKFURTER**  
**BUCHMESSE**  
Ehrengast Georgien

## The Cultural Programme – Made by Characters

As the Guest of Honour at Frankfurter Buchmesse 2018, Georgia will present itself as a country that has developed over many centuries with influences from both the Eastern and Western worlds, and that now considers itself an autonomous cultural nation – with a centuries-old tradition. Contemporary art is of especially great significance in this regard – it is, and has been, a key medium for imparting knowledge. When Georgia was almost completely isolated as a result of Soviet occupation, Georgian culture provided the rest of the world with an insight into the country. Music is of special importance within the rich cultural landscape of Georgia. UNESCO listed the country's traditional polyphonic singing as a World Cultural Heritage back in 2001. Georgian musicians (singers, pianists and violinists) are currently filling opera houses and concert halls across the world. Important testimonies of human history and the visual arts are also a key component of Georgian culture. In 1991, the oldest human remains ever discovered outside of Africa were found in Dmanisi. Visitors to Frankfurter Buchmesse can look forward to these and plenty more fascinating discoveries from the world of art, music, theatre, science, film and nature.

### Art – Made by Characters

Georgia will be presenting the best of prehistoric, ancient and contemporary art, as well as photography, architecture, design, typography and illustration, at Frankfurter Buchmesse. The Guest of Honour will be collaborating with a total of 12 institutions: **Liebieghaus Skulpturensammlung** will host “Medea's Love and the Quest for the Golden Fleece”, with archaeological findings and ancient works of art from Georgia, which demonstrate the wealth of the two ancient kingdoms of Colchis and Iberia. **Senckenberg Natural History Museum** will present discoveries from Dmanisi which represent the world's first completely preserved adult hominid skull from the early Pleistocene (1.77 million years ago). Meanwhile, the **Klingspor Museum** in Offenbach will host a unique exhibition, “Tiflis on your mind”, focusing on the Georgian alphabet, which became a UNESCO World Cultural Heritage in 2016, and its history.

As part of the contemporary exhibition programme, leading Frankfurt museums and art spaces – such as the **Deutsches Architekturmuseum (DAM)**, **Museum Angewandte Kunst** (Museum of Applied Art), **Fotografie Forum Frankfurt**, **MMK Museum für Moderne Kunst Frankfurt am Main**, **PORTIKUS**, **basis e.V.** and **ATELIERFRANKFURT** – will host seven expositions of various art forms like multimedia art, design, architecture, performance and other.

The **Deutsche Architekturmuseum** is dedicating an exhibition to the Georgian capital of Tbilisi and its architecture, named “Hybrid Tbilisi Reflections on Architecture in Georgia”, curated by Irina Kurtishvili (architect, curator) and Peter Cachola Schmal (Director of the German Museum of Architecture). **PORTIKUS** will dedicate its space to entire exhibition of Georgian-born, Berlin-based artist Tea Jorjadze curated by Christina Lehnert. The group exhibition “Picture Languages. Photographic Art from Georgia” at the **Fotografie Forum Frankfurt** presented by Celina Lunsford (Curator and Artistic Director at Fotografie Forum Frankfurt) includes a historical introduction and focuses on the recent development of contemporary Georgian photographic arts. It is the first major international exhibition, which presents the diversity of important contemporary photographic ‘voices’ from Georgia. As well as **MMK Museum für Moderne Kunst** will host the German premiere of the new film installation “Burning Palm” (2018) by the famous Georgian artist Andro Wekua. Further exhibitions will be taking place in: **Archäologischen Museum Frankfurt** and **Struwwelpeter-Museum**.



**Georgia**  
**Made by Characters**  
Guest of Honour  
Frankfurter Buchmesse 2018



10.–14. Oktober 2018  
**FRANKFURTER**  
**BUCHMESSE**  
Ehrengast Georgien

## **Film – Made by Characters**

The famous Italian filmmaker Federico Fellini was convinced: “Georgian film is a unique phenomenon – full of life, philosophically inspiring, very wise, and childlike. It has everything required to bring me to tears, and that is not easy.” Georgian cinema, which has its roots back in 1908, can look back on numerous awards and nominations at international film forums and festivals. In co-operation with the German Film Museum and the Arsenal Institut für Film und Videokunst e.V., the Georgian National Film Center will be screening a total of 15 films at the book fair – from the period of silent movies to productions that were created in 1991 to mark Georgia’s independence. The films include “My Grandmother” (1929) by Kote Mikaberidze and “Salt to Svanetia” (1930) by Michail Kalatosow (Mikheil Kalatozishvili). Other films to be presented include films from the so called formalism period, which was subjected to censorship by the Soviet Union – as well as feature films and documentary films from the 1950s. A special presentation of a book about the Georgian film director and actor Kote Mikaberidze will take place during the film series in Frankfurt 2018. The book represents the first monograph dedicated to Georgian filmmaker, screenplay writer, actor, dubbing director and painter Kote Mikaberidze (1896-1973). Besides the essential film of Georgian avant-garde “My Grandmother” (1929), Mikaberidze directed seven more films of various styles, form and esthetics. He also left numerous incomplete projects. The award-winning animated film “The Pocket Man” by Ana Chubinidze will also be shown at Stadtbücherei Frankfurt, Bibliothekszentrum Höchst.

Georgia was this year's focus country during the 28th FILMKUNSTFEST Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, which will take place from 1-6 May 2018 in the state capital, Schwerin. The focus included the presentation of 20 long feature and short films, a film concert and an industry panel.

Georgia will be the focus country at the Cottbus FilmFestival. Cottbus hosted a film festival in 1991 for the first time, which quickly became a leading film forum for Eastern Europe. Simultaneously with festival film sections, there is an international platform called “Connecting Cottbus”, which plays an important role in establishing co-productions and relations between cinema professionals of different countries.

During Frankfurter Buchmesse, a book titled “Behind the Scenes” will be published about Georgian film, which is 110 years old and has gained great success and recognition on the international arena. The Georgian movie “Behind the Scenes” collects some of the greatest photos from the sets of Georgian film productions.

## **Theatre – Made by Characters**

Theatre is a lifestyle to Georgians. It has always been an indicator of the nation’s morale. One only has to look briefly at various points in its history: the first professional theatre company in the 18th century was sent to war – none of them survived. Later in the 20th century, the resistance against the communist regime and the urge for independence provided theatre with the strongest impulses from society. Finally, freedom – with all its hardships and unrest, bursts of social change, wars in dark 90s, and the ideas of new citizens – marked the history of post-soviet theatre in Georgia. Europe is not the same, either.

The past is enshrined in the people’s memory, but energy comes from the possibility of the future. And so, the theatre programme lives on between the past, the future and the present. With the new drama and classics of Georgian playwriting, with performances from well-known state and independent theatres, as well as young independent groups, a completely new artistic direction is presented – a portrait of a nation beyond “ritualistic limits” and borders – geographical, temporal or other.

Georgian theatre is both creative and modern, with new texts and visions of storytelling. The exhibition presents the vital, social and evolving theatre from Georgia, with artists whose courage is crucial in every context. The programme is built on performances presented by theatre companies with diverse profiles and artistic imagination, such as: Rustaveli State



**Georgia**  
**Made by Characters**  
Guest of Honour  
Frankfurter Buchmesse 2018



10.–14. Oktober 2018  
**FRANKFURTER**  
**BUCHMESSE**  
Ehrengast Georgien

Drama Theatre, Marjanishvili State Drama Theatre, Gabriadze Theatre, Royal District Theatre, Sokhumi State Theatre and independent projects.

Georgian theatre is both creative and modern, with new texts and visions of storytelling. New technology with undiscovered and limitless possibilities. The exhibition presents the vital, social and evolving theatre from Georgia, with artists whose courage is crucial in every context.

### **Music – Made by Characters**

Georgia can look back on a very long musical culture. The Georgian folk polyphony “Chakrulo” is among one of the 27 compositions, which NASA sent into space on the Voyager spaceship back in 1977. UNESCO listed Georgian folk music as a World Cultural Heritage back in 2001. Georgia will be presenting its musical diversity at the book fair. Music, as a universal global language is the best means of attraction and exploration of our unique culture. During the whole 2018, the famous concert venues of Germany will host world-known Georgian musician-performers: Berlinale Film Festival reception has presented Valerian Shiukashvili, Natalie TBA Beridze and Nikakoi; Elbphilharmonie Hamburg has presented the Georgian Philharmonic Orchestra directed by Nikoloz Rachveli and Dudana Mazmanishvili as a soloist; Berlin Konzerthaus hosts Georgian Sinfonietta and Kristjan Jarvi; at the Berlin Philharmonie European audiences will meet Georgian Opera Stars: Nino Machaidze, Nino Surguladze, Badri Maisuradze, Giorgi Gagnidze, Iano Tamar, Ketevan Kemoklidze, etc. with the Tbilisi Symphony Orchestra directed by Vakhtang Kakhidze; Georgian composer and poet - David Evgenidze will perform at the Munich Philharmonie; Frankfurter Buchmesse’s Opening Ceremony presents famous Georgian pianist Khatia Buniatishvili; Frankfurt Alte Oper hosts an amazing violin player - Lisa Batiashvili. In collaboration with the Franco-German TV channel ARTE Georgia Guest of Honour presents Lisa Batiashvili, Beka Gochiashvili, Dudana Mazmanishvili and kordz. Frankfurter Museumsuferfest (Frankfurt Museums River Bank Festival) hosts Georgian artists and music companies, where Jazz, Folk, Pop, electronic and Georgian contemporary music will be presented during three days of open air, among them: Nino Katamadze and Insight, kordz and Giorgi Zagareli, etc. As well as the concerts of the Georgian National Ballet “Sukhishvili”, the Georgian Folk Song ensemble “Rustavi” – the first and only folk ensemble to have performed at the Teatro alla Scala to date – as well as, Gori Women’s Chamber Choir, Trinity Cathedral Choir and many others.



**Georgia**  
**Made by Characters**  
 Guest of Honour  
 Frankfurter Buchmesse 2018



10.–14. Oktober 2018  
**FRANKFURTER**  
**BUCHMESSE**  
 Ehrengast Georgien

## Programme of the Institutions and Museums in Frankfurt

### Alte Oper Frankfurt

**Concert of sinfonic and choral music**

**13 October 2018**

Alte Oper Frankfurt is one of the main concert venues in Germany. On 13 October one of the master pieces by the



famous Georgian composer Giya Kancheli – STYX will be performed by the Georgian violin player Lisa Batiashvili, Georgian Philharmonic Orchestra, Gori Women's Chamber Choir directed by Teona Tsiramua and Trinity Cathedral Choir directed by Svimon Jangulashvili. Conductor: Nikoloz Rachveli, Principal Conductor and Music Director of the Georgian Philharmonic Orchestra. Furthermore the music of Alexi Matchavariani, Nikoloz Rachveli and master pieces of the Georgian Choir Music will be performed.

[www.alteoper.de](http://www.alteoper.de)

### Archäologisches Museum Frankfurt

**Gold & Wine. Georgia's Oldest Treasures**

**06.10.2018-10.02.2019**



The special exhibition "Gold and Wine - Georgia's Oldest Treasures" presents a comprehensive picture of the early cultural developments of Georgia from the beginning of agriculture in the Caucasus from 6.000 BC to the Trialeti culture of the Middle Bronze Age around 2.100 – 1.700 BC. We are going to focus on the latest archaeological research results of German-Georgian cooperation projects. Some of the numerous artefacts will be presented to the public for the first time. The exhibition will be generated in collaboration with the Georgian National Museum Tbilisi and the Eurasia Department of the German Archaeological Institute Berlin. The exhibition will be accompanied by a comprehensive and richly illustrated catalogue. For children, we will offer an activity area and a highly popular puzzle booklet. In addition, lectures (7.11. : Dr. Haak (Jena), 28.11.: Prof. Lordkipanidze (Tbilissi), 5.12., Prof. Stöllner (Bochum), 16.1., Prof. Hansen (Berlin), Saturday-

Tours (27.10., 24.11.), a reading of Georgian author (13.10.) and concerts (1.12., Band Veli Ulevi) complete our program. The Archaeological Museum Frankfurt also presents a conference called "The Caucasus: Bridge between the urban centers in Mesopotamia and the Pontic Steppes in the 4th and 3rd millennium BCE." (28.11–01.12.2018). On 13 October we host a reading and discussion of the book "Globalization" with the author and winemaker Kote Jandieri.

