Editions Zoé
Who we are

Since our beginnings as a Swiss independent publishing house in 1975, we have added to our catalogue innovative writers who create new worlds and strong atmospheres. It comprises different collections:

The “Domaine français” includes francophone Swiss writers from the “patrimoine” as well as the new generation, who stimulate and enrich the discussion about contemporary literature. Among them, the bestselling titles by Nicolas Bouvier (“Le Dehors et le Dedans”) and Agota Kristof (“L’Analphabète”) stand out: they have been translated into more than twenty languages. These great figures are followed by promising young talents such as Elisa Shua Dusapin, Bruno Pellegrino, Max Lobe, or Aude Seigne.

The “Domaine allemand” represents in their French translations the most prominent voices of German speaking Swiss writers such as Matthias Zschokke, Annette Hug, Robert Walser and Lukas Bärffuss.

The “Collection Ecrits d’ailleurs” presents works by anglophone writers from the Commonwealth and the diaspora whose distinct voices reflect on their often mixed identities and conflictual existence in a globalised world. We thus publish Helene Cooper, David Chariandy, Richard Wagamese, Ivan Vladislavic and many more in French.

I wish you a nice journey through this catalogue that gathers our most important French titles available from our front- and backlist.

Caroline Coutau
Chief Editor
Highlights
2021

Anne Brécart
Blaise Hofmann
Michel Layaz
Catherine Safonoff
Madeleine Lamouille
Douna Loup
Rose-Marie Pagnard
Bruno Pellegrino

Our books for year 2021, available for translation
Patience of the Snake
Anne Brécart

Christelle and Greg have chosen to live a nomadic life. They are in their thirties and travel the world in a minibus with their two little boys. Surfing enthusiasts, they settle wherever the best spots are, living from odd jobs and fleeting friendships. The wind takes them to San Tiburcio on the Mexican coast, where Greg feels alive while surfing on the crest of the waves. But they have to get used to the relentless sun, the roar of the ocean and the tropical rain. One day, Ana Maria, a young woman from the village, bursts into their lives. She draws Christelle into a dizzying relationship that will turn the family upside down.

In a sensual and lush language, Anne Brécart describes the poisonous and inexorable daily life of these travellers longing for another life.

About the author

Anne Brécart currently lives in Geneva. She spends a few months a year in Mexico where part of her family lives. Her books include “Le Monde d’Archibald” (Zoé, 2009) and “Cœurs silencieux” (Zoé, 2017)

“For the past few weeks, Christelle has had the impression of having two lives, the one with Greg, the children, the group, and this other existence that is played out in the white house.”

- “Intriguing and bewitching” Tribune de Genève
- Chosing the nomadic lifestyle as a family

For more information, visit www.editionszoe.ch or contact lpecher@pierreastier.com

La Patience du serpent
Anne Brécart
Novel
Paperback textbook
192 pages
First Printed: September 2021

Rights
WORLD FRENCH: Éditions Zoé
Two Little Zen Masters
Blaise Hofmann

Japan, Cambodia, Laos, Burma, Thailand, Sri Lanka, India: in September 2019, Blaise Hofmann has travelled to Asia for seven months, for the first time with his family. This means new constraints, a constantly anticipated schedule, precautions, routines, frustrations; it’s above all the wonder of seeing the world a few centimetres above the ground, travelling slowly with the eyes of two little girls (2 and 3 years old) who are at home wherever they are.

It’s also the opportunity to find a standardized continent, populated by hypermodern tourists, like him. This is the story of an anti-hero who praises boredom and diversions. Here is an introspective text, as critical as it is dazzling, even when a virus imposes itself as the main character of what is perhaps the last travelogue before Covid-19 pandemic.

About the author

Born in 1978, Blaise Hofmann is the author of a dozen novels, travelogues and children’s books; he notably published “Estive” (Zoé, 2007): this logbook of a shepherd won the 2008 Nicolas Bouvier Prize at Étonnants Voyageurs festival in Saint-Malo.

“I am travelling with two little amnesiac sponges who are reborn at every street corner, inventing useless activities, cutting grass, caressing trunks, collecting pebbles, talking out loud to an imaginary cousin.”

• Seven months of backpacking in Asia with two little girls
• The last travelogue before COVID-19

For more information, visit www.editionszoe.ch or contact lpecher@pierreastier.com
“Che-vro-let! Che-vro-let!” In the early 20th century, America marveled at the prowess of Louis Chevrolet. Born in Switzerland in 1878, the young man grew up in Burgundy, where he became a bicycle mechanic, before joining the flourishing automobile workshops near Paris. In 1900, he left France for the USA. Very soon, at the wheel of the cars of the moment, Fiat or Buick, he would make a name for himself as one of the best racing drivers. In the meantime, he drew, designed, and built engines. And there is more: along with Billy Durant, the founder of General Motors, Louis created the Chevrolet brand, which Billy Durant bought from him for a song, and gets the exclusivity on the name Chevrolet. Millions of Chevrolets were sold without Louis getting a penny. But that mattered little to him: his main concern was elsewhere. Michel Layaz tells the story of the romantic life of this flamboyant character who combines loyalty and anger, kindness and a love of speed. In the age of electric cars, here is a story of the beginnings of the automobile, with its failures, dangers, and conquests.

About the author

Michel Layaz ranks among the leading contemporary French-speaking Swiss authors. His books include “Les Larmes de ma mère” and “La Joyeuse Complainte de l'idiot”, which have been translated into German, Italian, Bulgarian, English and Russian. His latest novels are “Louis Soutter, probablement” (2016), and “Sans Silke” (2019).

“Louis may well be the king of the loyal guys, righteous among the righteous, but as soon as he gets into his Buick and holds the steering wheel, he becomes another man, excessive and uncontrollable. The dams melt. All he cares about is winning. And the audience loves it.”
Acknowledgements
Catherine Safonoff

In twenty-five brief tableaux, an author goes through her life, using her own books as a reference point. She rewrites her experiences, changes and renews them, brings light touches to the dark hours. She plays. A thoughtful, tense writing style that questions parental or passionate ties, which are sometimes painful.

“Reconnaissances” is an acknowledgement of a debt, to favourable places and people, to luck with its many faces, an infinite debt to the living.

About the author
Catherine Safonoff was born in 1939 in Geneva, where she still lives. Her pen is always acute and smart to describe the everyday world and her lost loves. She has published several books in the Editions Zoé and the main literary awards in Switzerland, such as the Swiss National Award in 2012 and the Prix Ramuz in 2015 for her whole work.

“Catherine Safonoff’s style is sharp and precise. Her truth disarms me every time. She is not ashamed of who she is and she lays herself bare. I find the same lucidity in Annie Ernaux.” Fabienne Jacob

“I was home at midnight. Veronica called at about half past one. A short message. That’s it, it’s over. She had told the truth: my mother would not have died with me by her side. This was on a Thursday, Ascension Day, also known as the feast of departure.”

- A sense of humour reminiscent of Virginia Woolf
- Catherine Safonoff knows how to make life readable in its most minute details.

