



LITERATURA  
LITERATURE

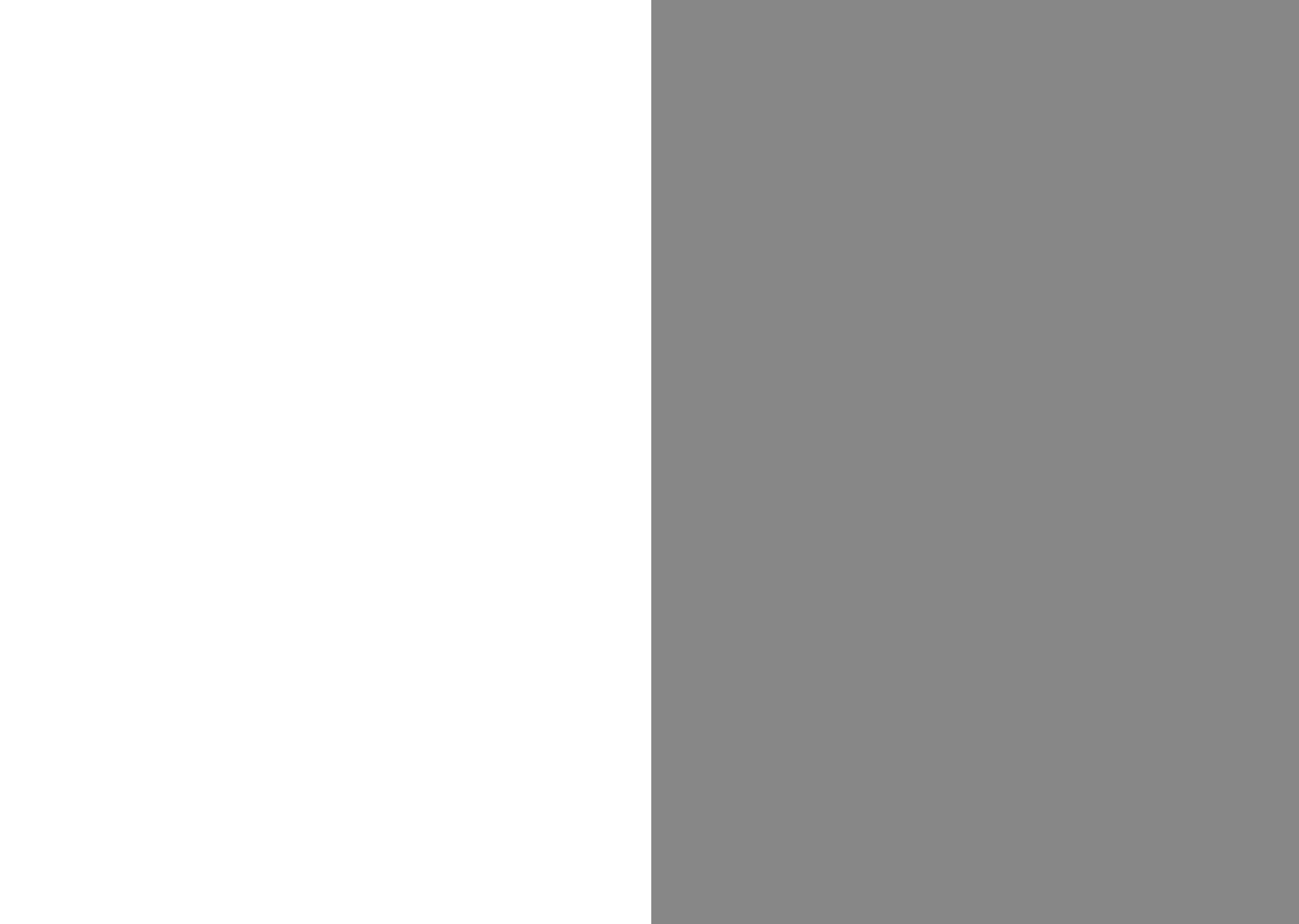
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Estibalitz Ezkerra Vegas

BASQUE.



ETXEPARE  
EUSKAL  
INSTITUTUA



LITERATURA  
LITERATURE

Estibalitz Ezkerra Vegas

**BASQUE.**

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Etxepare Euskal Institutuak sortutako bilduma honek hamabi kultura-adierazpide bildu ditu. Guztiak kate bakarraren katebegiak dira, hizkuntza berak, lurralte komunak eta denbora-mugarri berberekin zeharkatzen dituztelako. Kulturaren eskutik, euskararen lurraldean tradizioa eta abangoardia nola uztartu diren jasoko duzu. Kulturaren leihotik, bertakoaren eta kanpokoaren topalekua erakutsiko dizugu. Kulturaren taupadatik, nondik gatozen, non gauden eta nora goazen jakiteko aukera izango duzu. Liburu sorta hau abiapuntu bat da, zugan jakin-mina eragin eta euskal kultura sakonago ezagutzeko gogoa piztea du helburu.

This collection created by the Etxepare Basque Institute brings together twelve cultural disciplines, all of them intertwined as they share language, land and history. Hand in hand with our culture, we invite you to witness the fusion of tradition and innovation, the melding of local and foreign. In short, we invite you to learn where we come from, where we are now and where we're heading. This set of books is a launchpad intended to spark your curiosity.

## LITERATURA

### LITERATURE

Estibalitz Ezkerra Vegas

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Nola lortu du Mendebareko Europako berezko hizkuntzen artean indoeuroparra ez den bakarrak bere lekua hartzea XXI. mendean? Zertan datza euskal kultura gaur egun eta zertan bereizten da besteengandik? Zer presentzia merezi du nazioartean?

