

# ÉDITIONS Z ZULMA

LITTÉRATURES DU MONDE ENTIER

SPRING 2021



Jacques Stephen Alexis, Vaikom Muhammad Basheer, Abdelaziz Baraka Sakin, Yahia Belaskri, Jean-Marie Blas de Roblès, Chantal Creusot, René Depestre, Boubacar Boris Diop, Pascal Garnier, Hubert Haddad, Antonythasan Jesuthasan, Mélani Le Bris, Marcus Malte, James Noël, Auður Ava Ólafsdóttir, Makenzy Orcel, Serge Pey, Zoyâ Pirzâd, Joachim Schnurf, Laurence Vilaine, Fariba Vafi...

# ÉDITIONS Z ZULMA

## LITTÉRATURES DU MONDE ENTIER

Founded in 1991, Zulma has been until today especially interested in contemporary literature in France and all over the world. Publishing around twelve titles each year, seeking the highest quality, in novels as well as short stories, we become totally committed to each one of our books. We have published authors from over 30 countries and translated texts from more than 20 languages over the last 25 years. Our close relations with authors, translators and booksellers are at the core of our passion. Thanks to our paperback series we can offer the great work we publish to a wider readership.

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

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

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

### Some of our literary awards:

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

# AUÐUR AVA ÓLAFSDÓTTIR

## THE HUMAN ANIMAL / DYRALIF

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

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

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

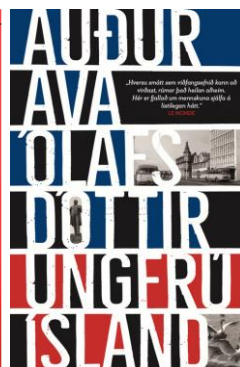
While the Icelanders are preparing for a terrible storm that will hit the island, Dómhildur discovers that her aunt has left her three manuscripts. These manuscripts are reflexions on the human nature, the light and the coincidence. These are also the themes of this novel.

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

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

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

Award-winning writer from Iceland, **Auður Ava Ólafsdóttir** is praised for her fresh perspective and her dark, incisive humor. She won the Nordic Council Literature Prize in 2018 for her novel *Ör (Hotel Silence)* – a novel already awarded by the Icelandic Literary Prize and shortlisted for the Italian Strega Award. She was also awarded the Prix Médicis in 2019 for her novel *Miss Iceland*.



**THE HUMAN ANIMAL**  
novel, 208 pages

To be published in France  
in October 2021

Original language: Icelandic  
Full English & French translations

**RIGHTS SOLD:**  
FRANCE : ZULMA  
ICELAND: BENEDIKT  
ISRAEL: LESA BOOKS  
ITALY: EINAUDI  
NORWAY: PAX  
UK: PUSHKIN PRESS  
US: GROVE ATLANTIC  
DENMARK: BATZER & CO  
HUNGARY: POLAR  
PUBLISHING  
CZECH REPUBLIC: ALBATROS

### PREVIOUS TITLES

*Miss Iceland* (published in 12 countries)

*Hotel Silence* (published in 24 countries)

*Rosa candida* (published in 20 countries)

And more on demand...



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# HUBERT HADDAD

## *The Mermaid of Isé / La Sirène d'Isé*

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

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

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

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

A magnetic, enchanting, luminous novel.

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

*Transfuge*

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

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



**THE MERMAID OF ISE**  
novel, 192 pages

Original language: French

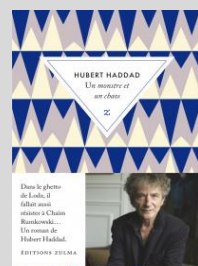
**WORLD RIGHTS AVAILABLE**

### OTHER TITLES

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

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

***Palestine***: upcoming movie adaptation by the Thinklab Production



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# LAURENCE VILAINE

## *The Giantess / La Géante*

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

Noële has always lived at the foot of the Géante ('Giantess'), the eternal mountain that dictates the cadence of her life, provides bundles of winter kindling, cornflowers, borage and gentian for infusions and salves. She has a witch's knowledge of plants and the natural world, acquired from the Aunt who took them both in: Noële and Rimbaud, her brother who doesn't speak but sings with the birds. She knows to expect nothing from on high, never raises her eyes to the sun. Tucked away in this far-off place, her existence is hardscrabble, like the mountain scree.