For more information, visit www.editionszoe.ch or contact lpecher@pierreastier.com
Wild Springs
Douna Loup

After a solitary childhood on the banks of a pond in the company of birds, the narrator, barely a teenager, sets off hand in hand with her mother to find her unknown brother. Together they spend four years wandering the roads, sleeping in the fields and forests, working on farms and in factories. When the girl discovers love, it is time for her and her mother to move away from each other, a separation that is as liberating as it is painful.

“Les Printemps sauvages” is a powerful story about nature and the discovery of sex. Smells, materials, colours, all the senses are on the alert to capture the beauty of the world, and its fragility. There is an urgent need to invent new relationships with the living.

About the author

Born in Geneva, Douna Loup grew up in the Drôme, worked in Madagascar and now lives in Nantes. She published “L’Embrasure” (2010, Schiller Discovery Prize, Michel-Dentan Prize and Senghor Prize for First Novel), “Les lignes de ta paume” in 2012 and “L’Oragé” in 2015. Her writing is characterised by a heady and sensual rhythm. It translates the feeling of freedom to which her characters aspire.

“We would follow to the end of the world this teenager who has become a woman; Douna Loup’s carnal, rhythmic and undulating language flows like a river.” Le Temps

• A fascinating story about nature and the discovery of sex
• A universal tale of powerful lyricism

For more information, visit www.editionszoe.ch or contact lpecher@pierreastier.com
Clay Pipes and Porcelain Pipes
Madeleine Lamouille

Memories of a maid, 1920-1940

This biographical account sheds light on the working conditions of servants in the 1930s, while reporting on aristocratic and bourgeois life from the point of view of domestic staff. The description of the “porcelain pipes”, i.e., the dominant class, and the “clay pipes”, i.e., the enslaved class, provides a panorama of society at that time, and has been the foundation of Madeleine Lamouille’s entire existence.

About the author

Born in Cheyres, near Fribourg, Madeleine Lamouille (1907-1993) served in the 1920s and 1930s as a chambermaid for bourgeois families in French-speaking Switzerland. Forty years later, she told her memories to the writer and historian Luc Weibel, the granddaughter of a family for whom she had worked. From these conversations originated “Pipes de terre et pipes de porcelaine”, originally published in 1978.

“When Marie's father died, she asked for a leave to go and bury him in his village in Savoy. Madame replied: “But what am I going to do without my cook?”

“In short, I was fed much less than at B’s. It didn’t bother me that much. What annoyed me was that our masters didn’t say hello to us and didn’t give us the newspapers.”

“A beautiful story, still relevant today”
Michelle Perrot

• More than 20.000 copies sold in French
• A personal account of the lives of servants and the upper class in the first half of the 20th century

For more information, visit www.editionszoe.ch or contact lpecher@pierreastier.com
Gloria Vynil has her whole life ahead of her. The young, talented and imaginative photographer and daydreamer has lived with her aunt Ghenya ever since the death of both her parents. Her mind is teeming with ideas and her head is spinning with projects. Yet, Gloria is missing something, has a tiny gap in her memory: the recollection of a traumatic event that nonetheless haunts the novel’s every page. As short a time as this episode may have lasted, this moment of oblivion is enough to plunge her into a turbulent world full of uncertainty and wild fantasies. Her anxiety is all the more pronounced since everyone knows something of which Gloria is unaware: her aunt – her guardian angel – does, her five brothers do, and even the reader knows it, as they watch the drama unfold from the very first passage of the novel. Beyond depicting a family drama, Pagnard offers a captivating reflection on memory and the role of art in the face of forgetting.

Taking the hand Gloria Vynil extends to the reader, means to embark with her on a journey through her life, into a surreal world filled with unforgettable characters – from the psychic who lacks the gift of clairvoyance to the music-loving taxi driver – and inanimate objects which need but a glimpse of the eye to come to life. (Text by Valentin Kolly)

About the author


“amnesia, even if it only relates to a very short period of time and even if it is only as steadfast as a bit of jelly trembling in the palm of one’s hand, amnesia can trigger a bout of anxiety, no matter where, no matter when.”

For more information, visit www.editionszoe.ch or contact lpecher@pierreastier.com
In the heart of winter, a young man settles in a town surrounded by water, and takes stock of the work of a famous translator. A supermarket ticket illuminated with notes becomes precious like a manuscript. Likewise, a pile of clothes on the bed is as important a clue as piles of books and notebooks.

In a setting that is blurred by the omnipresence of water, the young man tries to perceive the translator’s voice, to imagine her body, to the point where he actually borrows her gestures and thoughts.

Lightening is inexorable as the experience becomes vertiginous. This novel, bathed in a soft and murky light, bewitches the reader with a permanent tension and a sense of secret.

About the author

Bruno Pellegrino (b. 1988) lives between Lausanne and Berlin. In 2015, his first book, “Comme Atlas” (reprinted in Zoé poche, 2018), was published, followed in 2018 by “Là-bas, août est un mois d’automne” (Zoé), which won numerous prizes in the same year, including the Prix des Libraires Payot and the Prix François Mauriac de l’Académie française. Bruno Pellegrino is also a member of the AJAR collective, author of “Vivre près des tilleuls” (Flammarion, 2016, J’ai Lu, 2018). With Aude Seigne and Daniel Vuataz, he has co-written the two seasons of “Stand-by”, a literary series published by Zoé in 2018 and 2019.

• A young man’s dizziness research on the life of a famous translator
• “infinitely delicate” Livres Hebdo

For more information, visit www.editionszoe.ch or contact lpecher@pierreastier.com
Zoé
Classics

Nicolas Bouvier
Agota Kristof
Ella Maillart

Our most famous authors, already translated in many languages.
Inside and Outside
Nicolas Bouvier

This is the only book of poetry ever written by Nicolas Bouvier. Between 1953 and 1997, he wrote these lines and summoned an incredible universe, as the tireless traveler he was.

About the author

Nicolas Bouvier was born in Geneva in 1929 and died in 1998. He was a writer, a picture hunter, an iconographer and a photographer. He began to travel when he was 17.

Through Eastern Europe and Asia, he discovered the world and described it with a powerful style. He lived in several countries, from Ceylon to Ireland and Japan, finding abroad material to write the finest travel stories.

• The most important traveling writers of the 20th century
• 20.000 copies sold in French

“When you knew how to live with nothing
Your life followed you like a swarm of bees
And you paid without haggling
Beauty exorbitant price”

Le Dehors et le Dedans

For more information, visit www.editionszoe.ch or contact lpecher@pierrestier.com
Stories of a picture
Nicolas Bouvier

We all know Bouvier as traveler and writer, but he was also a great iconographer. He worked in the 90’s for a Swiss magazine and wrote a column entitled “Stories of...”. Through twenty-five texts about pictures, he tells stories that have a taste of childhood.

“Sometimes Elephant can be vindictive, but he is more often careful. It has few reasons to attack a congener just for turbaned princes’ pleasure. You should stuff them with Indian hemp or any other toxin to increase their fighting spirit, and elephant drivers should whip them to death if they want them to fight. The guy you see caught under the defeated animal’s paw appears to be in a bad state. If he doesn’t die, he will limp the rest of his live and will have deserved it.”

About the author
Nicolas Bouvier was born in Geneva in 1929 and died in 1998. Writer, picture hunter, iconographer, photographer, he began to travel when he was 17.