Liburu hauen bidez, Etxepare Euskal Institutuak erantzun batzuk proposatu nahi ditu, beste kultura eta identitate batzuei eskua luzatzeko asmoz. Elkar ezagutzea baita elkar estimatzeko eta ulertzeko modu bakarra. Ongi etorri.

How has the only indigenous language of Western Europe that is not of Indo-European origin achieved its own place in the 21st century? What is Basque culture and what sets it apart from others? What international presence does it deserve?

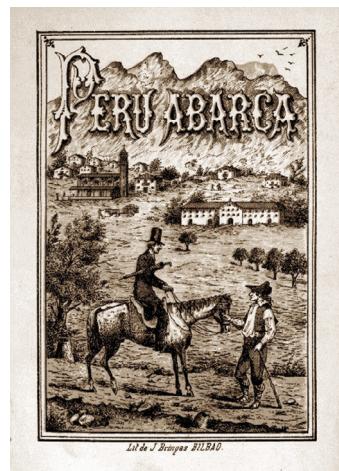
Through the books that make up this collection, the Etxepare Basque Institute would like to offer a series of responses to reach out to other cultures and identities. The better we know each other, the more we appreciate each other. Ongi etorri.

Historia labur honen helburua XX. eta XXI. mendeetako Euskal Herriko literaturaren garapenari begira esanguratsuak izan diren gertakariak eta egileak aipatzea da. Euskal Herriko zein euskal jatorriko idazleek beren hizkuntzeta (euskarra, gaztelania, frantsesa eta ingelesa) ekoitziriko literaturari deritzogu Euskal Herriko literatura. Lehen atalean, euskarazko ekoizpena izango dugu hizpide; ondoren, gainerako hizkuntzeta egindako literaturari helduko diogu.

## Euskal edo euskarazko literatura

### NARRATIBA

Hastapenetan eliz munduari eta hezkuntza erlijioitsuari loturik egon bazeen ere, XIX. mendetik aurrera euskarazko literaturak bestelako norabidea hartu zuen nobela bezalako generoei ongi etorria emanez (Mitxelena, 1988: 141). Aipatu mendean bost nobelek bakarrik argia ikusi bazuten ere (Lasagabaster, 1981: 348), erronka handia izan zen bestelako joerei atea ireki zielako. Dena den, XX. mende erdialdera arte itxaron beharko dugu euskal literatura jarduera autonomo izan dadin euskal gizartean.



Euskal nobelaren aurrekarien artean Juan Antonio Mogelen *Peru Abarka* dugu, 1802rako osatua baina 1880ean argitaratua. *Peru Abarka* beraren eta Maisu Juanen arteko solasaldia du oinarri, eta helburu didaktikoarekin idatzita dago: euskotar ilustratuak euskaren balioaz konbentzitu nahi ditu lanak. Aipatu beharreko beste hiru lan dira Jean Baptiste Elizanbururen *Piarres Adame* (1888), Resurreccion Maria Azkueren *Bein da betiko* (1893), zein Bizenta Mogelen *Ipuin onak* (1804), emakume batek argitaraturiko lehen lana, Esoporen fabulen moldaketa.

XIX. mendeko azken herenean, Bigarren Gerra Karlistaren ostean, Antonio Cánovas del Castillo foruak ukatu zituen.

Euskararen oraina eta geroa foruei lotu zituzten hainbatek, haien artean Juan Ignazio Iztuetak, zeinak *Guipuzcoaco provinciare condaira edo historia* (1847) adierazi zuen: «Euscara ill esquero Fueroac ez dira bicico; banan Euscara bici bida, Fueroac piztuko dira» (Madariaga, 2006:159). Zentzu horretan, ez da harritzekoa 1876an euskararen eta euskal kulturaren aldeko mugimendua, *Pizkundea* bezala ezaguna, agertu izana, Kataluniako Renaixença zein Galiziako Rexurdimento mugimenduen pareko. Alemaniako filosofo idealisten espíritu errromantikoaren ildotik euskaraz idatzitako literatura euskal arimaren islatzat jotzen hasi ziren, lehenengoaren helburua zelarik bigarrena babestea eta sustatzea. Horren harira, zenbait literatur ekitaldi antolatzen hasi ziren,

The goal of this brief history is to highlight the main events and most important names associated with the development of Basque literature through the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. We take Basque literature to mean the literature created by Basque authors or authors with Basque roots in different languages: Basque, Spanish, French and English. First we will look at literary production in Euskara (Basque) and then we will address literature written in other languages.

## Literature in Euskara

### NARRATIVE

While the origins of Basque literature in Euskara were linked to the ecclesiastical world and religious education, from the nineteenth century on it began to change with the introduction of new genres such as the novel (Mitxelena, 1988: 141). Although only five novels were written in the language during that century (Lasagabaster, 1981: 348), this was still a ground-breaking development because it paved the way for other tendencies to emerge. Still, literature in Euskara did not become an autonomous activity until the mid-twentieth century.

One of the forerunners of the novel in Euskara was *Peru Abarka* by Juan Antonio Mogel, completed in 1802 yet not published until 1880. This work is based on a dialogue between Peru Abarka himself and Maisu Juan, and is written with a clear goal in mind: to convince enlightened Basque scholars of the value of Euskara. Three other works should also be mentioned: *Piarres Adame* (1888) by Jean Baptiste Elizamburu, *Bein da betiko* (1893), by Resurrección María de Azkue, together with *Ipuin onak* (1804) by Bizenta Mogel, an adaptation of Aesop's fables and the first work in Euskara published by a woman.

