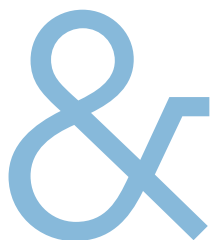


FOREIGN RIGHTS

spring 2025



éditions esperluète

www.esperluete.be

FOREIGN RIGHTS spring 2025

& esperluète
éditions

Founded in 1994, Esperluète is an independent publishing house from Belgium.

We publish illustrated books and literature/poetry.

Each publication contains a balance of text and images, with high literary and aesthetic quality.

Beyond the simple beauty of the character &, the creation of our publishing house is an expression of our desire to bring together writers and artists.

Each publication in each collection – from illustrated books to literature – contains a balance of text and images. **Our catalogue has been growing slowly but steadily since 1994.**

Esperluète's publishing project, which strives for a **high literary and aesthetic quality**, has been nourished by original texts and images by contemporary artists. Most importantly, our publications are constantly evolving, making our work an everyday challenge.



new in
2025

Carl Norac & Mandana Sadat

new in
2025



illustrated book
20 x 27 cm
80 pages
2025
25 €

keywords
Greenland, inuit art,
nature, humor, fun
poetry, legend,
drawing, recycling

Tupilaks !

the story

Tupilaks! is a title that rings out like a joyful, mysterious cry. A mystery that comes from an immense country, Greenland, where tupilak sculpture is the main art form, almost unknown to everyone. The tupilak is a shamanic object with a malicious or joking appearance, intended to harm someone. It is made up of several assembled figures, often grotesque, between animals and humans. In the past, when the shaman created the tupilak, he put a curse on it, and it had to be hidden with an enemy in order to bring him bad luck. While this act is annoying for the victim, it can also be dangerous for the aggressor, who can be turned against the tupilak...

about the book

Carl Norac's poetic writing is perfectly suited to the world of tupilaks, and we'll discover the mocking, playful tupilaks. We learn how their parents bring them up and how they grow up. How they make mistakes and create funny situations. How they can also show tenderness...

Mandana Sadat's talent was needed to bring them to life. As tupilaks are made from natural waste washed up by the sea or found on land, she immediately made the connection between this practice and her creative process. In fact, she likes to construct her images from discarded objects, which become stamps that she prints.

By bringing the tupilaks to life through drawing, she takes us into a world where the white of the ice floe competes with the blue of the sky and the ocean. These paper tupilaks, more real than life, make us smile or shiver...

Carl Norac

is a Belgian author. He has published a dozen books of poetry, often evoking his travels around the world (Éditions de la Différence, l'Escampette, Actes Sud, Le Taillis Pré, etc.), as well as numerous poems and stories for children, translated to date into 49 languages worldwide, mostly by Pastel (Ecoles des Loisirs). From 2020 to 2022, he was the National Poet of Belgium. *Tupilaks!* is his first book with Esperluète.

Mandana Sadat

spent her first years of life in Tehran before moving to a town near Paris. She studied illustration at the Ecole des Arts Décoratifs de Strasbourg (HEAR) in Claude Lapointe's class. She has published several books, notably with Grandir, Autrement and Didier Jeunesse. Her books have been translated in Spain, Italy, Portugal, Switzerland, Germany, Poland, Korea, China, Mexico, Brazil, Taiwan, Japan, Argentina, the United States, and more. *Tupilaks!* is her first book with Esperluète.



Anne Herbauts

new in
2025

About a hand and a meteor

the story

Between text and images, dots, breakthroughs and daylight, Anne Herbauts is reflecting on the album, writing, the workshop, the time that flies and her world. This book is in the spirit of *De temps en temps*, published in 2006 by Esperluète and now out of print. Here she continues her reflections on writing and the attempt to write time.

the book

« In 2021, Madame Devèze, curator of the Biennale de Moulins, asked me to write some sentences that would be the theme of an exhibition based on my work. We chose 'le point du jour' as the title of the exhibition, in reference to my predilection for the subject of time and in echo of an album in the *Matin minet* series published by Pastel. In the same vein as the creative process for the album *De temps en temps*, the sentences in the exhibition 'le point du jour' were the starting point for the book *Où il est question de main et de météore* (2024). »

aNNe herbauts, spring 2024



rights
already sold
in Korea

illustrated book
21 x 28 cm
48 pages
November 2024
ottabind bookbinding
25 €

keywords
poetry, retrospective,
graphic exploration
illustration, writing, fine arts,
painting, drawing



Anne Herbauts

is a talented author-illustrator who has already published some fifty titles, mainly for Casterman, Esperluète, Pastel and L'école des loisirs.