Photo: Necklace from Ananauri (Kakheti, East Georgia), 2 500 BC © Georgian National Museum

[www.archaeologisches-museum-frankfurt.de](http://www.archaeologisches-museum-frankfurt.de)



**Georgia**  
**Made by Characters**  
 Guest of Honour  
 Frankfurter Buchmesse 2018

10.–14. Oktober 2018  
**FRANKFURTER**  
**BUCHMESSE**  
 Ehrengast Georgien

**ATELIERFRANKFURT**

- **The Future is Ours / მომავალი ჩვენია / Die Zukunft ist unsere**
  - **DESCRIPTIONS Georgian Video Art and Moving Image Exhibition**
  - **Georgian artis at AF**
- 14.09.2018 – 14.10.2018**



During the Frankfurt Book Fair 2018, the cultural center ATELIERFRANKFURT (AF) turns into a center for Georgian art and culture. From 14 September on, two exhibition of contemporary Georgian art will be shown at AF: The group show “The Future is Ours” presents contemporary German and Georgian photographers whose work evolve around the subject of youth culture in the two different countries. The reflection on contemporary youth culture in the two countries should raise awareness for different perspectives of life and create a sense of a common future. “DESCRIPTION”, an exhibition by the Georgian Video

Art Archive, combines contemporary Georgian video-art-positions that revolve around the issues of independence and dependence, two terms central for the Georgian society within the last century. The exhibitions will be completed by a cultural programme: Book presentations, music and Georgian food create a platform for dialogues, discussions and lingering.

Photo: Atelierfrankfurt from the inside © Peter Krausgrill

[www.atelierfrankfurt.de](http://www.atelierfrankfurt.de)

**basis e.V., Produktions- und Ausstellungsplattform**

**Bouillon Group**  
**14.09. – 14.10.2018**



The collective Bouillon Group, made up of Natalia Vatsadze, Teimuraz Kartlelishvili, Vladimer Khartishvili, Konstantine Kitiashvili, Ekaterina Ketsbaia and Zurab Kikvadze, was founded in 2008. In their performances, most of which are carried out in the public sphere, the Bouillon Group artists reference the multilayered Georgian culture, as well as the relationship between their home country and the Western states. In doing so, they scrutinize and critically analyze the reality of life in post-Soviet Georgia. With its explicitly performative approach, the Bouillon Group focuses on transcending the boundaries between life and art,

between artistic and public sphere. By drawing on regional traditions in its performances, the collective transfers these rituals into new contexts, thereby opening up historical and social levels of meaning. In the context of the exhibition a selection of older projects in the form of video documentation will be presented as well as new performances. The solo presentation is the first in Germany to provide an extensive overview of the collective's works.

Photo: Bouillon Group, (Religious) Aerobics, 2013, Georgian Pavilion, Arsenal Venice Biennale, photo by Bob

[www.basis-frankfurt.de](http://www.basis-frankfurt.de)



**Georgia**  
**Made by Characters**  
Guest of Honour  
Frankfurter Buchmesse 2018



10.–14. Oktober 2018  
**FRANKFURTER**  
**BUCHMESSE**  
Ehrengast Georgien

## Deutsches Architekturmuseum (DAM)

**HYBRID TBILISI – Reflections on Architecture in Georgia**

**28.09.2018 – 13.01.2019**



To celebrate Georgia as Guest of Honour of the Frankfurt Book Fair 2018 the DAM wanders through the Caucasian metropolis Tiflis. With the curator Irina Kurtishvili and other Georgian creatives, the layers of this contradictory metropolis are illuminated in a state of transformation that oscillates both geographically and spiritually between Europe, Russia, Turkey and the Arab states – between the Orient and the Occident. At the 2013 Biennale, “Kamikaze Loggia” drew attention to the city’s spatial overgrowth and its wild nightlife which seems to be succeeding Berlin’s. Spectacular new buildings contrast equally exciting late-

Soviet form experiments, such as the Ministry of Road Construction, the icon of Soviet brutalism. Almost forgotten, palaces, administrations and museums of European architects from the beginning of the 20th century decay. Beside them, entire streets are reconstructed. A large demolition site of the Old, a factory of the New, an emerging, chaotic, confusing and fascinating city in search of itself.

Photo: Hybrid Tbilisi, Tbilisi Police Control Centre, © Mario Lorenz

[www.dam-online.de](http://www.dam-online.de)

## Deutsches Filmmuseum

**Filmland Georgien**

**03.10. – 31.10.2018**



In October 2018 the Deutsches Filmmuseum will present in cooperation with the Georgian Nation Film Center and the Arsenal Institut für Film und Videokunst, Berlin, in 15 programmes an overview of Georgian Cinema concentrating on the classical period from the silent era to independence in 1991. That will include great avant-garde silent films like “MY GRANDMOTHER” (1929) by Kote Mikaberidze or “SALT OF SVANETIA” (1930) by Mikhail Kalatozishvili. A special focus will be put on so-called formalism in the Soviet Era and the impact censorship had on Georgian Cinema and filmmakers such as Mikhail Chiaureli,

Mikhail Kalatozishvili or Nikolos Shengelaya. In the mid-1950s Georgian cinema rose again to artistic heights with directors like Tengiz Abuladze, Rezo Chkheidze, Otar Iosseliani, Giorgi Shengelaya or Lana Gogoberidze. Apart from long feature films, the programme will also include documentaries and short films. Some of the programmes will be accompanied by lectures or by the presence of the filmmakers themselves.

Photo: Chemi Bebia, My grandmother

[www.deutsches-filmmuseum.de](http://www.deutsches-filmmuseum.de)



**Georgia**  
**Made by Characters**  
 Guest of Honour  
 Frankfurter Buchmesse 2018



10.-14. Oktober 2018  
**FRANKFURTER**  
**BUCHMESSE**  
 Ehrengast Georgien

## Fotografie Forum Frankfurt

### PICTURE LANGUAGES. PHOTOGRAPHIC ART FROM GEORGIA

22.09. – 18.11.2018



With "PICTURE LANGUAGES. PHOTOGRAPHIC ART FROM GEORGIA", the Fotografie Forum Frankfurt (FFF) presents current trends and developments in Georgia's contemporary photography. This group exhibition is a collection of twelve important "voices" in this country. Historical photographs, among them landscapes and portraits from the 19th century, photojournalistic images of the struggle for independence as well as the experimental handling of the medium of photography by younger artists can be seen. The works impart diverse impressions from the history and modern daily life in Georgia as well as artistic

positions of its relatively little known photography scene. This international first comprehensive exhibit of Georgian Photography is curated by Celina Lunsford, the Artistic Director at FFF. The exhibit will be accompanied by a catalogue. Special events such as lectures, discussions and workshops with leading Georgian photographers, curators and experts are also planned.

Artists: Andro Eradze, Dimitri Ermakov, Natela Grigalashvili, Nino Jorjadze, Lado Lomitashvili, Dina Oganova, Koka Ramishvili, Alexandre Roinashvili, Mariam Sitchinava, Daro Sulakauri, Guram Tsibakhashvili, Beso Uznadze

Photo: Mzcheta Svetizchivloba, religious celebration, 1989 © Guram Tsibakhashvili

[www.fff Frankfurt.org](http://www.fff Frankfurt.org)

## Klingspor Museum

### Tiflis on your mind. Treasured Scriptures of Georgia

5.10. – 18.11.2018



Georgia, a country at the gateway from Europe to Asia, is formed by its own language and lettering. The earliest discoveries belong to the 5th century. In 2016 the Georgian alphabet became UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. Nevertheless, in Germany the cultural treasures of Georgia are nearly unknown. Thanks to the Cooperation with Georgia Art Palace Georgian lettering art will be shown out of Georgia for the first time. A well selected variety of exhibits shows prints and handwritten work from precious manuscripts of the 11th century up to contemporary videos and calligraphic compositions. Medieval scrolls and rare

books from 16th to 18th century give a historical overview of the rich Georgian tradition of lettering. Typographic works prove that Tiflis was a vital center of the avant-garde in the early 20th century. Contemporary works by Georgian calligraphers complete the exhibition. The tactile items by Sopho Kintsurashvili are a special feature as they allow blind people to discover the exhibition.

Photo: Georgian Script

[www.klingspormuseum.de](http://www.klingspormuseum.de)



**Georgia**  
**Made by Characters**  
Guest of Honour  
Frankfurter Buchmesse 2018



10.–14. Oktober 2018  
**FRANKFURTER**  
**BUCHMESSE**  
Ehrengast Georgien

## Künstlerhaus Mousonturm Frankfurt am Main

**Georgian Theatre - Made by Characters**

**02.10. – 12.10.2018**



"We have lived through an era of crucial changes in politics, borders, society and the theatre. A journey of war, unrest, revolutions, a story of hopes and troubles, of individual and collective ideas. Theatre of today reflects it all." (Ekaterina Mazmishvili - curator of the theatre programme of Georgia – Guest of Honour Frankfurter Buchmesse 2018 and director of Kote Marjanishvili State Drama Theater, Tbilisi, Georgia). In Georgia, theater is inseparable from social life. It has always been and still is the moral yardstick of the nation. In the midst of the past and future within a forward pushing present time, the Guest of Honour at the Frankfurt Book Fair 2018 and Künstlerhaus Mousonturm Frankfurt are presenting a theatrical portrait of Georgia beyond familiar limits and expectations. The exclusive programme consistently presents a new artistic presence of the country with current works and productions of the most famous authors, theaters and their acting stars as well as outstanding performance projects of young independent groups. Whether the Rustaveli State Drama Theater, the Marjanishvili State Theater, the Royal District Theater, the Music and Drama Theater or projects by independent companies – they all present their visions of telling histories and stories and a vital, social and newly developing theater with and by brave artists who invite their audience to rediscover

Georgia and its theater "on the balcony of Europe".

Photos: The Navigator, Styx ,Parents Meeting © Künstlerhaus Mousonturm

[www.mousonturm.de](http://www.mousonturm.de)

## KunstRaum Bernusstraße

**Transformation**

**28.09. – 20.10.2018**



The work of the Avto (Avtandil Berdznishvili), a native of Georgia, is located between concretion and abstraction. A variety of techniques are used, often combined with found objects such as packaging paper, wallpaper remnants or newspaper and magazine pages. Paintings, collages and drawings interpenetrate each other, creating compositions that are neither representational nor objectless. Again and again, fragments of Georgian writing manifest themselves as a form of punctuation, the meaning of which escapes immediate access but captivates with its vivid color and expressiveness. After studying at the M. Toidsze School in Tbilisi

and the Städelschule in Frankfurt am Main, Avto lives and works in Georgia. In the Rhine-Main area, Avto has been represented with exhibitions in Frankfurt / Main, the Klingspor Museum and the Löw Haus in Klingenberg/Main.

Photo: Avto Berdznishvili, 175x160, mixed technique on canvas

[www.kunstraum-bernusstrasse.de](http://www.kunstraum-bernusstrasse.de)





**Georgia**  
**Made by Characters**  
Guest of Honour  
Frankfurter Buchmesse 2018



10.–14. Oktober 2018  
**FRANKFURTER  
BUCHMESSE**  
Ehrengast Georgien

## Liebieghaus Skulpturensammlung

**Exhibition: Medea's Love and the Quest for the Golden Fleece**

**05.10.2018–10.02.2019**



To coincide with Georgia being this year's Guest of Honour at the Frankfurt Book Fair, the Liebieghaus Skulpturensammlung presents the exhibition "Medea's Love and the Quest for the Golden Fleece". Featuring several important loans from the Georgian National Museum, the show tells the story of one of the greatest myths of the ancient world: the story of the Greek prince Jason, who embarks on a superhuman quest with a band of heroes – the Argonauts. A perilous voyage (the Voyage of the Argonauts) takes them to the land of Colchis – on the western coast of present-day Georgia. Here the heroes have to capture the Golden Fleece and return with it to Greece. This virtually impossible task – for the fleece is guarded by a dragon – only becomes surmountable through the love of a great woman. Medea, daughter of the King of Colchis and a talented sorceress, falls in love with Jason and reveals secrets that allow him to steal the Golden Fleece.

The exhibition invites visitors to the Liebieghaus to set sail with the Argonauts on an exciting journey that vividly brings each facet of the myth to life, through ancient images preserved on Greek and Etruscan vases, in Roman wall paintings and Greek and Roman sculptures. At the end of the journey through the Liebieghaus, the visitors themselves are brought face to face with a marvellous gold treasure: a display of Bronze-Age weapons, vessels and jewellery of extraordinary beauty that all bear witness to Georgia's early richness in gold, around which the legend is woven.

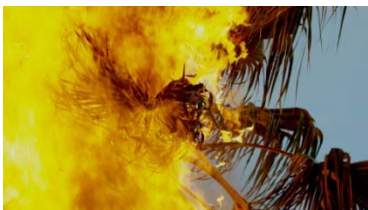
Photo: Necklace from Trialeti, 1<sup>st</sup> half of the second millennium BC © Georgian National Museum

[www.liebieghaus.de](http://www.liebieghaus.de)

## MMK Museum für Moderne Kunst Frankfurt am Main

**Andro Wekua – „Burning Palm“ (2018)**

**11.10.2018, 19.00 pm**



MMK Museum für Moderne Kunst will host the German premiere of the new film installation "Burning Palm" (2018) by Andro Wekua one of the most popular Georgian contemporary artist abroad.

