

ALEKSEJS NAUMOVŠ

LATVIA



I. | Biographical information on the candidate

ALEKSEJS NAUMOVŠ

Lāčplēša Street 4-8, Riga LV-1010, Latvia

Phone: +37129252955

E-mail: aleksejs.naumovs@lma.lv

Since 1994 – Art Academy of Latvia, professor

Since 1979 – Member of the Artists' Union of Latvia

2019 - Head of International Jury, 27th Biennial of Illustration Bratislava

2007–2017

Art Academy of Latvia, rector

1997–2007

Art Academy of Latvia, vice-rector

1992–1994

Art Academy of Latvia, associate professor

1987–1988

Studies at Sorbonne Art Plastiques,

L' Ecole Nationale des Beaux-Arts de Paris, France | French government scholarship

1980–1983

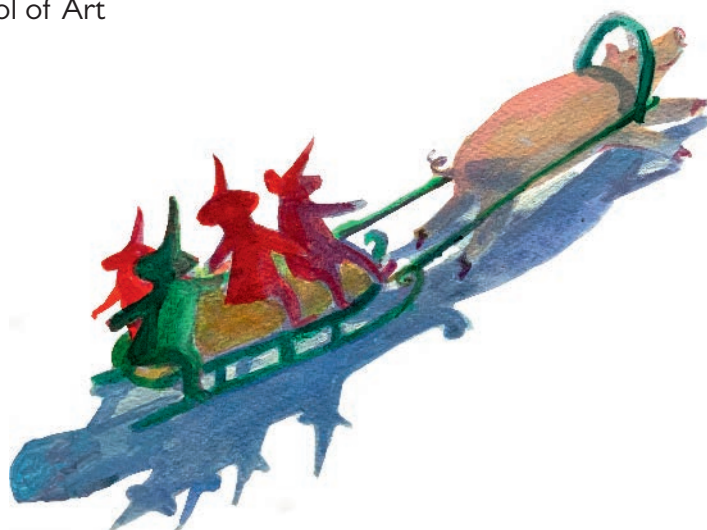
Creative graduate course in the masterclass of Professor Eduards Kalniņš

1973 – 1980

Art Academy of Latvia, Prof. Indulis Zariņš's Mural Painting Class

1968 – 1973

Janis Rozentāls Secondary School of Art



EXHIBITIONS

Aleksejs Naumovs paintings are exhibited in more than 100 solo and 50 group exhibitions in many countries through the world

The most important exhibitions with book illustrations:

2020

Illustrators' group exhibition *Found in the Book*. Nominees and winners of Baltvilks' prize. Exhibition hall of Cesis. Cesis, Latvia

2020

Illustration exhibition *Running with Wolves*. 38 illustrators from Estonia, Lithuania and Latvia. National Library of Lithuania. Vilnius, Lithuania

2019

Illustration exhibition *Running with Wolves*. 38 illustrators from Estonia, Lithuania and Latvia.

European Art Centre. Bialystok, Poland

2018

Illustration exhibition *Running with Wolves*. London Book Fair. 38 illustrators from Estonia, Lithuania and Latvia. London, United Kingdom

2018

Solo Exhibition *The Endless Landscape*, Latvian National Museum of Art. Riga, Latvia

2017

Exhibition and opening of the book *The Walking Leg*. National Library of Latvia. Riga, Latvia

2016

Ahoi! Flood in the Daugava. Illustrations for Juris Zvirgzdiņš' storybook. Exhibition at:

National Library of Latvia, Riga, Latvia

Dundaga Central Library, Dundaga, Latvia

Pārventa library, Ventspils, Latvia

Jelgava Scientific library, Jelgava, Latvia

2016

Illustration exhibition *It's Always Tea-Time*. 72 artists from 19 countries. National Library of Latvia. Riga, Latvia

2015

Illustration exhibition *It's Always Tea-Time*. 72 artists from 19 countries. Estonian Children's Literature Centre. Tallinn, Estonia

2014

Exhibition of children's book illustrations *So to say, it's worth getting mad*
Galleria Istaba. Riga, Latvia.

2014

5 x 5. Exhibition of Latvian children's book illustrations,
Westminster Library. London, UK

2013

24. *Biennial of Illustrations Bratislava*. Bratislava, Slovakia

2013

Competition *ZELTA ĀBELE (The Golden Apple-tree) Book art of restored Latvia in 20 years*. Exhibition of book art in Art Academy of Latvia. Riga, Latvia

2011

Illustrations for Children's Books (with Anita Paegle),
Estonian Children's Literature Centre. Tallinn, Estonia

2011

Fairy Tales of the Sea. 79 artists from 10 Baltic countries.
Estonian Children's Literature Centre. Tallinn, Estonia

2008/2009

Tour of Europe in 27 picture books,
National Library of France. Paris, France

2008

The Tale of the Tebra Beaver. Illustrations for Māris Rungulis' book.
National Library of Latvia. Riga, Latvia

2008

Children's book illustrations,
National Library of Russia, St.Petersburg, Russian Federation

2006

Tallinn Illustrations Triennial *Power of Pictures II*.
National Library of Estonia. Tallinn, Estonia



2. | A portrait photograph of the candidate



Aleksejs Naumovs

3. | A statement on the candidate's contribution to literature for young people

Letter of Recommendation To the Jury of the Hans Christian Andersen Prize

Nominating the artist Aleksejs Naumovs (1955) from the Republic of Latvia for the International Hans Christian Andersen Prize is a substantiated step. He is an artist with great experience – painter who has a very deep self-experienced sensuality and puts it in his illustrations. This is the most original side which has had resounding success not only in Latvia.

Professor Aleksejs Naumovs' achievements and successes are based on the purposeful life in art. He graduated from J. Rozentals Riga Secondary School of Art and the Monumental Painting Department of the Art Academy of Latvia under the tuition of professor Indulis Zariņš, continuing his training in the creative master class of professor Eduards Kalniņš. He received a French government scholarship (Sorbonne Art Plastiques, L' Ecole Nationale des Beaux-Arts de Paris) to study painting in Paris. He is active in Latvian culture, a member of many competition juries, has been the cultural attaché of the Republic of Latvia to France and a guest professor at several art academies in Europe. He has been the initiator, leader, exchange programme organizer and exhibition curator for various collaborative art projects in Italy, Sicily, France, Japan, Germany, Austria, the Netherlands, Spain, Greece, Russia, the USA and elsewhere.

A. Naumovs is an outstanding *plein air* painter. He has regularly participated in exhibitions since 1979, has taken part in and organised more than 50 group exhibitions and art projects, promoting the creative activities of students, and developing international contacts and cooperation with art academies in various parts of the world. He has held more than 100 solo exhibitions. The activities and contribution of A. Naumovs have also been recognised by the Latvian state: he has been awarded the country's highest award, Commander of the Cross of Merit.

For almost thirty years A. Naumovs has regularly contributed to book art. Many of these book projects have been created in collaboration with artist Aivars Sprūdžs, a master of book design. An important book in the history of Latvian art is the anniversary album of the Art Academy of Latvia (A. Naumovs, A. Sprūdžs, J. Blanks. Latvijas Mākslas akadēmija 1921-1996. Rīga: Jāņa Sēta, 1996), the authors of which introducing new design principles, created an original, high-quality publication. In collaboration with A. Sprūdžs he created the design for outstanding books illustrated by Anita Paegle (A. Paegle has been nominated for H. C. Andersen Prize 2012, 2016), which have regularly won acclaim in competitions.

His illustrations in the book "Pasaka par Tebras bebru" by M. Rungulis [Tale of the beaver of the Tebra, Riga: Pētergailis, 2007] won him a special award for using high quality painting illustrations in children's literature in the competition for the *Annual*

Prize for Book Publishing 2007. A. Naumovs' illustrations for M. Cielena's book *Pasakas par diviem* [Fairytale about Twosomes, Riga: Alis, 2003] has been included in the selection of international children's and youth literature *The White Ravens 2004* (IYL, Munich) and IBBY Honour List 2006.

A. Naumovs' illustrations for children's and youth books have been nominated for several times (2008, 2011, 2016) for the International Jānis Baltvilks Prize in Children's and Youth Literature and Book Art. In 2011 he won this award for the painted illustrations and design of M. Cielena's book *Princese Aurēlija un kokspoki* [Princess Aurelia and the Tree Ghosts, Riga: Lietusdārzs, 2011], that is also included in IBBY Honour List 2012.

A. Naumovs continues painting – every illustration resembles a painting as it is made in large format. Free strokes of the brush present clearly every character, place and time. Each illustration has a concrete motif, thing and people whom he encounters every day. His illustrations are like a bridge that connects the writer's story and the artist's life. The young reader experiences and imagines it as a dynamic, original film. Such is also the Pastariņš Prize awarded for *Ahoi! Plūdi Daugavā* [Ahoi! Flood in the Daugava, 2013] by Juris Zvirgzdiņš.

At present he is working on a new project together with a legendary Latvian animation producer Roze Stiebra. This will be a film *Sirds likums* [The Law of the Heart] telling about a kingdom in which no one had a heart, where no one actually knew what a heart was, because a heart was strictly forbidden in this kingdom.

Today, being in the isolation caused by the pandemic, many of the intended works have stopped to a certain extent but each of us individually continues to particularize our motivation and adjust the sense of our work. Aleksejs Naumovs paints every day – from nature finding inspiration in plein air and filling the world with new images, stories and intense emotions.

These qualities along with many more provide professional confidence that we have made the right choice in offering the artist Aleksejs Naumovs' candidature for Hans Christian Andersen prize.

Austra Avotiņa

PhD, art historian

Head of Department of Art and Technologies,

University of Latvia

January 2021



4. | One or two appreciative essays, interviews or articles

Santa Remere

“Bikibuki” for longer travels. On the new publication of the poetry picture books series BIKIBUKS.

The publishing house “Liels un Mazs”, 2014.