With Esperluète, she has already signed several titles:

- *About a hand and a meteor* (2024)
- *Crums sparrow ribouldingue* (2023)
- *How to make baby bears* (2021)
- *I'm not a bird* (2019)
- *Koalas don't read books / Grizzlies don't sleep in winter* (2018)
- *Self-portrait* (2000, épuisé)
- *catalog of tides on the edge* (2016)
- *The Giant's story* (2015)
- *No beginning, no end* (2008)
- *The Emperor's canary* (2007)
- *From time to time* (2006, épuisé)
- *Kafka's little sister* (2004)



rights
already sold
in Korea

rights
already sold
in Korea



Anne Herbauts



**illustrated book
+ play-book with game board**
24 x 32 cm
32 pages
October 2023
ottabind bookbinding
25€

keywords
play-book, poetry, humor,
observation of everyday life,
nature

Triennial Youth Literature Award from
Fédération Wallonie-Bruxelles 2021
for the whole of her work

**this play-book
includes**

- * a **game board** to unfold
- * **rules** of the game
- * an **illustrated book** to explore
as you play or to read
independently

Crumbs sparrow *ribouldingue*

the concept

This is a game that can become a story.
This is a play-book that becomes poetry.

The game board, like a *snakes and ladders* game, unfolds and the rules can be found in the folds of the pages. Alone or with others, with family and friends, play this game by Anne Herbauts while immersing yourself in her graphic universe.

the book

As you read, on each page, you will find key elements of the graphic work of Anne Herbauts: the teapot, the sparrow, the giant, the pebbles, the wallpaper, the chair... with short poetic sentences.

You can play the game or read the illustrated book independently.

The play-book is a poetic object for young and old.



Anne Herbauts



illustrated book
18 x 27 cm
2 stories side by side,
double binding
2 x 32 pages
2021
18 €

How to make baby bears

First, there's **daddy-bear** who wakes up after a long hibernation. Delighted to find himself in the open air, attentive to the flight of a dragonfly, a robin, a ray of sunshine, he sets off on his way... Then, at the same time, **mummy-bear** also wakes up and starts exploring the flowering landscape around her. She sets off on her journey as well...

Their progress towards each other is punctuated by a marabout-bout-d'ficelle rhyme, which soon takes us into the playful poetry of the love encounter. In the heart of the book, the tête-à-tête becomes a skin-to-skin contact in the shade of a large tree, right in the center of the binding, which has never been so well named!

An album to be read in symmetry where we are invited to follow two bears until they meet... then to start again!

"Sorcières" Award in 2022



illustrated book
18 x 27 cm
2 stories side by side,
double binding
2 x 32 pages
2018
18 €