• A book by Nicolas Bouvier as iconographer
• More than 8,000 copies sold in French
• 25 texts from all around the world

“Thanks to these twenty five short mischievous texts, we get to know that the crocodile can boast in its egg, that Japanese history lists several executioners bitten by choped-off heads [or] that while hunting the seal the polar bear hides its black nose in order to hide better [...].”

Libération

For more information, visit www.editionszoe.ch or contact lpecher@pierreastier.com
“Life is so incandescent. Here and there. Old chap, I am building a large bridge going to you.” (Thierry Vernet to Nicolas Bouvier, August the 17th, 1955).

Since high school, Nicolas Bouvier and Thierry Vernet were best friends, dreaming together about world harmony through travels and artistic creation. Nicolas became an author and Thierry a painter. Crossroads Correspondence gathers letters that were exchanged between Nicolas Bouvier and Thierry Vernet before the publication in 1964 of the first edition of L’Usage du monde, about their trip through Asia.

About the authors

Nicolas Bouvier (1929-1998) was born in Geneva. He was a writer, a picture hunter, an iconographer and a photographer. He began to travel when he was 17. He lived in several countries, finding abroad material to write the finest travel stories. Born in Geneva in 1927, Thierry Vernet studied plastic arts. He traveled with his friend, writer Nicolas Bouvier, in the East and illustrated the account of this trip in L’Usage du monde. He worked for many theatres as set decorator. He died in 1993.

• Correspondence between two great artistic figures
• Wonderful letters about friendship and traveling

“This is a story of a strong and eternal friendship. Just imagine the return of Orestes and Pylades in the 20th century.”

Le Figaro

For more information, visit www.editionszoe.ch or contact lpecher@pierreastier.com
Where Are You, Mathias?
Agota Kristof

Où es-tu Mathias ? (Where are you, Mathias?) and Line, le temps (Line, Time) summon Agota Kristof’s obsessions: childhood and its terrible clairvoyance, despair and the illusions of life, the deceit of words, nostalgia, wit, and the world of dreams. Sandor, the main character of Où es-tu Mathias ? carries us off in the maze of uncertainties which Agota Kristof readers are familiar with. Lighter and funnier, Line is the main character of a short text written for the stage. She is a young woman in love like she will never again be as an adult.

About the author

Born in Hungary, Agota Kristof (1935-2011) lived in Switzerland from 1956. She first worked in a factory where she learnt the language of her chosen country, before making a name for herself as a writer in the French language. Her debut novel, The Notebook, published in 1986, opened her “twin brothers” trilogy and met considerable success. As novelist, playwright and poet, her work earned her international recognition.

• Two short texts which summon Agota Kristof’s power

• A raw and vivid writing

“Sandor was playing with the case, and yet no one came. At tea-time, he decided it was pointless. Cocks were singing in the courtyard, but there was nothing they could do about the stubbornness of the dream – and he was right: it was too early. Cocks always sing too early. Outside, on the outside, there was nothing. Screams, stars, and that was it. And all of this was still as pale as a slap in the face.”

Où es-tu Mathias ?

For more information, visit www.editionszoe.ch or contact lpecher@pierreastier.com
Agota Kristof was born in Hungary in 1935. She came to Switzerland in 1956 and worked in factories while learning French and writing theatre plays. In 1987 she became famous with her first novel, *The Notebook*. She later published masterpieces like *The Proof* and *The Third Lie*, translated into thirty languages. She died in July 2011.

Agota Kristof’s poetry is today published for the first time, according to the text she had left for publishing a few years before her death.

*Nails* collects poems written in Hungarian by Agota Kristof before she fled from Hungary in 1956. Having left the poems there, she rewrote them from memory and added new ones, choosing a French title but not translating the content. These poems became the source for several texts in prose she later wrote. To this day they had remained unpublished.

The bilingual book published today contains both the original Hungarian edition of the poems and their first translation in French. They are completed with a few texts directly written in French. Agota Kristof’s sharp style and favourite themes (loss, distance, death) are already present here, as well as other themes such as love and nature.

- Unpublished poetry by the author of *The Notebook* and *The Illiterate*.

- A more hopeful facet of Agota Kristof

“Published with portraits of the author, these texts can be read as a deeply moving poetic autobiography.”

Le Devoir

For more information, visit [www.editionszoe.ch](http://www.editionszoe.ch) or contact lpecher@pierreastier.com
Agota Kristof was born in Hungary in 1935. She came to Switzerland in 1956 and worked in factories, while learning French and writing theatre plays. In 1987 she became famous with her first novel, *The Notebook*. She later published masterpieces like *The Proof* and *The Third Lie*, translated into thirty languages. She died in July 2011.

*The Illiterate* is her only autobiographical account: eleven chapters for eleven moments of her life. She begins when, as little girl in Hungary, she used to read lots of books, and stops her story at the point where her first books written in French came out. Happy childhood, poverty after the War, loneliness at boarding school, the death of Stalin, the tension between her mother tongue and “enemy” languages that were Russian and German, flight to Austria, then Switzerland with her baby.

“I know I will never write French as native French writers do, but I will write as I am able to, as best as I can.

I did not choose this language. It was imposed on me by fate, by chance, by circumstance.”

- The only autobiographical book by a great literary icon
- More than 30,000 copies sold in French
- A classic, studied in schools

“This is a book of relevance today because we live in a world of migration, and Kristof shows it to us from within. It is one of the last books she wrote, slim and clean, but containing the accumulations of a lifetime.”

*Independent on Sunday*

For more information, visit [www.editionszoe.ch](http://www.editionszoe.ch) or contact [lpecher@pierreastier.com](mailto:lpecher@pierreastier.com)
The Land of The Sherpas
Ella Maillart

Initially written in English in 1955, The Land of The Sherpas is now published in French for the first time. Through the vibrant relationship between text and photographs, this book moves from an outside representation of the world of the Sherpas to a more penetrating vision. Ella Maillart was already the famous traveller we know when writing this book, but her stay in Nepal in 1951 was for her the true quest to find meaning in the heart of Asia.

The first part of the narrative resembles an ethnological investigation: the observer describes items and customs from an outside point of view. After her climb to the sacred lake Gorsainkund, the author’s viewpoint shifts to where the faith can be found. Ella Maillart examines rituals, legends and daily spirituality with a unique touch of emotion. 65 photographs that she took during her trip are published here with the text.

About the author

Ella Maillart (1903-1997) was one of the most audacious travellers from the first part of the twentieth century. Sailor, novice archaeologist in Crete, movies’ extra in Berlin, explorer in the Soviet Republics, correspondent in Manchuria, nurse in Chinese Turkestan... Her interest for travelling led her to follow a spiritual path in Nepal, an experience that is at the heart of this book.