<https://satori.lv/article/bikibuki-garakiem-celojumiem>

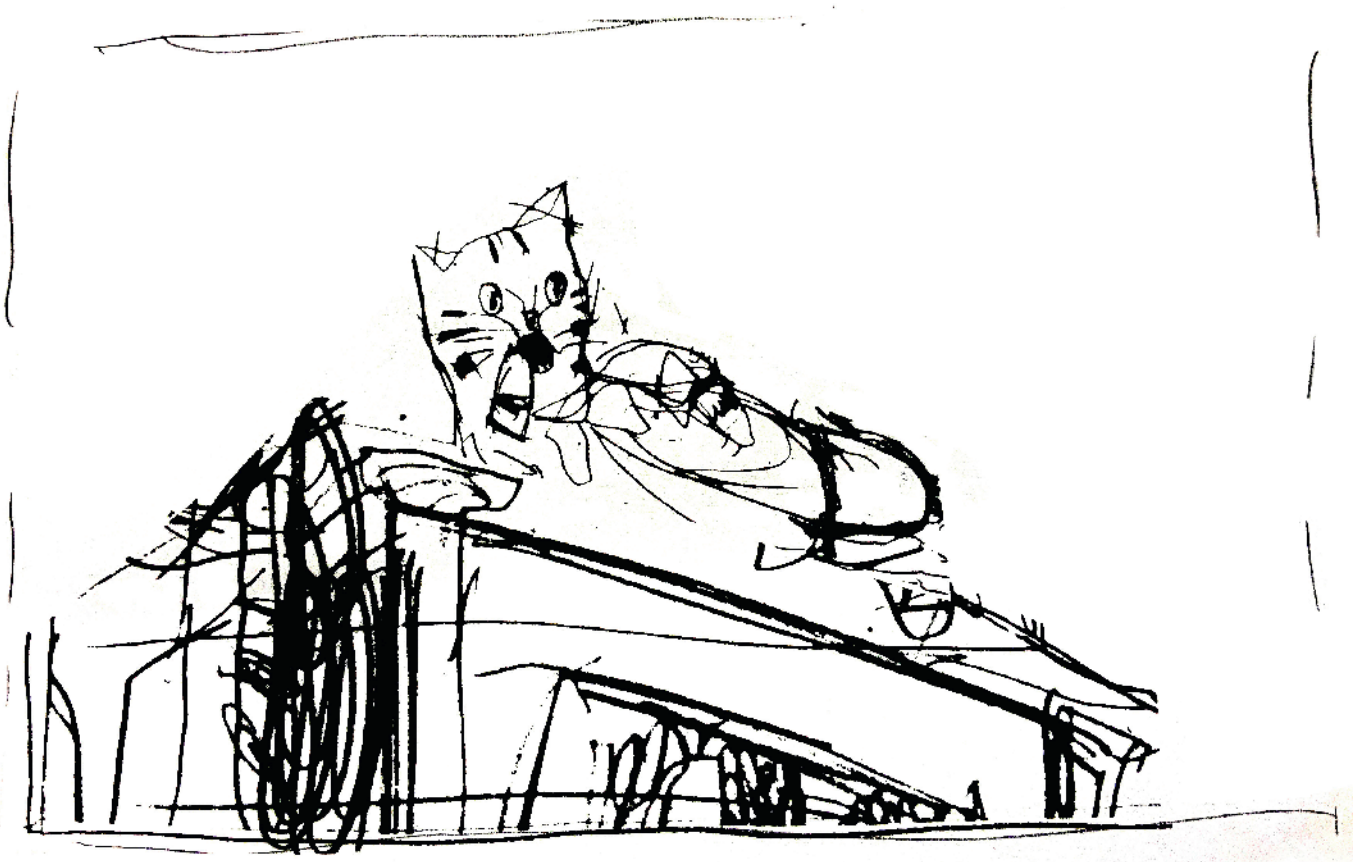


An excerpt

(...) “Cricket the Traitor” by Vilis Pludons (#015), in turn, preserving the mood of the end of the 19th century both in the language manner of the poet and the visually bright illustrations by the rector of the Art Academy of Latvia Aleksejs Naumovs about the tragic events in the house of a well-off landlord. Probably, this is the house of Pludons own childhood spent in the lush dales of the river Memele which now are owned by the refined corporal who has served his way up by tanning the hide of country mice. Naumovs has used lavishly the green cloth and luxury items in imitating the interior thus mocking the affluent landlord who follows the trends of Western fashion at the turn of the century. A fast and dramatic turn of events stops short the agile flow of happenings that are characteristic to Pludons’ ballads – a black lid of the coffin like a black screen stops the fooling of indiscreet *missies*, and only at the open grave everyone again becomes clean, white and folksy. This is a rather unexpected plot for a children’s book, yet this is unmistakably the most favourite

piece for Eugene in the latest publication, probably, exactly for the gamut of broad feelings and the ghastly ending. As regards the language, the poem brings to life some obsolete, juicy expressions that the child, most probably, will not encounter in his everyday life. And why not? Even if the pejorative designation of the cricket “ķirķis” is not the most needed word in the child’s vocabulary, he likes the sounding of it, but for me, the playful attitude to learning of the language helps to overcome the prejudices that one should speak somehow more “correctly” or “more understandably” in the presence of the child.

Naumovs and Plūdons together, to my mind, is even a too strong duet. The cat “corporal”, who actually is only mentioned in Plūdons’ poetry, comes to the forefront for Naumovs as a psychologically complex character with the timid countenance of the landlord who is able to turn into a lecherous and bloodthirsty murderer and then again during the funeral to remove his hat and look innocently at what has been done: sorry, those were the times and this had to be done. But something else turned out to be important for us in this book: the word “Riga” and the iconic view of the city with the hangars of the Central market.



5. | List of awards and other distinctions

AWARDS – ILLUSTRATIONS

- 2015 Pastariņš Prize for *Ahoi! Plūdi Daugavā* [*Ahoi! Flood in the Daugava*], 2013, by Juris Zvirgzdiņš
- 2012 IBBY Honour List for *Princese Aurēlija un kokspoki* [*Princess Aurelia and tree ghosts*], 2011, by Māra Cielēna
- 2011 The International Jānis Baltvilks Prize in Children's and Youth Literature and Book Art for *Princese Aurēlija un kokspoki* [*Princess Aurelia and tree ghosts*], 2011, by Māra Cielēna
- 2010 The Golden Apple-tree National Book Art Contest prize for *Princese Aurēlija un kokspoki* [*Princess Aurelia and tree ghosts*], 2011, by Māra Cielēna
- 2007 The Golden Apple-tree National Book Art Contest prize for *Pasaka par Tebras bebru* [*The tale of the Tebra beaver*], 2007, by Māris Rungulis
- 2006 IBBY Honour List for *Pasakas par diviem* [*Fairy tales about twosomes*], 2003, by Māra Cielēna
- 2004 The White Ravens for *Pasakas par diviem* [*Fairy tales about twosomes*], 2003, by Māra Cielēna
- 2003 Book Design Competition "The Most Beautiful Book" prize for *Pasakas par diviem* [*Fairy tales about twosomes*], 2003, by Māra Cielēna

AWARDS – PERSONALITY

- 2017
Boris and Inara Teterev Foundation - *Certificate of Honour*
- 2016
Republic of France *Ordre des Arts et Lettres – Chevalier*
- 2008
Latvian State Awards *The Cross of Recognition, Commander*
- 2005
Dante Alighieri Society Award diploma, medal for contribution to Italian-Latvian relations and popularising Italian culture
- 2004
Republic of Italy President's Award Order of Merit of the Italian Republic (*Commendatore della Ordine al Merito della Repubblica Italiana*)

NOMINATIONS IN THE BOOK DESIGN COMPETITIONS

2016 THE INTERNATIONAL JĀNIS BALTVILKS PRIZE IN CHILDREN'S AND YOUTH LITERATURE AND BOOK ART

Kaķis brīvdienās. [*Cat on the Vacation*] Author: Inese Zandere.
Illustrator: Aleksejs Naumovs. Rīga: Liels un Mazs, 2015. 83 pp.

2015 BOOK DESIGN COMPETITION "THE GOLDEN APPLE TREE"

Kaķis brīvdienās [*Cat on the Vacation*] Author: Inese Zandere.
Illustrator: Aleksejs Naumovs. Rīga: Liels un Mazs, 2015. 83 pp.

2014 THE INTERNATIONAL JĀNIS BALTVILKS PRIZE IN CHILDREN'S AND YOUTH LITERATURE AND BOOK ART

Ahoi! Plūdi Daugavā. [*Ahoi! Flood in the Daugava*] Author: Juris Zvirgzdiņš.
Illustrator: Aleksejs Naumovs. Rīga: Zvaigzne ABC, 2013. 44 pp.

2013 BOOK DESIGN COMPETITION "THE GOLDEN APPLE TREE"

Ahoi! Plūdi Daugavā. [*Ahoi! Flood in the Daugava*] Author: Juris Zvirgzdiņš.
Illustrator: Aleksejs Naumovs. Rīga: Zvaigzne ABC, 2013. 44 pp.

2008 THE INTERNATIONAL JĀNIS BALTVILKS PRIZE IN CHILDREN'S AND YOUTH LITERATURE AND BOOK ART

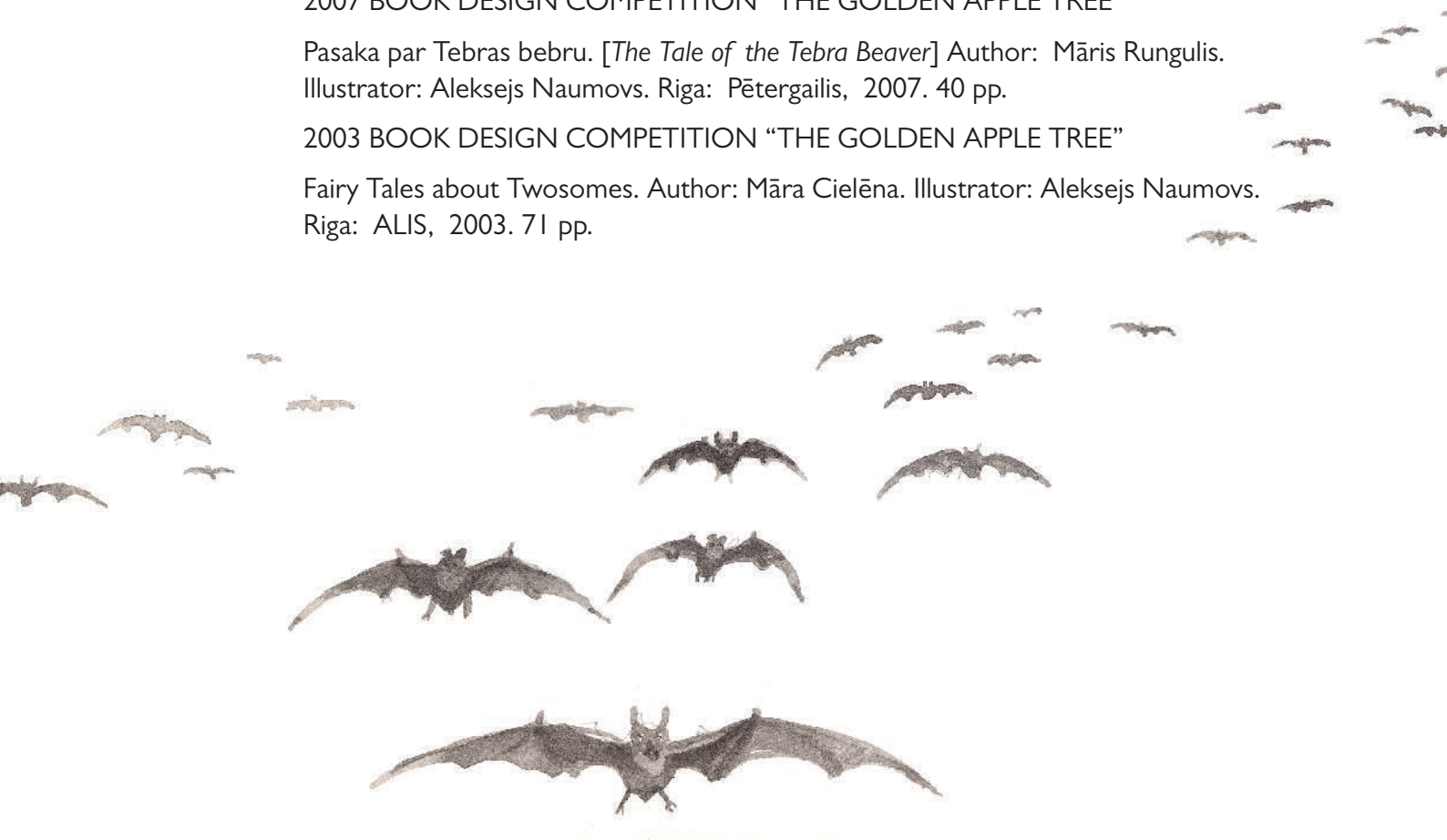
Pasaka par Tebras bebru. [*The Tale of the Tebra Beaver*] Author: Māris Rungulis.
Illustrator: Aleksejs Naumovs. Rīga: Pētergailis, 2007. 40 pp.

2007 BOOK DESIGN COMPETITION "THE GOLDEN APPLE TREE"

Pasaka par Tebras bebru. [*The Tale of the Tebra Beaver*] Author: Māris Rungulis.
Illustrator: Aleksejs Naumovs. Rīga: Pētergailis, 2007. 40 pp.

2003 BOOK DESIGN COMPETITION "THE GOLDEN APPLE TREE"

Fairy Tales about Twosomes. Author: Māra Cielēna. Illustrator: Aleksejs Naumovs.
Rīga: ALIS, 2003. 71 pp.