Koalas don't read books

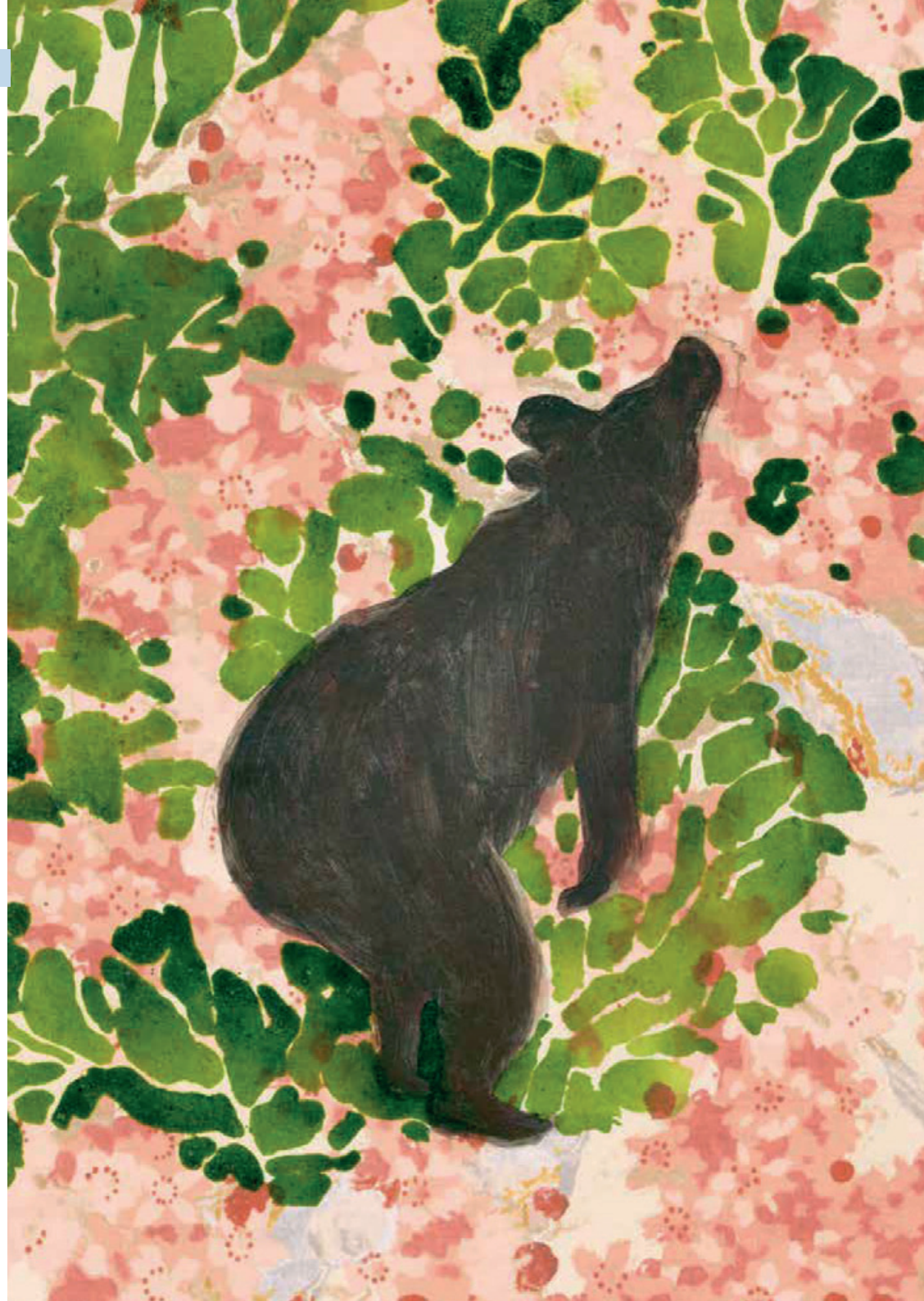
Grizzlies only sleep in winter

The parent and the child gather around everyday moments and activities: a game, a meal, a bath, a bedtime story... The big koala would love to read a book, but that's without counting on the imagination of the little koala, always looking for his attention. The big grizzly would love to rest, forgetting the tireless energy of the little grizzly. **However, even if their needs and desires are not the same, they always find each other.**

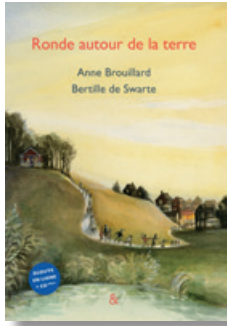
With two different entries, this double album can be read from one side to the other to tell the story of parenting today: parents who work or take care of the house, but don't forget to play and connect with their children.

Through two fables with animals, Anne Herbauts tells us about **day-to-day life with a young child**. She plays with images and word games. The drawings are very effective in their simplicity.

rights
already sold
in Korea



Anne Brouillard



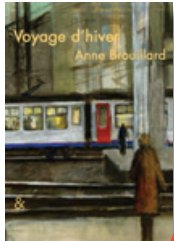
illustrated book
with a CD and QR code
17 x 24 cm
32 pages
2024
19,50€

Round around the earth

with Bertille de Swarte

Night falls, then early morning sets in, the day dawns slowly. Time passes, the seasons pass, the Earth turns and the world runs everywhere... Throughout the pages and songs, refrains or sung poetry, the reader enters a world of sensations through sound and image. **Round is the earth, round is the lullaby and the invitation to dive into the dreamlike world of dreams.**

Anne Brouillard's paintings give intensity to everyday scenes; they outline a happy nostalgia for childhood. Drawing her inspiration from the tranquil Swedish landscapes – from which Anne Brouillard draws her origins – **she invites us to review our relationship with time, with nature, with childhood.**



leprello
11,5 x 16,5 cm
38 pages
2013 for the 1st edition
2019 for the 2nd edition
2022 for the 3rd edition
already 3 reprints
18€

rights
already sold
in Italy

A snowy journey

This leporello invites you on a train trip, showing you the beautiful and breathtaking countryside that you might miss if you are not looking through the window. You can almost see the steam coming out of the chimney, you can almost feel the softness of the train seats, you can almost hear the controller asking for your ticket.

In this leporello without words, Anne Brouillard inspires herself from the train journey between Dinant and Namur (Belgium) to paint this amazing landscape. **Through her egg paintings, she shows us her mature, delicate and poetic world.**

Unfolded, the leporello offers a landscape of 3 meters long!

"On the way" selection 2017 by Fédération Wallonie-Bruxelles

Must-haves selection in 2012-2014

"Petite Fureur de Lire" 2014



Anne Brouillard
has painted and told over 30 stories. Her work demonstrates a strong sense of narrative with or without words. She is often talking about nature, dreamy walk, time, movement. There is also a strong link between what's inside and what's outside in her work.

At Esperluète's editions, she has published three titles:

- **A snowy journey**, leporello (2013)
- **A snowy journey, 44 story cards** (2016)
- **Round around the earth** (2024)



Virginie Bergeret

new in
2025

The Three of Us

the story

The birth of a first child in a family transforms those who become parents. In this book, the author spins out the little moments of everyday life that are the foundation of early childhood: the first glances and smiles, the naps in slings, the picnics, the explorations on all fours or standing up, the shared meals, the first bath, the walks... not forgetting the tiredness, the sleepless nights, the frustrations, but also the wonder, the pride, the new rhythm to tame, the new roles to play.

