

# Major Transgressions! Poetry from Poland



**Ewa Chruściel** has two books in Polish: *Furkot* and *Sopitki*, and two books in English: *Strata*, which won the International Book Contest (Emergency Press, 2011) and *Contraband of Hoopoe* (Omnidawn 2014). Her poems have been featured in *Jubilat*, *Boston Review*, *Colorado Review*, *Lana Turner*, *Spoon River Review*, and *Aufgabe*, among others. She has translated Jack London, Joseph Conrad, and I.B. Singer as well as American poets such as Jorie Graham into Polish. She is an associate professor at Colby-Sawyer College.

*“Polish poet Chruściel (Strata) opens her strange, mesmerizing fourth collection—her second in English—by asking: “Can you feel the apparition?” The book is less a collection of discrete poems than a flowing lyric study on sheltering oneself in the face of many faces of death.”* – Publishers Weekly



**MARCH 18**  
**Translation Workshop** led by **Julia Fiedorczuk**  
English Department 70 Brown Street  
(Fones Alley entrance) room 130 4:00 PM – 5:30 PM  
**Poetry Reading**  
**Julia Fiedorczuk, Adam Wiedemann**  
McCormack Family Theatre 70 Brown Street  
(Fones Alley entrance) 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM

**MARCH 19**  
**Translation Workshop** led by **Tadeusz Pióro**  
English Department 70 Brown Street  
(Fones Alley entrance) room 130 4:00 PM – 5:30 PM  
**Poetry Reading**  
**Ewa Chruściel, Tadeusz Pióro, Agnieszka Taborska**  
McCormack Family Theatre 70 Brown Street  
(Fones Alley entrance) 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM

**Contact:**  
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**Julia Fiedorczuk** is a Polish poet, fiction writer, translator and lecturer in American literature at Warsaw University. She has published five volumes of poetry, the most recent of which is just around the corner, as well as a collection of short stories, *The Morning Mary and Other Stories*, and a novel, *White Ophelia*. Her poems have been translated into many languages. She is the recipient of the PTWK Award for the best first book of the year and the Hubert Burda Prize. She has translated the work of many American poets, including Wallace Stevens and John Ashbery. She has also published a two-volume selection of writings by Laura (Riding) Jackson and, with Laurie Anderson, *Language of the Future*, a collection of Anderson's short narratives with the author's illustrations (Wrocław, 2012). She has been part of an international literary project, *Metropoetica: Women Writing Cities*. In addition to academic papers, she has written articles on animal rights and is a regular contributor to the feminist magazine *Splinter*. Her academic interests include 20th century American poetry, literary theory, ecocriticism and feminism.

*“Julia Fiedorczuk’s oeuvre offers an essentially non-anthropocentric outlook on the world. A distinctive feature are ecofeminist influences, enriched with the post-modern reading of the Romantic philosophy.”* – Book Institute



**Agnieszka Taborska** is the author of 15 books published in Poland, France, Germany, the US, Mexico, Japan, and South Korea. They include collected short stories (*Not as in Paradise* and *The Whale, or Objective Chance*), a collection of essays on Surrealism (*Conspirators of Imagination*), a collection of reportages, *American Crumbs*, and two poetic novels: *The Dreaming Life of Leonora de la Cruz* and *The Unfinished Life of Phoebe Hicks*. The most recent *The Black Imp and Other Sprites* provides a surprising interpretation of Slavic mythology. Her children books have won literary awards in Germany and were adapted for the screen as animated films. Taborska has translated into Polish Philippe Soupault, Gisèle Prassinos, Roland Topor (from French), and Spalding Grey (from English). Since 1988 she has divided her time between Warsaw and Providence where she teaches art history at the Rhode Island School of Design.

*“Agnieszka Taborska’s “The Dreaming Life of Leonora de la Cruz” is a prose poem in chapters, of haunting beauty. Truly one of the most amazing books I have ever had the privilege of dreaming through.”* – Mary Ann Caws



**Adam Wiedemann** is a poet, translator, music critic, and essayist. He has published eight volumes of poetry—*The Male* (1996), *Starter* (1998), *Lily of the Valley* (2001), *Calypso* (2004), *Lesson* (2007), *Filters* (2008), *Carpet* (2010) and *With Movement* (2014); three books of prose: *The Ubiquity of Order* (1997), *Knot Dog Brow* (1998, German edition 2001, Russian edition 2003), *Answering* (2011)—and a collection of “oneiric records” *Bed Scenes* (2005, Slovenian edition 2007). He is also the co-author of *Endgames*, a book-length interview with Henryk Berezka (2010). Wiedemann's translations of Slovenian poetry include poetry by Primož Čučnik, Miklavž Komelj and Peter Semolič. He is a recipient of the most prestigious literary awards in Poland, including the Polish Association of Book Publishers Award (1998), the Kościelski Foundation Award (1999), and the Gdynia Literary Award (2008). He has been three times nominated for the Nike Award (1998, 1999, 2005). He lives in Warsaw.

*“Wiedemann’s sensitively-deranged world (“A lazy universe. The sky a total mess.”) creeps up on and invades one’s privacy, slowly and devastatingly. He says amazing things so quietly that one can’t be sure of having heard them, so one keeps going back and discovering new levels of meaning—comic, tragic and everything in between. We return to our disordered daily life, somehow relaxed and refreshed. “And what are we arguing about? About the smell?/ We must go to dinner, we’re adults already.”*  
– John Ashbery



**Tadeusz Pióro** was born in Warsaw and raised in Croatia and Tanzania. He spent the seventies in Poland, but then moved to the US, where he graduated from the University of Washington in Seattle with a BA in English. He defended his doctoral dissertation about Ezra Pound and James Joyce at UC Berkeley and subsequently taught for several years at SMU before returning to Poland, where he is currently an Associate Professor at the English Department at the University of Warsaw. He has published seven books of poetry and numerous translations into both Polish and English. His *Collected Poems* were published in 2012. Pióro's translations into English include a selection of Tadeusz Borowski's poems, published in 1990 by the Hit and Run Press in California, an anthology of contemporary Polish poetry, *Altered State: The New Polish Poetry*, published in 2003 by Arc in the UK, and a selection of his own work, *Infinite Neighbourhood*, brought out in 2000 by Equipage in Cambridge, UK. His translations into Polish include poems by David Gascoyne, John James, Rod Mengham and Barrett Watten, plays by John Ashbery and Ronald Firbank, fiction by Harry Mathews, Edmund White, Ishmael Reed and Henry Green, and essays by Paul de Man, Marjorie Perloff, Harry Mathews, John Ashbery and William Burroughs. He is also the author of a monographic study entitled *Frank O'Hara and the Ends of Modernism* (2013).

*“His poems are extraordinarily, perversely political—among the best political poems we have. Very cunning poetry, with no sentimentality, no illusions about emotional life, and yet they are charged with significant emotions, the kind that are the opposite of illusions.”* – Andrzej Sosnowski