6. | Complete bibliography of the books for children by the candidate

- **Četras otas:** gadalaiku dzejoļi bērniem. [*Four Brushes: poems about seasons for children*]. Author: Uldis Auseklis. Illustrators: **Aleksejs Naumovs**, Signe Ērmane, Gundega Muzikante, Ilze Dambe. Rīga: Latvijas Mediji, 2019. 40 pp.
- **The Horse:** Latvian Authors & Illustrators Catalogue. Venstpils: The International House of Writers and Illustrators, 2017. 174 pp.
Authors: Uldis Auseklis, Pauls Bankovskis, Ērika Bērziņa, Leons Briedis, Rasa Bugavičute-Pēce, Māra Cielēna, Maira Dobele, Ieva Flamingo, Inga Gaile, Jānis Joņevs, Juris Kronbergs, Ieva Melgalve, Luīze Pastore, Ilmārs Šlāpins, Daina Tabūna, Sergej Timofejev, Kārlis Vērdiņš, Māra Zālīte, Inese Zandere, Juris Zvirgzdiņš.
Illustrators: Elīna Brasliņa, Rūta Briede, Edmunds Jansons, Ernests Kļaviņš, Maija Kurševa, Pēteris Līdaka, Rebeka Lukošus, Liene Mackus, Anete Melece, Gundega Muzikante, **Aleksejs Naumovs**, Anita Paegle, Reinis Pētersons, Juris Petraškevičs, Roberts Rūrāns, Vivianna Maria Staņislavska, Anna Vaivare, Māra Viška, Mārtiņš Zutis, Zane Zlemeša.
- **Colorful Tales.** Author Imants Ziedonis. Illustrators: by Dina Danosa, Elīna Ģibiete, Laura Krūmiņa, Rebeka Lukošus, **Aleksejs Naumovs**, Anita Rupeika, Dārta Stafecka, Vivianna Maria Staņislavska, Lote Vilma Vītiņa, Kristaps Zariņš, Zane Zlemeša. Rīga: Jumava, 2017. 64 pp.
- **Staigājošā kāja.** [*The Walking Leg*] Author: Leons Briedis.
Illustrator: **Aleksejs Naumovs**. Rīga: Pētergailis, 2016. 47 pp.
- **Kaķis brīvdienās.** [*Cat on the Vacation*] Author: Inese Zandere.
Illustrator: **Aleksejs Naumovs**. Rīga: Liels un Mazs, 2015. 83 pp.
- **Circenis, nodevējs.** [*Cricket the Traitor*] Author: Vilis Plūdons.
Illustrator: **Aleksejs Naumovs**. Rīga: Liels un Mazs, 2013. 23 pp.
- **Ahoi! Plūdi Daugavā.** [*Ahoi! Flood in the Daugava*] Author: Juris Zvirgzdiņš.
Illustrator: **Aleksejs Naumovs**. Rīga: Zvaigzne ABC, 2013. 44 pp.
- **Princese Aurēlija un kokspoki.** [*Princess Aurelia and Tree Ghosts*] Author: Māra Cielēna. Illustrator: **Aleksejs Naumovs**. Rīga: Lietusdārzs, 2011. 64 pp.
- **Es varēju nesteigties.** [I could have taken my time] Author: Liāna Langa.
Illustrator: **Aleksejs Naumovs**. Rīga: Lietusdārzs, 2008. 48 pp.
- **Pasaka par Tebras bebru.** [*The Tale of the Tebra Beaver*] Author: Māris Rungulis. Illustrator: **Aleksejs Naumovs**. Rīga: Pētergailis, 2007. 40 pp.
- **Pasakas par diviem.** [*Fairy Tales about Twosomes*] Author: Māra Cielēna.
Illustrator: **Aleksejs Naumovs**. Rīga: apg. ALIS, 2003. 71 pp.

- **Fairy Tales about Twosomes.** Author: Māra Cielēna. Illustrator: **Aleksejs Naumovs.** Riga: ALIS, 2003. 71 pp.
- **Märchen über Zwei.** Author: Māra Cielēna. Illustrator: **Aleksejs Naumovs.** Riga: ALIS, 2003. 71 pp.
- **Сказки про двоих.** [Fairy tales about twosomes] Author: Мара Циелена. Illustrator: **Алексей Наумов.** Riga: ALIS, 2003. 71 pp.



IMPORTANT BIBLIOGRAPHY ABOUT ALEKSEJS NAUMOVŠ



2019

- *Running with Wolves*. Exhibition of Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian illustrators. Compiled by: Viive Noor. Estonian Children's Literature Centre Estonian Graphic Designers' Association. 60 pp. https://www.elk.ee/wpcontent/uploads/2019/04/Running-with-Wolves_web_spreads.pdf
- *Global Vistas Exhibition*. May 18, 2019. Bridgeport Art Center. <https://bridgeportart.com/global-vistas-exhibition/>

2018

- *Aleksejs Naumovs / compiler: Antra Priede-Krievkalne; authors of texts: Austra Avotiņa, Helēna Demakova, Antra Priede-Krievkalne*. Riga: Neputns, 2018. 272 pp.: il. ISBN 9789934565410.
- Natālija Sujunšalijeva. Solo exhibition of Aleksejs Naumovs *The Infinite Landscape*. <http://www.mumspatik.lv/alekseja-naumova-personalizstade-nebeidzama-ainava/>

2016

- Alnis Auziņš. *The painter Aleksejs Naumovs in Dundaga* 20.04.2016. <https://www.dundaga.lv/lv/dundaga/aktualitates/makslinieks-aleksejs-naumovs-dundaga/>
- *Aleksejs Naumovs – the nominee for Baltvilks' award in book art*, 20.07.2016. <https://www.lsm.lv/raksts/kultura/maksla/aleksejs-naumovs-baltvilka-balvas-pretendents-gramatu-maksla.a192800/>

2015

- *Children's literature award "Pastariņš prize" has been given for the 17th time at Roja*. 28.05.2015. <https://satori.lv/article/roja-17-reizi-pasniegta-bernu-literaturas-balva-pastarina-premija>

2014

- *Avotiņa, A. Aleksejs Naumovs. The Collection of Impressions / Austra Avotiņa, Aleksejs Naumovs*. Riga: Jumava, 2014. 240 pp. ISBN 9789934115745.

2013

- *Avotina, A., Stikāne, I. Children's Books as Medium of Communication in Modern World. Sense Awards in Latvia*. In: *Anoškinová, V., ed. 24th Biennial of Illustrations Bratislava. Miscellany. International symposium BIB 2013. Biennial of Illustrations Bratislava. Bratislava: BIBIANA, 2013. pp. 103-112. ISBN 978-80-89154-41-8*

2012

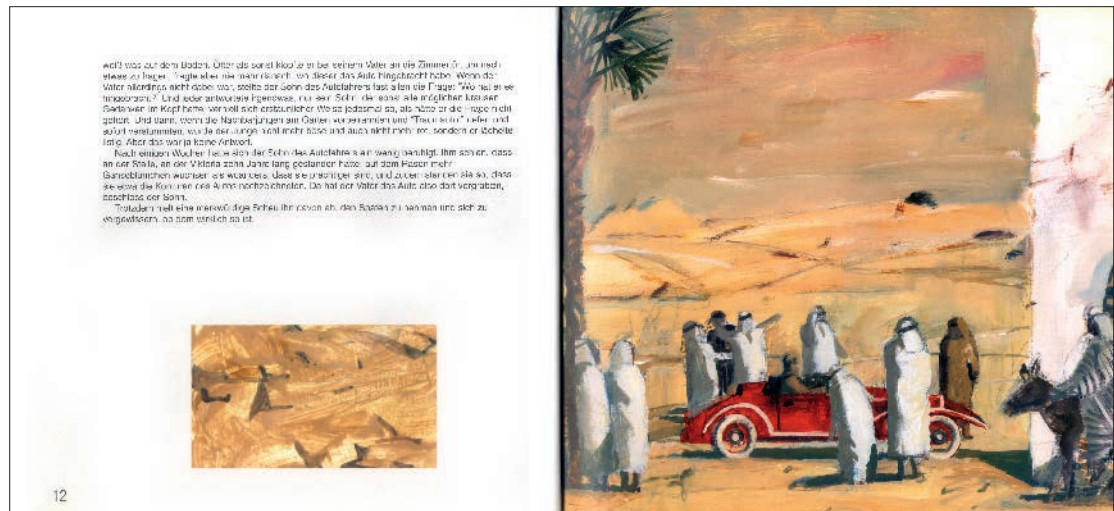
- *Latvijas bērnu grāmatu māksla gadsimtu mijā / Latvian Children's Book Illustration at the Turn of the Century / compiler: Austra Avotiņa; author of the text: Austra Avotiņa*. Riga: Latvijas Bibliotekāru biedrība 2012. 84 pp. ISBN 978-9984-49-494-4

Märchen über Zwei

Author: Māra Cielēna

Illustrator: **Aleksejs Naumovs**

Riga: ALIS, 2003. 71 pp.



8. | Ten of the most important titles by the candidate (even if out of print) and the name of the publishers of all editions

Book No. 1

Staigājošā kāja
[The Walking Leg]

Author: Leons Briedis

Illustrator: **Aleksejs Naumovs**

Riga: Pētergailis, 2016. 47 pp.



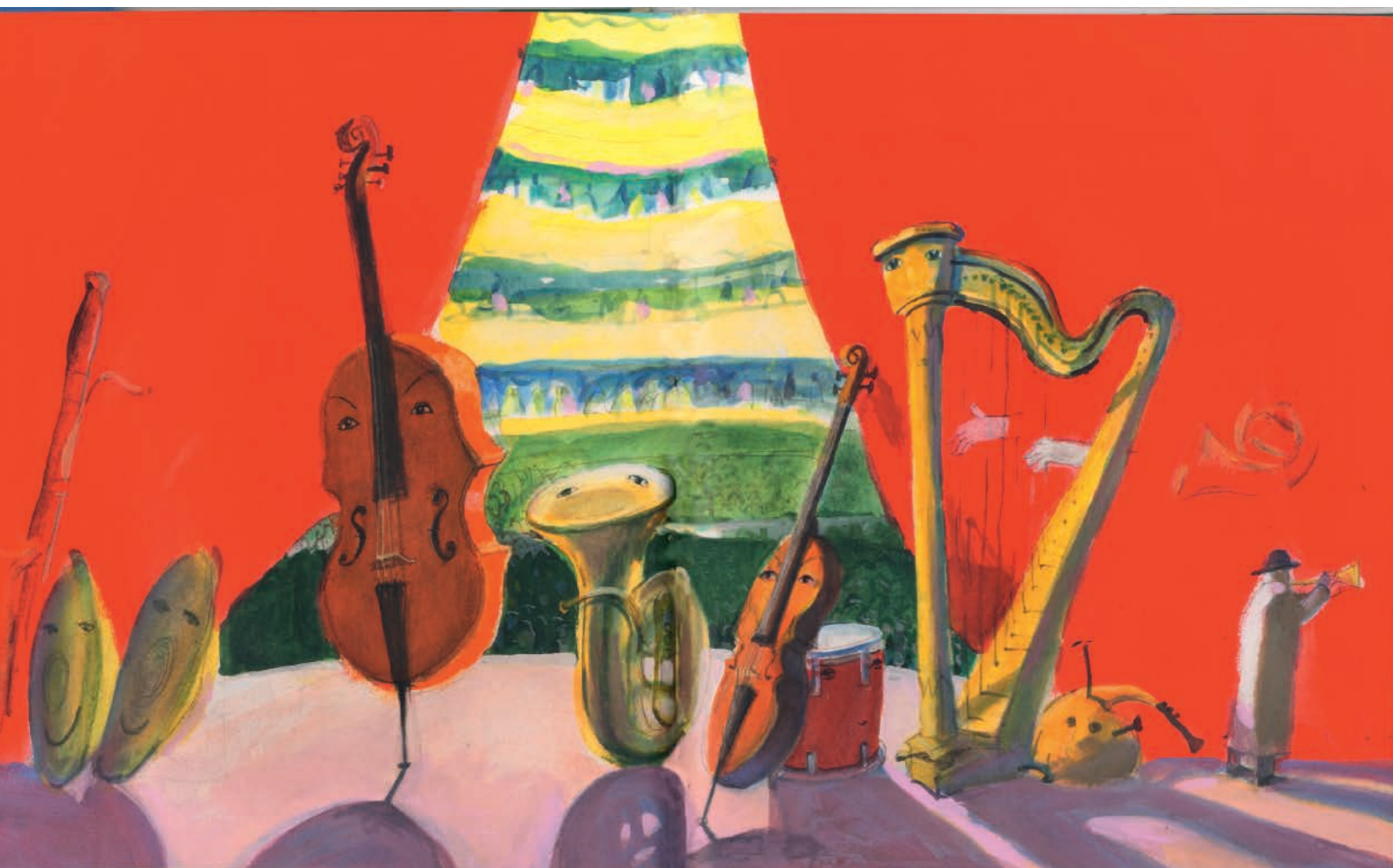
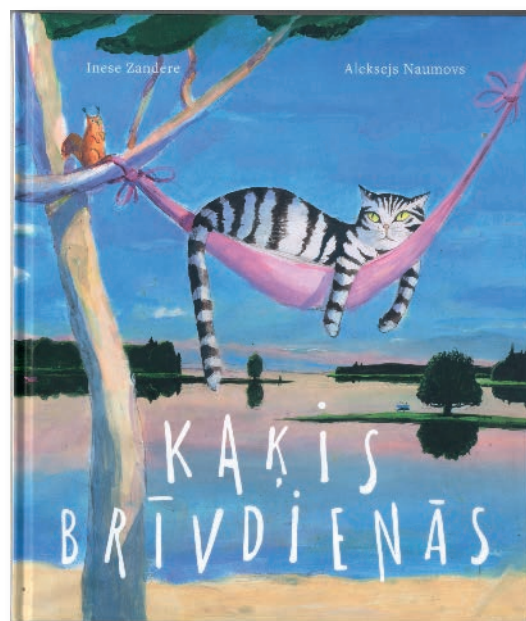
Book No. 2

Kaķis brīvdienās
[Cat on the Vacation]

Author: Inese Zandere

Illustrator: **Aleksejs Naumovs**

Rīga: Liels un Mazs, 2015. 83 pp.



