

Ján Smrek
YOU MUST

Reed bed, you must tremble with horror,
you, who swayed beneath the wind
your dust is spurned by your native ground
your destruction unwept by the alder

when you die not a single stream will moan
for you not a single willow grow
so feebly did you stifle all the strength within
when that mad devil hacked down your mountain.

(14. 6. 1950)

YOU WOULDN'T BELIEVE

You wouldn't believe how thrushes know
how to fall silent in autumn.
Instead in the air only leaves go,
Not a bird anywhere on earth.

Why do I know that things turn?
Because through the window I gaze
With nature I live into it hewn
and separate from mankind.

With nature I live. What salvation,
granted under sword and law.
The barefoot goddess, Beauty,
laughs at the human score.

She just slaps with a hand: harvest done,
rest ordained, gold blazes.
Blessed are all regions
and pity to the evil man.

(25. 10. 1950)

From the Slovak by Viera and James Sutherland-Smith

JÁN SMREK
INTERNATIONAL LITERARY
FESTIVAL

Bratislava * Trnava * Pezinok

15 – 18 October 2006

Festival's director: Milan Richter

In cooperation and with support of
Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic, Grazer Autorenversammlung,
Austrian Culture Forum in Bratislava, Danish Arts Council, French PEN
Centre, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Israel, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of
Luxembourg, Slovak PEN Centre, Club of Independent Writers of Slovakia,
Slovak Philharmonia

In cooperation and with possible support of
Swedish Academy

In cooperation with
J. Fándly Library in Trnava, J. Palárik Theatre in Trnava, Small-Carpathian
Library in Pezinok, Trnava City Hall, University Library in Bratislava,
Norwegian Embassy in Bratislava, Elán Publishers, MilaniuM Press

JÁN SMREK (1898–1982) – leading Slovak poet, beloved by the readers and
hated by the Communist regime in the 1950s and in the 1970s. He is most
famous for his love poems but also for the anti-Communist verses, written in
secrecy in 1948–1956 and published as late as 1993.

15 October (Sunday) Bratislava

- 10.00 sightseeing walk through Bratislava
17.00 **opening of the Festival and reading (Slovak Philharmonia)**
S. Clancier, Ch. Hesselholdt, R. Vázquez Díaz, I. Bar-Kohav
Berkovski, M.Bátorová, D. Dušek, A. Koltz
19.00 dinner in Bratislava
20.00 **discussion with S. Clancier**, president of the French PEN Centre
overnight at Kyjev Hotel

16 October (Monday) Bratislava

- 12.00 lunch at the Writers Club in Bratislava
14.00 **seminar „Two Vitalists - Ján Smrek and Artur Lundkvist“**
(Seminar Hall, University Library, Klariská 5)
18.00 **reading (Mozart Hall, Austrian Embassy)** F. Mayröcker,
M. Haugová, Ch. Greller, E. Ström, T. Eltayeb, M. Richter
19.30 **Ján Smrek Prize 2006 ceremony** (prize awarded
to Friederike Mayröcker, Austria)
20.00 dinner at the Writers Club
overnight at Kyjev Hotel

17 October (Tuesday) Trnava

- 10.00 visit to the Red Stone Castle (30 km from Bratislava)
13.00 lunch in the Writers Castle of Budmerice
15.00 meeting Lord Mayor of Trnava at the City Hall
17.00 **reading (Trnava Theatre, Mirror Hall)** T. Eltayeb,
I. Bar-Kohav Berkovski, E. Ström, S. Clancier, Ch. Hesselholdt,
R. Vázquez Díaz, A. Koltz
18.30 **Ján Smrek Prize 2005 ceremony** (prize awarded in 2005
to Anise Koltz, Luxembourg)
20.00 dinner in Budmerice
overnight at Kyjev Hotel

18 October (Wednesday) Bratislava Pezinok

- 12.30 **lecture on „Ibsen and the Politics“** by Prof. F. Helland
(Rector Room, Comenius University, Šafarikovo nam. 6)
15.00 meeting students in Modra
17.00 **reading (Library of Pezinok)** P. Stanislav, Ch. Greller,
J. Kuniak, D. Stefanov, V. Prokešová
presentation of the haiku book by D. Stefanov
18.30 dinner in Pezinok, closing of the Jan Smrek Festival

Friederike MAYRÖCKER (Austria) Ján Smrek Prize 2006 laureate



Recipients of the Ján Smrek Prize:

Tomas Tranströmer (Sweden) – 1998
Ludvík Kundera (Czech Republic) – 2000
Tuvia Rübner (Israel)
and **Veno Taufer** (Slovenia) – 2002
Reiner Kunze (Germany) – 2003
Gennadij Ajgi (Russian Federation) – 2004
Anise Koltz (Luxembourg) – 2005

Bar-Kohav Berkovski, Israel, Israeli poet and psychologist
Bátorová, Mária, Slovak prose writer, president of the Slovak PEN Centre
Clancier, Sylvestre, French poet, president of the French PEN Centre
Dušek, Dušan, Slovak prose writer
Eltayeb, Tarek, poet and prose writer from Sudan living in Austria
Greller, Christl, Austrian writer
Haugová, Mila, Slovak poet and translator
Hesselholdt, Christina, Danish prose writer
Koltz, Anise, Luxembourg poet, vice-chairperson of the European Academy of Poetry
Kuniak, Juraj, Slovak poet and writer, vice-president of the Slovak PEN Centre
Mayröcker, Friederike, Austrian poet and writer
Prokešová, Viera, Slovak poet, translator and literary scholar
Richter, Milan, Slovak poet, essayist and translator
Stanislav, Pavol, Slovak poet
Stefanov, Dimitar, Bulgarian poet and translator of Slovak and Czech literature
Ström, Eva, Swedish poet, prose writer, dramatist and medical doctor
Vázquez Díaz, René, exil-Cuban poet, writer and translator living in Sweden