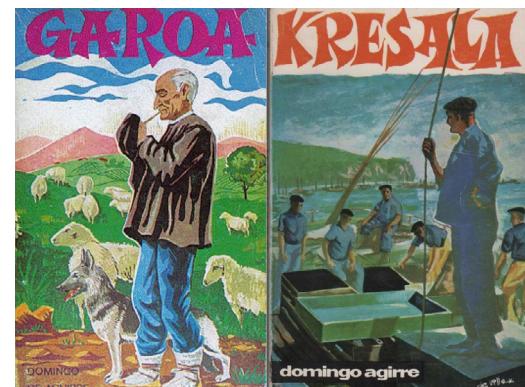
During the last third of the nineteenth century, following the Second Carlist War (1873-1876), the Spanish Prime Minister Antonio Cánovas del Castillo abolished the *fueros* (a body of law guaranteeing regional rights and privileges). Prior to this, numerous authors had connected the present and future of Euskara to the *fueros*. One of them, Juan Ignazio Iztueta, declared in his *Guipuzcoaco provinciare condaira edo historia* (1847) that, «Euscara ill esquero Fueroac ez dira bicico; banan Euscara bici bida, Fueroac piztuko dira» (if Euskara dies, the *fueros* will not live; but if Euskara lives, the *fueros* will be resurrected) (Madariaga, 2006: 159). In this regard, it is hardly surprising that in 1876 a pro-Euskara and Basque culture movement known as *Pizkundea* emerged, in a similar way to that of the Catalan Renaixença and the Galician Rexurdimento. Following the Romantic spirit of the German idealists, literature written in



besteak beste *Euskal Jaiak* delakoak, 1851ean Antoine d'Abbadie Iparraldean antolaturiko eta 1879an Hegoaldean izandako Lore Jokoak jarraipena. Era berean, garai horretan denetariko argitalpenek ikusi zuten argia, euskarazko hezkuntza instituzionalizatzeko urratsak egin ziren, Bizkaiko Foru Aldundiak Euskal Hizkuntzako Katedra sortu zuen (1888), eta lehen ikastolak ireki zituzten.

Euskal Jaien babesean, historia eta elezaharra uztartzen zituen euskarazko narratiba garatu zen. Walter Scott eskoziarraren nobelei jarraituz, Francisco Navarro Villosladak, Juan Venancio Araquistainek, José María Goizuetak zein Vicente Aranak gaztelaniaz idatziriko nobela historiko-erromantikoa eredu zuen narratiba horrek. Testuinguru horretan argitaratu zuten atalka, 1898tik aurrera, euskarazko lehen nobela: Domingo Agirreren *Auñemendiko lorea*. Adalbaldo dukearen emazte den Riktrudis emakume kristauaren historia azaltzen du lanak, kristaua ez den buruzagi euskaldun bat, Portun, atzetik duena.

XIX. mendearren azken hamarkadan euskal politikagintzan eragin handia izango zuen planteamendua agertu zen: euskal nazionalismoa, mugimendu foralistaren lekukoa hartuko zuena. Nazionalismoaren planteamenduetan eragin handia izan zuten XX. mende hasieran jazotako aldaketek eta gertaerek: industrializazioak ekarritako -Bizkaian eta Gipuzkoan batez ere- populazioaren hazkundeak, Partido Socialista Obrero Español-aren agerpenak Bilbon (1879). Alde batetik, industrializazio azkarra eragindako ekonomiaren egoera ezin hobeak ondorio baikorra izan zuen euskal kulturaren hainbat arlotan, hala nola euskal filologian (Ramón María Azkuek eta Julio Urquijok



rol garrantzitsua jokatu zuten arlo honetan; Urquijok *Revista Internacional de Estudios Vascos* sortu zuen 1907an), musikan, arkeologian zein etnografian (Telesforo Aranzadi, José Miguel Barandiaran). Euskal ikasketak balioztatu zitzakeen unibertsitaterik ez zegoen, ordea. Behar horri erantzuteko asmoz Euskal Ikasketen Lehen Kongresua antolatu zuten, baita Eusko Ikaskuntza eta Euskaltzaindia sortu ere 1918an. Bestetik, egoera ekonomiko beraren ondorioz euskararen eragin esparrua murritzut joan zen pixkanaka landa-eremuaren *berezko ezaugarri* bihurtzeraino, hirietan eta industriaguneetan gaztelania nagusituz zihoan bitartean. Zenbait intelektualek, Miguel Unamunok kasu, faktore sozioekonomikoak aintzat hartu ez eta euskararen beherakada azaltzeko orduan, hura mundu modernoaren beharrei aurre egiteko gai ez zela argudiatu zuten. Nazionalismoak ere industrializazioak eragindako polarizazioari (landa-eremua / hiria, euskara / erdara, tradizioa/modernitatea) etekin aterako zion bere modura. Domingo Agirreren *Kresala* (1906) eta *Garoa* (1912) nobela kostunbristek ezin hobeto islatzen dute nazionalismoaren diskurtsoa, euskal bizimodu jatorraren sinbolo diren kokaguneei (itsasoa eta baseria, hurrenez hurren) kutsagarritzat jotzen diren elementuak (hiria) kontrajartzen zaizkien aldetik. Ildo beretik jo zuten orduko hainbat egileren lanek: José Manuel Etxitaren *Josecho* (1909) eta *Jayoterri maitia* (1910); Ramon María Azkueren *Ardi galdua* (1918); Jean