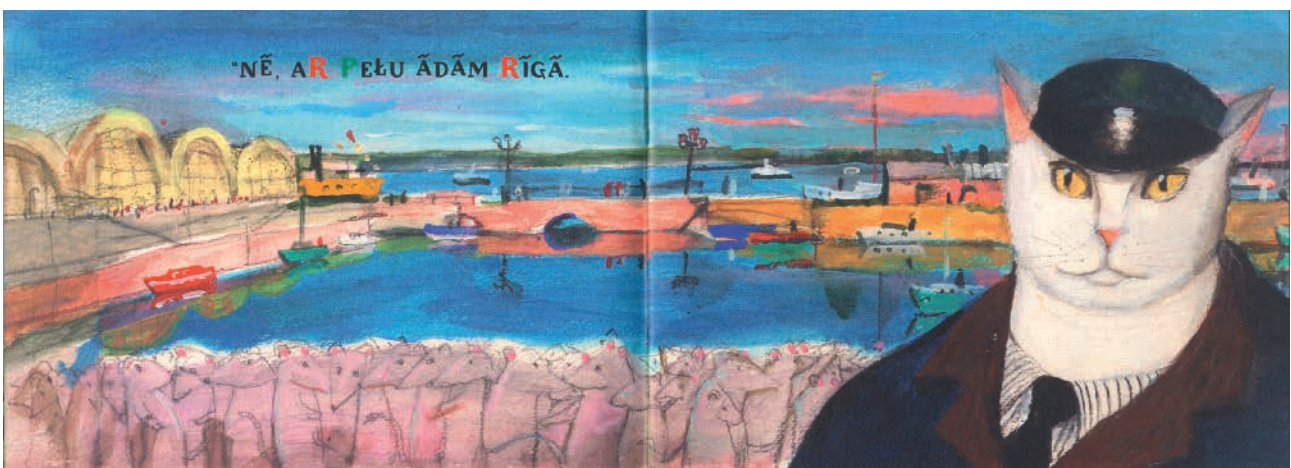
Book No. 3

Circenis, nodevējs
[Cricket the Traitor]

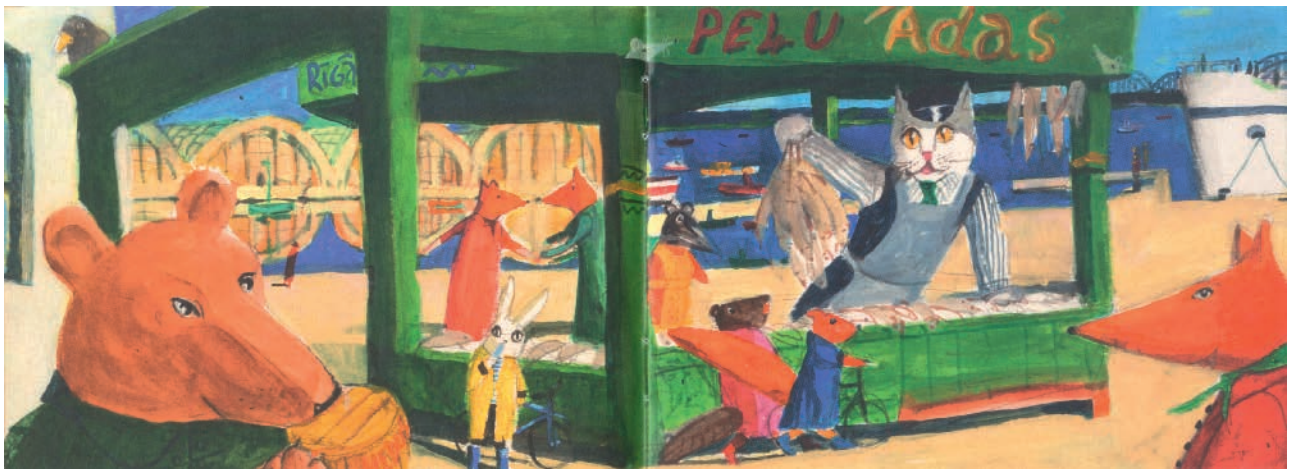
Author: Vilis Plūdons

Illustrator: **Aleksejs Naumovs**

Riga: Liels un Mazs, 2013. 23 pp.







Book No. 4

Ahoi! Plūdi Daugavā
[*Ahoi! Flood in the Daugava*]

Author: Juris Zvirgzdiņš

Illustrator: **Aleksejs Naumovs**

Riga: Zvaigzne ABC, 2013. 44 pp.



Book No. 5

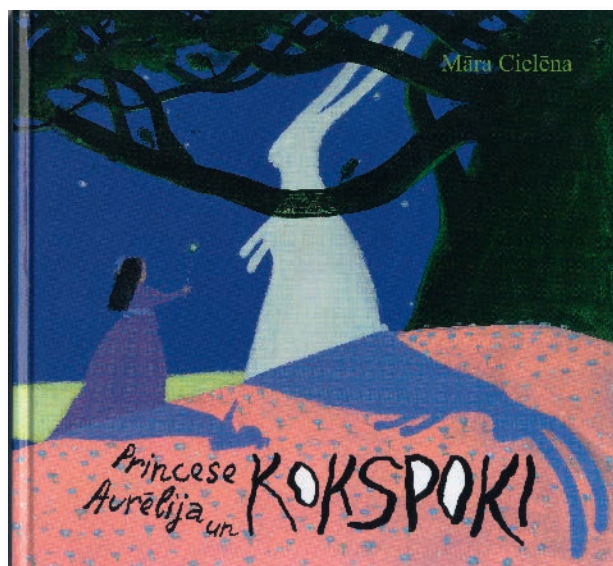
IBBY Honour List 2012

Princese Aurēlija un kokspoki
[Princess Aurelia and Tree Ghosts]

Author: Māra Cielēna

Illustrator: **Aleksejs Naumovs**

Rīga: Lietusdārzs, 2011. 64 pp.



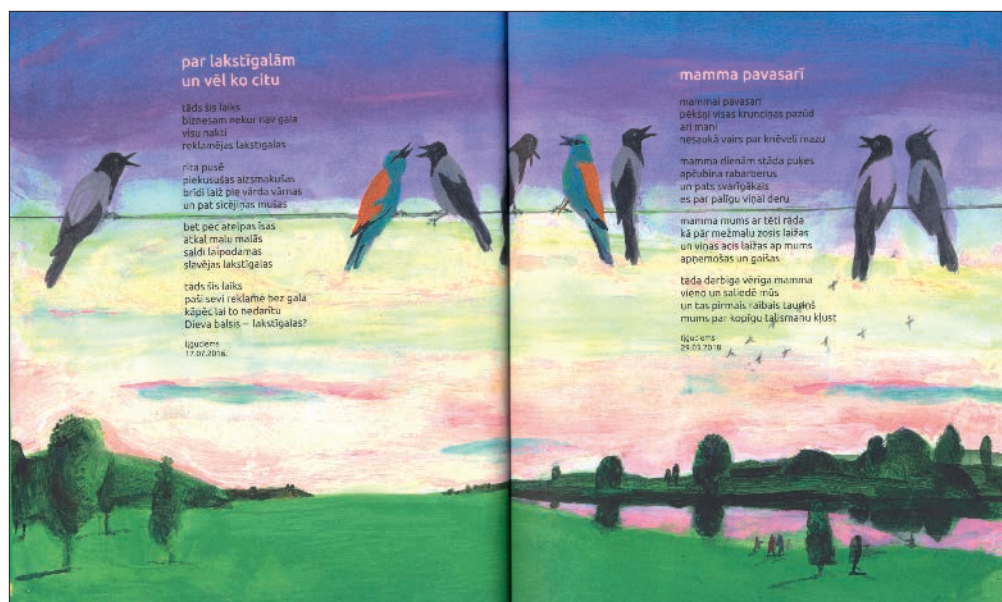
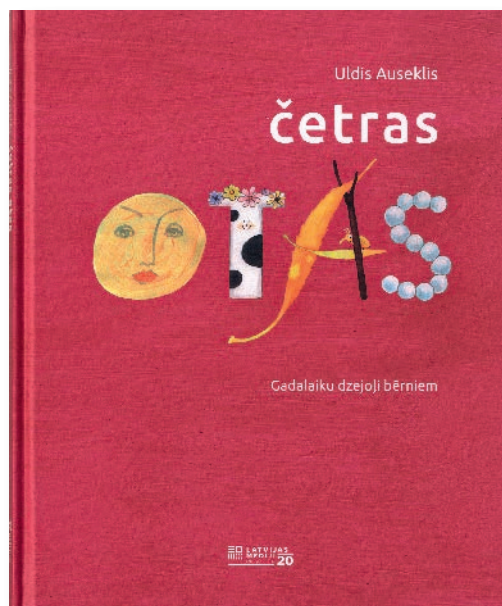
Book No. 6

**Četras otas:
gadalaiku dzejoļi bērniem
[Four Brushes:
poems about seasons for children]**

Author: Uldis Auseklis

Illustrator: **Aleksejs Naumovs**

Riga: Latvijas Mediji, 2019. 40 pp.



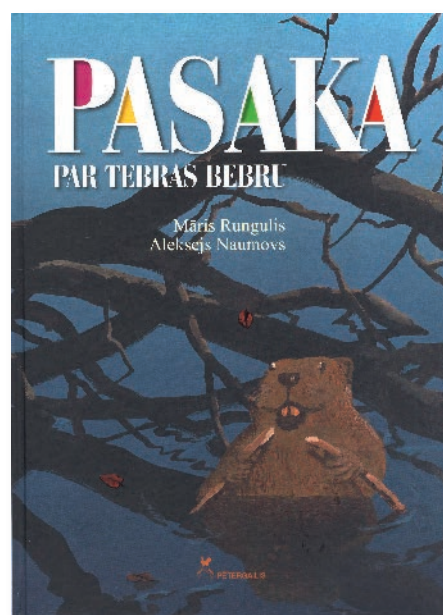
Book No. 7

Pasaka par Tebras bebru
[The Tale of the Tebra Beaver]

Author: Māris Rungulis

Illustrator: **Aleksejs Naumovs**

Rīga: Pētergailis, 2007. 40 pp.



Kūleņu kūleņiem,
Rīteņu rīteņiem,
Ripoja viņš lejā –
Pjunks!
Par augstu,
Par zemu –
Pat veiklām bebram –
Slēpās viņš
Kraštī vīrs Tebras
Atspīdies uz plašās aštes,
Rāpās bebrs otrreiz kraštī.
Sācēt kā vīleņi,
Sācēt kā mūca
Norūca pa krauju –
Pjunks!
Pacēla viņš
Iad zaru rokās:
"Peldi vien, kažoks,
Peldi, jēks!"



Kad sīgu laiks bija garāms,
Kad lauki pēc lietavām
Nehija vairs arāmi,
No svāģa kūrņa rakurna
(Ak, laivu trakuma!)
Izsprauca pieneņi.
Kamene, kas līgzdā
Lēni snandā laudās,
Kamene, kas liešu
Māju atvīlāt pat būdās,
Pavēra acis
Un ieraudzīja pieneņi.

Pieneņi dzelteni,
Pieneņi maigi,
Pieneņi pūkaini,
Siltiem vaigiem,
Pieneņi kā saulīte,
Pieneņi stari,
Piacacē varbūt
Sasidīt var!