• Unpublished narrative by Ella Maillart
• Meet the Sherpas, through photos and texts

For more information, visit [www.editionszoe.ch](http://www.editionszoe.ch) or contact lpecher@pierreastier.com
Our Favorites

Arthur Brügger
Roland Buti
Elisa Shua Dusapin
Joëlle Kuntz
Michel Layaz
Max Lobe
Jérôme Meizoz
Sonia Molinari
Bruno Pellegrino
Noëlle Revaz
Catherine Safonoff
Aude Seigne
Stand-by
Anne-Sophie Subilia
Gabriella Zalapi

Some of the best authors from our backlist
The Eye of Swordfish
Arthur Brügger

Charlie is 24 and is fishmonger’s apprentice at the Great Store. He spends his time carving, hollowing out, wrapping the fishes, cleaning up the worktops, then visiting the Great Fridge and the Huge Skip. Sometimes he drinks a coffee or smokes a cigarette with colleagues, when he is not dealing with unknown or regular, harsh or kind customers. But Charlie doesn’t like his own image anymore.

Thanks to him, Emile, a strong idealist, discovers a reality more subtle than he thought: no, employees of the Great Store are not stuck in routine idiots.

A first novel as simple as a fable but as effective as a good documentary.

About the author

Arthur Brügger lives and works in Lausanne. He graduated at the Swiss Literary Institute, before his short story Trompe-l’œil won the Prix du Jeune écrivain 2012. He shares his time between many activities, such as music, writing and publishing.

“You see the containers, they’re full to the brim. You want the right word to describe it? there’s one adjective, “aseptic”. Just nice to look but when you scrape off, that becomes disgusting.”

• Deep reflection about food wasting

• Won the Prix Bibliomédia 2016

“When you will have watched it with Charlie’s naive but accurate look, it won’t be possible for you to see the fishmonger’s shop like before.”

Livres Hebdo

For more information, visit www.editionszoe.ch or contact lpecher@pierreastier.com
Grand National
Roland Buti

The narrator, Carlo, lives on the Geneva lakeside, between the city, the allotment gardens and the palaces of another era. He is a landscape gardener, his wife Ana has just left him, his daughter studies in London, his mother is missing from her retirement home and his Balkan employee has been beaten up by so-called strangers. Day after day, the world around him falls apart. His daughter is suddenly an adult, his wife his caretaker, his Balkan employee a confidant and his mother... Who really is his mother, that skinny old woman, beloved by rich old men from an obscure past? The narrator’s tender gaze and his sense of humour, transfigures everything: the gardens, the plants, the beloved ones, the secrets, the disappointments, the desires or sorrows of a simple and wonderful humanity.

About the author


- A mother escaping from a retirement home to seek refuge in a Swiss palace
- Previous novel, Le Milieu de l’horizon, sold in 8 countries + film

“The knowledge I had of her body and her faintest gestures made me shiver. Her dangling arms and ample undulating moves actually betray a fake poise. I got an exact notion of the trouble which, at that very moment, was confusing the thoughts of the woman I had loved and who had left me, but strangely and oddly enough, it helped me to conceal my distress.” Grand National

For more information, visit www.editionszoe.ch or contact lpecher@pierreastier.com
In 1976, Switzerland is experiencing an abnormally hot, dry summer. Gus is thirteen years old, and his father has invested everything he had in a poultry farm. But, the heat is rapidly killing off the young chicks, and the man is slowly retreating into himself to flee from reality.

The day his mother leaves from the farmhouse with another woman, Gus is brutally torn away from his childish world and has to run the farm by himself. While the government declares a state of emergency, deploying army and fire services across the countryside, Gus finally becomes a man: he not only loses his illusions about life, but also his innocence in the arms of a young girl who seduces him.

When at the end of the summer storms break out, the relief is short-lived. This small world, which Roland Buti describes so wonderfully, is put to the test a second time – by floodwater.

About the author

Roland Buti was born in 1964 in Lausanne, where he studied Literature and History. He actually teaches in a high school. He published several books at Editions Zoé.

- “this is a trick of a book. It hides its turmoil behind everyday details, often beautifully observed” John Self, “The Guardian”
- prize-winning novel, translated into 8 languages and adapted to the cinema

"It is not the end of the world, it is rather the end of one particular world. Roland Buti tells a masterful story without tears, in an overwhelming and moving novel.”

Le Nouvel Observateur

For more information, visit www.editionszoe.ch or contact lpecher@pierreastier.com
It is the early autumn inter-season, and the Vladivostok Circus marquee is deserted. Five acrobats train and learn to tame as they rehearse one of the most dangerous circus acts: the Russian bars. These artists are all celebrities in their respective field: the oldest, the Russian Anton, has long been training his young partner Nino, the heir to a family circus in Germany. Anna, the Ukrainian acrobat, a former trampoline champion, has recently joined them. As for Léon, the technician from Quebec, he sees to the staging of the performance, among other things.

The narrator, a 22-year-old Frenchwoman, is hired as a costume designer for the show scheduled a few weeks after at a major festival in Ulan-Oude, Siberia. She is inexperienced and a complete stranger to the world of the circus. She tries to find her space in this promiscuity and collective routine full of individual stories.

The novel tells the story of a stepwise taming, in spite of communication difficulties and each character’s painful past. It is a huis clos with alternate moments of tension, extreme concentration, and idle free time.

**About the author**

Elisa Shua Dusapin, born in 1992 of a French father and a South-Korean mother, was raised in Paris, Seoul and Porrentruy. She obtained a degree in literature at the Swiss Literature Institute in Bienne, and pursues her literary studies in between trips to East Asia.

- The third novel of a promising young author
- Elisa’s novels translated into 10 languages
- short-listed for Prix Femina des lycéens 2020

For more information, visit [www.editionszoe.ch](http://www.editionszoe.ch) or contact lpecher@pierreastier.com
The Balls of the Pachinko
Elisa Shua Dusapin

Claire, who is turning thirty, spends the summer with her grandparents in Tokyo. She wants to talk her grandfather into leaving the Pachinko he runs and join her and her grandmother on a journey back to their native Korea, where they haven’t been since the war. While coaxing them into coming with her, Claire sees to Mieko, a young Japanese girl to whom she teaches French. Elisa Shua Dusapin excels in describing typically ambivalent family relationships in this story of filiation set at the crossroads between Korean, Japanese, and European cultures. Her sober writing aptly describes her characters’ inwardness as she leads the reader in an atmosphere of muffled violence where the Far-East has a part to play.

About the author
Born to a French father and a South-Korean mother, Elisa Shua Dusapin was brought up between Paris, Seoul and Porrentruy. Her debut novel published by Zoé, Hiver à Sokcho (Winter in Sokcho), was awarded by the Walser, Alpha, and Régine Desforges Prizes. She was also the recipient one of the SGDL’s “Récvélation” Awards.

“There is a lot to be found in this short novel. The young novelist tackles it all with a feel for sensitivity, with a sober and sensitive style, fitted to inwardness.” Livres Hebdo

- Recipient of the Régine Desforges, Robert Walser and SGDL awards for her debut novel, Hiver à Sokcho
- A talent for evoking mixed cultural identities
- Intergenerational transmission and filiation among women

“The skilled player, however, knows that he just cannot let his hand go of the curser. He stays in command. He feels the slightest jamming, which he overcomes with a soft adjustment of the wrist, or a tiny relaxation of the phalanges. It is imperceptible. It makes all the difference.”