Foto: Andro Wekua, Burning Palm, 2018 (Film Still) © Andro Wekua, Courtesy Gladstone Gallery and Sprüth Magers

[www.mmk-frankfurt.de](http://www.mmk-frankfurt.de)



**Georgia**  
**Made by Characters**  
Guest of Honour  
Frankfurter Buchmesse 2018



10.–14. Oktober 2018  
**FRANKFURTER**  
**BUCHMESSE**  
Ehrengast Georgien

## Museum Angewandte Kunst

### Lara protects me. A Georgian Story

21.09.2018 – 20.01.2019



Tbilisi, they say, is the new Berlin. Late-night partying and scope to do one's own thing are luring ever more people to Georgia's capital. Located at the intersection of key trade routes for centuries, Tbilisi has always brought different peoples together – whether involuntarily, through occupation or conquest, or willingly and generously by offering refuge to those driven away from elsewhere. The populations seldom merged; instead, the separate groups learned to create permeable boundaries, leading to an eclectic mix of cultures existing side by side. In the exhibition "Lara protects me", video works, photographs, drawings and

design objects tell the stories of various convergences. An enigmatic message the show's curator Mahret Kupka found on her journey through Georgia became the point of departure for a quest. Who is the mysterious Lara who wrote the message? What can contemporary creative artists tell us about her? Georgian artists, designers, curators and writers respond and invite us to explore their country.

Photo: © Grigor Devejiev for Situationist, cut

[www.museumangewandtekunst.de](http://www.museumangewandtekunst.de)

## Museumsuferfest 2018 (Museum Embankment Festival)

24.08.–26.08.2018



The Museumsuferfest is an annually held festival on the banks of the river Main, which attracts more than 3 million visitors every year. In 2018 the festival hosts Georgian artists and ensembles during three days open air at the riverbanks in Frankfurt am Main. Jazz, folk, pop, ethno-fusion, electronic and Georgian contemporary music will be presented by ensemble IRIAO, kordz and Giorgi Zagareli, Nino Katamadze and Insight, Nikoloz Rachveli, Georgian Strings and

Brass, ensemble Laprebi and Little Georgika. Among the concerts will be presented stagings by Movement Theatre, Children's Puppet Opera and Pantomime Theatres. The guests of the festival will enjoy Georgian food and wine.

[www.museumferfest.de](http://www.museumferfest.de)



**Georgia**  
**Made by Characters**  
Guest of Honour  
Frankfurter Buchmesse 2018

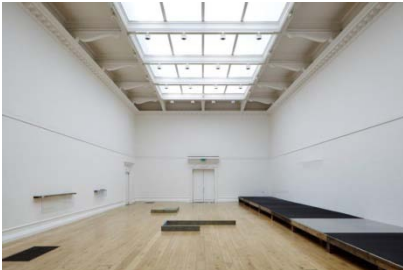


10.-14. Oktober 2018  
**FRANKFURTER**  
**BUCHMESSE**  
Ehrengast Georgien

## PORTIKUS

**Thea Djordjadze (Solo Show)**

**15.09.2018 – 11.11.2018**



With the solo exhibition of Tea Jorjadze, PORTIKUS is able to work with the most profiled Georgian artists. The sculptures of Tea Jorjadze are rather interventions within the architecture of the space of the exhibition, than fixed sculptures in time and space. Therefore, the exhibition at Portikus will be connected to the specific architecture and its surrounding and create a dialogue between the works and their location. The sculpture of Tea Jorjadze are created in her studio, but are finalized on sight, therefore even though they seem to have a minimalistic appearance they take up the "grammar" of the surrounding.

Photo: Exhibition view South London Gallery 2015, Photo: © Andy Stagg

[www.portikus.de](http://www.portikus.de)

## Schauspiel Frankfurt

**RAMONA (A performance by Rezo Gabriadze Theatre)**

**17. & 18.10.2018**



"He (Rezo Gabriadze) is a creator of great ingenuity. His imagery is deeply personal and it brings to the theatre a quality of poetic and transcendental realism for which I know no equivalent." (Peter Brook)

The Gabriadze Theatre ranks among of the world's preeminent cultural institutions . Presenting mature puppet performances full of depth and meaning, it has gained the respect and recognition of international audiences and critics alike. Based at its home theatre in Tbilisi, Georgia, the company is under the direction of noted artist, writer, and Director Reza Gabriadze. The theatre company has toured

extensively, with recent venues including: N.Y.'s Lincoln Center Festival (2002 & 2010); The Edinburgh Festival; Bogota Theatre Festival; San Sebastian Festival, Spain; Toronto World Stage Festival; Barbican Center, London; Theatre de la Ville, Paris; Kennedy Center Festival, Washington, D.C.; as well as an extended 2013 run at Moscow's Theatre Art Studio. The Gabriadze Theatre itself stands in the heart of Tbilisi's historic Old Town. This beautiful building was designed by Gabriadze himself. Among the shows in its current repertoire are: "The Autumn of My Spring", "The Battle of Stalingrad", and a new production of "Ramona".

Photo: RAMONA

[www.schauspiel frankfurt.de](http://www.schauspiel frankfurt.de)



**Georgia**  
**Made by Characters**  
 Guest of Honour  
 Frankfurter Buchmesse 2018



10.-14. Oktober 2018  
**FRANKFURTER**  
**BUCHMESSE**  
 Ehrengast Georgien

## Senckenberg Naturmuseum Frankfurt

**Exhibition: Homo georgicus - The skull from the cradle of the first Europeans**

**11.10. – 18.11.2018**



In cooperation with the Georgian National Museum, the Senckenberg Naturmuseum Frankfurt is showing the exhibition "Homo georgicus - The skull from the cradle of the first Europeans". The central object of the exhibition is the "Skull 5". It is the most complete of the five skulls recovered from the Dmanisi / Georgia excavation site. All five come from the same foundational layer - but have individual characteristics. They are attributed to the time 1.8 million years ago and are considered to be the oldest human species found outside of the African continent. The fully preserved "Skull 5" has a special significance for science: it

combines anatomical features that were previously assigned to various early human species. The new findings on this diversity within a species support the hypothesis that only one early species existed in the human genus.

The "Skull 5" is shown for the first time outside of Georgia. The exhibition will be accompanied by from a medial depiction of the excavation site Dmanisi and the local ones Excavation work.

Photo: Computer reconstruction of the five Dmanisi skulls (background: landscape in Dmanisi), © Marcia Ponce de León and Christoph Zollikofer, University of Zurich, Switzerland

[www.senckenberg.de](http://www.senckenberg.de)

## Stadtbücherei Frankfurt, Bibliothekszentrum Höchst

**The Pocket Man**

**24.09. – 12.10.2018**



Exhibition of original backgrounds, probes and characters of First Georgian-French-Swiss co-produced animated short film "The Pocket Man". It was produced in the studios Folimage, Nadasdy and Kvali XXI in 2016. Till today the film travels around the world, it is selected by 130 international festivals and received 18 prizes. In cooperation with: „Georgia – Made by Characters“, Georgian Ministry of Culture, Georgian National Film Center Meet&Greet with the director of the film Ana Chubinidze. Workshops for children and young adults held by Ana Chubinidze and Elene Chichashvili "How to make moving paper puppets" (group registration required).

[www.stadtbuecherei.frankfurt.de](http://www.stadtbuecherei.frankfurt.de)



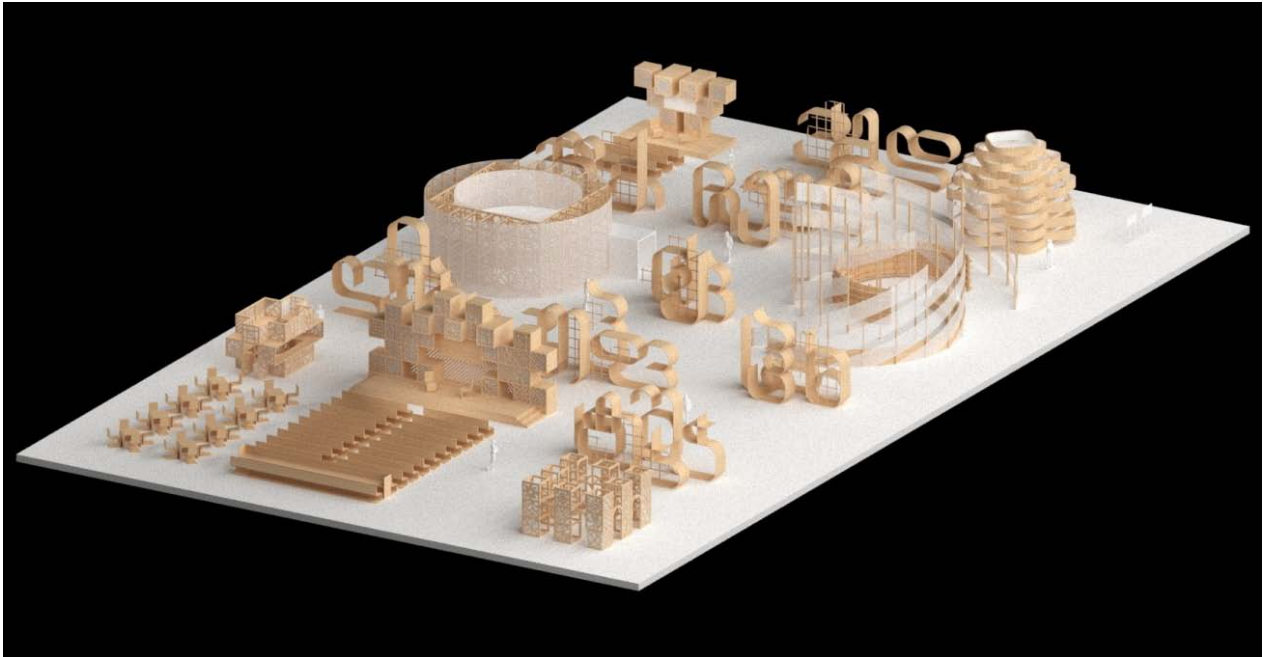
Georgia  
Made by Characters  
Guest of Honour  
Frankfurter Buchmesse 2018



10.–14. Oktober 2018  
**FRANKFURTER  
BUCHMESSE**  
Ehrengast Georgien

## Guest of Honour Pavilion – Made by Characters

*George Bokhua Studio and Multiverse Architecture on the Guest of Honour Pavilion:*



Do you want to feel Georgia? Come with me and hold my hand, it's going to be a long journey. We will open 33 doors with 33 keys, pass 33 mountains and 33 valleys, sail the sea with 33 ships, conquer 33 castles, flee 33 labyrinths, sing 33 songs, bake 33 breads, on the 33<sup>rd</sup> day put down the roots of vines, and at the end of the route write a book with 33 letters, a book with the story of 33 characters that lead us to reveal Georgia.

Adornments, pictograms, letterforms – what you see now is the soul of Georgia. In this wide horizon you will feel the zeitgeist of our country. This is our literature, music, architecture and history, our past and present, told in curious and mysterious symbols. Symbols that you meet anew after each step, telling you different stories.

### **Journey into Pavilion Spaces**

The **Main Stage** and the **Small Stage** are where ancient Khevsurian ornaments served as inspiration. Dimly lit boxes of the stage will recreate a spirit of the past. These very stages will host the main cultural and literary events. You can always visit the **Cafeteria** if you're up for a quick snack. Here you can discover the tastes of Georgian cuisine.

**Books on Georgia Exhibition** – In this space, one can best smell the spirit of the books. The spirit, blown with the wind or even a storm. Here, in the centre of a storm, you will understand the spirit of Georgian culture – sometimes calm, sometimes passionate, yet always inspirational. The stories about love, war, adventure, friendship and a thousand poems will blow your heart away. Here you'll be able to sit, rest and dive in.



Georgia  
Made by Characters  
Guest of Honour  
Frankfurter Buchmesse 2018



10.–14. Oktober 2018  
FRANKFURTER  
BUCHMESSE  
Ehrengast Georgien

Ingenuously designed in the likeness of an old Georgian hall, the **Photography Hub** will exhibit photos of the Georgian capital, Tbilisi, by the agency *Magnum Photos*. Magnum photographers will provide their interpretation of modern rural culture, as well as views of the old city.

The **Lettering Hub** will host *Monotype*, the digital typesetting and typeface design company. Here you can get most intimate with the Georgian alphabet. You can touch the type and see how it is produced. The printing stations will print a set of Georgian letters on the postcards of your liking. You can write a message showing love or chose your favourite designs to send to a person that you care about.

How does the Georgian language sound? Most letters are impossible to pronounce, some are hard on your ears, while others are soft as a lullaby. In the **Multimedia Experience Hub** you can feel the language in harmonious ambient tunes and also view how the people speak in a set of video installations.

And by the end of the journey, dive into the letterforms. **33 Large Scale Sculptures** that will tell yet more stories about what Georgia is, because “Georgia is a small country, but you need to take a deep breath if you’re going to understand it, because Georgia progresses not step by step, but in leaps and bounds” (Aka Morchiladze).