By focusing on the first year of a baby's life, Virginie Bergeret takes us into the intimacy of that time. Her drawings, with their dynamic sketches and joyful colours, bring to life these first stages in the life of a family.



illustrated leporello
11.5 x 16.5 cm
32 pages
2024
18-€

keywords

new born, family,
becoming parents,
day-to-day life,
growing up



Virginie Bergeret

is a French author-illustrator. Since 2011, her illustration work has ranged from children's albums and sketchbooks to painting exhibitions. Her inspirations and influences come from travel, memories, stories and cultures from near and far.

At the same time, she shares her pleasure in creating with different audiences in schools, associations and media libraries by giving workshops and events.

With Esperluète, she also signs another leporello : *Over there, far away* (2016).



Céline Delabre



illustrated book
20 x 27 cm
24 pages
2025
19,50 €

keywords
women, aging,
family, transmission,
portrait, memory,
engraving, nature,
tenderness, shared moments

The very old lady

the story

The very old lady crosses this book with small, cautious steps. She marvels at the beauties of nature and the present moment. She tells of family ties, the love that makes the heart beat and the happiness that flowers give.

And the narrator follows her with small, complicit steps in this journey. She collects the words but also the gestures and the shared moments. She marvels in turn.

This book tells us about old age and the bonds that are woven between generations. Because between the narrator and the very old lady, between the pages, the words and the images, a beautiful story is built. **A book about almost nothing that nevertheless becomes everything.**

about the book

Céline Delabre explores her character through sumptuous cut-out papers. She creates her papers from engraved patterns. She assembles and combines them to create sometimes a landscape, sometimes an interior, sometimes an abstract environment that allows for daydreaming. **Between narration, images and colours she tells her very old life with modesty and accuracy, like a suspended moment, a time to cherish preciouslly.**

new in
2025



Céline Delabre studied art and image at the School of Fine Arts of the Villa Saint-Clair in Sète, then at the École Européenne Supérieure de l'Image in Angoulême and finally at the Hear in Strasbourg. There she discovered contemporary art, independent publishing, and artist's books. She discovered screen printing, then etching. She spent some time in the intaglio printing workshop of Bucciali editions in Colmar, Alsace, then began work on engraving on the one hand and sharing

and transmission on the other. Currently, Céline Delabre lives in Strasbourg where she pursues educational and artistic activities and her work in engraving, printing and writing. Published by Esperluète, *The very old lady* is his third title, after *Where do the birds go* and *On the road*.



Frédérique Bertrand

new in
2025



Happily Ever After

the story

We follow the day-to-day life of a couple, threatened by the wear and tear of time, but with no shortage of resources. From the moment they meet to the sharing of domestic chores, the complexity of the relationship and the family framework is set in motion. And when objects come to life, they confuse the life in which the characters are trying to exist. Trapped by the desire to love and be loved, they sometimes lose their shape, sometimes their composure. **They search for words as they turn the pages and are often on the verge of breaking up. But they seem to remain deeply attached to each other... for better or for worse.**

about the book

Happily Ever After follows two others books : *Summer is coming* which is about a woman in a race for injunctions and *Christmas around the corner* which tells us about a man in a race to capitalism.

Happily Ever After takes readers on a joyous, unbridled exploration of the intimacy of a couple that lasts...

graphic novel

14 x 20 cm

192 pages

2024

25 €

keywords

couple, relationship, marriage, humor, cynism, graphic novel, woman, femininity, day to day life, tenderness, being together



Frédérique Bertrand

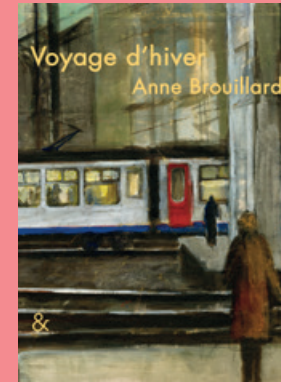
regularly exhibits her work in France and abroad. She has received numerous awards, including *The Silver Pencil Award* in Amsterdam in 1997 for the book *Les petits Héritages* (Éd. du Rouergue); The Bologna Ragazzi Award (fiction category) at the International Children's Book Fair in Bologna (Italy) in 1999 for *On ne copie pas* (Éd. du Rouergue), written in collaboration with Olivier Douzou; The Illustrarte Award at the International

Biennial of Children's Illustration in Barreiro (Portugal) in November 2003.