For more information, visit www.editionszoe.ch or contact lpecher@pierrestier.com
Winter in Sokcho
Elisa Shua Dusapin

Winter in Sokcho is the story of an encounter between a young French-Korean woman who has never been to France and an illustrator from Normandy who has come to this small provincial town looking for inspiration. Obsessed by her body and her diet, the young woman grows more and more attracted to the artist and his drawings. He in turn is attracted to her who in the course of a few winter months will introduce him in unexpected ways to this strange and rather closed culture on the shores of the Sea of Japan.

The simplicity of the plot and language is deceptive: the suspension of time, the elliptical way to tell the story and the barely suggested intimacy all give the story its density and its depth, enhanced by the mixture of cultures. As soft as snow falling on waves, the apparent gentleness fails to hide the violence that originated the separation of North and South Korea barely fifty years ago, with the border running only a few kilometers from Sokcho.

About the author

Elisa Shua Dusapin, born in 1992 of a French father and a South-Korean mother, was raised in Paris, Seoul and Porrentruy. She obtained a degree in literary studies at the Swiss Literature Institute in Bienne and pursues her literary career while still making trips to East Asia.

“A humble and poetic first novel.” Le Monde

• “Oiled with a brooding tension that never dissipates or resolves, Winter in Sokcho is a noirish cold sweat of a book.”— Guardian

• Won the Robert Walser Price 2016 and Prix Régine Desforges 2017

For more information, visit www.editionszoe.ch or contact lpecher@pierreastier.com
Swiss History in a Flash
Joëlle Kuntz

What are the origins of Switzerland? Where does its renowned neutrality come from? How did Switzerland manage to gather four different languages under a single flag? These questions – and more – are answered in this clear and clever book in just under 200 beautifully illustrated pages.

Authored by a talented journalist, L’Histoire suisse en un clin d’œil makes us understand Switzerland by explaining the underlying logics of its political, economic, and linguistic policies. From the Middle Ages to the present day, Joëlle Kuntz tells the story of how Switzerland developed its own soul, political culture, and prosperity – which indeed owe much to its neighbors – and gives the confederation its unique identity.

About the author


“The book sorts out myths and reality – not an easy task, which Joëlle Kuntz carries out with both subtlety and conciseness.” L’Hebdo

• Almost 35,000 copies sold
• The perfect traveler’s handbook to visit Switzerland
• Unbridled and provocative at times
My Mother’s Tears
Michel Layaz

Why does this mother treat her youngest son so differently? Why did tears drop the day she gave birth to this third son she praises and persecutes? Now adult, this last son reconstructs his childhood out of things he finds in the deserted parental flat. He is sure they hold the key of this mystery.

With subtle, bemused humor and an unerring eye for human frailty, Michel Layaz writes about the hidden tensions within families, the awkwardness of adolescence, and the drama of intimacy between friends and lovers.

About the author

Michel Layaz was born in Fribourg and lives in Lausanne. After having written several novels he spent a year at Swiss the Institute of Rome. Together with Noëlle Revaz and Agota Kristof he represented Switzerland at the Salon du livre de Paris in 2006. Michel Layaz has won many literature prizes (Prix Dentan 2003, Prix RTS 2004) and is now considered as one of the best Swiss writers.

“In this fine sensual collection of child memories, the narrator delivers nostalgic evocation of playful, threatening or forbidden things, remembering his mother. He regrets her as an oedipian object that he describes in a blurred way, as if he were the prisoner of an everlasting secret.”

Le Monde

For more information, visit www.editionszoe.ch or contact lpecher@pierreastier.com
Without Silke
Michel Layaz

The 19-year old Silke ends up as the tutor of young Ludivine, in a mansion in the wilderness. Ludivine is a playful little girl, and Silke gladly joins her in her games. They soon take to each other. During nine months, they kiss trees, learn to fly like birds, sleep under the stars, together bonded in a fantasy world, oblivious to Ludivine’s parents, who are completely absorbed by their exclusive relationship. The girl’s friendship will, however, be a factor of disruption within the vulnerable triangle of the family.

*Without Silke* showcases Layaz’s fascination for childhood and its strange innocence. He very accurately captures a little girl’s gestures as she braces with joy after having scored at a pool game; as she strokes her own shoulders while focusing intensely; and whose imagination is somewhat crazy, odd, and brilliant.

**About the author**

Michel Layaz ranks among the key contemporary French-speaking Swiss writers. His books have been translated in German, Italian, English, and Bulgarian. His latest novel, *Louis Soutter, probablement* (“Louis Soutter, Probably”) was awarded by a Swiss literary prize in 2018.

“But how does one actually manage, without perspective or maturity, to best describe two hearts united by love, pride, and selfishness, totally oblivious to a third one – this one absolutely devoid of cruelty?” *Without Silke*

- A must-read novel on childhood, whether you’ve enjoyed *Lolita* or *En attendant Bojangles*
- A surgically precise writing on family wounds

For more information, visit [www.editionszoe.ch](http://www.editionszoe.ch) or contact lpecher@pierreastier.com
An Idiot Happy Complain
Michel Layaz

In this book, reader discovers an unordinary boarding school where strange teenagers live. The Residence accommodates young boys whose offbeat mind did not match with the rest of the world. This community survives through its strong and impetuous CEO, Madame Vivianne. Every inmate has its place and peculiarity that is told by one of the residents.

About the author

Michel Layaz was born in Fribourg and lives in Lausanne. After having written several novels he spent a year at Swiss the Institute of Rome. Together with Noëlle Revaz and Agota Kristof he represented Switzerland at the Salon du livre de Paris in 2006. Michel Layaz has won many literature prizes (Prix Dentan 2003, Prix RTS 2004) and is now considered as one of the best Swiss writers.

“You should not believe people living in The Residence are backwards, or captives, or delinquents, or madmen, or bandits, or bad lots; everyone is a bit of each, and you would minimize them in vain to simple phrases.”

• Innovative voice based on wordplays

“Monologue of The Residence boarder, who lives in an Institute for more or less backward teenagers. From portrait to exploit, in an innocent but high language, Layaz tells the life of these boys “who learned how to master their feelings to avoid suffering too much from the world”.” Libération

For more information, visit www.editionszoe.ch or contact lpecher@pierreastier.com
Far Away From Douala
Max Lobe

Will Jean and Simon eventually find Roger? The latter left his bad-tempered mother to follow his dream: becoming a football star. To do so, he must leave Douala and cross Nigeria to go to Europe.

Jean and Simon’s adventures on Roger’s tracks bear the hallmarks of an initiatory trip, as they discover the North of Cameroon and its sumptuous wildlife, and witness its devastation by Boko Haram and poverty. They party. And young Jean lives through both the separation with his mother and his discovery of a different sexual identity. Max Lobe, cocky and witty, has a knack for giving a voice to his characters, and rendering the atmosphere of the streets, trains, police precincts, markets, and rough bars.

About the author

Born in 1986 in Douala, Cameroon, Max Lobe lives in Switzerland, where he writes with rhythm and generosity. After 39 rue de Berne (2013), La Trinité bantoue (The Bantu Trinity, 2015), and Confidences (2016 – winner of the Ahmadou Kourouma award), he tackles the urgent issues of immigration in his own, natural way.

“Nearby, some whores are giggling. They must find it funny, seeing Simon bargaining with the long-legged tranny. ‘Four thousand francs, deal? Five thousand?’ And there he goes again, stuffing his money in the bra. ‘All right, all right. I’ve seen your guy Roger. He was around a couple of days ago.’”