9. | List of books sent to the jurors

Book No. 1

Inese Zandere
Kaķis brīvdienās
[Cat on the Vacation]

Rīga: Liels un Mazs, 2015



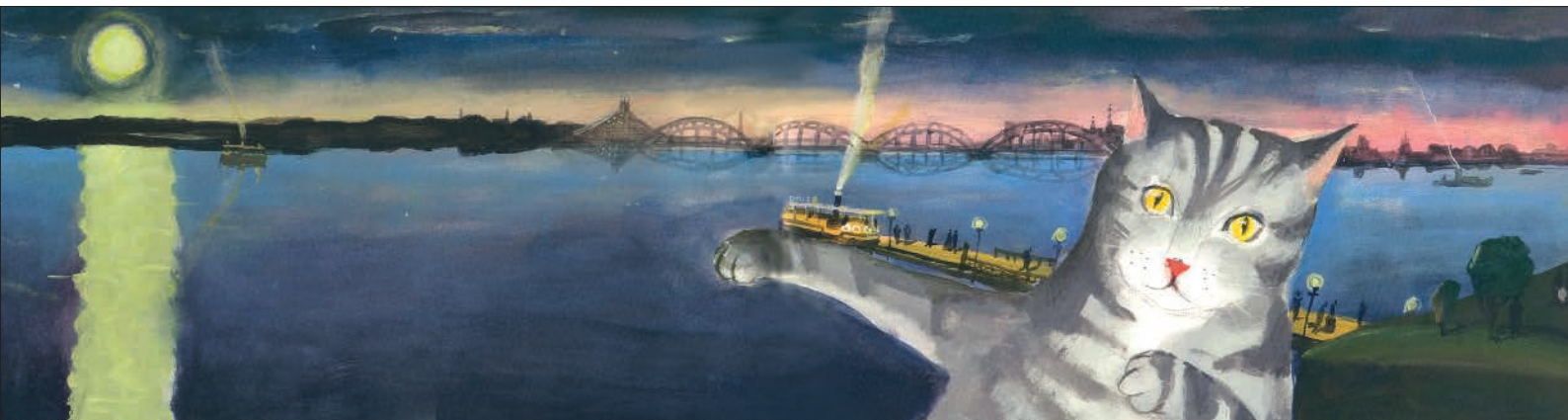
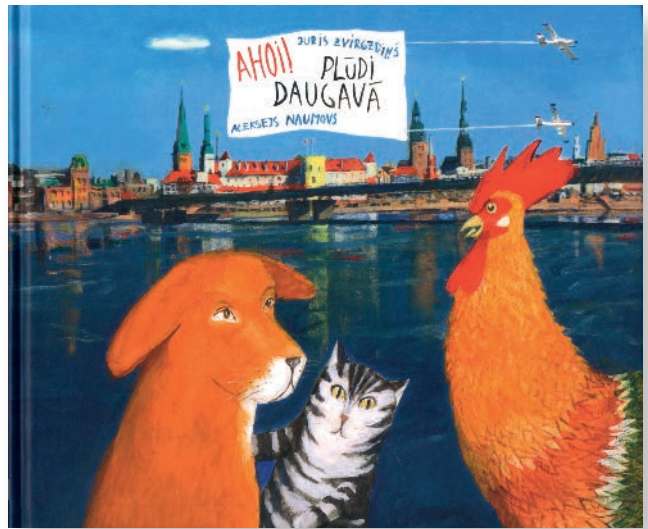




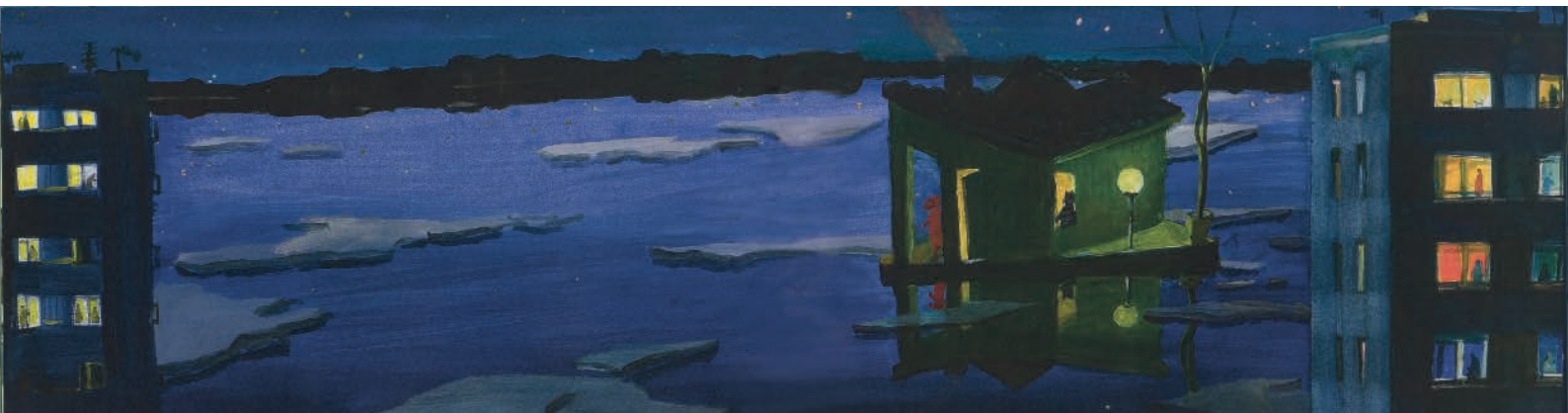
Book No. 2

Juris Zvirgzdiņš
Ahoi! Plūdi Daugavā
[Ahoi! Flood in the Daugava]

Rīga: Zvaigzne ABC, 2014.





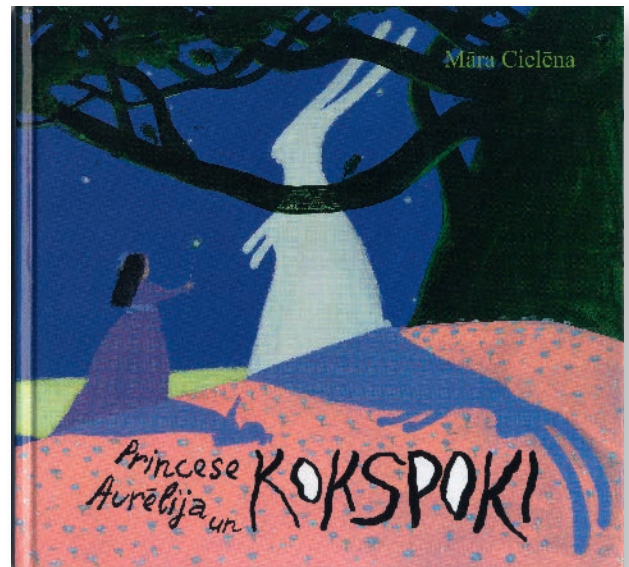


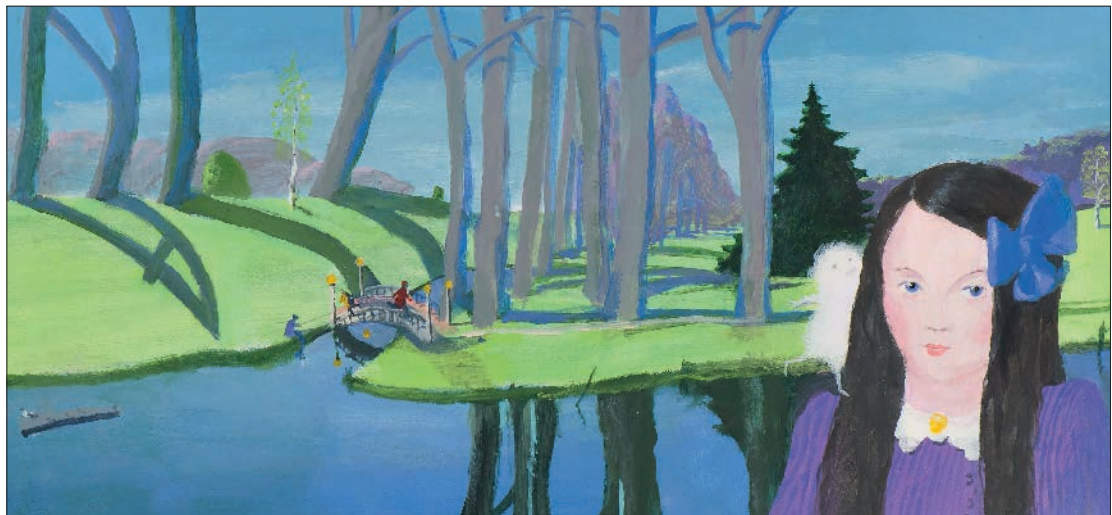


Book No. 3

Māra Cielēna
[Princess Aurelia and Tree Ghost]

Riga: Lietusdārzs, 2011.





Princese apsēdās uz nolikušā vitola zara un noglauda grubajaino mizu. Mazliet spieda dibenu, un viņa iegrozījās tenāk.

Rīta saules stari lohņāja pa slidenajām lapām, cits citu meklēdami un dzenādami.

Aurēlija prētā iemirdzējās vārdi, ko viņa nesēn bija teikusi draugam: Iedomājies, Pinkaini, ka tu audz, zaļo, salc kā koks! Un viņa pati grasījās to iedomāties, cerot tādā veidā uzverti trīs galvenos kokvārdus, ko varbūt pavēstītu vitols vai kāds cits koks.

Nākamajā brīdī Aurēlija nolēca no vitola zara tūk straupi, it kā cietā miza spiestu vēl stiprāk nekā līdz šim.

Pēkšņi viss bija skaids! Trīs galvenie kokvārdi bija atrasti!

Nu bija drīzāk jāsasatop kāds kokspoks, lai varētu paveikt uzdevumu līdz galam.

Kā aicinājumu saklausījās, no bērzu pudura, kas auga plavas malā, nošķīrās trausls bērziņš un skrēja princesei pretī. Aurēlija nepaguva izdomāt, vai tas ir tas pats, kurš naktī viņu bija aizvedis pie dižkokspoka.

Abi apkampās, un tad Aurēlija pacēla bērziņu un aiznesa uz mājām. Lāpstu sameklējusi, viņa veikli iestādīja mazo tādā vietā, kas redzama pa logu jau tad, kad viņa no rīta gūlītā pieslējas sēdas.

Ūdeni uz saknītēm lēdama, princese pameta skatienu apkārt un bērziņam sepus iecukstēja:

— Audz, zaļo, salc!

Viņa nebija kļūdījusies.



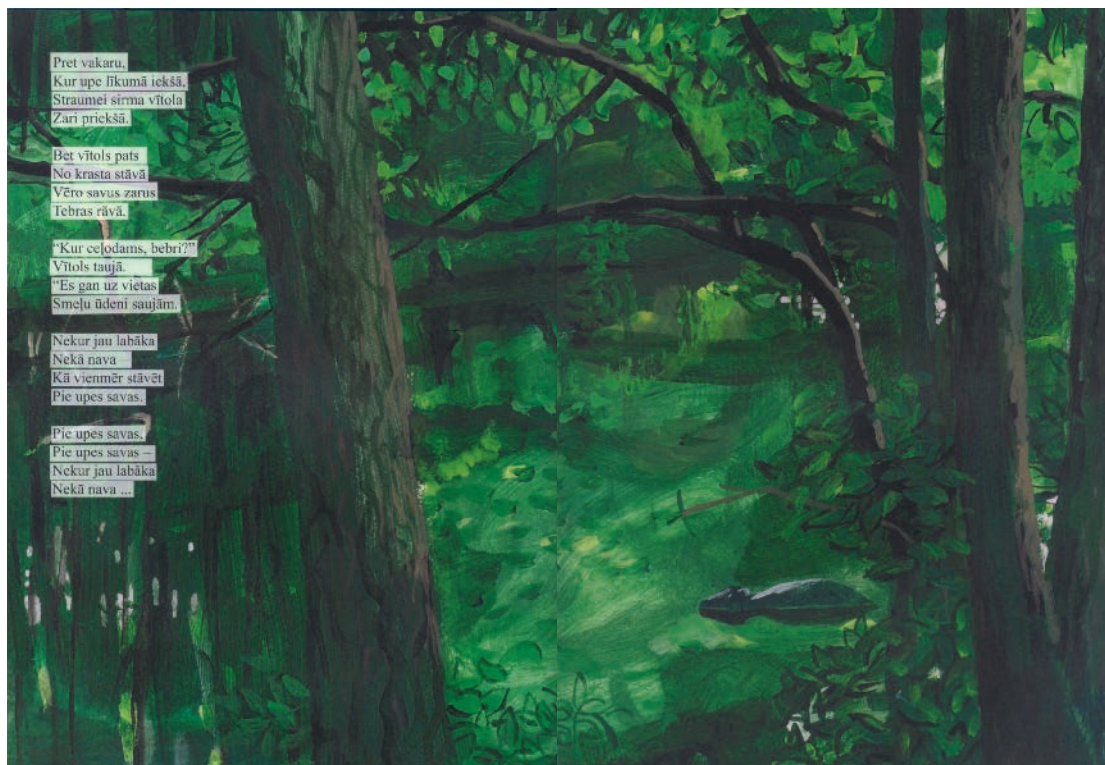
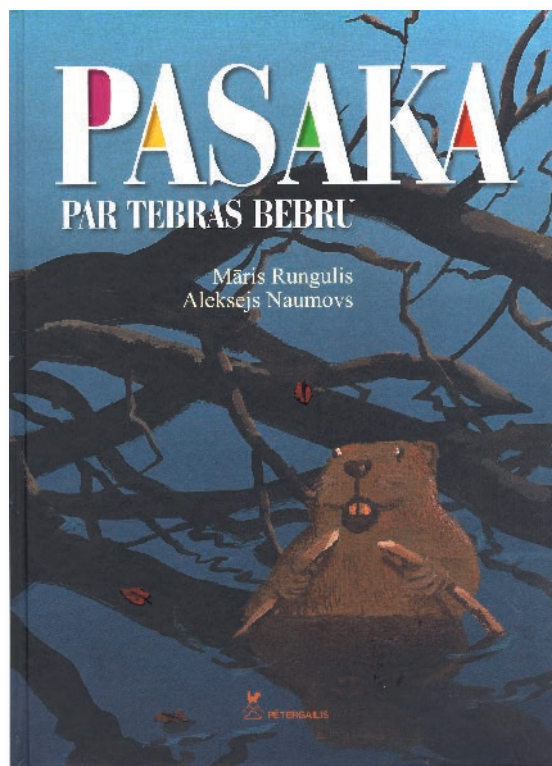




Book No. 4

Māris Rungulis
Pasaka par Tebras bebru
[The Tale of the Tebra Bearer]

Rīga: Pētergailis, 2008.