Made by *George Bokhua Studio* and *Multiverse Architecture*



**Georgia**  
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Guest of Honour  
Frankfurter Buchmesse 2018



10.–14. Oktober 2018  
**FRANKFURTER**  
**BUCHMESSE**  
Ehrengast Georgien

## Literature Programme – Made by Characters

What is Georgian literature? The literature of a small people who have accumulated a lot of things to say to the world. A literature with a strong tradition, very varied, an interesting synthesis of oriental and occidental influences, open to innovations and at the same time self-sufficient. Its first written monument, *The Martyrdom of Shushanik*, was composed in the fifth century. Although a modern reader can read old Georgian without having to resort to a dictionary and, what is most interesting, this monument of the hagiographical genre bears the characteristic and essential marks of a novel. This opus will be reissued by Leipziger Literaturverlag together with two old Georgian texts.

What are the distinguishing features of modern Georgian literature? It is a literature based on the experiences and trials of many centuries, and which is developing step by step alongside modern world literature. In other words, this literature gives us a clear picture of the character of the nation that is producing it. As Guest of Honour, Georgia wants to show the world how interesting the processes currently at work in Georgia have turned out to be. Over an entire year, therefore, in the pages of the Guest of Honour country programme, which started in January 2018 at the Leipzig Book Fair, a wide range of initiatives is planned: classic public readings, book presentations, series of discussions and professional programmes for translators, such as conferences, seminars, round tables. There will be literary events accompanied by music, film and theatre elements.

### 500 literary events

Throughout a whole year, almost 500 literary events of all sorts will be held in different literary and cultural venues in more than 30 cities across Germany, Switzerland and Austria. Almost 20 literary festivals in German-speaking Europe will be welcoming Georgian authors. With the collaboration of German publishing houses, discussions took place and will continue through the whole year with the organizers of lit.COLOGNE, Lit.RUHR, the ilb – International Literaturfestival Berlin, STADT LAND BUCH, Berliner Bücherinsel, Harbour Front Literaturfestival, Poetry on the Road, Open Books Frankfurt, Berleburger Literaturpflaster, Göttinger Literaturherbst and Schamrock-Festival der Dichterinnen, BuchBasel and Literaturtage Zofingen. An intensive, highly diverse programme is planned for Berlin, Munich and Frankfurt, while Georgian literary weeks were and will be organized in Saarbrücken and Freiburg.

### Guests of Honour – Get Together

A new cooperation among three Guests of Honour of Frankfurter Buchmesse

Erlend Loe and Michel Houellebecq to visit Georgia in 2018

Project likely to be continued in coming years

The Georgian National Book Center (GNBC) has initiated plans for this year's Guests of Honour, Georgia, to receive guests from Guest of Honour countries France (2017) and Norway (2019). This marks the very first "Guest of Honour – Get Together" project in the history of Frankfurter Buchmesse, and it is planned to continue the project as fixed part of the Guest of Honour Programme. This year's project will be carried out in cooperation with Frankfurter Buchmesse, the Georgian National Book Center and Sulakauri Publishing, with support from the Georgian Ministry for Culture and Sport and NORLA (Norwegian Literature Abroad). The Georgian National Book Center and Sulakauri Publishing have already invited Norwegian author Erlend Loe and French author Michel Houellebecq to visit Georgia in May and June 2018. Georgian author Archil Kikodze will show their fellow authors David Garedja, Kazbegi and the capital Tbilisi. The President of Frankfurter Buchmesse, Juergen Boos, will also be there.



**Georgia**  
**Made by Characters**  
Guest of Honour  
Frankfurter Buchmesse 2018



10.–14. Oktober 2018  
**FRANKFURTER**  
**BUCHMESSE**  
Ehrengast Georgien

The Georgian National Book Center plans to use the "Guests of Honour - Get Together" initiatives to support the role and significance of Georgian literature around the world and to deepen the cultural and literary connections among Georgia, France and Norway.

#### **Erlend Loe – in Tbilisi 28-31 May**

Erlend Loe is a successful Norwegian author whose works are also known in Georgia. He will visit his Georgian publisher, Sulakauri Publishing, during his stay and will take part in a podium discussion together with Archil Kikiodze (author), Juergen Boos (President of Frankfurter Buchmesse), and Medea Metreveli (Director of GNBC) and Gvantsa Jobava (Deputy Chair of the Georgian Publishers and Booksellers Association). Two of his novels – *Doppler* and *Naïve. Super* – have been published by Sulakauri Publishing. *Naïve. Super* was especially well-received in Georgia. The books were translated by Tamar Kvijnadze.

#### **Michel Houellebecq – in Tbilisi from 23 June**

Michel Houellebecq, one of the best-known authors of our time, and his French publisher will participate in a discussion at Rustaveli Theatre. At another reader event, Michel Houellebecq will talk about the role, significance and challenges of being a Guest of Honour country at Frankfurter Buchmesse. He will be accompanied by Archil Kikiodze (author), Medea Metreveli (Director GNBC), and Juergen Boos (President of Frankfurter Buchmesse). All of Michel Houellebecq's novels have been translated into Georgian.

#### **Georgian Illustration Programme**

The special programme of young Georgian illustrators is just as interesting: travelling exhibitions in Berlin and Frankfurt, workshops, discussions and various other sorts of event. For the occasion of Georgia as Guest country of honour at the 2018 Frankfurter Buchmesse, the Georgian National Book Center and kulturkind Berlin have agreed a variedly cooperation to present the Georgian children's literature and the Georgian illustrative art. Founded in 2008, kulturkind e.V. is a registered charity, which develops cultural programmes for children along with partners from the worlds of art, culture, education and research, and supports cultural exchange through education, exhibition and communication. kulturkind carries out numerous activities devoted to promoting reading and presenting cultural education for children and young adults. Cultural diversity is one of the key themes of kulturkind's cultural education work. The managing chairwomen, Ulrike Nickel, is the curator of the guest country programme.

Georgia is the guest country of honour at this year's **Berlin Book Islands festival** (29 May – 8 June 2018). Since 2009, kulturkind has organized this annual event for children's literature, working with numerous literary institutions and experts from the world of children's books. Inviting festival-goers to experience the cultural and artistic diversity of children's literature from Georgia, kulturkind welcomes several exceptional Georgian illustrators to Berlin: Elene Chichashvili, Ana Chubinidze, Gio Jincharadze, Tatia Nadareishvili and Eka Tabliashvili. A varied and lively programme of events opens up insights into Georgia's cultural diversity as expressed through its literature and illustration. Within the framework of the Berlin Book Islands festival, kulturkind and ocelot bookshop invite to a meet & greet event in the comfortable surroundings of ocelot. This evening also marks the opening of the exhibition of contemporary Georgian children's book illustration and Georgian children's books, which will be on view at ocelot until 30 June 2018.

The Georgian National Book Center and **kulturkind Berlin** present the exhibition "**My Image of Georgia**" curated by Ulrike Nickel. Twelve illustrators present works reflecting artistically on Georgia and its culture. The exhibition in Berlin is a pre-premiere for the Frankfurter Buchmesse, accompanying the Berlin Book Islands festival and is. It will be shown in Berlin (29 May – 31 July) at Frankfurt Book Fair (10 – 14 October) and in Hamburg, up from 6 December 2018.





**Georgia**  
**Made by Characters**  
Guest of Honour  
Frankfurter Buchmesse 2018



10.–14. Oktober 2018  
**FRANKFURTER**  
**BUCHMESSE**  
Ehrengast Georgien

Besides this the **Struwwelpeter-Museum** Frankfurt will host an exhibition “**Tsikara' - Museum in Museum by Georgian Illustrators**”. The Exhibition is based on the content of famous Georgian Folk tale “Tsikara”. The show will be performed via illustrations, 3D objects, and other artistic mediums to create specific mood of “real” museum with “real” artifacts and give its visitors opportunity to fully comprehend the content and take a journey through the Georgian Tale.

### **Tbilisi International Book Fair**

The Tbilisi International Book Fair is organized by the Georgian Publishers and Booksellers Association since 1996. It is the one of the most significant and broad-scale cultural events in the country, where almost all active publishers present their newest editions of Georgian literature as well as translations from all around the world. Approximately 20 events of diverse content are usually planned within the frame of the fair every day involving participation of writers, translators and literary critics. The fair hosts of over 60,000 book lovers year over year.

In 2018 the Tbilisi Book Fair will celebrate its 20th anniversary with unique and exceptional plans for such a significant date. From 31 May to 3 June the book lovers will traditionally visit the book fair, but the number of the writers, publishers, translators, literary critics and specially invited Honourary guests is expected to be drastically increased compared to the previous years. For the second year the fair has a new tradition of selecting the focus country. In 2018 focus country will be Germany regarding the Guest of Honour status of Georgia at the Frankfurter Buchmesse.

For the first time in its history the Tbilisi International Book fair will host the Frankfurter Buchmesse, which will be presented with an own stand at the fair. The managing team together with the German writers and publishers will visit Georgia and promote German language literature among Georgian readers.

Georgia and Germany celebrated 200 years of Friendship in 2017. The cooperation between the Tbilisi International Book Fair and the Frankfurter Buchmesse is a step forward to continuation and development of this friendship and this can be considered as a starting point for the future cultural collaboration of the two book fairs.

### **Interpreting the Soviet past – A Cycle of Scientific Discussions**

It should be noted that the literary programme of the Guest of Honour country will have an interestingly presented scholarly and educational aspect to it. In cooperation with SOVLAB, the Soviet Past Research Laboratory (Georgia), there are plans to hold a series of discussions seeking to interpret the Soviet past all over Germany. We offer interesting cycles of discussions for foreign audiences about the history of Georgian philosophy, in which Georgian and German philosophers will take part. Well-known Georgian scholars will talk about the achievements of the modern Georgian scientific scene.

### **SABA – the most important Georgian literary award**

Georgia will present its most authoritative literary award SABA as part of the programme on 12 th October. Celebratory award ceremony will be held at Kaisersaal, historical city hall of Frankfurt. SABA is a literary award founded 16 years ago by TBC, a leading Georgian bank. It is considered to be a literary event of utmost importance in Georgia. SABA is awarded to the best of contemporary Georgian literature, with a total of 11 nominations presented annually. More than 100 authors, translators and literary critics have received the award to date. This number also includes foreign laureates who translate and publish Georgian literature in different parts of the world.



**Georgia**  
**Made by Characters**  
Guest of Honour  
Frankfurter Buchmesse 2018



10.–14. Oktober 2018  
**FRANKFURTER**  
**BUCHMESSE**  
Ehregast Georgien

For the first time a foreign publishing house, that contributed the most to publish Georgian literature and make it accessible in Europe for these past few years, will be awarded at the ceremony along with the original nominations. Also, literature critic who has been actively reviewing and introducing Georgian literature to European readers will be awarded at SABA 2018. The world-renowned Georgian violinist Liza Batiashvili will perform at SABA. A famous German journalist from TAZ Doris Akrap will moderate the awarding ceremony. Georgian delegation, authors and publishers, as well as Honourable foreign guests, including famous writers, literature critics, foreign publishers, official delegation of Germany and international media representatives will attend the SABA ceremony in the city of Frankfurt. General public will be able to enjoy the awarding ceremony through internet or Georgian live television channel.

### **Literature Journey**

As a culmination of Nino Kharatishvili's authoring project, implying tandems of German and Georgian writers (Volker Schmidt, Irma Tavelidze, Lucy Fricke, Archil Kikodze, Nestan (Nene) Kvinikadze, Fatma Aydemir, Katja Petrowskaja, Abo lashaghashvili, Stephan Reich, Ana Kordzaia-Samadashvili, Ulla Lenze and Tamta Melashvili) travelling to various regions of Georgia and creating short stories based on the traveler's impressions, will be collected and published as a book in Germany by Frankfurter Verlagsanstalt and will continue its travel on various literature festivals in Germany throughout 2018.

### **Book shop campaign**

In the beginning of 2018 Georgian National Book Center has come up with something for the start of its book shop campaign, too: The Guest of Honour is inviting booksellers to literary and culinary evenings being held in Frankfurt, Berlin and Munich in May. These evenings will revolve around the country's literature, and guests will also learn about the various elements of the bookselling campaign and how they can benefit from Georgia's Guest of Honour appearance. Georgian authors Ana Kordzaia-Samadashvili (*Who Killed Chaika?*, Hans Schiler Verlag) and Davit Gabunia (*Falling Apart*, German title - *Farben der Nacht* Rowohlt Berlin) will be giving a short introduction on their country's literature. In addition, the head chef, Luka Nachkebia, will be offering a little introduction to Georgian cuisine. Georgian specialities and Georgian wine will give guests a taste of Georgia itself.



**Georgia**  
**Made by Characters**  
Guest of Honour  
Frankfurter Buchmesse 2018

10.–14. Oktober 2018  
**FRANKFURTER**  
**BUCHMESSE**  
Ehrengast Georgien

## Literature Events – Made by Characters

### FRANKFURT

#### Haus am Dom

"**Georgische Begegnungen**" (engl. "Georgian Encounters") – Exhibiton: Collages of Julia Bührle-Nowikowa

**07.10.18 – 30.10.2018**



*Georgia. A Literary Journey* is a literary travelogue, poetic and humorous reflection by six German and six Georgian authors. All of them travelled to Georgia in 2017, to the small country of myths and stories, with a rich past and a living present. The result (texts) of their travel is as different as the writers themselves. The cover and illustrations of the book belongs to Julia Bührle-Nowikowa. The Haus am Dom will host an exhibition of the artworks specially created for the book *Georgia. A Literary Journey*.