- Cameroon as you’ve never seen it before
- A novel with colourful, endearing characters
- An initiatory trip on the footsteps of a lost elder brother

For more information, visit www.editionszoe.ch or contact lpecher@pierreastier.com
Max Lobe has come back home. He travels to the Cameroonian forest to meet Ma Maliga, so that she may tell him everything she knows about the Independence Movement in Cameroon and its leader, Ruben Um Nyobè.

*Confidences* is the story of Ma Maliga, a lively and playful woman despite her old age. She tells her memories in a talkative, digressive and generous way, yet full of common sense. Never forgetting to drink as she talks, she shares with her interlocutor the palm wine that keeps her going. And thus it is with a mixture of slight drunkenness and great joy that the reader learns about the history of Cameroon’s independence and its hidden war.

**About the author**

Max Lobe was born in 1986 in Douala (Cameroon). He came to Switzerland in the 2000s, and studied communication and management. He now lives in Geneva.

- Winner of Prix Ahmadou-Kourouma 2017
- Followed by Alain Mabanckou’s letter to Max Lobe

“And that was the more important thing: we wanted our freedom. We wanted these people, these white men, these Poulassi to go away and leave us here, in peace, in our country, in our forests. Do we have to be intellectual-long-pen to understand it, uh, son?”

“At first a “return to fatherland”, Max Lobe’s third novel *Confidences* can then be read as a living history book told by a people’s voices book.”

Le Monde des Livres

For more information, visit [www.editionszoe.ch](http://www.editionszoe.ch) or contact [lpecher@pierreastier.com](mailto:lpecher@pierreastier.com)
Mwána lives in a country at the heart of Europe, with his white cousins he knows well. Some of them want the “black sheeps” to leave their territory. Hunt begins, minds are excited and Mwána looks for a job: nothing is done!

When he decides to spend his last coins to call his mother who lives in Bantuland, he cannot recognize her anymore. Ah Nzambé! He goes through stony moments, but knows how to get over it. Because Mwána is helped by his sharp and happy mind, Ruedi the Red, Ms Bauer the Passionaria, and his very catholic sister Kosambela.

About the author

Max Lobe was born in 1986 in Douala (Cameroon). He came in Switzerland in the 2000’s, and studied communication and management. He works in Geneva.

- A sharp and creative style
- Discover the English translation of his text The Avenging Whip in Words Without Borders, Queer Issue VI

“In The Bantu Trinity, Max Lobe creates a tongue that keeps the sadness away.”

Le Temps

For more information, visit www.editionszoe.ch or contact lpecher@pierreastier.com
At 16 years old, Dipita’s mother came from Cameroon to Europe, where she straight away became a prostitute. She survived thanks to her naivety, her generosity and her beauty, despite “a truck of hate in her belly”.

She tells her life to Dipita, who is very curious about it. He likes his uncle who constantly criticises political problems in his country, even if he has given Dipita’s mother to so-called “philanthropist-benefactors”. Dipita likes his “mothers” too; they help him grow up as man and accept him for becoming “like that”.

With a unique and inventive style, the narrator describes the life of illegal Africans as well as the sufferings of a black and homosexual young man.

About the author

Max Lobe was born in 1986 in Douala (Cameroon). In the 2000’s he came to live in Switzerland, where he studied communications and management. He works in Geneva.

• Winner of the Prix du Roman des Romands 2013-2014
• Sensitive topics described with an amazing subtlety
• Discover the English translation of his text *The Avenging Whip* in *Words Without Borders*, Queer Issue VI

“Dipita uses a language full of imagery, mixed with Bantu words; his naive and harsh vision of the world, his colourful feelings and his willingness when faced with an overwhelming situation are elements that make a great and promising novel.”

Le Temps
How can one live a man’s life with a “girl’s heart”? Why must one “act as a boy”? Jérôme Meizoz outlines a sentimental education of sorts, both tender and raw, in a book which is both a novel and a survey.

The survey takes him back to his childhood in a rural Catholic environment, where he gradually became aware of society’s deceptions and tricks.

The novel introduces the reader to the story of a young man who chooses to sell himself to women in order to escape the world of factories, offices, and a preordained destiny. He becomes the confident of lonely women to whom he sells his caresses and attention.

**About the author**

Born in Valais, Jérôme Meizoz is a writer and teaches at Lausanne University.

“He likes the contrast between bodies; he likes to compare and study them. The weary flesh. The bodies which, step by step, are losing the game. The wrecks. Women quite often weep. The beauty of yore, which is gone and cannot be mourned.” *Acting as a Boy*

**• A masculine take on the gender issue**

**• A hybrid and innovative text, both investigation and fiction**

“With retrospective anger, now informed of the reasons, ends, and means, Jérôme Meizoz revisits the great lies of the differential instruction of girls and boys (...). He depicts the social violence at work in this training process.” *Le Monde*

For more information, visit [www.editionszoe.ch](http://www.editionszoe.ch) or contact lpecher@pierreastier.com
Don’t Give Time to the Night
Sonia Molinari

Maiko wakes up in a Brussels clinic with a mysterious scar on her lower back and a haunting memory: that of a happy adolescence in Hong Kong, shattered on the day her father, a genius microbiologist, was reported missing.

The young woman, who has to deal with her inexplicable past, throws herself headlong into her father’s footsteps. In Hong Kong, which she has long departed, she visits an old acquaintance, who seems terrified: Where has she been? There are people looking for her everywhere, and they are not well-meaning. But she doesn’t care. She needs eight different identities, and something strong enough to knock someone out: GHB, Rohypnol or ketamine – whatever, a cocktail capable of inducing amnesia for several days.

Thus begins a long and dangerous hunt. Maiko travels the world in search of those who knew her father, under the identity of stewardesses, and followed by worrying pursuers.

She seems fragile but recovers from bad injuries, she is betrayed by those who claim to help her. But she keeps on searching, driven by an incomprehensible force.

Maiko reminds us of our world: globalised, complex, and sometimes dangerous.

About the author

Sonia Molinari lives in Switzerland, where she teaches flamenco. Before that, she has worked as a stewardess and learned to speak five languages. *Ne pas laisser le temps à la nuit* is her Debut novel. She claims to be a spectator of her characters and their lives. She observes them and writes with a storyteller’s powerful intuition.

• A psychological scientific thriller set all around the world

• A lovable, complex and brave female main character

For more information, visit [www.editionszoe.ch](http://www.editionszoe.ch) or contact lpecher@pierreastier.com
August Is A Fall Month
Over There
Bruno Pellegrino

This novel tells the story of a brother and sister who have always lived under the same roof, and are bound by a tacit pact. Madeleine smokes cigars, has a passion for space conquest, maintains the household and, first and foremost, protects her brother. Gustave has set upon making an inventory of the world and of what is to be gone as he walks, takes pictures, and writes. The rural world, its rituals and objects, are changing, just as wilderness itself. Bruno Pellegrino skilfully portrays this uncanny couple and the cocoon which they have sown amid their own environment, halfway between self-sufficiency and symbiosis. This praise of slowness and freedom takes us back to a world shimmering with colours and feelings which is the rural world of the 1960s’, revisited with 21th century words.