1. Domingo Agirre.



Euskara came to be considered as representative of the Basque soul, and its goal was to protect and promote the language. For that reason, different literary acts were organised, such as the so-called *Euskal Jaiak* (Basque Festivals), taking the baton from the *Lore Jokoak* (literally, Floral Games), which were held for the first time in the Northern Basque Country in 1851, organised by Antoine d'Abbadie, and the Southern Basque Country in 1879. Meanwhile, at the same time all kinds of publications emerged, steps were taken towards the institutionalisation of schooling in Euskara, the provincial council of Biscay created the first Chair in the Basque Language (1888), and the first *ikastolas* (schools where instruction is in Euskara) opened their doors.

As part of the *Lore Jokoak*, a literature in Euskara began to emerge which combined history and legend. This literature took as a reference point literature in Spanish by authors like Francisco Navarro Villoslada, Juan Venancio Araquistain, José María Goizueta and Vicente de Arana, which in turn had been inspired by the romantic historical novels written by the Scottish author Walter Scott, amongst others. At this moment, specifically after 1898, the first novel in Euskara was published in serial form: *Auñemendiko lorea* by Domingo Agirre. This work centred on the tale of Rictrude, the Christian wife of Duke Adalbald, who was wooed by the non-Christian Basque chief Portun.

At the close of the nineteenth century a concept emerged that would have a major influence in transforming Basque politics: Basque nationalism, which took over the baton from foralism (the movement to seek reinstatement of the *fueros*). The concept of Basque nationalism was influenced greatly by several events which took place during the early twentieth century: industrialisation (mainly in Biscay and Gipuzkoa), population growth and the founding of the Partido Socialista Obrero Español (PSOE, Spanish Socialist Workers' Party) in Bilbao (1879). On the one hand, the positive impact of rapid industrialisation on the Basque economy resulted in a flourishing of Basque culture in many aspects: for example, philology (Ramón María

Barbierren *Piarres* (1926-29); Pierre Lhanderen *Mirentxu* (1914) eta *Yolanda* (1921), besteak beste. Aipatzekoak dira orduko zenbait emakumek, hala nola Rosario Artolak, Tene Mujikak, Julene Azpeitiak, Katalina Eleizegik eta Sorne Unzueta euskal literaturari egindako ekarpena.

36ko gerrak eragin suntsigarria izan zuen euskal letretan. Gerra garaian nobela bakarrak ikusi zuen argia: Tomás Agirre Barrensonoren *Uztaro* (1937), gai aldetik hura ere kostunbrista. Domingo Arrutiren *Loretxo* (1937), atalka argitaratua euskarazko lehen egunkarian, *Eguna* (1937), amaitu gabe geratu zen. Gatazkan bizia galdu ez zutenenetik askok erbestera jo zuten eta desterruan, hain zuzen, euskal literaturak bultzada handia jaso zuen. Penintsulan, errepressoaren ondorioz, zaila zen euskaraz ezer argitaratzea. Erbesteko eragileen artean nabarmentzekoak dira Ekin argitaletxea, 1942an Buenos Airesen sortua, eta *Euzko Gogoa* aldizkaria (1950-1955 / 1956-1959), Jokin Zaitegik zuzendua Guatemalatik, gerora Miarritzera aldatu zena. Ekinen bitartez ikusi zuten argia guda osteko lehen nobelek, Jon Andoni Irazustaren *Joanixio* (1946) eta *Bizia garratza da* (1950), biak ala biak Espaniako gerraren testuinguruari kokatuta. Irazustaren nobelak XX. mende hasierako joeraren jarraipen dira, hots, ideologia esenzialistaren isla dira, tradizioaren eta erlijioaren aldekoak. Maria Jose Olaziregi aburuz, askozaz berritzaleagoa da Joseba Eizagirreren *Ekaitzpean* (1948), karlisten (nazionalen aldeko) eta nazionalisten (Errepublikaren aldeko) artean zeuden kontraesanak azaltzen dituen aldetik. Aipatzeko da ere Sebastian Salaberriaren *Neronek tirako nizkin* (1964), gerra lehen pertsonan kontatzen duen lan autobiografikoa.

Martin Ugaldek inork baino hobeto azaldu zuen errepresso politikoak eta deserriak euskal herritar askorengan izan zuen eragin suntsigarria. Egileak berak hiru erbestealdiri aurre egin zien. Ugalderen lanen artean

2. Julene Azpeitia.



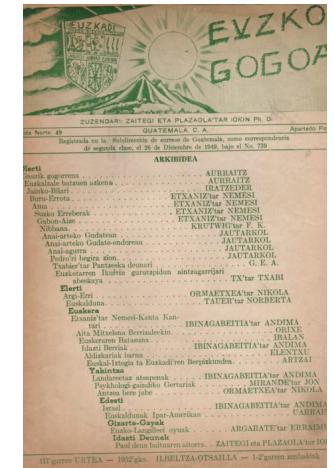
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2. Julene Azpeitia.

