

Guidelines and Call for Submissions for:

Magic Realism Anthology [title to be determined]
An Anthology of Magic Realism
by Balkan Writers

Edited and designed by Jasmin Topalusic and David Rix
and published by Eibonvale Press

Closing date for submissions is 31 Dec 09

It is advisable to read the general Eibonvale Press guidelines, available for download at <http://www.eibonvalepress.co.uk/info/infowriters.htm>

Outline

This is to be an anthology of work loosely in the Magic Realism or surrealism area of storytelling (see below for definitions). This anthology will **not** collect single stories by many authors. Instead, every contributor should ideally be able to contribute at least three or four items to this, so it becomes a more in-depth look at a smaller number of people. The upper size limit for individual pieces is flexible, but should ideally not be more than 5000-6000 words. If you have something longer that might be of interest then please query as size limits are only made to be broken. There is no lower size limit. Stories of just a few lines will have their place here if those few lines manage to contain something great (and something magically real!!)

The anthology will be positioned loosely 'underneath' the mainstream world of literature. There are all sorts of fancy names for this area. 'Vernacular art', 'Outsider Art', even the 'Underground' etc – all slightly patronising terms that the elite areas of art force upon something that is not really possible to pin down – a world where people just go ahead and get on with their own particular visions, even if quirky and eccentric. All they basically mean is art from somewhere other than the museum culture – the literature culture in the book world, I suppose. I am searching here for the people who DON'T dream of being published in Hodder & Stoughton or Weird Tales – people who feel closer to stuff scrawled on the wall in spray paint or scribbled in hidden diaries than to the guardian book reviews. This also means that there are few limits in terms of outrageousness or 'off the wall' imaginings. Absurdism or just plain bizarre and the hard to classify are much appreciated.

The only stipulations are that the authors are from or connected to the Balkan (former Yugoslavian) countries – Croatia, Slovenia, Serbia, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Macedonia and Kosovo – and must conform to the widest possible definition of Magic Realism/surrealism – ie, some elements of the fantastic or bizarre.

Magic Realism

I have heard all sorts of definitions of magic realism – some very complex and over-wordy! Some more simple. In my case, I see three main threads of literature, all of which overlap on occasion. One is realism. Stories set in the real world and about

real things. Another is Surrealism – stories set in purely imagined or mostly imaginary realms (as in some ‘surrealist’ movement painters and sword and sorcery fantasy etc).

Magic realism is the world that sits in between these two. Stories that are firmly connected to the real world but which feature the presence of unreal/supernatural/fantasy/bizarre elements. For me, Magic Realism is a very wide definition indeed, covering horror, fantasy, some satire, ‘urban fantasy’ surrealism, fairytale, dream sequence, some cyberpunk, etc.

The boundary with surrealism is, of course, fuzzy and I am quite happy to extend into purely surreal territories if the material is still compatible with the book. If in doubt, show us!

Illustration

The book is also open to illustrators as well. As with the writers, an illustrator should be able to provide approx. 3-6 artworks – more if appropriate. The stylistic guidelines (magic realism) for the text also apply here. **Art must be black and white.** Black and white line art is preferred (ink drawing, cartoon/manga-style art etc) as that is what prints the best but I am happy to consider any kind of art. Illustrations submitted electronically **MUST** be high quality. Aim for full-size scans at 300dpi or higher or photographs of an equivalent quality. Files can be sent in (full quality) jpg, tiff or BMP format. If they are too large to email, you can send them on CD to the address below. Alternatively, contact us and we will work something else out. See below for submission details.

Technical/Contractual Stuff.

The book (title not yet determined) will be a hardback and paperback in parallel. Stories should, in general, be in English, but any language barrier will not be a problem as there is a professional proofreader involved (David Rix) who will work with the authors where appropriate to ensure that the English is as polished as possible/appropriate.

It is the writer’s responsibility to make sure that there are no rights in existence that could interfere with the stories’ appearance in this book. Ie. – have you published them elsewhere and signed a contract for a period? We are happy to accept works that are published elsewhere, provided that there are no legal obstacles.

Contributors should also submit a short bio, to be published in the book. This can contain whatever information you want, including internet links and contact details if you wish.

Eibonvale Press releases are PrintOnDemand, meaning an unlimited and undefined edition in terms of the number of copies. All rights will remain with the authors, save

for the rights to publish this specific book. That means people are free to publish the works anywhere else, at any time, and do anything else they want with them.

All contributors will receive three courtesy copies of the hardback edition (or the cash equivalent if they prefer) and the ability to order more directly at cost price. If you want to do that and sell them, that's fine by me.

Payment will take the form of an **equal division of the profit** between everyone involved – the authors, David Rix and Jasmin Topalusic. No advances or percentages are possible on this book. Profit means any income left over after the book setup costs have been paid off and after the cost, postage costs and marketing costs are deducted. To put it simply – anything that we get, will be divided among us all! Don't expect this to make you rich! And be aware that you may get nothing at all. We are doing this as a labour of love and there is no guarantee of making our money back again.

Submitting

Text or art Submissions should be emailed to submissions@eibonvalepress.co.uk – we can accept word documents (.doc), PDFs, rich text files, even html and txt files if needed. Please include a brief covering letter including the number of texts and their respective word counts (in Microsoft word, go to the tools menu and choose 'word count') and any other things you want us to know.

There are no particular formatting requirements. We do not require any of the old-fashioned formatting conventions like double-spacing. Format the text how you want – eg how you see it as appearing in its finish form.

Texts and art files can also be sent on a (non-returnable) cd to 10 Beach Alley, Whitstable, Kent, CT5 1BS, UK

Electronic submissions are preferred, but hardcopy texts – even handwritten ones – and art are also possible if needed. But, where texts are concerned, please try and avoid sending things that will need to be returned (ie – photocopies are preferable). If that is unavoidable, please explain clearly that a return is required, otherwise you may never see it again! We are only human.

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