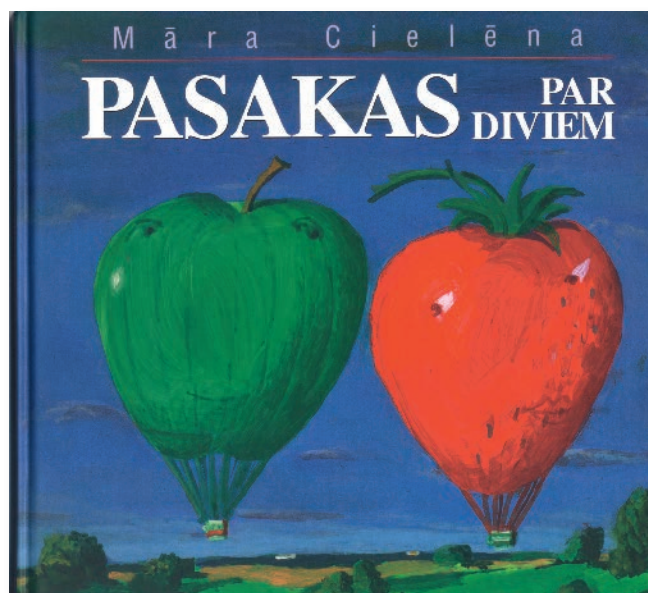


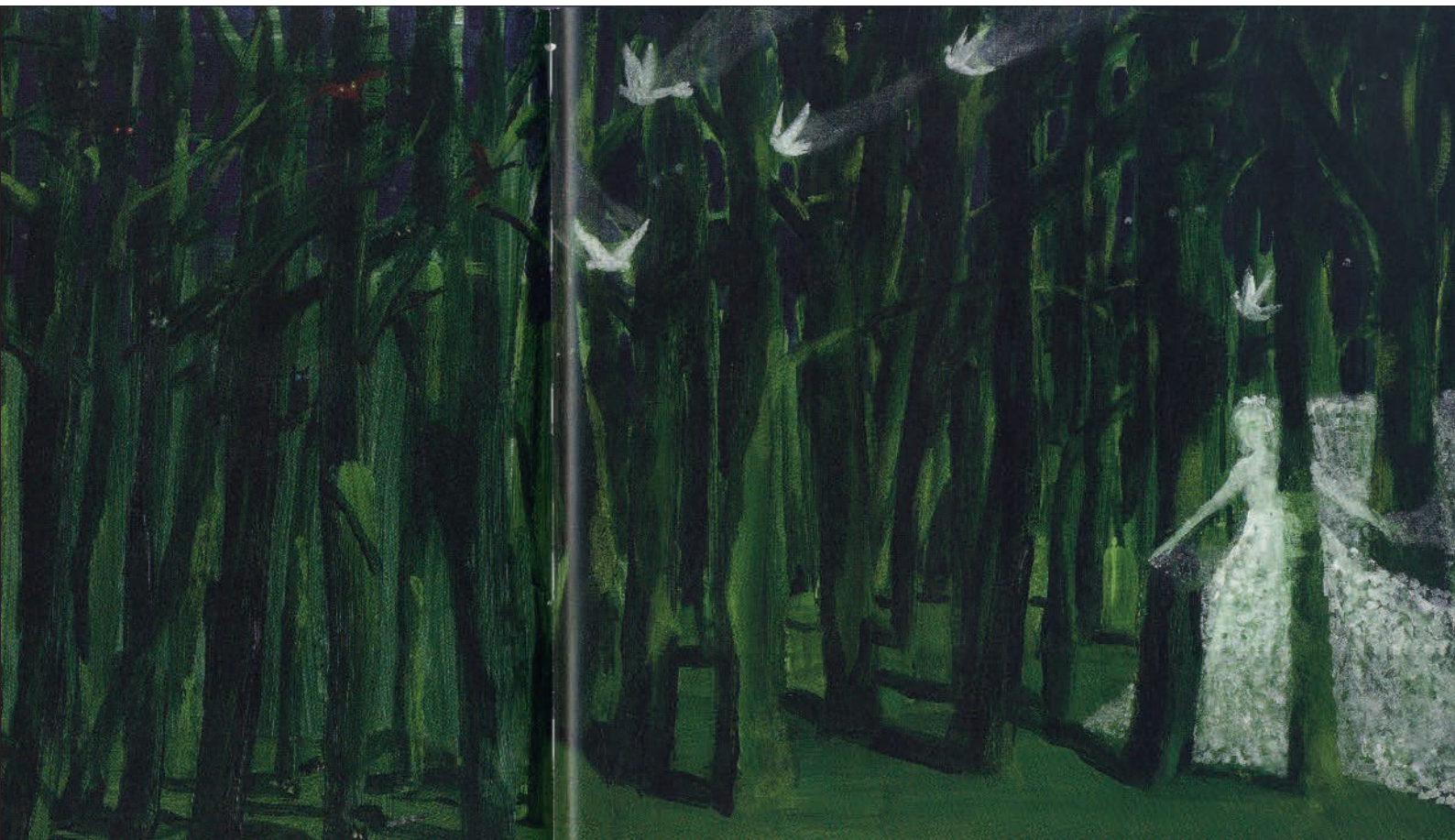


Book No. 5

Māra Cielēna
Pasaka par diviem
[Fairy Tales about Twosomes]

Rīga: ALIS, 2003







The painter Aleksejs Naumovs Dundaga 20.04.2016.

<https://www.dundaga.lv/lv/dundaga/aktualitates/makslinieks-aleksejs-naumovs-dundaga/>



On April 20, the painter and rector of the Art Academy of Latvia Aleksejs Naumovs attended the exhibition of his illustrations at Dundaga central library and met with Grade 11 learners of the secondary school.

We have already written about the exhibition of illustrations of Juris Zvirgzdiņš' book «Ahoi! Plūdi Daugavā» [*Ahoi! Flood in the Daugava*] at Dundaga library that is open to visitors till the end of the month. Twenty secondary school learners and their teacher of visual art Sandra Braže had a possibility to meet the illustrator, professor Aleksejs Naumovs.

The artist first told about the history of drawing the illustrations. This had made him to get acquainted with the river Daugava both driving along its banks and sailing together with his friends on the yacht from the Dole Island to its estuary in the sea. Sailing along the river offers always a different view on the bank and these observations had helped in creating the illustrations. The artist, first of all, is a painter although J. Zvirgzdiņš' book is not the first book illustrated by A. Naumovs. The painter also expressed his gratitude to his wife, a well-known Latvian book illustrator Anita Paegle for involving him in this work.

The story of J. Zvirgzdiņš presents a dangerous travel of three animals and friends, a cat, a dog and a rooster, along our destiny river until they are luckily saved. What has been experienced during the travel is reflected in the story and the accompanying illustrations. One essential conclusion— it is important that good people save you; however, it is no less important that it is not done immediately— first, you have to experience something!

Professor also invited the Grade II learners together with their teacher on the spot to draw their visions of these events. Everyone had a chance to express themselves! For some the dog was as big as a horse, for another — a lonely fish Nemo, and the teacher Sandra had left the cat alone with the bird's feathers on the piece of ice.... The rooster had cleared off, the dog had passed away, explained Sandra. Almost as the touch of Blaumanis....

The painter commented shortly on each work, praising the individuality and complimenting the searches of the young artists. Hearing one of the girls giving a comment on the classmate's work "this is almost like a Munch", the professor added that it was even more pessimistic than in Munch's works. Later in a more informal discussion over the cup of tea, the painter expressed appreciation of our visual art teacher who obviously had acquainted her learners with prominent painters and artists.

In my opinion, the visit of the famous painter excited children's curiosity in the world of art. Everyone's interest was roused by the professor's simplicity, modesty and the pedagogical knack which he had developed since early youth when due to pacifistic views he tried to escape from serving in the soviet army, and worked at Carnikava primary school.

Thank you to librarians who have organized this meeting!

Alnis Auziņš

photo by Diāna Siliņa



Kaķis brīvdienās. [Cat on the Vacation] 09.10.2015.

<https://satori.lv/book/kakis-brivdienas>

The publishing house “Liels un mazs” has published a collection of fairy tales for children’s by Inese Zandere “Cat on the Vacation”, the characters of which live in the landscapes created by the painter Aleksejs Naumovs.

The publishers of the book inform that this book can be viewed almost as the exhibition of paintings. A small town, a city and suburbs, the sea wind over the roofs and towers, summer houses, parks, the palace and opera house – these are the sites where the actions of 11 fairy tales take place.

The dynamic Christmas adventure fairy tale “The story of the roasted piglet” leads in the book. Observant becoming part of the nature describes the fairy tale “Cat on the vacation”, and the fairy tale in which the fairy old man Ticis Neticis (Believe Disbelieve) acquaints the children with a concert hall and the orchestra as a complete kingdom with its princes and princesses has a special place in the collection.

The book introduces new unfamiliar characters along the fairy tale heroes beloved by children in: the owl of the opera attic and the guests of her birthday party, the shopkeeper Mister Rooster and his customer Miss White Goose, the young beautiful snake that on a starry autumn night awaits for her child. Similitudes and modern tales emerge from the everyday observations and witty plots in these fairy tales that are rooted in the principles of traditional fairy tales and myths. The writer also offers the possibility to engage children in a play while reading these fairy tales.



The opening of Inese Zandere's latest book «Kaķis brīvdienās» [Cat on the Vacation]. 30.11.2015.

<https://www.lsm.lv/raksts/kultura/literatura/atver-jaunako-ineses-zanderes-gramatu-kakis-brivdienas.a157316/>

The publishing house “Liels un mazs” has published Inese Zandere’s book of fairy tales “Cat on the Vacation”. As written before, the collection of fairy tales is illustrated by the rector of the Art Academy of Latvia Aleksejs Naumovs. Before starting to visualize Zandere’s characters, Naumovs has read each fairy tale close to 150 times and now he knows almost all of them by heart.

Listening to the discussion between the author Inese Zandere and the painter Aleksejs Naumovs, it seems that the wave of satisfaction about what has been completed working on the fairy tale book “Cat on the Vacation” has not yet waned.

“There are two things that I really like in the field of illustrations. First, that each fairy tale ends in a drawing – not this big one but another smaller one, and each drawing has a shadow; whatever it is it has a shadow. The second thing – I feel awfully excited that Aleksejs has written “Zandere and Naumovs” on one of the pianos. What could be better than to be together on the piano,” Inese Zandere says.

There are several long fairy tales in the book that are devoted to opera and music, musical instruments. “When I paint, it is in Jurmala – in our summer house at night and I think how it will look in the day light,” tells Aleksejs Naumovs.

“What I like in Aleksejs’ illustrations is that these are real places, things despite that

they are the figment of imagination, because it is the same with my tales – I could tell some story from real life about each of my fairy tales,” explains Inese Zandere.

The collection of fairy tales has taken shape in the course of time. Zandere has written only some particularly for this publication. The conversation reveals that actually it could have been that there was no Zandere’s children’s literature and Naumovs’ art works if they had not chosen their present way of life in childhood or youth. Aleksejs Naumovs could have also been a cameraman or the figure skater.