The book won several literary prizes: prix des libraires Payot, prix Alice Rivaz, prix Écritures & spiritualités, prix François Mauriac.

About the author

Bruno Pellegrino was born in 1988 and lives in Lausanne. He received several awards for his short stories and texts. Là-bas, août est un mois d’automne is his first novel. It draws freely upon the lives of poet Gustave Roud and his sister Madeleine.

“I write about people who could actually name things, flowers, and animals, when I need an app on my phone which identifies birds by their song and plants by the shape of their leaves. This is probably why I find these two characters fascinating: their slow and knowledgeable way to experience the thickness of days.”

• Prix François Mauriac 2019 (Académie française)
• The 1960s’ rural world told in today’s words

For more information, visit www.editionszoe.ch or contact lpecher@pierreastier.com
Jenna and Joanna are two famous authors. Their lives are shared between family and TV shows. In their simplified world, books have become surfaces whose only interest is their cover. TV speakers, buyers, writers, no one would think of opening them. In this world, things have neither content nor body: Music is an object, children can be stickers, friends are no more than one word. This is an unconscious world.

This book is a satire and a reflexion on our way of life. Through her alternately disturbing and funny style, Noëlle Revaz creates a futuristic world that is definitively ours.

About the author

Noëlle Revaz is a Swiss French writer born in 1968. She has written several novels and radio plots. Her two first novels, *Rapport aux bêtes* (2002) and *Efina* (2009), were published by Gallimard.

She actually teaches creative writing at the Literature Institute of Bienne and belongs to the Swiss writers association “Bern ist überall”. She lives in Switzerland.

- The literary heiress of Ray Bradbury
- Won the Swiss Literature Award 2015

“Everything is at once familiar and strange. That could be our society in thirty years; or in ten years; unless this science fiction book is a satire of the present?”

*Le Temps*
The Flight Zone
Catherine Safonoff

The flight zone is the distance a prey needs to keep with predator to save its life. In other words: knowing and respecting the limits with the others and the world to live a not too painful life. Here is the intimate story of a woman who needs to figure the reality precisely. Safonoff’s narrator is constantly choosing between what is veiled and what is clear. She thinks about differences between memories and truth and can describe all the ambivalence of a woman, whose sense of irony does not prevent her from being amazed. In search of complete honesty, this novel subjugates.

About the author

Catherine Safonoff was born in 1939 in Geneva, where she still lives. She worked as journalist for the Journal de Genève and the Swiss French Radio. Her pen is always acute and smart to describe the everyday world and her lost loves. She has published seven books in the Editions Zoé and won several literary awards such as the Swiss National Award in 2012 and the Prix Ramuz in 2015 for her whole work.

“I feel the pictures leaving my head, I feel a hand that digs them up, roots them up, as in May or June when I pull a dandelion flower up with a big chopper (I don’t remember the word). There is always a piece of root and the yellow flower comes back to life, while my ideas fade one by one: I stay and I am afraid.”

• Another way to understand everyday life
• Humour, truth & seriousness: a perfect balance

“Nothing spoils the mockery, the biting honesty with which the author – “so miserable to be old” – keeps on dealing with the “everyday happy little things” as well as their darker side.” Livres Hebdo

For more information, visit www.editionszoe.ch or contact lpecher@pierreastier.com
The Miner and the Canary
Catherine Safonoff

A woman falls in love with her psychologist, Dr Ursus. A clear situation that straightaway stops expression of feelings and desire. For her, it means real opportunity to love. In this controlled and protected frame, nothing wrong may happen. The patient writes, as if she were charmed.

Without risk she can love his eyes, his voice, his clothes, his kindness and his implacable logic. She just has to keep the right distance and let her endless love flow.

What about canary? This symbol belongs to an old tradition. In the old days, miners brought with them this little singer bird that warned when a firedamp explosion was threatening.

About the author

Catherine Safonoff was born in 1939 in Geneva, where she still lives. She worked as journalist for the Journal de Genève and the Swiss French Radio. Her pen is always acute and smart to describe the everyday world and her lost loves. She has published several books in the Editions Zoé and won several literary awards such as the Swiss National Award in 2012 and the Prix Ramuz in 2015 for her whole work.

- Winner of the Swiss Literature Award 2012 for her whole work
- Winner of C.-F. Ramuz Award 2015 for her whole work

“This softest text is deeply distressing, full of tender concern and delicate humor. It also is a story of promised brightness. On the shores, sun will come back.”

Le Monde des Livres

For more information, visit www.editionszoe.ch or contact lpecher@pierreastier.com
About My Mother
Catherine Safonoff

An old woman loses her mind. That is why her only girl reconstructs the past as well as she can. Through bits of memory and everyday incidents, the narrator attempts to deserve her mother’s love. About my Mother is a notebook that is alternately poetic, funny and dark. It is written to forget bitterness and death.

This quest of filial love is also a passionate attempt to see a fugitive lover again. Which love will triumph? To this question, narrator gives a singular answer.

About the author
Catherine Safonoff was born in 1939 in Geneva, where she still lives. She worked as journalist for the Journal de Genève and the Swiss French Radio. Her pen is always acute and smart to describe the everyday world and her lost loves. She has published several books in the Editions Zoé and won several literary awards such as the Swiss National Award in 2012 and the Prix Ramuz in 2015 for her whole work.

“Those years, I have tried to forget my last man and to support my first woman who was coming into the death”

- A fine and sensitive novel
- Winner of the Swiss Literature Award 2012 for her whole work

“This novel is a double bereavement: of the lover and of the mother. When you finish reading, you are relieved and calm”

24 Heures
Aude Seigne deciphers the world with an amazing accuracy and her experience as a traveler. What does “traveling” mean to her? Lightness and rapture. Because Beauty is sometimes scary: “something bursts inside me, a wall suddenly collapses, and the risk of the abyss appears, as well as the potential of the absolute love”. *Chroniques de l’Occident nomade* is a learning novel. Aude Seigne questions relentlessly the world she discovers around her, never hiding her doubts and her fears in this stronger presence that traveling gives her.

**About the author**

Aude Seigne was born in 1985 in Geneva, where she still lives and works. She traveled in Greece, Australia, Croatia, Burkina Faso, Ukraine… Drawing from these experiences, she wrote *Chroniques de l’Occident nomade*, winning the prestigious Prix Nicolas Bouvier in 2011, the famous Genevan writer whose path she is successfully following.

- Won the Prix Nicolas Bouvier 2011
- The new generation of traveling writers

“Aude Seigne succeeded in assimilating books and inspiration of what she loves. She found a personal and modern tone to speak as the occidental traveler of the 21st century. She mixes the coolness of youth with the wisdom of experience, with no idealization of the traveler status.”

Livres Hebdo
A World Wide Web
Aude Seigne

What if the World Wide Web was to disappear? This is the secret wish of a few people scattered around the world. In Switzerland Penelope works as a programmer during the day while being a hacker at night. Far away in China her boyfriend is installing submarine communication cables. In Portland, June is a chemist who manufactures natural cosmetics and lives a threesome relationship with Evan, community manager in an insurance company and Oliver, bookseller and bartender. Birgit, the Danish girl, manages a non-profit organization that increases people’s awareness to Internet-caused energy waste. Lu Pan is a star YouTuber who lives as a virtual recluse in Singapore, where his father handles freighter traffic. They do not know each other but together they are going to plan a worldwide digital detox.