Photo: Julia Bührle-Nowikowa

[www.hausamdom-frankfurt.de](http://www.hausamdom-frankfurt.de)

#### Kultur & Bahn e.V., Frankfurt und Katholische Akademie Rabanus Maurus, Frankfurt

LiteraturBahnhof im Haus des Buches (1.Stock)

**7. Oktober | 10. – 13. Oktober**



In the book fair week Haus des Buches and LiteraturBahnhof will host number of Georgian prose writers. Zaza Burchuladze, Levan Berdzenisvili, Nana Ekvimishvili, Lasha Bugadze, Dato Gabunia, Kote Jandieri, Zurab Karumidze and Aka Morchiladze will present their literature and translated titles to the German audience. The program offers variety and diversity of genres giving the feel of different tastes of Georgian Literature.

Photo: Nana Ekvimishvili by Nata Soprimadze

[Lothar-ruske-pr.de](http://Lothar-ruske-pr.de)



**Georgia**  
**Made by Characters**  
 Guest of Honour  
 Frankfurter Buchmesse 2018



10.–14. Oktober 2018  
**FRANKFURTER**  
**BUCHMESSE**  
 Ehrengast Georgien

## Kulturamt Frankfurt am Main

OPEN BOOKS – Lesefest zur Frankfurter Buchmesse

09. –14.10.2018



OPEN BOOKS is the annual festival on the occasion of Frankfurt Book Fair, organized by the City of Frankfurt. During five days, visitors are able to enjoy the novelties of the book market: non-fiction, literary debuts, biographies, novels, graphic novels and poetry are presented by the authors themselves at venues next to the central town hall Römer. The international program of OPEN BOOKS focusses on this year's Guest of Honour of Frankfurt Book Fair, hosting contemporary Georgian authors in readings. The entry is free.

[www.kultur-frankfurt.de](http://www.kultur-frankfurt.de) | [www.openbooks-frankfurt.de](http://www.openbooks-frankfurt.de)

## kulturkind e.V., Berlin

**My Image of Georgia**

10. – 14.10.2018

(further dates in Berlin, 29.05. – 31.07.2018, Frankfurt Book Fair, 10-14 October, 2018 and Hamburg ab 06.12.2018)



For the occasion of Georgia as guest country of honour at the 2018 Frankfurter Buchmesse, the Georgian National Book Center and kulturkind Berlin present an exhibition of Georgian illustration art. Twelve illustrators present works reflecting artistically on Georgia and its culture. The exhibition in Berlin is a pre-premiere for the Frankfurter Buchmesse, accompanying the Berlin Book Islands festival. Curated by Ulrike

Nickel. Participants Tako Bakradze, Elene Chichashvili, Khatia Chitorelidze, Ana Chubinidze, Eliso Chubinishvili, Sonia Eliashvili, Eto Grzirishvili, Gio Jincharadze, Sophie Kirtadze, Tatia Nadareishvili, Eka Tabliashvili, Zura Mchedlishvili.

[www.kulturkind-berlin.de](http://www.kulturkind-berlin.de)

## Literaturhaus Frankfurt

**Naira Gelaschwili: Ich fahre nach Madrid**

08.10.2018



Naira Gelaschwili is a distinguished writer, literary critic, civil society activist, and translator of German philosophy and poetry and among the most acclaimed literary voices in Georgia – this year's Guest of Honour at the Frankfurt Book Fair. She gained popularity among the readers for her non-conformist prose. Her novella 'I am leaving for Madrid' has initially only been published in a literary magazine in 1982 and provoked a huge, political stir. Today, just as in those days, the text can be understood as poetic criticism of totalitarian regimes, while at the same time it reflects the

increasingly demanding market requirements of modern labour – and how to escape from it. Likewise, Gelaschwili's 120-page novella, translated by Lia Wittek into German, is a firm plea for the power of phantasy. The evening with Naira Gelaschwili will be hosted by the literary critic Insa Wilke who will get into a discussion with the writer.

Photo: Naira Gelaschwili

[www.literaturhaus-frankfurt.de](http://www.literaturhaus-frankfurt.de)



**Georgia**  
**Made by Characters**  
Guest of Honour  
Frankfurter Buchmesse 2018

10.–14. Oktober 2018  
**FRANKFURTER**  
**BUCHMESSE**  
Ehrengast Georgien

## literaTurm – 9. Literaturfestival FrankfurtRheinMain

Kulturamt Frankfurt am Main

Between Karabakh and Birnenfeld. Reading with Nana Ekvimishvili, Davit Gabunia and Aka Morchiladze

06.06.2018



With Aka Morchiladze, Nana Ekvimishvili and Davit Gabunia, the Frankfurt literature Festival literaTurm has invited three outstanding recent voices of Georgian literary fiction for a talk and reading. Hosted by the journalist Doris Akrap and accompanied by the Ensemble Modern with selected pieces of music, this evening presents their novels that have been recently translated into German. The biographies of the main characters may differ notably, yet they are united by the attempt to find their way through a set of complex social and political interdependences.

Organizer: Frankfurt Office for Culture in cooperation with Ensemble Modern, Georgian National Book Center and "Georgia – Made by Characters". Guest of Honour Frankfurter Bookmesse 2018

[www.literaturm.de](http://www.literaturm.de)

## Orange Peel Club

Elektropoetry from Georgia - Protest and club culture

13.10.2018



Across borders - Electropoetry and Spoken Word from Georgia presented by Dirk Hülstrunk

Live music: Gogi Dzodzuashvili, Toresa Mossy, Erekle Deisadze,

Authors: Rati Amaglobeli, Shalva Bakuradze, Zurab Rtveliashvili

Spoken Word meets electronic beats. Archaic rhymes meet club culture. Sound poetry meets performance and social protest. Rebellious up-to-date poetry that moves body and brain. The young Georgian poetry uses traditional meters and intonations as well as electronic beats and social messages.

Rati Amaglobeli is the shooting star of the Georgian poetry scene. Zurab Rtveliashvili is the most intense and provocative poet performer in Georgia. Shalva Bakuradze is obsessed with the sound and intonation of poetry, Erekle Deisadze is famous as musician as well as Spoken Word/Rap poet. Gogi Dzodzuashvili is a pioneer of the Georgian electronic music scene. The show will finish with an audiovisual live concert by filmmaker, musician and poet Toresa Mossy.

Photo: Zurab Rtveliashvili

[www.orange-peel.de](http://www.orange-peel.de)



**Georgia**  
**Made by Characters**  
Guest of Honour  
Frankfurter Buchmesse 2018



10.–14. Oktober 2018  
**FRANKFURTER**  
**BUCHMESSE**  
Ehrengast Georgien

## Stadtbücherei Frankfurt Zentralbibliothek

### Georgia in the Frankfurt Public Library

**24.09. –13.10.2018**

We take the Guest of Honour into town – public and school libraries of Frankfurt Public Library present “Georgia – Made by Characters”.

There are illustrators' workshops for children, an exhibition around an animated film, a quiz for young adults, lectures, poetry & music and a translation-workshop. For the whole program: check [www.stadtbuecherei.frankfurt.de](http://www.stadtbuecherei.frankfurt.de)

### Across borders - New Georgian poetry on the move

**10.10.2018**

presented by Dirk Hülstrunk

Authors: Shota Iatashvili, Zviad Ratiani, Zurab Rtveliashvili, Eka Kevanishvili, Diana Anfimiadi

The new generation of postsowjet Georgian poets cross many borders. They are political and playful, provocative, funny and emotional, radical and sophisticated. They are versed in newest international trends and keen too redefine old traditions. Poetry plays an important role in Georgia and reflects the massive changes in society after independence.

Five of the most renowned Georgian writers present their very different ways to search for an identity between east and west, old and new, individualism and society, spoken word performance, mythologies and social activism.

Live Music & Georgian Wines

[www.stadtbuecherei.frankfurt.de](http://www.stadtbuecherei.frankfurt.de)

## Struwwelpeter-Museum Frankfurt

### 'Tsikara' - Museum in Museum of Georgian illustrators

**06. 10.2018 - 06.01.2019**



On the 5th of October just before the official opening ceremony of Frankfurter Buchmesse 2018 the Struwwelpeter-Museum Frankfurt will host an exhibition “'Tsikara' - Museum in Museum by Georgian Illustrators” as part of the events accompanying Georgia being the Guest of Honour at the Frankfurt Buchmesse 2018. The Exhibition 'Tsikara'-Museum in Museum is based on the content of famous Georgian Folk tale “Tsikara”. The show presents various art works, such as illustrations, sculptures, prints, installations, posters. Special activities for children are planned as part of the exhibition. The show will be performed via

illustrations, 3D objects, and other artistic mediums to create specific mood of “real” museum with “real” artifacts and give its visitors opportunity to fully comprehend the content and take a journey through the Georgian Tale. The project will introduce Georgian artists, illustrators and designers to German Public and on the other hand popularize charismatic heroes of Georgian tale and its magic items.

Photo: 'Tsikara' von Gio Jincharadze

[www.struwwelpeter-museum.de](http://www.struwwelpeter-museum.de)



**Georgia**  
**Made by Characters**  
 Guest of Honour  
 Frankfurter Buchmesse 2018



10.–14. Oktober 2018  
**FRANKFURTER**  
**BUCHMESSE**  
 Ehrengast Georgien

## Weltenleser, Book shop

### Verious events:

**Reading with Tilman Spreckelsen:** *The Knight in Panther's Skin* - a Georgian folk epic, retold by Tilman Spreckelsen (Galiani Berlin, 2018) 05.09.2018

**Lecture by Karin Friedle-Unger:** "Georgia Guest of Honour at the Book Fair - Literature, Land and People", 04.10.2018

**Lecture by Anton Vatcharadze:** "The First Republic of Georgia", Archives and Soviet Studies Direction Head Institute for Development of Freedom of Information

**Reading with Levan Berdzenishvili** from his novel *Absolute Darkness – The Last Days of Gulag*

[www.weltenleser.de](http://www.weltenleser.de)

## BERLIN

### das blaue sofa / Blue Sofa

das blaue sofa



In the evening of 13th of September, before the very culmination of the presentation - Georgia Guest of Honour at Frankfurter Buchmesse 2018, the literary platform Blue Sofa will host a discussion of three Georgian writers together with the Director of the Georgian National Book Center - Medea

Metreveli and the President of Frankfurter Buchmesse - Juergen Boos in the Bertelsmann representative office in Berlin (Unter den Linden 1). Authors: Nino Kharatishvili, Nana Ekvimishvili and Lasha Bugadze will present their works translated into German and also discuss about their challenges and expectations before the guest of honour presentation in Frankfurt. Around 200 guests will have an opportunity to exchange their views on the guest country Georgia and get to know its diverse literature in several discussions.

### ilb – internationales literaturfestival berlin



From 5 to 15 September the International Literature Festival Berlin presents new prose and poetry by contemporary authors from all over the world. This year's festival will welcome two authors from Georgia - contemporary postmodern writer Zaza Burchuladze and writer, travel guide, actor and photographer Archil Kikodze to present their works to lovers of the literature. Both authors – Zaza Burchuladze with his novels *Adibas*, *Tourist's Breakfast* and newly translated *Inflatable Angel* (Aufbau/Blumenbar) and Archil Kikodze

with the titles *The Story of a Man and a Bird* and *The Southern Elephant* (Ullstein Verlag) – will be presented in the main section of the festival's program Literatures of the World.



Georgia  
Made by Characters  
Guest of Honour  
Frankfurter Buchmesse 2018



10.–14. Oktober 2018  
**FRANKFURTER  
BUCHMESSE**  
Ehrengast Georgien

## FREIBURG

### Georgian Week in Freiburg

Georgian culture and literature is quite well-known in Freiburg. This city hosted Georgian authors and artists for several times. It was undoubtedly that in frames of guest of honour year Freiburg would create a special program of Georgian events. Festival Georgian Week in Freiburg 2018 will be held from 26 October to 4 November and consists of several literature and cultural events, such as opening at Literaturhaus Freiburg with Nino Haratischvili, readings of Nana Ekvimishvili, Zurab Karumidze, Tatia Nadareishvili and Lasha Bugadze in the theatres, bookstores and libraries. Besides several screenings of films by Goderdzi Chokheli, Tengiz Abuladze, Kote Mikaberidze and Sergei Paradsanow will take place at Kommunales Kino. The one week program of Georgian literature and culture in Freiburg also includes number of musical events and live performances by several composers and musicians.