Azkue and Julio Urquijo played an important role in this, with Urquijo founding the *Revista Internacional de Estudios Vascos* (RIEV, International Journal of Basque Studies) in 1907, music, archaeology and ethnography (Telesforo Aranzadi, José Miguel Barandiaran). However, there was no university to accredit Basque Studies. The organisation of the First Basque Studies Conference was precisely a response to that need, which was followed by the creation of Eusko Ikaskuntza (the Basque Studies Society) and Euskaltzaindia (the Royal Academy of the Basque Language) in 1918. On the other hand, the economic situation itself contributed to Euskara losing ground in regard to Spanish, so that in time it became associated with being a "more typical" feature of rural areas. Meanwhile, in urban and industrialised areas Spanish became the dominant language. Some intellectuals, like Miguel Unamuno, ignored the economic factors which had caused the decline in use of Euskara and even argued that it was a language unsuited to the demands of the modern world. Nationalism itself understood how to make the most of the polarisation created by industrialisation (rural areas vs. urban areas, Basque vs. Spanish, tradition vs. modernity). The *costumbrista* novels of Domingo Agirre, *Kresala* (1906) and *Garoa* (1912), are good examples of the nationalist discourse at that time: with spaces symbolic of a "pure" Basque way of life (the sea and the farm, respectively) contrasted against spaces considered pernicious and contaminated (the city). Works by other authors during the same period reveal the same characteristics: *Josecho* (1909) and *Jayoterri maittia* (1910) by José Manuel Etxeita; *Ardi galdua* (1918) by Ramón María Azkue; *Piarres* (1926-29) by Jean Barbier; and *Mirentxu* (1914) and *Yolanda* (1921) by Pierre Lhander. Likewise, the contribution of women authors to the literature of the era also stands out in works by Rosario Artola, Tene Mujika, Julene Azpeitia, Katalina Eleizegi and Sorne Unzueta.

The Spanish Civil War (1936-1939) had a devastating effect on Basque letters. Just one novel was published during the conflict: *Uztaro* (1937) by Tomás Agirre Barrenso, a *costumbrista* work. *Loretxo* (1937), by Domingo Arruti, published in serial form in *Eguna* (the first newspaper in Euskara in the Basque Country), remained unfinished. Many survivors of the war went into exile and it was in exile that literature in Euskara received a significant boost. Meanwhile, in the peninsula, it was difficult to publish in Euskara because of state repression. The important agents in exile included the Ekin publishing house (founded in 1942 in Buenos Aires) and the journal *Euzko Gogoa* (1950-1955 / 1956-1959), edited by Jokin Zaitegi who was based in Guatemala (and who later moved to Biarritz in Labourd).

The first novels of the post-Spanish Civil War era were published by Ekin: *Joanixio* (1946) and *Bizia garratza da* (1950). Both were written by Jon Andoni Irazusta and both were based on the war. Irazusta's novels reflect the prevalent feelings of the early twentieth century. In other words, they reflect an essentialist ideology which emphasised tradition and a religious sentiment. For Maria Jose Olaziregi, *Ekaitzpean* (1948) by Jose Eizagirre is a more ground-breaking work to the extent that it shows the contradictions on both sides: that of the Carlists (a traditionalist faction which supported the military insurgents against the Spanish Republic) and the nationalists (who supported the Republic). One should also mention *Neronek tirako nizkin* (1964)



nabarmenzeko da *Iltzalleak* (1961) 36ko gerraren eta gerraostearen gogortasuna azaltzen duen ipuin bilduma, eta *Itzulera baten istorioa* (1989) zein *Pedrotxo* (1993) nobelak. Lehenengoak erbestean den euskal familia baten Euskal Herriko itzultzeko ahalegin antzuak azaltzen ditu; bigarrenak, gerrak ekarri zuen giza hondamena eta gerraosteko errepresio frankista ditu aipagai.

Gerraostearen Hegaoaldean argitaratu zuten lehen nobela Jon Etxaideren *Alos-Torrea* (1950) izan zen, Juan Venancio Aranquistainen «Gau-illa» elezaharrean oinarritua. Etxaiderenak dira ere *Joanak joan* (1955), Pierre Topet Echahun poeta errromantikoaren bizitzan oinarritua, eta *Gorrotoa lege* (1964), Erdi Aroan gertaturiko bandoen arteko gerretan oinarritua. Bestetik, Jose Antonio Loidik euskarazko lehen polizia-nobela idatzi zuen, *Amabost egun Urgainen* (1955).

1950eko hamarkadan euskal literatura jarduera autonomo bihurtu zen Euskal Herriko bizimodu soziokulturalean, «lege, funtzionamendu mekanismo eta helburu propioekin, bestelako jarduera linguistiko edo kulturaletik aparte» (Lasagabaster 1985: 427). Euskal literaturak Europaren une horretan nagusi ziren literatur mugimenduekin bat egin zuen, eta bat-egite horren adierazgarri izan zen itzulpenek literatur sistemana piztu zuten interesa. Aipatu hamarkadan euskal nobelak kostumbrismotik joera existentzialetara jauzi egin zuen Jose Luis Alvarez Enparantza *Txillardegi*-ren *Leturiariaren egunkari ezkutua* (1957) lanaren eskuak. *La Nausée-ko* (1938) Antoine Roquentinen antzeria, Leturiak, nobelako heroi gatazkatsuak, giza existentziaren zentzugabekeriaz idatziko du bere egunerokoan, eta existentialismoaren ardatz nagusien gainean –bakardadea, porrota, heriotza, erabakiteak eragiten duen ezinegona-gogoeta egingo du. Txillardegiren hurrengo nobelek ere, *Peru Leartzako* (1960) eta *Elsa Scheelen* (1969), existentialismoaren bidetik jo zuten.