“When I learnt at “Roziši” [Janis Rozentāls Secondary School of Art], there was an old teacher. He said – now you have to choose between sports and art. The time will pass and there will be no more sports, but art....and so I chose art,” tells Naumovs.

„Yes, I also had to make a very serious choice – either to go and work in the shop or to apply for the Faculty of Philosophy. I got sick and there was no choice – “the ambulance” took me to the examinations at the Faculty of Philosophy,” Zandere reveals.

The friends and acquaintances of authors most rave about the illustration on the book cover because the cat enjoys the state that many are looking forward to.

Madara Ābeltiņa



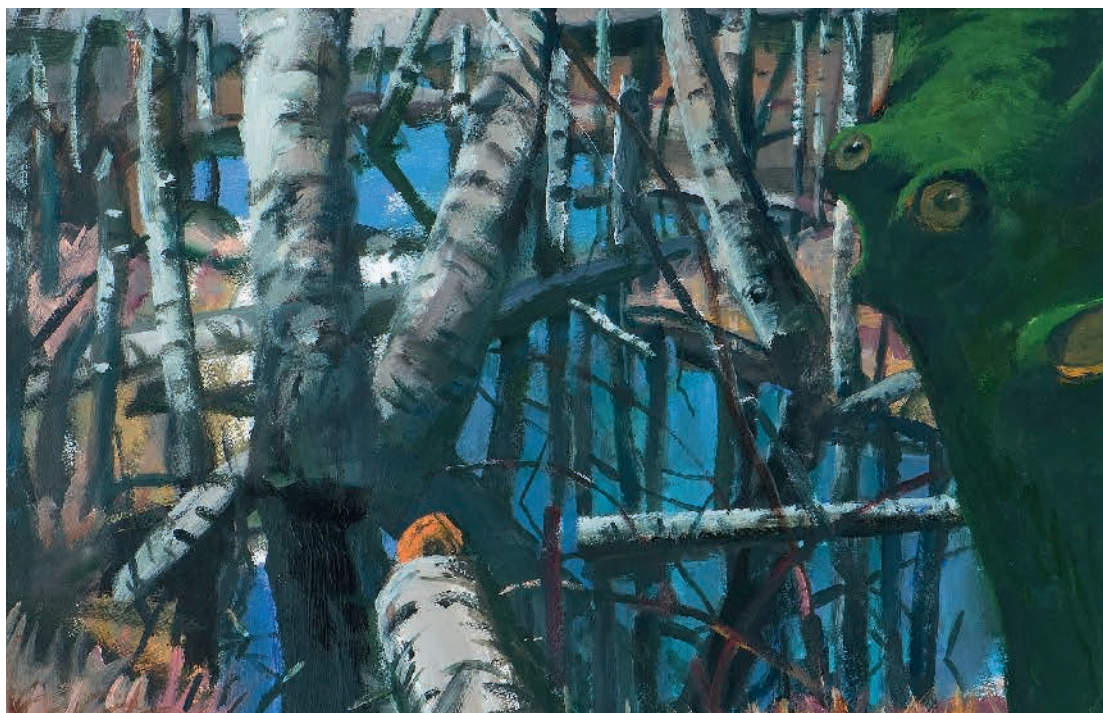


The double triumph of the *Princess Aurelia and Tree Ghosts*. 25.07.2011.

<https://www.diena.lv/raksts/sodien-laikraksta/princeses-aurelijas-un-kokspoku-dubulttriumfs-13893978>

The Jānis Baltvilks award, organized by the Board on Books for Children and Youth (IBBY Latvia) and which since 2005 has been awarded to best authors and illustrators of books, was presented on Sunday, July 24, the birthday of the poet Jānis Baltvilks (1944–2003). The ceremony took place in Riga New Theatre.

The jury evaluated 28 books that have been published since May 31 of the previous year till the same date this year. Of four writers nominated for the award, the fairy tales and poetry books by M. Cielena appealed the most to the jury as “a real and fantastic character lives there intensely and in a surprisingly modern way”. The jury has particularly noted the author’s book *Princess Aurelia and Tree Ghosts* (publishing house *Lietusdārzs*) in its verdict. M. Cielena tells that she associates the writing of this book with easiness. “It was interesting for me, the characters went their own way and during writing I did not know how the story will develop and how it will end,” she says.



Princess Aurelia and Tree Ghosts experienced double triumph on Sunday because the award was given also to its illustrator – the painter and rector of the Art Academy of Latvia Aleksejs Naumovs. All in all, the accomplishment of nine artists had been evaluated. “Mara’s fantasy appealed to me, there is vast room for the artist’s interpretation and I am happy that there was agreement between us,” states A. Naumovs.

The international Baltvilks’ prize was awarded to the Estonian writer Andrus Kivirehk and translator Guntars Godiņš for the book *Lotte from Inventors’ village (Zvaigzne ABC)*. The jury’s award of recognition went to Juris Kronbergs and painter Anete Melece for the “outstandingly concordant joint work on the poetry collection *Mākoņu grāmata*” [*The Book of Clouds*] *Liels un Mazs*.

The winners’ prize was a porcelain sculpture made by Inese Brants, a diploma, financial incentive as well as a possibility to live and work for a month in Ventspils International house of writers and translators and to receive a grant.

The members of this year’s jury: head of the IBBY Latvia Ilze Stikāne, head of the Children’s literature centre, National Library of Latvia Silvija Tretjakova, asoc. prof. Juris Petraškēvičs, Art Academy of Latvia, art historian Austra Avotiņa, actor Kaspars Znotiņš and writer Kārlis Vērdiņš.

Lana Kazlauskiena

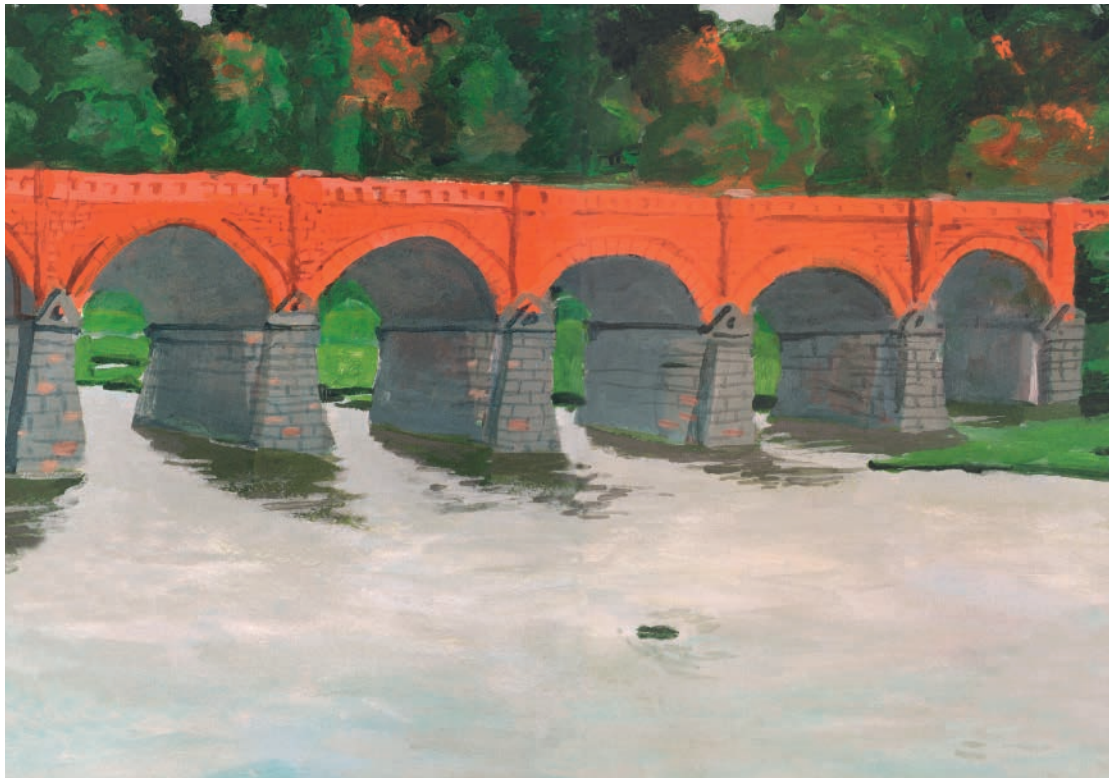


Jānis Baltvilks Award 2011

The award in children's book art goes to

Aleksejs Naumovs for his illustrations in Mara Cielena's book of fairy tales ***Princess Aurelia and Tree Ghosts*** [Riga: Lietusdārzs, 2011]. To illustrate the book, the painter has painted eighteen panoramic landscapes and given each of them special, bright and original colouring. The refined strokes of the brush, the contrasting lights and darks and the unusual perspectives create the impression of dynamic movement, a true feeling of the fairy tale in which there live peculiar, individual and extraordinary images, created by the writer and visualized by the painter's imagination - princess Aurelia, the Shaggy-haired Ķerainis, Adam the Thinker and others. Everything is alive and reverberant – the forest and Echo, Moon and orange, trees and even shadows. Unusual and yet at the same time almost familiar places turn into a mysterious world where everything is possible. Successful cooperation with the author of the design Aivars Sprūdžs and the computer expert Rauls Liepiņš has resulted in a unique design object of a children's book which is artistically homogenous in principle and convincing.

Austra Avotiņa



Opening of the exhibition “The Tale of Tebra Beawer”. 06.05.2008.

<https://www.apollo.lv/5320018/atklas-izstadi-pasaka-par-tebras-bebru>

On Monday March 10th at 16.00, the exhibition of the painter Aleksejs Naumovs' works “The Tale of Tebra Beawer” will be opened in the Exhibition hall of National Library of Latvia in K. Barona street 14, Elina Ģibiete, the head of the Department of Foreign relations and exhibitions, Art Academy of Latvia, informed the portal «Apollo».

Aleksejs Naumovs (1955) is known as an outstanding painter and academic staff beloved by young artists at the Art Academy of Latvia, the author of many solo and group exhibitions in different countries and continents, the winner of fresco painting biennale «The Golden Gryphon» (Doca, Italy, 1995), has received the award of the Italy – Latvia culture society (*Societa Dante Alighieri in Leettonia*) «Grand prize of the year 2004» for his contribution in strengthening cross-border relations and promoting culture as well as the order of Italian president «Ordine al merito della Repubblica Italiana. Comendatore » (2004).

The exhibition will display Aleksejs Naumovs' illustrations for the children and young adults' favourite writer, the author of many poetry books and stories, Maris Rungulis' book „The Tale of Tebra Beawer” which at the end of 2007 was published by the publishing house «Pētergailis». The painter, creating illustrations for the book, has taken many photos, made drawings and painting in nature, especially in Kurzeme, in Ugale, Engure, near the Tebra River. The key image of the book is a beaver, which, to certain extent, is a symbol of Latvia.



The exhibition will display the book „The Tale of Tebra Beawer” as well as other publications illustrated by Aleksejs Naumovs. They include Mara Cielena’s book „*Fairy Tales about Twosomes*”, which is translated in English, German and Russian and in 2003 won the 2nd place in the nomination “The Best Book of the Year”.

The authors of the book, illustrator Aleksejs Naumovs and writer Maris Rungulis, each separately are winners and hold the diploma of the *International Board on Books for Young People*, IBBY, (2006).

The organizers of the exhibition hope that colourful pieces of art characterizing the nature of Latvia will leave indifferent neither children, nor their parents.

The exhibition of illustrations of the book „The Tale of Tebra Beawer” will be open till April 2 in the National Library of Latvia Exhibition hall.

Cielēna, Māra (text) Naumovs, Aleksejs (illus.)

Pasakas par diviem (Fairy Tales about Twosomes)

Rīga : Apgāds ALIS, 2003. 70 pp. ISBN 953-6613-49-2

(German parallel ed.: Märchen über zwei. Rīga : Apgāds ALIS, 2003.