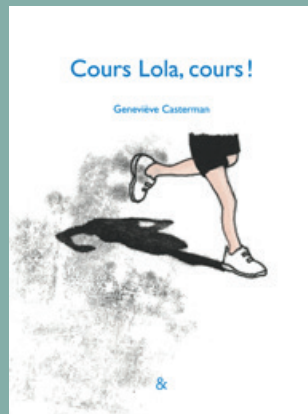
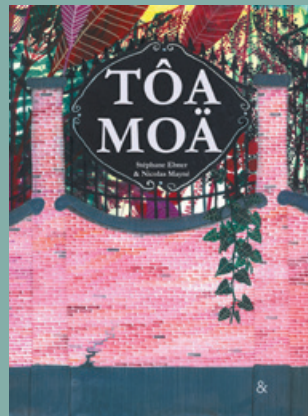
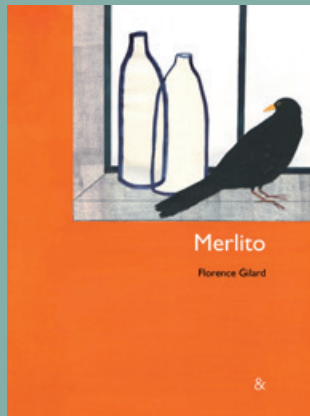
At Esperluète's editions, she signs :

- *Summer is coming* (2007)
- *Christmas around the corner* (2010)
- *Happily Ever After* (2024)

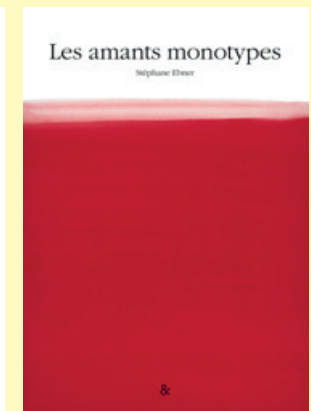
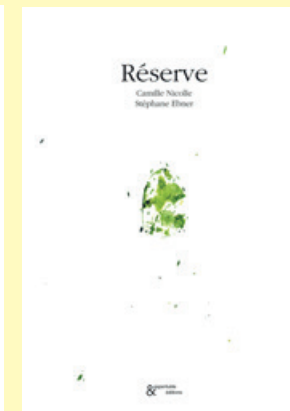
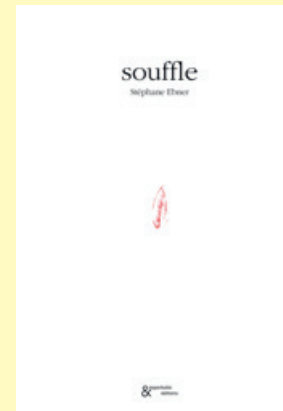
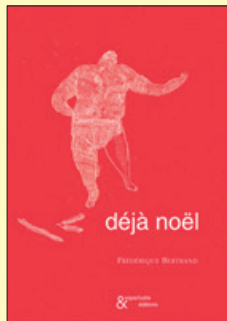
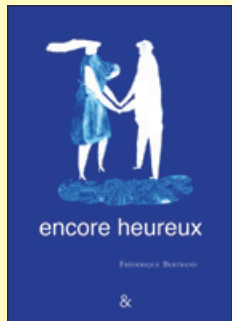
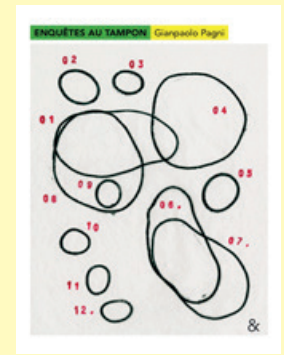
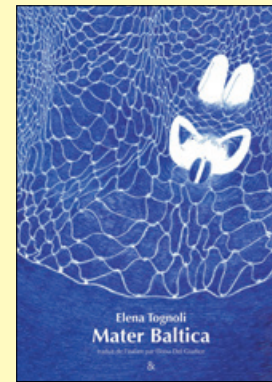




leporello



albums



hors formats

Didier Levy & Annabelle Guetatra



The Mermaid of the Skies

the story

A child tells us about their mother, a mermaid who leaves the ocean for the love of their father, a tall man who may not be very well-built, but is very charming.

But love doesn't prevent nostalgia, and this unusual woman between two worlds is not only a loving wife and mother. **What does a person give up for love? How do you maintain your individuality in a relationship?** How do you cope with the way others see you when you are a little different? These are all questions that are asked through the eyes of a child, imbued with love and admiration for their parents.

about the book

The child is the narrator of this story. Annabelle Guetatra's oil paintings play on the **transparency** and **mystery** of the seabed.



illustrated book

20 x 27 cm
24 pages
2023
19,50 €

keywords

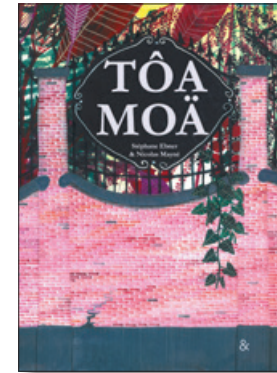
family, love, child, parenting, being different, being yourself, mermaid, circus, humor, tenderness, woman, femininity

Didier Levy has more than 100 books to his name and is published by major publishers including Sarbacane, Albin Michel, Nathan and L'école des loisirs. Author of successful series including Cajou and La fée Coquille, he writes with a great deal of humour for young children. La sirène des airs (The mermaid of the skies) is his first title published by Esperluète.