## HAMBURG

### Harbourfront Literature Festival Hamburg



Literary travelogues, poetic and humorous reflections by six German and six Georgian authors are gathered in the book *Georgia. A Literary Journey*. All of them travelled to Georgia in 2017, to the small country at the Black Sea shore, where the Great and the Little Caucasus, deep gorges, high glaciers, long palm shores, historic caves, famous mineral springs and cosmopolitan Metropolises such as Tbilisi and Batumi are equally to be found. The result (texts) of their travel is as different as the writers themselves. *Georgia. A Literary Journey* can serve as an invitation to the reader to pack their bags to travel to Georgia. On 18 of September two German and two Georgian writers (Fatma Aydemir, Lucy Fricke, Nestan Nene Kvinikadze and Tamta Melashvili) of this project will take part in the reading-discussion in frames of Harbourfront Literature Festival 2018.





Georgia  
Made by Characters  
Guest of Honour  
Frankfurter Buchmesse 2018



10.–14. Oktober 2018  
FRANKFURTER  
BUCHMESSE  
Ehrengast Georgien

## Authors and Books in the German Language

(already translated, or about to be translated)

Since 2010, about 200 Georgian books have been translated and published in foreign countries with the aid of the Ministry of Culture and Sport of Georgia and Georgian National Book Center, among them 65 were published in German-speaking countries. A further 60 new German translations are planned as part of Georgia's appearance as Guest of Honour. The palette ranges from classical to contemporary authors and includes narratives, Georgian epics and novels, as well as anthologies of Georgian poetry, non-fiction, children's and young adult literature and collections of critical essays.

One of the most important literary monuments of the 12th century is, to this day, Shota Rustaveli's epic *The Man in the Panther's Skin* (1172–1216). Among the translations into German, the best is recognized to be Hugo Huppert's translation, which, with the support of the Georgian National Book Center, has been re-published in Germany (Dr. Ludwig Reichert Verlag, 2014). In 2018, Galiani Berlin plans to publish Rustaveli's work retold by Tilman Spreckelsen and with new illustrations by Kat Menshik.

Among the specimens of Georgian literature that have been translated into German, naturally enough, the **novel** dominates of Georgia's novelists, the first and foremost modern classic is considered to be Mikheil Javakhishvili (1880–1937), whose many novels and stories have not lost their relevance even today, and are a source of inspiration for many contemporary artists, theatre directors, playwrights and film scriptwriters. His novel *Kvachi Kvachantiradze* was published in German in Soviet times, but because of the fragments that the Soviet censor would not permit at that time, the full version of the work is available only from 2016 (Nora Verlag). In recent years Mikheil Javakhishvili's stories have been published in a number of collections. In 2018, the same author's extremely famous novel *Jaqo's Refugees* and his selected stories will be published by Arco Verlag. In 2013, another extremely well-known novelist, poet and playwright, Otar Chiladze (1933–2009), had his famous novel *A Man Was Going Down the Road* published under the title of *Dariachangi's Garden* (Matthes & Seitz Berlin, 2013); in 2018, his novels *Avelum* and *The Basket* will be published (Matthes & Seitz Berlin, 2013). Foreign critics compare Otar Chiladze to the great Latin American authors. In 2018, Hanser Verlag will publish Guram Dochanashvili's (born in 1939) most famous novel *The First Raiment*. Dochanashvili is acknowledged as a living classic, and, half a century after its first publication, this novel still excites the modern reader – especially younger readers – just as it did in the period of Soviet terror, when it was written. In 2014, Wagenbach Verlag published a novel that has been translated into more languages than any other Georgian novel: Dato Turashvili's (born in 1966) *The Jeans Generation* (German title – *Westflug*). Because of its subject matter, this novel leaves neither Georgian nor foreign readers unmoved. In 1983, a group of young Georgians tried to hi-jack an aircraft from Soviet Georgia and reach the West. The Soviet court sentenced most of them to death by shooting. These 'aeroplane boys' have had a number of different literary works devoted to them, among them, in particular, the Georgian rock star and poet Irakli Charkviani's (1961–2006) autobiographical novel *Calm Swim* (German title – *Dahinschwimmen*), which will be printed in Germany in 2018 by Dageyeli Verlag. The contemporary young female writer Tamta Melashvili (born in 1979) has had great success with her first short novel *Counting Out* (Unionsverlag, 2013), which won Frankfurt prize for the best literary work by a young author 2013. Set in a conflict zone, where only women and children have stayed, this story aims with a sniper's accuracy at the heart of any citizen of the country. By fall will be published her collection of short stories *Marine's Angels* by Wieser Verlag. The recent Russo-Georgian war is the subject of Zaza Burchuladze's (born in 1973) novel *adibas* (Aufbau/Blumenbar, 2015), in which the novel shows us how some in Georgian society view the air raids



Georgia  
Made by Characters  
Guest of Honour  
Frankfurter Buchmesse 2018



10.–14. Oktober 2018  
**FRANKFURTER  
BUCHMESSE**  
Ehrengast Georgien

and occupation carried out by Russia. His next novel, *Touristenfrühstück* (engl. title: *A Tourist's Breakfast*, 2016), together with a number of other important questions, deals with modern themes of his experiences living in Tbilisi and Berlin and of emigration. In autumn of 2018 German readers will have an opportunity to enjoy the new translation of his novel *Inflatable Angel*. Ullstein Verlag will publish the prose collection *The Story of a Bird and a Man* by Archil Kikodze (born in 1972), a famous modern Georgian author, who has won many awards; the collection will be followed by his new, urban novel *The Southern Elephant*, which tells us the story of Tbilisi and its redemptory historical reality, as well as examining contemporary life. The young Georgian writer Lasha Bugadze (born in 1972) caught the attention of the German-language press with his satirical novel *Literature Express* (Frankfurter Verlagsanstalt, 2016). The novel is the story of modern Georgian and world literary absurdities, ambitions, writers' passions, idiocies and mistakes. In the novel, 100 European writers are taken by the organizers on a train journey; for one month they travel all over Europe. Recently the same publisher published his novel *LUCRECIA515*. By the end of 2018 another novel by the same author will be published (*Small Country*). In 2016 the famous writer and political activist Naira Gelashvili (born in 1947) presented her novel *I am that One* (Verbrecher Verlag, 2017) to a large audience at "Das Blaue Sofa" at the Leipzig Book Fair: the novel describes a thirteen-year-old girl's love for a young student. Everybody and everything opposes the girl's genuine feelings, the most genuine and substantial element for her at the time. Her mother, family, school, the school syllabuses and so on are all involved, in universal opposition. Her new translation *Leaving for Madrid* was presented at the lit.COLOGNE 2018. Aka Morchiladze is a very versatile writer: his reader could be either a deeply erudite intellectual, or someone who values love stories and historical novels, but might also be a fan of detective stories and mysteries, or just an ordinary reader who likes literature of good taste. Several German publishers publish his books in German, as well as the five novels *Santa Esperanza* (Mitteldeutscher Verlag, 2017), *Shadow on the Road* (Mitteldeutscher Verlag, 2018), *Journey to Karabakh* (Weidle Verlag, 2018), *Obolé* (Mitteldeutscher Verlag, 2018) as well as *Mameluks* (Weidle Verlag, 2018). For short pieces of prose, the work of the modern Georgian writer Kote Jandieri (born in 1958) *Globalisation* is particularly noteworthy. The book is published by Klak Verlag in 2018. This story has justifiably been singled out as a masterpiece of short 21<sup>st</sup> century Georgian prose. In his work, an elderly peasant tells us the story of his life, which has taken place against the background of historical events developing in Georgia: from the Sovietisation of Georgia to the 1990s, a life that is completely interlinked with these events.

Speaking of Georgian Poetry we give the German-speaking readers an opportunity to get to know over 40 modern Georgian poets as well as the work of a poet of the classical period, all published by various publishing houses. Among the poetry of classics, collection of poems by Nikoloz Baratashvili (1817–1844) should be singled out – *Thoughts on the Banks of Mtkvari River* (Arco Verlag, 2017). The publication in Germany of the great Georgian romantic poet under the auspices of UNESCO marks the 200th anniversary of his birth; in 2017 this anniversary was listed as a cultural event of international significance. In general, poetry is particularly difficult to translate, but from time immemorial Georgia has been considered a land of poetry, which is why it is important for us to have Georgian poetry represented in German translation. Consequently, we are finally able to.

The five most important poems of contemporary poet Besik Kharanauli (born in 1939) will be published in summer in Dayveli Verlag under the title *Five Poems*. In 2018, the publisher Corvinus Presse Berlin Art Book published another collection, this time the collection *Potato Harvest* (German title – *Die Kartoffelernte*), which consists of the work of seven modern poets: the title is taken from a poem by Besik Kharanauli. He is a distinguished poet in modern Georgia, the founder, one may say, of a new means of expression in Georgia. As a result, his poems are represented in this collection.



Georgia  
Made by Characters  
Guest of Honour  
Frankfurter Buchmesse 2018



10.–14. Oktober 2018  
**FRANKFURTER  
BUCHMESSE**  
Ehrengast Georgien

By the beginning of October many other poetry collections, as well as anthologies also individual poetry collections of Shota Chantladze, Badri Gugushvili, Tamaz Badzagua, Besik Kharanauli, Lia Sturua, Zviad Ratiani, Rati Amaglobeli, Zurab Rtveliashvili and Dato Barbakadze will be available in German speaking countries.

## Children's Books

Up to 15 children's books will be published in German for German speaking audience in frames of Georgia Guest of Honour at the Frankfurter Buchmesse 2018. The Georgians are known for their storytelling. A collection of Georgian fairy tales *Der König, der nicht lachen konnte (The King who couldn't laugh)* 2017 was published in the NordSüd publishing house in collaboration with the Book Art Center Tbilisi. Fourteen Georgian illustrators, mostly from younger generations, have illustrated the 21 fairy tales of the book. Thus, the book does not only give an insight into the narrative tradition of the country, but also invites the reader to discover the widely diversified work of Georgian artists. Another comprehensive collection of Georgian fairy tales (insel taschenbuch) is expected to be available at July 2018. Georgian fairy tales, through the combination of European and Oriental motifs, tell of the yearning of the people for a happy life in freedom and justice.

At Baobab Books the first release of *Schlaf gut (Sleep Well)* was published. The young Georgian artist Tatia Nadareiswili tells an amusing story of a little boy who was told by different animals how to sleep better.

In August 2018 will be published *Die Weisheit der Lüge (The Wisdom of the Lie)*. It is a piece of world literature that is originated around the year 1700 in Georgia. The wisdom in the form of fables, parables and fairy tales represents a contest of ideas, contexts and life experiences. The book will be newly illustrated by the young Georgian artist Zura Mchedlishvili.



**Georgia**  
**Made by Characters**  
Guest of Honour  
Frankfurter Buchmesse 2018



10.–14. Oktober 2018  
**FRANKFURTER**  
**BUCHMESSE**  
Ehrengast Georgien

## Presence of “Georgia –Guest of Honour” at Frankfurter Buchmesse – Made by Characters

The Guest of Honour Georgia programme at the Frankfurter Buchmesse is organized by the „Georgian Publishers and Booksellers Association (GPBA)“ and consists of three national stands and a small stage in the Guest of Honour Pavilion:

**Georgian National Stand** (180 sq.m) – located in Hall 5.0, unites approximately 40 publishing houses, which will present their newest titles of Georgian literature. The status of the Georgian national stand, annually organized at the Buchmesse since 2007, takes a very special scale in the context of the Guest of Honour project.

**Georgian Stand in ARTS+ (28 sq.m)** – located in Hall 4.1, the Georgian stand in the Art- and Designpavilion reveals Georgia’s potential in art and innovative technologies. At the stand you will find Georgian Books about art and design, photobooks, art-books etc. and an innovative art-project. Besides the national stand in Arts+ Georgia will be presented at a joint stand with MONOTYPE, at this interactive stand visitors will be able to get in touch with Georgian alphabet, letters designed by MONOTYPE and during “happy hours“ draw in Georgian with specially invited Georgian calligraphist.

**Georgian Children’s literature Stand** (24 sq.m) – located in Hall 3.0, the Georgian stand in the Children’s and Young Adults’ Media pavilion will exhibit Georgian children’s books and interactive books. Applications for little visitors are offered.

### Highlights

In May 2018 Germany will be the focus country at Tbilisi International Book Fair (organized by GPBA), which this year celebrates its twentieth anniversary and considering Georgia’s Guest of Honour status at Frankfurter Buchmesse focuses on Germany. Tbilisi International Book Fair will be visited by German writers and publishers, for the first time in the Tbilisi Book Fair history Frankfurter Buchmesse will be presented with own stand to promote German literature. Tbilisi International Book Fair opening ceremony will be attended by representatives of Frankfurter Buchmesse. In frames of the publishing program of Frankfurter Buchmesse 2018 Guest of Honour Georgia from 10 till 14 October over 70 events will be held with more than 150 participants, including Georgian and foreign writers, publishers and translators. The most important stage of publishing program is located at Georgian National Stand, the program with 15 events also covers Guest of Honour pavilion’s small stage and other stages in different halls. During three working days business-breakfasts and business-lunches will also be held at Georgian National Stand, where Georgian publishers will introduce their current and upcoming publishing projects and meet over 300 foreign colleagues. Besides these events, during every working day, Georgian publishers will have multiple one to one meetings with their international partners.