Txillardegiren belaunaldi berekoa dugu Jon Mirande, eta hark bezala modernitatearen nondik norakoak azaldu zituen bere obra poetikoan zein bere narratiban, hala nola *Haur besoetakoa* (1970) nobela psikologikoan, 1959an idatzia eta 1970ean argitaratua, zein bera hil ostean kaleratu zuten *Gauaz parke batean* (1984) bildumako narrazioetan. *Haur besoetakoa* nobelaren gaiak, gizon heldu baten eta bere haur besoetako gaztearen arteko harremanak, Vladimir Nabokoven Lolita dakar gogora. Paradoxikoki, Mirandek ez zuen errusiarraren nobela irakurria Haur besoetakoa idatzi zuenean. Eduardo Gil Berak nobelaren gaztelaniazko itzulpenari idatzitako hitzaurrean esaten duen bezala,



3. Jose Luis Alvarez Enparantza *Txillardegi*. Durangoko Azoka, 2007.

3. Jose Luis Alvarez Enparantza, *Txillardegi*. Durango Book and Record Fair (Biscay), 2007.



by Sebastián Salaberria, an autobiographical work which narrates the war in the first person.

Martin Ugalde understood better than anyone how to reflect the devastating effects that political repression and exile entailed for many Basques. The author himself had to go through three exiles. Among Ugalde's works, one should mention *Iltzalleak* (1961), which reflects the tough nature of the civil war and the post-war era, together with the novels *Itzulera baten istorioa* (1989) and *Pedrotxo* (1993). The former demonstrates the futile efforts of a Basque family to return to the Basque Country; the latter analyses the human destruction caused by the war and the Franco regime's repression in the post-war era.

Following the civil war, the first novel published in the Southern Basque Country was *Alos-Torrea* (1950) by Jon Etxaide, based on the legend "Gau-illa" by Juan Venancio Aranquistain. The same author was also responsible for *Joanak joan* (1955), about the life of romantic poet Pierre Topet Echahun, and *Gorrotoa lege* (1964), on the war of the factions (clans) during the Middle Ages in the Southern Basque Country. Meanwhile, Jose Antonio Loidi wrote the first detective novel in Euskara, *Amabost egun Urgainen* (1955) [Fifteen Days in Urgain, 2014].

In the 1950s Basque literature became an autonomous activity within the socio-cultural life of the Basque Country "with its own laws, functioning mechanisms and objectives, as opposed to other linguistic and cultural activities" (Lasagabaster, 1985: 427). Basque literature took note of the main European literary movements of the time, and as a result, translation into Euskara of works written in other languages raised much interest in the Basque literary system. During this decade, as a result of *Leturiariaren egunkari ezkutua* (1957) by Jose Luis Alvarez Enparantza, *Txillardegi*, the Basque novel left *costumbrismo* behind to embrace existentialism. In the same way as Antoine Roquentin in *La Nausée* (1938), Leturia, the conflictive hero of the novel, writes in his diary about the absurdity of human existence. He also

Mirandek Teokrito zein Virgilioren garaikit Mendebaldeko tradizioaren parte zen literatur motibo bati besterik ez zion heldu.

Nazioarteari begira, 1960ko hamarkadak giza mugimendu berrien agerpena eta Hirugarren Munduko herrialdeetatik bultzaturiko iraultza ereduen hedapena ekarri zuen. Hego Euskal Herrian, nazionalismoaren barruan EAJk eta ETAk lortu zuten nagusitasuna aipatu beharko genuke (Chueca 2000: 398). Bestetik, herrialdearen hazkunde ekonomikoa eta industriala indartuz joan zen, eta horrek kultur proposamen berriak martxan jartzea ahalbidetu zuen. Proposamenek kultura eta arte modernoa bultzatzea zuten helburu, eta haien sustatzaileetako bi izan ziren Gabriel Aresti poeta eta Jorge Oteiza eskultorea. Oteizak Gaur, Danok, Emen eta Orain taldeetan bildutako beste artistekin batera, Euskal Eskola sortu zuen 1966an. Aresti eta Oteizarekin batera, aipatzeko da Koldo Mitxelena hizkuntzalaria. Mitxelenak Euskaltzaindiak bultzaturiko euskara batua sortzearen prozesua gidatu zuen. Bestetik, hamarkada berean, lehen Euskal Liburu Azoka antolatu zuten Durangon (1965), eta euskal kantu modernoa bultzatu zuen Ez Dok Amairu (1965-1972) taldeak orduan hasi zuen bere ibilbidea.

Literaturaren alorrean, euskarazko liburuen ekoizpenak bultzada handia jaso zuen argitaletxe agertu berrien eskuak: Gordailu (1969), Lur (1969), Etor (1970), Iker (1972), Gero (1973), Elkar (1973). Nobelen kopurua handitu egin zen (aurreko hamarkadan argitaratutakoaren halako bi), eta lehen aldiz euskarazko nobelak garaiko irakurleen aurreikuspenekin bat egin zuen. Urte horietan *nobela soziala* agertu zen, bestetik beste Xabier Gereñok, Txomin Peillenek eta Xabier Amurizak landutakoa.