The author, herself part of the generation she depicts, plays on her characters’ contradictions. Without ever condemning the WWW or its users, she makes the virtual world real by describing the huge datacentres and dataflow. Playing with the idea of a world without Internet, she makes it very obvious that this new world will be nothing like the old one.

About the author

Born in 1985, Aude Seigne is a French-speaking Swiss novelist. Her first novel Chroniques de l’occident nomade won the 2011 Nicolas Bouvier Award in Saint-Malo (Festival Étonnants Voyageurs).

• An astonishing post-Internet novel
• A lucid voice from the millenial generation

“Aude Seigne makes the secured datacentres real, and maps the million kilometres of cables under our feet, deep in the oceans, where a large part of our lives in transit.” Livres Hebdo

For more information, visit www.editionszoe.ch or contact lpecher@pierreastier.com
Damascus Under Snow

Aude Seigne

Here is a book about Damascus, but whose topic is not this magical city. This is a personal self-wintering, a burying. In 2008, Alice spent a whole winter in Damascus National Museum basements, cleaning, photographing and listing Sumerian tabellas. 6 years later she tells her story, when Syria is no more the country she had discovered. Alice leaves adolescence and realises that adulthood is not the happy, steady life she thought it would be.

About the author

Aude Seigne was born in 1985 in Geneva, where she still lives and works. She traveled a lot, in Greece, Australia, Croatia, Burkina Faso, Ukraine... Drawing from these experiences, she wrote *Chroniques de l’Occident nomade*, winning in 2011 the prestigious Prix Étonnants voyageurs Nicolas Bouvier, the famous Genevan writer whose path she is successfully following.

“It’s a new kind of trip, it’s a book against the obligation to conclude.”

• A original way to discover Damascus
• Won the Prix Nicolas Bouvier 2011

“Among things told by Aude Seigne, we love her work on doubt and uncertain, when she is sweetly and painfully aware of the seriousness and inconsistency of her writing.”

Livres Hebdo

For more information, visit www.editionszoe.ch or contact lpecher@pierreastier.com
Stand-by
Bruno Pellegrino, Aude Seigne, Daniel Vuataz

Stand-by is what happens when TV series screenplays’ edginess meets a sensorial range which only literature can express. Éditions Zoé asked three Swiss authors, Bruno Pellegrino, Aude Seigne, and Daniel Vuataz, to come up with a totally updated version of traditional literary series.

When a volcano near Naples suddenly erupts, Europe is gradually paralyzed by an amazing ash cloud: airplanes are grounded, communications are jammed. Alix Franzen, who had planned to fly from Paris to New York, must change plans. In Montenegro, three teenagers, Nora, Vasko and Virgile, are left to themselves and discover the thrill and worries of independence. In the meantime, a team of young Europeans doing their compulsory climate service are stuck in Greenland, out of reach.

About the authors
Bruno Pellegrino, Aude Seigne, and Daniel Vuataz were all born between 1985 and 1988. All are TV series enthusiasts.

“A few kilometres away from Naples, at the heart of an area formerly known as the Phlegrean Fields, the first magma chamber exploded. A plume of molten rock pierces Earth’s crust. With phenomenal and unpredictable violence, the eruption begins.” Stand-by

• An original and exciting climate-fiction
• Three talented authors team up for a literary adventure
• Forget Netflix: this is the link between Balzac and Breaking Bad

For more information, visit www.editionszoe.ch or contact lpecher@pierreastier.com
“Artemis” consists of sixteen metres of aluminium, carved for seas of ice. Four landscape architects embark on this sailboat to study the territory of the Arctic Circle. In the heart of extreme nature, subject to a promiscuity that turns this voyage into a closed-door experience, they must face the constraints of the group – with the captain, and this peculiar desert as toxic as it is bewitching.

During the stopovers, the narrator runs on the sparkling tundra. On board, she writes her logbook, describing her daily life (the navigation, the cold, making bread, cooking fish, personal hygiene...), and what is above all a disturbing human and intimate experience.

This fictional logbook tells of a complex humanity’s relationships with others – and with nature.

About the author

Anne-Sophie Subilia studied French literature and history at the University of Geneva. She wrote her master’s thesis on L’Obscurité by poet Philippe Jaccottet – a work that was awarded the Hentsch Prize for Literature. In 2010, while living in Montreal for a degree in arts management, she joined “La Traversée - Atelier québécois de géopoétique.”

• A fictional travel story that explores the intimate components of the journey

• “an attempt to extricate oneself, to think beyond the collective shambles. A success.” Le Monde

• “Simple but profound.” Livres Hebdo

For more information, visit www.editionszoe.ch or contact lpecher@pierreastier.com
Antonia
Gabriella Zalapì

Antonia is a young woman who lives in 1960’s Sicily, in a wealthy environment. Her husband, Franco, a man with small, sharp, mischievous eyes, limits her to the role of the perfect housewife, and her son, cornered by an authoritarian nurse, avoids her. When she inherits from her paternal grandmother, she throws herself headlong into the papers and photos recovered in the beautiful mansion, Villa Clara, a haven of peace, sweetness and harmony where she spent a part of her youth.

In her diary, Antonia recounts two years of her life, her unsurprising days, her useless attempts to get closer to her son, a sticky and confused awkwardness which clears up as she plunges back into her past. She is the eldest daughter of a woman from a Jewish family who fled Vienna in 1940 to the Bahamas, who had a hard time being a mother herself. Her father-in-law had an incestuous relationship with her. Her father died too young. She had an egocentrical and spendthrift maternal grandmother. A return to Europe ten years later, was full of breaks, relentless moves from Vienna to London, then Geneva, and Sicily to a paternal grandmother who finally brought her some family warmth. This is why Antonia feels out of place. This beautiful novel, intimate and humble, is a brief snapshot of the stolen life of so many women.

About the author

Born in Milan, Gabriella Zalapi is a visual artist who lives in Paris. Her work revolves around painting and photography. She likes to work with archive images, press images or videos.

• Grand prix de l’héroïne 2019 Madame Figaro
• Behind the European elegance of 1960s, the brutal tyranny undergone by women.

“The word ‘mother’ sounds like a profound impossibility, it throws me into both lies and rejection, I cannot find my place, I am an imposture.” Antonia

For more information, visit www.editionszoe.ch or contact lpecher@pierrestier.com
Translation of Swiss authors – Funding and Support

Pro Helvetia aims to make contemporary Swiss arts and culture accessible to audiences in different linguistic regions, both within Switzerland and abroad. In order to raise international awareness of Swiss arts and culture, we support the translation of Swiss literature and publications on topics related to Swiss arts and culture into languages from all over the world. A key condition for the granting of support in the field of translation is the involvement of renowned and professional publishers in the realisation of the project.


Editions Zoé
46 chemin de la Mousse
CH-1225 Chêne-Bourg-Genève
Switzerland
+41 22 309 36 06
lpecher@pierreastier.com
www.editionszoe.ch

@editionszoe on

@zoe_rights on Twitter