Annabelle Guetatra trained in visual arts at La Cambre (Brussels) and at the École Supérieure d'Art d'Aix en Provence. After several years' experimenting with photography, installation and performance, drawing became her main focus. She uses different forms of drawing: free paper, folios assembled into books, audio books, papier-mâché, ceramics, engraving, publishing, animation... but she also explores drawing through the body, lived as a space-time experience.



Stéphane Ebner & Nicolas Mayné



You Me

the story

Everyone knows that the playground is sometimes a bit of a jungle. Stéphane Ebner and Nicolas Mayné stand by the well-known comparison, assert it and take it literally: children, Indians and wild animals rub shoulders with each other, merge, and finally become one.

In this hostile environment, **how will our little Loris, so gentle, so shy, find his place?** Between clumsy attempts, misunderstandings, false problems and real questions, will he eventually find an ally to find his ball? (The answer is obviously yes).

illustrated book

20 x 27 cm
40 pages
2021
16,50 €

keywords

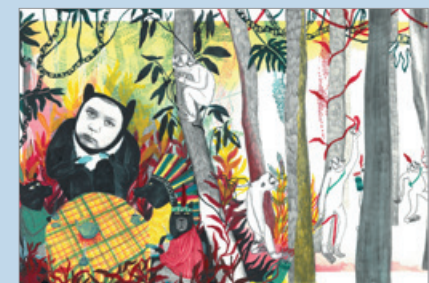
find his place, school, children, teenagers, making friends



Stéphane Ebner writes stories accompanied by images (his own or those of others), and he reads them aloud in the library where he works.



A jack-of-all-trades, **Nicolas Mayné** likes to take a theme, a technique or a poetic idea as a starting point, to question them and deploy them plastically. His plastic explorations often lead him back to his first love, illustration.



Valérie Linder



Sketches for the earth

the story

The book is like a long letter inviting the reader **to love our earth and all living beings** : the soil, the garden, the vegetable garden, the seeds, the mountains, the clouds, the landscape...

about the book

Valérie Linder invites us to look closely at what lies at our feet or is up in the sky, with acute sensibility and a passion to inspire the reader. All the reader needs is curiosity, humility and simplicity.

illustrated book

20 x 27 cm
40 pages
2022
19,50 €

keywords

nature, ecology, environment,
earth, landscape,
all living beings,
watercolor



Karen Hottois & Sandra Dufour



A dream

the story

Nonsensical, topsy-turvy, animals sing and children grow wings, among the treetops beds become clouds... **We enter a child's dream and everything becomes possible.**

about the book

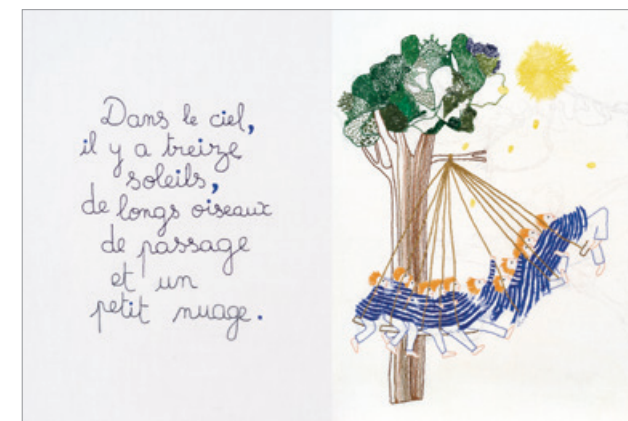
All the story and illustrations are embroidered by Sandra Dufour. She makes her own fabrics with the **Japanese technique of shibori**. The text, also embroidered, becomes an image. The work of colors, the contrast between the dyed fabric and the bright colors of the embroidery make it **a masterpiece for the eyes !**

illustrated book

24 x 32 cm
40 pages
2022
22 €

keywords

dream, embroidery
poetic, nonsensical



Valérie Linder

lives and work near Nantes, west of France. Her work is mainly based on words, space, nature, bodies and childhood. At Esperluète's editions, she has published several books:

- *Esquisses pour la terre* (2022)
- *Les gestes de la cuisine* (2021)
- *Les gestes du jardin* (2020)
- *Les gestes du linge* (2013)
- *Montagnes* (2018)
- *Vibrionnante* (2017)
- *Grammaire de l'amante (avec exercices supplémentaires)* (2014)
- *Abécédaire de voyage* (2011)
- *J'habite une seule maison* (2008)



A graduate of the Paris-Cergy École Nationale Supérieure d'Arts, **Karen Hottois** is a children's author and film casting director. She lives and works in Paris and is published by La Partie, Seuil Jeunesse and Albin Michel Jeunesse. *Un rêve* is her first book to appear with Esperluète.