Nobela sozialarekin batera, bestelako nobela eredu bat agertu zen euskal letren panoraman, alegorikotzat jo genezakeen nobela mota, orduko zentsurari iskin egin nahi ziona. Nobela mota horrek Hego Amerikako errealsismo magikoaren ekarpenak bere egin zituen. Orduko da Anjel Lertxundiren lehen lana, *Hunik arrats artean* (1970) ipuin bilduma. Bertan lehen aldiz agertu zen Urturi herria (Euskal Herriaren sinbolo), *Ajea du Urturik* (1971) nobelaren kokagune izango zena. Azken horretan Urturin jazotako uholdeak herritarrengan sorturiko ezinezgora azaltzen zaigu. Behin eta berriro agertzen den armiarma sarearen irudia diktadura garaian euskal herritarrek bizi zuten jazarpenaren adierazgarri da. Errealismo magikoaren oihartzuna nabarmena da ere Mikel Zarateren *Haurgintza minetan* (1973) nobela alegorikoan zein Joan Mari Irigoienen *Oilarren promesa*



4. Durangoko Azoka, 2015.

5. Ez Dok Amairuko zenbait kide Atahualpa Yúpanqui (ezkerretik hirugarrena) eta Paco Ibáñez (zortzigarrena) kantariekin: Joxean Artze (ezkerretik bigarrena), Benito Lertxundi (laugarrena), Mikel Laboa (seigarrena), Jose Angel Irigaray (zazpigarrena), Xabier Lete (makurtuta ezkerretik lehenengoa) eta Lourdes Iriondo. 1960ko hamarkada.



reflects on the main themes of existentialism: loneliness, failure, death, and the fear resulting from taking decisions. He also speculates on the existence of God, something Leturia does not deny. Txillardegi's next novels, *Peru Leartzako* (1960) and *Elsa Scheelen* (1969), also relied on existentialism.

Jon Mirande belonged to the same generation as Txillardegi, and in a similar way to him analysed modernity's failings both in his poetic and narrative work. Examples of the latter are the psychological novel *Haur besoetakoa* (1970), which was written in 1959 yet not published for a decade, and the posthumously published book of short stories *Gauaz parke batean* (1984). The main theme of *Haur besoetakoa*, the relationship between an adult man and his young goddaughter, brings to mind Vladimir Nabokov's novel *Lolita*. Paradoxically, Mirande had not read the Russian author's novel when he wrote *Haur besoetakoa*. According to Eduardo Gil Bera in the prologue to the Spanish translation of the novel, Mirande simply made use of a motif which had been part of the Western tradition since the time of Theocritus and Virgil.

At an international level the 1960s witnessed the emergence of new social and revolutionary movements originating in so-called Third World countries. In the Southern Basque Country, the Partido Nacionalista Vasco-Eusko Alderdi Jeltzalea (PNV-EAJ, Basque Nationalist Party) and ETA remained popular among the nationalist community (Chueca, 2000: 398). Meanwhile, continued industrial and economic growth allowed for new cultural initiatives to come to the fore. These had as a basic goal promoting modern Basque culture and art. Two of the most relevant figures of this era were the poet from Bilbao, Gabriel Aresti and the sculptor Jorge Oteiza. Oteiza, together with other artists belonging to the groups Gaur, Danok, Emen and Orain, founded the Basque School in 1966. Another figure worth pointing out is the linguist Koldo Mitxelena. Mitxelena led the process, promoted by Euskaltzaindia, to create Euskara Batua (Unified or Standard Basque). One should also remember that it was during this time, among other events, that the first Basque Book Fair in Durango (Biscay) was held (1965). Similarly, the group *Ez Dok Amairu* (1965-1972), the main impulse behind the emergence of the "new song" in Basque, emerged during this time.

As regards literature, production of books in Euskara received a major boost thanks to the efforts of new publishing houses: *Gordailu* (1969),

(1976) lanean. Biek ala biek Hego Euskal Herriak bizi zuen errepresio politikoa salatzen dute.

1969an argitaraturiko Ramon Saizarbitoriaren *Egunero hasten delako* nobelak eredu esperimentalistak ekarri zituen euskal literaturara. Tartekatzen doazen bi plano narratibo independentetan antolatua, *Egunero hasten delakok* abortatu nahi duen ikasle gazte baten istorioa zein tren geltoki batean eta telefono zentral batean dauden pertsonaia batzuen artean gertatzen den elkarrizketa azaltzen ditu. Saizarbitoriaaren bigarren nobela ere, *100 metro* (1976), hainbat planotan antolatuta dago, baina kasu honetan zinema teknikak jarraitzen ditu egileak gertaerak azaltzeko. Hari nagusiak ETAko kide batek Donostiako Konstituzio plazan poliziak tiroz hil aurretik egindako azken ehun metroak azaltzen ditu. Nobelak Francoren diktaduraren azken urteetako giroa islatzen du, errepresio handiko garaia hura. Nouveau Roman-aren teknikei jarraituz osatu zuen Saizarbitoria bere hirugarren nobela, *Ene Jesus* (1976).

Saizarbitoriarekin batera, Bernardo Atxaga eta Koldo Izagirre eredu narratibo esperimentalen sustatzaile handiak izan ziren. Atxagak eta Izagirrek *Panpina ustela* aldizkaria argitaratu zuten 1975ean. Bertan azaltzen zen manifestuan, «Ez dezagula konposturarik gal, halere», egileek euskal literaturaren egoera kritikatu eta errortiko berrikuntza prozesua proposatzen zuten. Aldaketa horren adibide dira Izagirren *Zergatik bai* (1976) eta Atxagaren *Ziutateaz* (1976) testu neoabangoardistak. Lanok 1970eko hamarkadako esperimentalismoen garaia itxi egin zuten.