**Georgia**  
**Made by Characters**  
Guest of Honour  
Frankfurter Buchmesse 2018

10.–14. Oktober 2018  
**FRANKFURTER**  
**BUCHMESSE**  
Ehrengast Georgien

## Events May/June – Made by Characters

- 8 May 2018, 19:30 Frankfurt, Haus des Buches, Braubachstrasse 16, **Kick off event for Booksellers**, with the authors Davit Gabunia and Ana Kordzaia-Samadashvili; Cooking Show: Chef Luka Nachkebia
- 9 May 2018, 19:00 Berlin, Literaturhaus Berlin, Fasanenstrasse 23, **Kick off event for Booksellers**, with the authors Davit Gabunia and Ana Kordzaia-Samadashvili; Cooking Show: Chef Luka Nachkebia
- 11 May 2018, 19:30 Munich, Hotel Olympic, Hans-Sachs-Strasse 4, **Kick off event for Booksellers**, with the authors Davit Gabunia and Ana Kordzaia-Samadashvili; Cooking Show: Chef Luka Nachkebia
- 15 May 2018, 20:00 Kiel, Literaturhaus Schleswig-Holstein e.V. Schwanenweg 13, Georgian Author **Abo Iashagashvili reads „Royal Mary. Murder in Tbilisi“**
- 15 May 2018 Cannes, France, The first Georgian novel **'obOle' by Aka Morchiladze at the Cannes Film Festival** section 'Shoot the Book', book pitch by Mikheil Tsikhelashvili
- 17 May 2018, 20:00 Berlin, Tucholsky Buchhandlung, **Abo Iashagashvili reads „Royal Mary. Murder in Tbilisi“**
- 23 May 2018, 18:00 Berlin Zentrum für Literatur - und Kulturforschung, Schützenstr. 18, 10117, **Caucasus and Georgian in the Context of the Empire during and after World War1**, Speaker: Lasha Bakradze
- 25 May 2018, 19:30 Berlin, Literaturhaus Berlin, Fasanenstrasse 23, **New Lyrics from Georgia**, Authors: Lela Samniashvili, Zviad Ratiani, Paata Shamugia
- 28 May 2018, 16:00 Frankfurt, Goethe-Universität, Theodor-W.-Adorno Platz 1, Frankfurt, **The Nation and national self-confidence during the soviet period**, Speaker: Giorgi Maisuradze
- 29 May 2018, 18:00 Munich, Ludwig Maximilian University, Historicum, Amalienstrasse 52, **Soviet tactics for everyday life and religious awakening in Georgia today**, Speaker: Ketevan Gurchiani
- 29 May 2018, 19:00 Berlin, Humboldt-Bibliothek, Karolinenstrasse 19, **Opening Ceremony Berlin Book Island festival**, Participants: Elene Chichashvili, Ana Chubinidze, Gio Jincharadze, Tatia Nadareishvili, Eka Tabliashvili
- 29 May till 31 July Berlin, Humboldt-Bibliothek, Karolinenstrasse 19, **Exhibition My Image of Georgia**, Participants: Tako Bakradze, Elene Chichinashvili, Khatia Chitorelidze, Ana Chubinidze, Eliso Chubinishvili, Sonia Eliahvili, Eto Gzirishvili, Gio Jincharadze, Sophie Kirtadze, Tatia Nadareishvili, Eka Tabliashvili
- 28 May 2018, 19:00 Georgia, Tbilisi, Book shop Santa Esperanza, **Guests of Honour get together – France, Georgia, Norway, Erlend Loe`s Meeting with Readers**
- 30 May 2018, 18:00 Berlin, Bundesstiftung Aufarbeitung, Kronenstrasse 5S, **Stalin and Georgia – Past and Present**, Speaker: Giorgi Maisuradze
- 31 May 2018 19:00 Georgia, Tbilisi, Rooms Hotel Tbilisi, 14 Merab Kostava St, **Guests of Honour get together – France, Georgia, Norway; panel-discussion** with Archil Kikodze, Erlend Loe, Medea Metreveli, Juergen Boos, Gvantsa Jobava



**Georgia**  
**Made by Characters**  
Guest of Honour  
Frankfurter Buchmesse 2018



10.–14. Oktober 2018  
**FRANKFURTER**  
**BUCHMESSE**  
Ehrengast Georgien

- 31 May 2018, 16:15 Jena, Friedrich-Schiller University, Seminarraum Kaukasiologie, Jenergasse 8, **Soviet Tactics for everyday life and religious awakening in Georgia today**, Germany, Speaker: Ketevan Gurchiani
- 31 May 2018, 19:00 Berlin, Ocelot Bookshop, Brunnenstrasse 181, **Exhibition – Meet and Greet Georgia**, Participants: Elene Chichashvili, Ana Chubinidze, Gio Jincharadze, Tatia Nadareishvili, Eka Tabliashvili
- 2 June 2018, 12:00 Bremen, BREMEN4U-Cafe, Sparkasse Bremen, Am Nrill 1-3, **Poetry on the Road**, Author: Bela Chekurishvili
- 2 June 2018, 16:00 Hamburg, Zentralbibliothek, Bücherhallen, Hühnerposten 1, **Emancipation in South Caucasus: On the trail of Georgian Women**, Speakers: Nino Lejava, Irakli Khvadagiani, Mariam Topchishvili
- 6 June 2018, 18:00 Berlin, Bundesstiftung Aufarbeitung, Veranstaltungssaal, Kronenstrasse 5, **Stalin's People – National Identity in Georgia**, Speaker: David Jishkariani
- 6 June 2018, 20:00 Frankfurt, Haus der Deutschen Ensemble Akademie, Schwedlerstrasse 2, **Between Karabach and Birnenfeld. Reading and discussion**, Authors: Aka Morchiladze, Davit Gabunia, Nana Ekvimishvili, Moderator: Doris Akrap, Speaker: Jochen Nix, Music: Ensemble Modern
- 7 June 2018, 19:30 Berlin, LCB – Literary Colloquium Berlin, **Georgian Night**, Authors: Nana Ekvimishvili, Davit Gabunia, Kote Jandieri, Poetic musical performance by Rati Amaglobeli and Gogi Dzodzuashvili
- 8 June 2018, 19:00 Berlin, Klak Fabrik, **Globalization by Kote Jandieri**, Author: Kote Jandieri, Moderator: Alexander Kartoza
- 14 June, 2018 16:15 Jena, Friedrich-Schiller Universität, Seminarraum der Kaukasiologie, Jenergasse 8, **The European idea in Georgia at the end of the 19 and beginning of the 20 centuries**, Speaker: Irakli Khvadagiani
- 20 June 2018, 18:00 Frankfurt, Universität, Campus Bockenheim, Juridicum, Senckenberganlage 31-33, **The right life in the wrong. The freedom of art and science in Soviet Georgia**, Speaker: Dr. Zaal Andronikashvili
- 21 June 2018, 18:30 Berlin, "Das Blaue Sofa", Bartelsmann, Unter den Linden 1, Zaza Burchuladze at **European Authors Summit on the Blue Sofa**
- 25 June 2018, 18:00 Georgia, Tbilisi, Rooms Hotel Tbilisi, 14 Merab Kostava St, **Guests of Honour get together – France, Georgia, Norway with Archil Kikodze and Michel Houellebecq, Panel-discussion**, Authors/Participants: Archil Kikodze, Michel Houellebecq, Medea Metreveli, Juergen Boos
- 25 June 2018, 20:00 Georgia, Tbilisi, Rustaveli Theatre; **Guests of Honour get together – France, Georgia, Norway, Michel Houellebecq's Meeting with readers**

**Detailed information:** [www.georgia-characters.com](http://www.georgia-characters.com)



**Georgia**  
**Made by Characters**  
 Guest of Honour  
 Frankfurter Buchmesse 2018



10.–14. Oktober 2018  
**FRANKFURTER**  
**BUCHMESSE**  
 Ehrengast Georgien

## Facts and Figures

### “Georgia – Made by Characters” organisation

Website	www.georgia-characters.com
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Project Director	Mikheil Giorgadze
Director of the Georgian National Book Center	Medea Metreveli
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Head of Cultural Programme	Manana Berikashvili, Deputy Minister of Culture and Monument Protection of Georgia
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Concept pavilion Guest of Honour 2018	George Bokhua Studio
Design pavilion Guest of Honour 2018	MUA Multiverse Architecture and Tamara Kvesitadze
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Head of Guest of Honour Programme of Frankfurter Buchmesse	Simone Bühler, buehler@book-fair.com

### The book market in Georgia

Population	3.7 million
Area	about 70,000 km <sup>2</sup>
Gross domestic product	2016: US\$ 14.22 billion
Gross domestic product per person	2016: US\$ 3,842.4
Published books in Georgia	2015: 4,173 2014: 2,964 2013: 3,745
Sales per year	2015: 12,974,198 Lari (about € 4.26 m*)
Average book price	2015: 11.75 Lari (€ 3.86*)
Translated titles in Georgia	45% of all published titles are translations mostly from Germany, France, UK, USA, Poland, Hungary, Italy, Turkey, Canada, Mexico, Greece, Estonia and Ukraine
Publishing houses	2015: about 100
Biggest publishers in Georgia	Palitra L 27 Bakur Sulakauri Publishing Intelekti Publishers
Number of book stores	50, including 41 small ones
Share of book sales via internet	2015: 19% 2013: 6%
Translation GNBC 2011-2017	200 Georgian titles have been translated into more than 28 languages 60 published titles in German 40 foreign titles in the Georgian language

\* Figures in Euro according to the conversion rate March 2018



**Georgia**  
**Made by Characters**  
Guest of Honour  
Frankfurter Buchmesse 2018



10.-14. Oktober 2018  
**FRANKFURTER**  
**BUCHMESSE**  
Ehrengast Georgien

## “Georgia is Cooking”

### **Culinary Festival presents Georgian Kitchen within the frame of Frankfurter Buchmesse**

Over 5 Georgian top chefs and culinary ambassadors travel to Frankfurt to experience the culinary diversity of the country together with the organizer Leon Joskowitz. For six days, the “Friday kitchen” turns into a Georgian house full of hospitality, local specialties and poetic encounters. Wine lovers in the series "Books n Wines" get the taste of the local wine and enjoy it together with literature of the country.

The appearance of Georgia as Guest of Honour at this year's Frankfurter Buchmesse is accompanied by a comprehensive culinary program. Under the title "Georgia is Cooking", the country at the interface between Europe and Asia presents its rich culinary culture in Frankfurt am Main. Five of the best Georgian chefs will prepare Georgian food at the fair and at various spots in the city, and to present the quality and regional diversity of Georgia's cuisine.

In addition to the trade fair appearance, the “Friday kitchen” is the center of the culinary festival. The well-known scene restaurant in Frankfurt's Gallus district will be transformed from 8 to 14 October 2018 into a "Georgian house" full of hospitality, local specialties and delicacies. Music, poetry and performatives will be part of the festival as well as Georgian wine and the customary artful toasts. Visitors can dine on traditional and new Georgian cuisine in a Georgian setting at lunchtime and in the evening, and of course sample the famous amber-colored wine from the clay amphorae, Quevris. The “Friday kitchen” will not only become the culinary center of this year's book fair, but also as part of this year's BOOKFEST venue for spontaneous, poetic encounters with young Georgian literature, music and performative arts.

That literature and wine have always been a good match will be illustrated by "Books n Wines". The series, which was conceived as part of "Georgia Is Cooking", presents the special drinking culture as well as the many wine varieties and winegrowers of Georgia at various events in Frankfurt and at the fair.

On the grounds of the Frankfurt Buchmesse 2018, there will be local specialties to taste: at the opening ceremony of the fair on 9 October, the daily Happy Hour Caterings and in the café of the host country pavilion, in the show kitchen of the Gourmet Gallery and at the joint stand of Travel Georgia (the Georgian Tourist Board) presents "Georgia Is Cooking" selected dishes, farm produce and local wines "The Georgian cuisine, the Georgian hospitality and the ancient winemaking tradition, indeed the whole culinary culture of Georgia is unique. Getting to know Georgia and the Georgian culture is for me like a lost brother again: A great country, great food, excellent people, Europeans and the best country in the world to host a Culinary Festival together. The 2018 Guest of Honour will be a big celebration with heart and soul and ‘Georgia is Cooking’ will be the best, tastiest and most heartfelt place, the belly and the secret center. ", commented Leon Joskowitz, the organizer of " Georgia is Cooking ", the festival idea.

The Culinary Festival in cooperation with the Ministry of Culture and Sport of Georgia and Georgian National Book Center are developing culinary program of Guest of Honour Country "Georgia is Cooking".