Sandra Dufour studied embroidery and silkscreen printing at the National College of Art and Design in Dublin in 2006 and graduated from the Strasbourg École Supérieure des Arts Décoratifs in 2007. Since then, she has incorporated textiles

and embroidery into her images. Her thread drawings, most often intended for reproduction, emphasize the material, the hand-crafted. She regularly collaborates with the press and is published by Thierry Magnier and L'école des loisirs. *Un rêve* is her first title to appear with Esperluète.



Florence Gilard



The End

the story

Between childhood memories and misunderstandings linked to language, **Florence Gilard sketches in small touches her relationship with her grandmother.** She describes the gestures of the seamstress she was, the children's games, the Wednesdays spent at home and the difficulty of saying goodbye. **The naivety of childhood becomes an amused and tender look at what is transmitted through the family story.**

about the book

In this hybrid, graphic and poetic object, the author **offers us a sensitive and intimate look at the years that pass, the nostalgia of childhood, the end of life, the tenderness that binds generations of the same family** and knowing how to say goodbye while preciously keeping your memories.

graphic
21 x 30 cm
32 pages
2024
22€

keywords
graphic, sewing, thread, memories, wordplay, intimate story, grandmother, childhood, grief, western, war, child games



Florence Gilard lives in Paris and works in early childhood centres as a reader and trainer. "I watch and listen to the stories that toddlers tell when we read them books: bodies, looks, expressions, games: everything tells during these readings." The connection of text and image, in their unexpected relationships of meaning, allows her to play with polysemy. The in-between of text and image opens up all possibilities to the constructions of imagination and thought. Published by Esperluète, **The End** is her second published title, after **Merlito** (2021).



Ludovic Flamant & Hideki Oki



The monkey's smile

the story

Finding yourself mistakenly locked in a cage among monkeys, for no apparent reason, quickly becomes distressing when you try to maintain the dignity that you associate with humanity. So what can you do if not observe your new companions... to discover their intelligence, sensitivity, creativity, sociability... like humans ?

With humor and humility, Ludovic Flamant points out our tenuous links to others, to animals, and the animality that lies in each of us.

about the book

The meeting between Hideki Oki and Ludovic Flamant took place in the workshop at Creahm – an emblematic Brussels venue dedicated to artists with mental disabilities. Hideki Oki's monkeys, sometimes friendly, curious or fierce, are the starting points of this short story between fable and graphic book.

graphic
21 x 30 cm
24 pages
2023
22€

keywords
monkeys, animals and humans, outsider art, mental disabilities, how to be in the world, live with the others

"One day, without knowing why, I was put in the monkey cage. I was not a monkey."



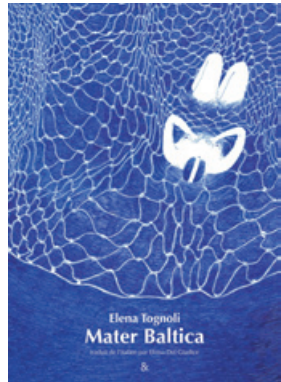
Ludovic Flamant was born in Namur in 1978. He has published novels, plays and children's books, with Pastel / L'école des Loisirs, Thierry Magnier, Bayard and Les fourmis rouges. At Esperluète's editions, **Le sourire du singe** is his third title, following **Princesse Bryone** (2019, with drawings by Sara Gréselle) and **Passagers** (2018, with paintings by Jeroen Hollander).

Hideki Oki has been attending workshops at Creahm, workshops for artists with mental disabilities, since 2018. He draws brightly colored felt-tip lines : vertical and horizontal, they conjure up a magnificent animal from the paper.



Elena Tognoli

rights
already sold
in Italy



Mater Baltica

the story

A woman has been found in the Baltic Sea, she was filled with little eggs.