Transl. Aleksandrs Šmits)

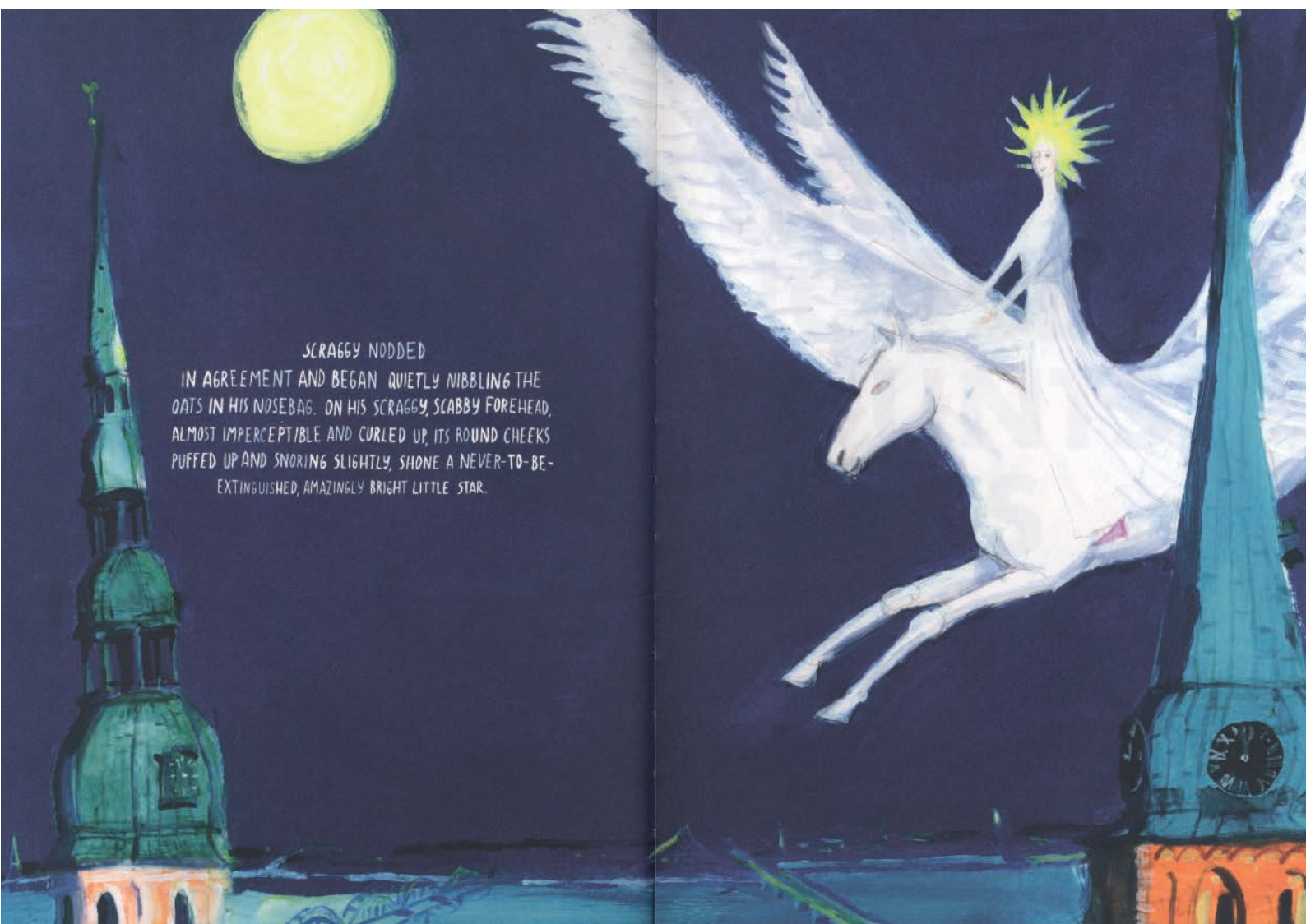
<http://www.childrenslibrary.org/servlet/WhiteRavens?searchText=Naumovs>



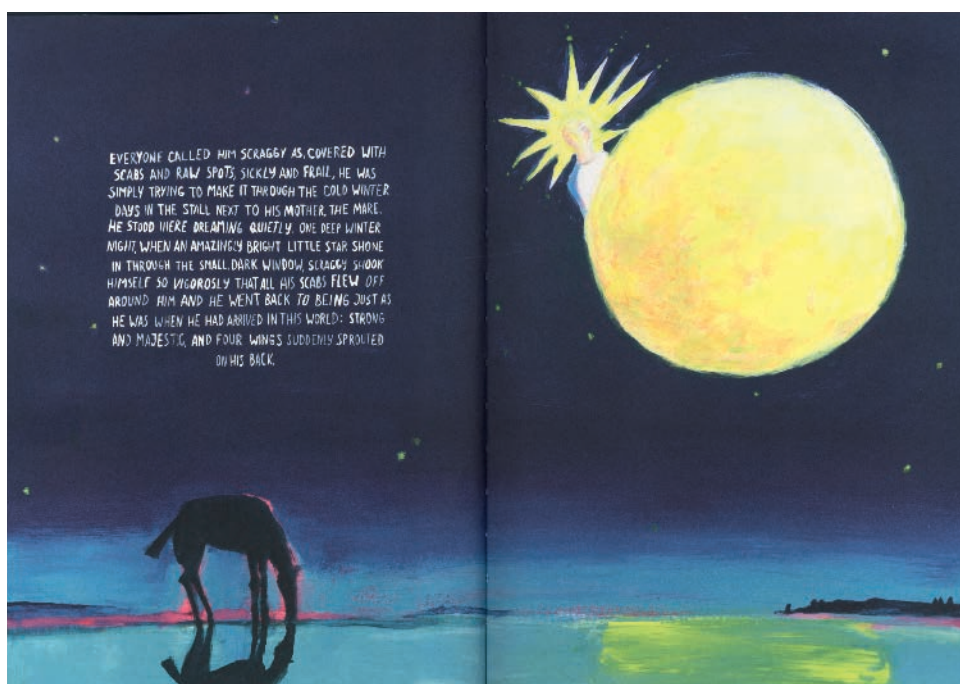
Relationship between two parties – Imagination

In her modern fairy tales and fantasy stories, popular Latvian author Mara Cielena tells poetic tales full of imagination about the relationship between two parties as diverse as personified objects, human beings, pictures that have come alive, and natural phenomena. The illustrations, rendered in a style that perfectly complements the stories, entrance the readers with their brightly glowing colours. Although the stories themselves are rather unspectacular, they are delightfully unconventional and take a completely unexpected turn at the end. (10+)

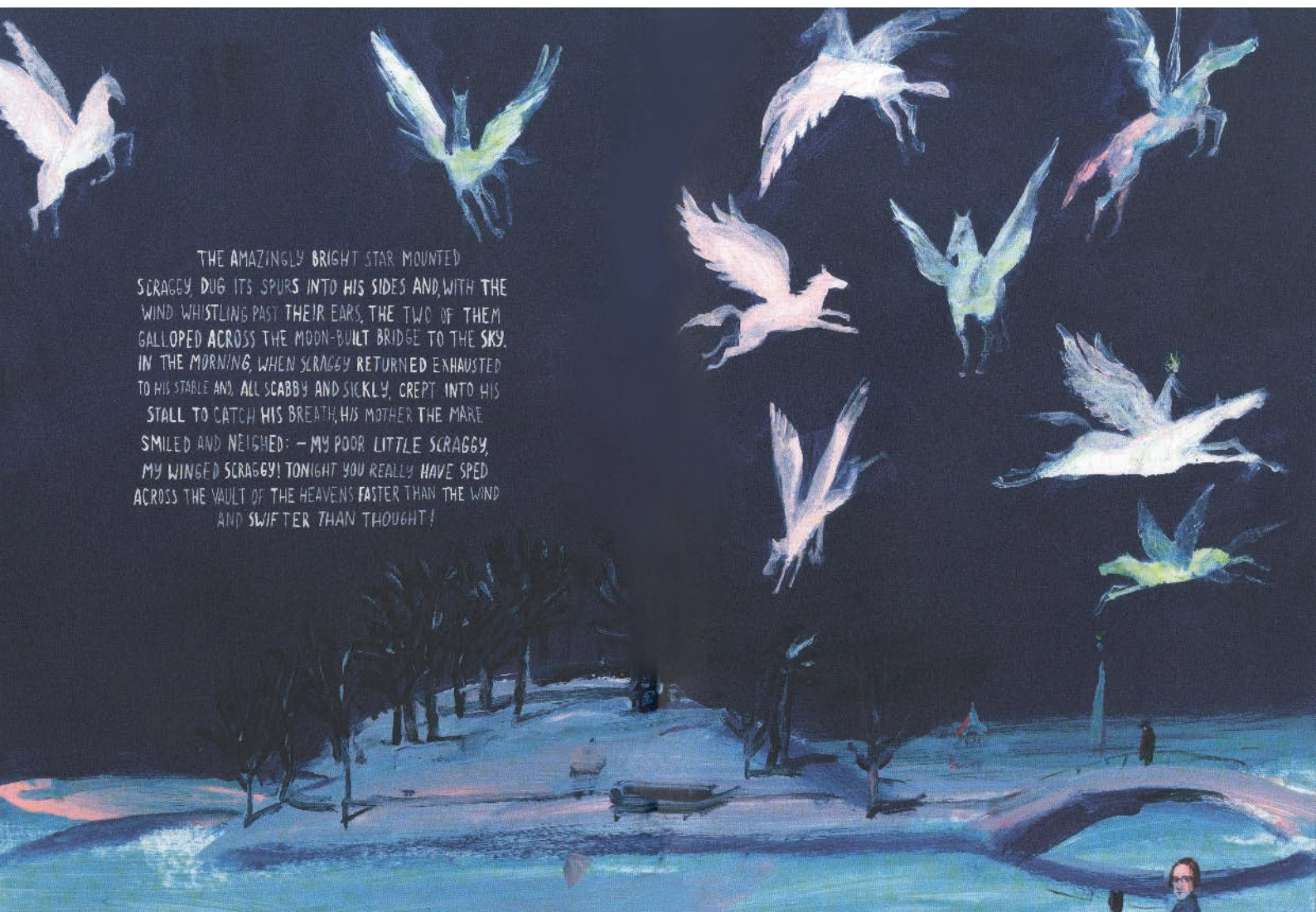
Two balloons; a wall and a shadow; Buzella and Growler; a small couple of humans drawn on a wall. Each endearing, quaint, sin-cere, awkward, intelligent and engrossing, they give each other the gift of friendship and love. These stories are touching, funny, serious and cheerful. The illustrations are on paper using an acrylic technique. The style is picturesque, romantic, with charming characters, successful compositions and interesting colour attitudes, with fine details and strong colours.



SCRAGGY NODDED
IN AGREEMENT AND BEGAN QUIETLY NIBBLING THE
OATS IN HIS NOSEBAG. ON HIS SCRAGGY, SCABBY FOREHEAD,
ALMOST IMPERCEPTIBLE AND CURLED UP, ITS ROUND CHEEKS
PUFFED UP AND SNORING SLIGHTLY, SHONE A NEVER-TO-BE-
EXTINGUISHED, AMAZINGLY BRIGHT LITTLE STAR.



EVERYONE CALLED HIM SCRAGGY AS COVERED WITH
SCABS AND RAW SPOTS SICKLY AND FRAIL, HE WAS
SIMPLY TRYING TO MAKE IT THROUGH THE COLD WINTER
DAYS IN THE STALL NEXT TO HIS MOTHER, THE MARE.
HE STOOD THERE BREATHING QUIETLY. ONE DEEP WINTER
NIGHT, WHEN AN AMAZINGLY BRIGHT LITTLE STAR SHONE
IN THROUGH THE SMALL DARK WINDOW SCRAGGY SHOOK
HIMSELF SO VIGOROUSLY THAT ALL HIS SCABS FLEW OFF
AROUND HIM AND HE WENT BACK TO BEING JUST AS
HE WAS WHEN HE HAD ARRIVED IN THIS WORLD: STRONG
AND MAJESTIC, AND FOUR WINGS SUDDENLY SPROUTED
ON HIS BACK.



THE AMAZINGLY BRIGHT STAR MOUNTED
SCRAGGY, DUG ITS SPURS INTO HIS SIDES AND, WITH THE
WIND WHISTLING PAST THEIR EARS, THE TWO OF THEM
GALLOPED ACROSS THE MOON-BUILT BRIDGE TO THE SKY.
IN THE MORNING, WHEN SCRAGGY RETURNED ENHAUSTED
TO HIS STABLE AND, ALL SCABBY AND SICKLY, CREPT INTO HIS
STALL TO CATCH HIS BREATH, HIS MOTHER THE MARE
SMILED AND NEIGHED: — MY POOR LITTLE SCRAGGY,
MY WINGED SCRAGGY! TONIGHT YOU REALLY HAVE SPED
ACROSS THE VAULT OF THE HEAVENS FASTER THAN THE WIND
AND SWIFTER THAN THOUGHT!

The Horse
Latvian Authors & Illustrators Catalogue.
Venstpils: The International House of Writers and Illustrators
2017. 174 pp.