Suddenly, two strangers appear, breaking and entering her life with their story. Noële discovers desire, yearning, and love that can lift a person up, or weigh them down. She opens herself to the power of words.

**"A spell-binding *huis-clos*."**

Frédérique Fanchette, *Libération*

**"The reader closes this book with a touch of  
 wonder, and admiration."**

Damien Aubel, *Transfuge*

**Laurence Vilaine** (b.1965) is the author of an acclaimed first novel (*Le silence ne sera qu'un souvenir*, 2011). *La Géante* marks her return to fiction.

'To write is to shout in silence, to spit between the lines, to nurture a secret, to tingle all over, to thrill.'



***The Giantess*  
 novel, 192 pages**

*Original language: French*

Third print run.

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### PRAISE AND CRITICS

**"Laurence Vilaine conjures an atmosphere akin to that of Icelandic author Jon Kalman Stefansson."**

Kerenn Elkaïm, *LivresHebdo*.

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[rights@zulma.fr](mailto:rights@zulma.fr)

# JEAN-MARIE BLAS DE ROBLÈS

*What we are, here below / Ce qu'ici-bas nous sommes*

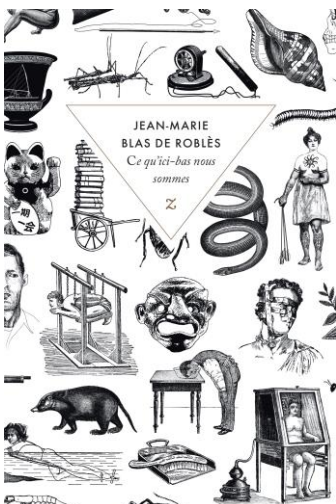
**A fantasist intellectual, confined somewhere in Chile, tells how, 40 years before, he discovered an unknown civilization living in the Libyan desert.**

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

In his luxury clinic retreat on the shores of Lake Calafquén in Chile, Augustin delves into his notebooks, sketches and annotations, to dress an inventory of his extravagant, epic journey – the inhabitants of Zindān, their bizarre mores, alimentary taboos, sexual practices, sacred objects and other telling signs – that quickly becomes a phantasmagoria. The world of the imagination mingles with the here and now, as if for a perilous immersion in the heart of darkness.

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

Winner of **Prix Médicis 2008**, shortlisted for the Goncourt Prize, **Jean-Marie Blas de Roblès** is a unique writer, who brings together magic realism, erudition, political satire, and the finest adventure tale tradition. Born in Algeria in 1954, he has spent some of his life in Brazil, France, Taiwan and Libya. Blas de Roblès has been translated into 14 languages, and has sold more than 200.000 copies in France.



## WHAT WE ARE, HERE BELOW

Illustrated novel, 288 pages

Original language: French

Blas de Roblès has been published in 14 countries and sold more than 200.000 copies in France.

## WORLD RIGHTS AVAILABLE

### PRAISE AND CRITICS

"One of the great curiosities of France's *rentrée littéraire* 2020."

Muriel Steinmetz, *L'Humanité*

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

Bernard Quiriny, *Lire*

### PREVIOUS TITLES

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

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

***La Mémoire de riz***

***L'île du Point Némó (Island of Point Nemo)***  
> 52 000 copies sold in France

***Dans l'épaisseur de la chair***

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## ABDELAZIZ BARAKA SAKIN

### *The Jungo / Les Jango*

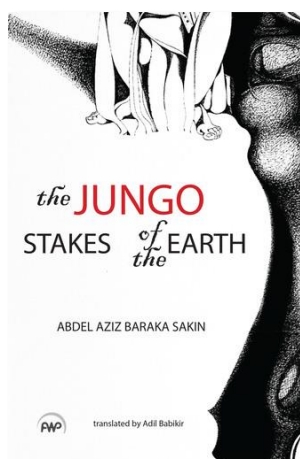
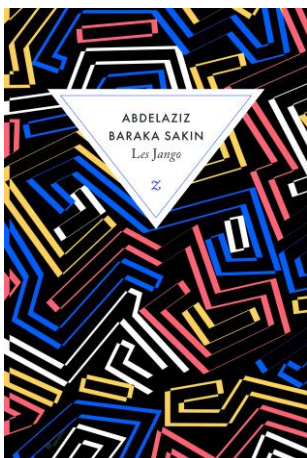
The Jungo, excentric seasonal farming workers are, “wise in the dry season and crazy in the rainy season” : they are the heroes of this human comedy. Baraka Sakin wrote a magnificent tribute to all freedoms.