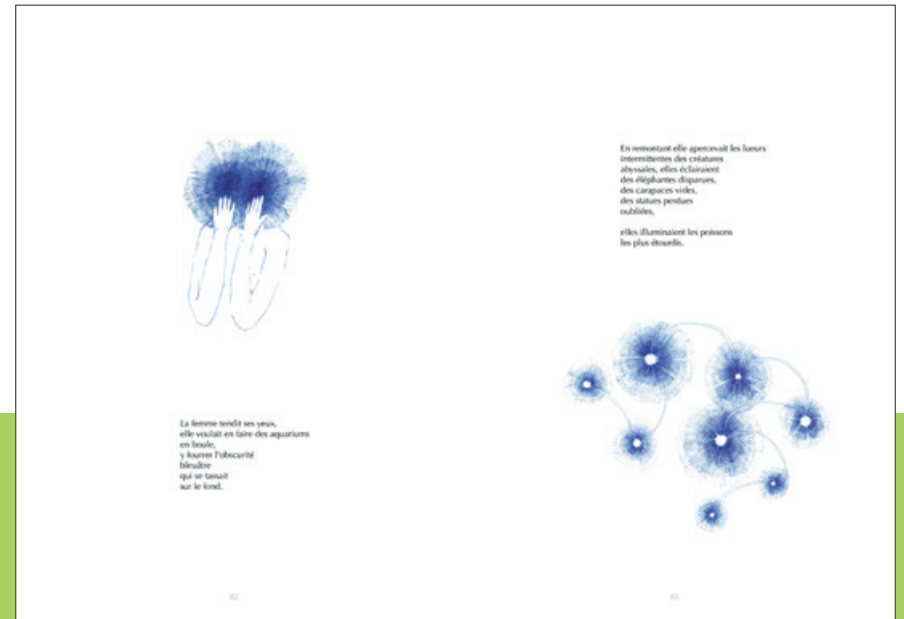
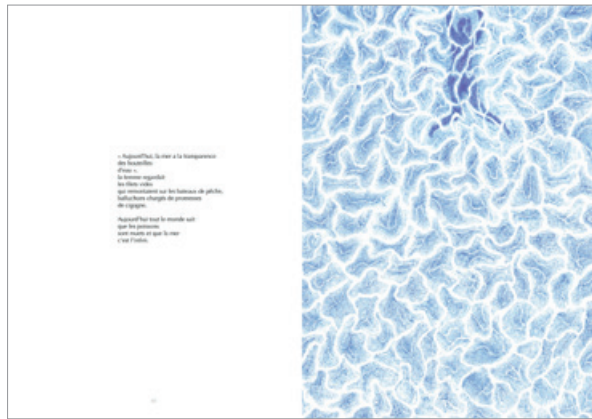
These words are the beginning and end of this graphic tale. **We follow this woman from chapter to chapter, as she tries to find her place in the sea and on earth, among living beings, nature and humans.** With all her complexity and her desire for freedom, she challenges our world and invites us to dive into ourselves. Her words and poetry will move the reader.

about the book

Mater Baltica holds up a mirror to us, without judging or providing answers. All illustrations are done with pen.

graphic tale
17 x 22 cm
128 pages
2022
24 €

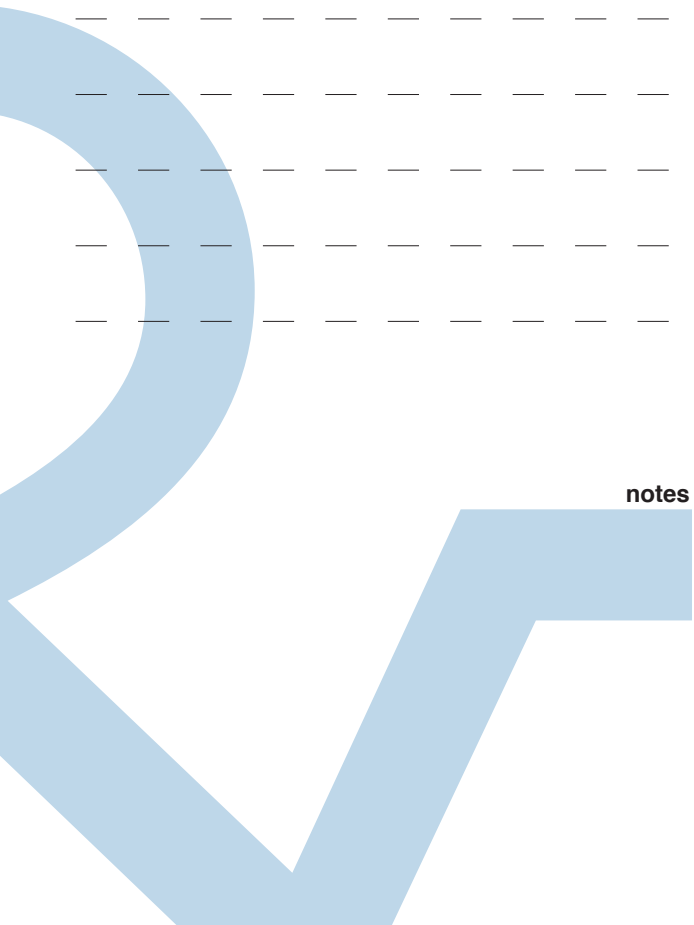
keywords
woman-femininity, daughter,
motherhood, nature
ocean, water, beginning
poetry, drawing with pen,
identity, quest for meaning



Elena Tognoli

After studying Philosophy at the University of Milan, Elena Tognoli trained as an illustrator in London at Camberwell College of Art and obtained her Master of Art and Design in Education. Since 2020, she has been living in Paris. She has taken part in several group and solo exhibitions in England, Italy, Belgium and East Timor.





notes





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