### **The Georgian Cuisine**

The Georgian cuisine of the traditional cultural nation is known for its quality and regional diversity. Georgia marks a border between Europe and Asia, it lies on the old trade routes between north and south and thus in the center of a long and continuous exchange - also and straight culinary kind. The centuries-old culinary tradition of the country is





**Georgia**  
**Made by Characters**  
Guest of Honour  
Frankfurter Buchmesse 2018



10.-14. Oktober 2018  
**FRANKFURTER**  
**BUCHMESSE**  
Ehrengast Georgien

characterized by a high quality of the ingredients through a strong integration of local supply structures. Typical ingredients include grapes, walnuts, eggplant, mulberries, pork and sun-ripened vegetables. Popular dishes include Khachapuri Megruli, Lobio, Chakaphuli and Kharcho, or Churtschchela eaten as a dessert and by the way, walnuts coated with grape juice couverture. In addition, wine and the associated drinking culture play a paramount role. The wine culture of the country is one of the oldest in the world; almost every Georgian makes his own wine at home. To this day, the amber-colored wine in clay amphorae, the so-called Quevri, produced and at festivals, so-called Supras, drunk and celebrated by artful toasts and rituals.

**Tekuna Gachechiladze** is a renowned cook of Georgia, owner of the Cafe Littera, the Culinarium Khasheria and a cooking school in Tbilisi and is responsible for the culinary program.

<https://www.instagram.com/tekunia/>

<https://www.facebook.com/tekuna.gachechiladze>

[tekuna.gachechiladze@gmail.com](mailto:tekuna.gachechiladze@gmail.com)

**She is accompanied by other chefs**

**e.g.**

**Levan Kobiashvili**

Executive Chef at Barbarestan

<https://www.facebook.com/levani.kobiashvili.12>

[https://www.instagram.com/chef\\_levan\\_kobiashvili/](https://www.instagram.com/chef_levan_kobiashvili/)

**Carla Capalbo**

[www.tastinggeorgia.com](http://www.tastinggeorgia.com)

[www.carlacapalbo.com](http://www.carlacapalbo.com)



Lobio with fermented vegetable salad



Elarji balls with almond baje



**Georgia**  
**Made by Characters**  
Guest of Honour  
Frankfurter Buchmesse 2018



10.-14. Oktober 2018  
**FRANKFURTER**  
**BUCHMESSE**  
Ehrengast Georgien

### **The culinary festival / Leon Joskowitz Catering**

The Frankfurt Culinary Festival, which was initiated by the Leon Joskowitz, has been accompanying the Frankfurter Buchmesse since 2011. The culinary art of the respective host country will be presented to the public through dinner events and special theme nights in Frankfurt restaurants as well as cooking shows at the Gourmet Gallery. In addition to this year's "Georgia is Cooking", Joskowitz has already organized the Philosophical Table Roundtables and the Guest of Honour POP UP CAFÉ for Flanders and the Netherlands (2016) "SPICE IT UP!" In the official part of the Guest of Honour programme. Indonesia "(2015)," New Zealand is Cooking "(2012) and" Reykjavik is Cooking "(2011).

"My idea is to bring the best chefs of the Book Fair's Guest of Honour to my hometown of Frankfurt and give them the opportunity to introduce their culinary culture here. The festival has met a zeitgeist. Every year, we re-enter the culinary culture of the host country and find spots, partners and ideas that match the culinary culture of the host country," says Joskowitz.

Leon Joskowitz is a culinary philosopher and entrepreneur. His curiosity always led him on expeditions around the world. After years of apprenticeship and traveling, Joskowitz has set up a base in his hometown of Frankfurt am Main to apply what he has learned and to arrange culinary arrangements of a special kind. With the founding of the Frankfurt Culinary Festival as part of the Frankfurter Buchmesse, he has found a way to unite interest in food and foreign cultures as well as the love of Frankfurt and literature.

In addition, he organizes the "Philosophical Salon" and "Philosophical Dining" with various partners and is the author of the blog [www.lemondeculinaire.com](http://www.lemondeculinaire.com). In autumn 2018 his first book on Culinary Aesthetics will be published.

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**Georgia**  
**Made by Characters**  
Guest of Honour  
Frankfurter Buchmesse 2018



10.–14. Oktober 2018  
**FRANKFURTER**  
**BUCHMESSE**  
Ehrengast Georgien

## Tourism, Wine and Innovation– Made by Characters

### Georgian National Tourism Administration at Frankfurter Buchmesse

Over recent years, the tourist industry in Georgia has experienced rapid growth. The Georgian National Tourism administration is constantly carrying out various forms of marketing campaigns, with the aim of raising awareness of the country in designated markets. The main task is to demonstrate and disseminate information about Georgia's tourist potential, the country's historical and cultural treasures, as well as its rich natural resources. Germany comes in among the top 10 countries for the number of visitors to Georgia, and Georgian-German relations have a long and remarkable history, so Georgia is very pleased to take its place at the Frankfurter Buchmesse as the Guest of Honour 2018. For its part, the Georgian National Tourist Administration will mainly emphasize raising awareness about Georgia as a land with a rich culture, a unique alphabet, with its history, its ancient wine-making tradition and its rich natural variety, which can be demonstrated through its fundamental tourist attractions. We want to advertise the country's tourist destinations: heritage monuments recognized by UNESCO, the shores of the Black Sea, the winter recreation centers, spas and balneological resorts.

In order to present audience existing tourism products of Georgia more specifically Administration plans to use 3D format videos (VR technology). Visitors will be able to travel virtually in our country and visit several mesmerizing places. Alongside with this activity in frames of Buchmesse there will be organized a master class of the most popular Georgian traditional dishes. Visitors will have opportunity to attend cooking process and taste delicious dishes like Khachapuri. Georgian National Tourism Administration also plans to invite well-known traveler, who will share experience of his unforgettable journey to Georgia. Above listed activities will help public to get comprehensive information about the country and feel the spirit of Georgia at Frankfurt, Germany – Buchmesse 2018, 10-14 October. Gourmet Gallery 3.1, Georgian Stand L137.

### Georgian Wine

In the framework of "Georgia – Guest of Honour at the Frankfurter Buchmesse 2018" the stand of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia will be located in hall 3.1. (Gourmet Gallery).

Georgia is the only country in the world where wine production started 8,000 years ago and never been abandoned and is known as a cradle of wine, hence, the Ministry is going to support Georgian companies to participate on fair, mostly wine producers. The Ministry together with Georgian National Wine Agency is carrying out promotion activities to raise awareness about extraordinary and unique Amber Wine and cuisine, thus, various Georgian wine companies will be represented on Frankfurter Buchmesse, through support of the Ministry. Most of the participants are already focused on German market, they annually participate of "International Green Week Berlin" and their products are represented/for sale in Germany.

Together with wine companies, honey producers will have opportunity to represent Georgian Honey to visitors and participants of the fair. It is notable that, the EU has completed all procedures and Georgia is in the list of third countries from which honey import is allowed to the EU. The participants and guests of the fair will have the possibility to taste unique types of honey from the different parts of Georgia.

The most matching product for the honey, Georgian high-quality tea and confectionaries will be represented on Georgian stand with various assortments.



**Georgia**  
**Made by Characters**  
Guest of Honour  
Frankfurter Buchmesse 2018



10.–14. Oktober 2018  
**FRANKFURTER**  
**BUCHMESSE**  
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Likewise, the Ministry is planning to organize a unique events (hall 3.1), together with Georgian writers and editors during the fair days.

## **Innovation**

Georgia's innovation and technology agency will be presented with its booth at Frankfurter Buchmesse 2018. The agency is holding an open competition in order to come up with the most innovative and technological booth concept. Innovative Georgian designers and entrepreneurs are highly supported in order to participate in the competition and get a chance to be represented at Frankfurter Buchmesse. It should be noted, that along with the agency, 2 Georgian technological startups will be presented. The agency is also holding the internal competition within its beneficiary startups, in order to select and represent startups that best portray Georgian tech talent and potential. Along with an exhibition, startups will also be involved in different startup activities organized by German community.



**Georgia**  
**Made by Characters**  
Guest of Honour  
Frankfurter Buchmesse 2018



10.–14. Oktober 2018  
**FRANKFURTER**  
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## **“MenCare Campaign” at the Frankfurter Buchmesse 2018**

The “MenCare Campaign” aims at promoting men’s involvement as equitable, nonviolent fathers, partners and caregivers in order to achieve better health and family well-being. The campaign encourages men to support gender equality and women’s social and economic participation, thus, to contribute to harmonious development of the society. MenCare is open to all men, who share the vision and principles of the Campaign.

MenCare Georgia is conducted by UNFPA Georgia Country Office in cooperation with the local NGO We Care within the framework of the United Nations Joint Programme for Gender Equality funded by Sweden.

At the Frankfurter Buchmesse 2018 in the frames of Georgia Guest of Honour project, panel-discussions will be held in cooperation with LitCam.

### **How to get the campaign work**

MenCare Georgia – for Gender Equality – LitCam Stage

Mr. Karl Kullessa, UNFPA Representative in Turkey and the Country Director for Georgia and Azerbaijan and Ms. Lela Bakradze, Assistant Representative of UNFPA Georgia Country office will speak about the importance of fathers’ involvement in caregiving and household activities. The current situation in Georgia and other countries will be discussed with representatives of international Fatherhood Institutes.

### **Fairy tales and reality TV shows**

Ms. Mariam Bandzeladze (UNFPA Georgia, Manager, UNJP for Gender Equality), Alexandre Lortkipanidze (writer, TV personality and the author of “Lullaby for Lily”) and Davit Gabunia (writer) will discuss social, cultural and media activities in the frameworks of MenCare Georgia. Presentation of the book “Lullaby for Lily” will be held as well.

### **Sports Heroes, role models and gender equality**

Levan Kobashvili, a popular former Footballer in Germany and current president of the Georgian Football Federation with the German Football Association Foundation will show how “role models” can change attitudes.



**Georgia**  
**Made by Characters**  
 Guest of Honour  
 Frankfurter Buchmesse 2018



10.–14. Oktober 2018  
**FRANKFURTER**  
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## Facts and Figures

### “Georgia – Made by Characters” organisation

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Director of the Georgian National Book Center	Medea Metreveli
Head of Literary Programme	Maia Danelia
Head of Cultural Programme	Manana Berikashvili, Deputy Minister of Culture and Monument Protection of Georgia
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Concept pavilion Guest of Honour 2018	George Bokhua Studio
Design pavilion Guest of Honour 2018	MUA Multiverse Architecture and Tamara Kvesitadze
Press contact	Mirjam Flender, Kirsten Lehnert c/o projekt2508 GmbH, Bonn, Germany press@georgia-characters.com
Head of Guest of Honour Programme of Frankfurter Buchmesse	Simone Bühler, buehler@book-fair.com

### The book market in Georgia

Population	3.7 million
Area	about 70,000 km <sup>2</sup>
Gross domestic product	2016: US\$ 14.22 billion
Gross domestic product per person	2016: US\$ 3,842.4
Published books in Georgia	2015: 4,173 2014: 2,964 2013: 3,745
Sales per year	2015: 12,974,198 Lari (about € 4.41 m*)
Average book price	2015: 11.75 Lari (€ 3.99*)
Translated titles in Georgia	45% of all published titles are translations mostly from Germany, France, UK, USA, Poland, Hungary, Italy, Turkey, Canada, Mexico, Greece, Estonia and Ukraine
Publishing houses	2015: about 100
Biggest publishers in Georgia	Palitra L 27 Bakur Sulakauri Publishing Intelekti Publishers
Number of book stores	50, including 41 small ones
Share of book sales via internet	2015: 19% 2013: 6%
Translation GNBC 2011-2017	200 Georgian titles have been translated into more than 28 languages 60 published titles in German 40 foreign titles in the Georgian language

\* Figures in Euro according to the conversion rate May 2018



**Georgia**  
**Made by Characters**  
Guest of Honour  
Frankfurter Buchmesse 2018



10.–14. Oktober 2018  
**FRANKFURTER**  
**BUCHMESSE**  
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## The Guest of Honour Team

Ministry of Culture and Sport of Georgia together with the Georgian National Book Center, are the main coordinating structures for the programme of Georgia Guest of Honour at the Frankfurter Buchmesse 2018.

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#### Exhibition Programme

David Lortkipanidze

Ana Riaboshenko

Giorgi Kalandia

#### Head of Theatre Programme

Ekaterina Mazmishvili, Tbilisi International Festival Of Theatre

#### Head of Film Programme

Zurab Maghalashvili, Head of Georgian National Film Center

#### Head of Music & Performance Programme

Nino Nakhutsrishvili, Head of National Music Center



**Georgia**  
**Made by Characters**  
Guest of Honour  
Frankfurter Buchmesse 2018



10.–14. Oktober 2018  
**FRANKFURTER**  
**BUCHMESSE**  
Ehrengast Georgien

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Georgian National Film Centre  
Kote Marjanishvili State Drama Theatre  
National Musical Center of Georgia  
Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia  
Tbilisi State University  
Ilia State University  
Georgian National Center of Manuscripts  
Georgia's Innovation and Technology Agency  
Georgian National Tourism Administration  
Ministry of Agriculture of Georgia  
National Wine Agency of Georgia  
SOVLAB - Soviet past research laboratory  
Expo Georgia  
Embassy of Georgia in the Federal Republic of Germany  
Consulate General of Georgia in Frankfurt am Main, Germany  
Creative Georgia  
National Bank Of Georgia  
The Goethe Institute in Tbilisi  
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