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

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

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

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



#### **THE JUNGLO** novel, 352 pages

Winner of the Tayeb Saleh Prize  
Winner of the Prix de la littérature  
arabe 2020 (Arabic Literature  
Prize)

Original language: Arabic  
French translation available  
English translation available

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[rights@zulma.fr](mailto:rights@zulma.fr)



# MARCUS MALTE

## *Roadsides / Aires*

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

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

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

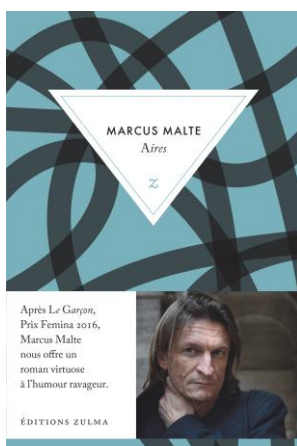
**“*Aires* is a strangely desperate novel about our unfulfilled passage on earth.”** Christine Ferniot, *Télérama*

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

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

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

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



***Roadsides*  
novel, 544 pages**

*Original language: French*

*Already 10,000 copies sold*

### RIGHTS OPTIONS

World English (Restless Books)  
Italy (Fazi)  
China (Zhejiang Literature)  
Greece (Opera)

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

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

Alexandra Schwartzbrod,  
*Libération*

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

*Publishers Weekly*

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

Mona Ozouf,  
*President the Femina Prize*

### PREVIOUS TITLES

*Le Garçon*, Prix Femina 2016  
(55,000 copies sold)  
*Fannie et Freddie*  
*Garden of Love*  
Grand Prix des lectrices de *Elle*,  
catégorie policier – 90 000 copies sold  
*La Part des chiens*

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## OUR AUTHORS

### *French and francophone authors*

Jacques Stephen Alexis

Jean-Marie Blas de Roblès — *Prix Médicis* 2008, *Prix de la Nouvelle de l'Académie française* 1982

Georges-Olivier Châteaureynaud — *Prix Renaudot* 1982, *Prix Goncourt de la Nouvelle* 2005

Chantal Creusot

Maurice Dekobra

René Depestre — *Prix Goncourt de la Nouvelle* 1982, *Prix Renaudot* 1988

Boubacar Boris Diop

Pascal Garnier

Hubert Haddad — *Prix des cinq continents de la Francophonie* 2008, *Prix Renaudot Poche* 2009, *Prix Louis Guilloux* 2013, *Grand Prix de la Société des Gens de Lettres* 2013

Koffi Kwahulé — *Prix Ahmadou-Kourouma* 2006, *Grand Prix ivoirien des Lettres* 2006, *Prix Édouard-Glissant* 2013

Mélani le Bris

Marcus Malte — *Prix Femina* 2016, *Grand Prix des lectrices de Elle, catégorie policier* 2008

Daniel Morvan

James Noël

Makenzy Orcel — *Prix Littérature-monde* 2016, *Prix Louis Guilloux* 2016, *Prix littéraire des Caraïbes de l'ADELF* 2016, *Prix Étiophile* 2016

Serge Pey

Joachim Schnerf — *Prix Orange du livre* 2018

Ingrid Thobois

Laurence Vilaine

Cécile Wajsbrot

### *Translated authors*

Barzou Abdourazzoqov (Tadjikistan)

Vaikom Muhammad Basheer (India)

Antonythasan Jesuthasan (Sri Lanka)

Auður Ava Ólafsdóttir (Iceland) — *Nordic Council Literature Prize, Shortlisted Premio Strega Europeo, Icelandic Literary Prize - Best Icelandic Novel* 2016, *Prix des libraires au Québec, Prix littéraire des jeunes européens* 2016, *Prix Médicis étranger* 2019

Zoyâ Pirzâd (Iran) — *Prix Courier International du meilleur livre étranger* 2009

Abdelaziz Baraka Sakin (Sudan) — *Tayeb Saleh Prize, Prix littérature-monde* 2017

Enrique Serpa (Cuba)

Fariba Vafi (Iran)

# CONTACT

Éditions Zulma  
18, rue du Dragon  
75006 Paris  
France  
[www.zulma.fr](http://www.zulma.fr)

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