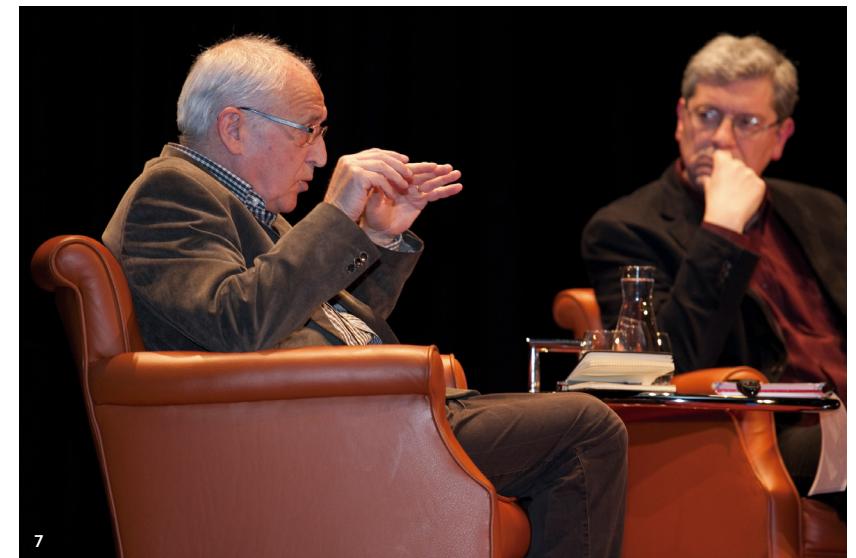
1978an, Espainiako Konstituzioa onartua izan ostean, euskarak gaztelaniarekin batera ko-ofizialtasun egoera lortu zuen penintsulako bi autonomia-erkidegoetan, hots, Euskal Autonomia Erkidegoan eta Nafarroako Foru Komunitatean. Horrek hezkuntza eredu elebidunak eskaintzea zein euskarazko aritalpenei zuzenduriko dirulaguntza deialdiak zabaltzea posible egin zuen. Bestetik, Euskal Filologia unibertsitate ikasketak sortu zituzten 1981ean, literatura-ikerketa akademikoari bultzada



6

**6.** Ramon Saizarbitoria.

**7.** Anjel Lertxundi eta Inazio Mujika Iraola Gutun Zuria jaialdian, Bilbao, 2012an.



*Lur* (1969), *Etor* (1970), *Iker* (1972), *Gero* (1973) and *Elkar* (1973). Within this production, there was a notable number of novels (twice the amount was published in comparison to the previous decade) and for the first time the novel in Euskara met the expectations of readers. It was during this time that the first social novels in Euskara were published by authors such as Xabier Gereño, Txomin Peillen and Xabier Amuriza.

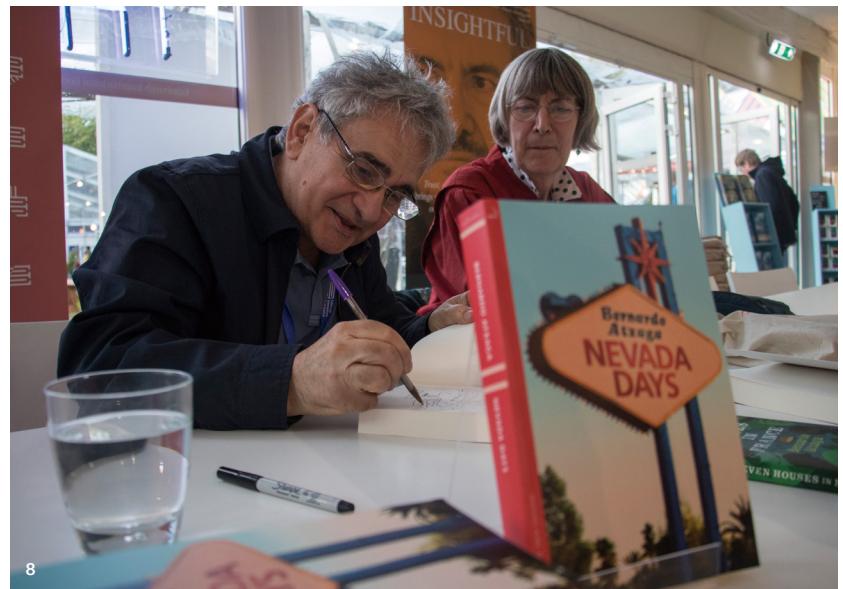
Together with the social novel, another genre appeared on the Basque literary scene. This was a kind of novel one might term allegorical, in an attempt to evade censorship, and that embraced the main features of Latin American magic realism. It was during this time that the first work by Anjel Lertxundi was published, a book of short stories *Hunik arrats artean* (1970). Here, the allegorical town of Urtubi (a clear symbol of the Basque Country) appeared for the first time, the setting for the novel *Ajea du Urturik* (1971) by the same author. *Ajea du Urturik* recounts the suffering of the town's inhabitants following some floods. The recurring image of a spider's web appears throughout the book as a symbol of the repression being suffered by Basques at the time. The influence of magic realism is also evident in the allegorical novel *Haurgintza minetan* (1973) by Mikel Zarate and in *Oilarraren promesa* (1976) by Joan Mari Irigoien. Both works denounced the political repression in the Southern Basque Country.

*Egunero hasten delako* by Ramon Saizarbitoria, published in 1969, introduced experimentalist models into the Basque novel. Organised along two independent alternating narrative levels, the novel tells the story of a young student who wants to have an abortion and the conversation that takes place between a train station and telephone exchange between a strange person and one or several anonymous interlocutors. In his second novel, *100 metro* (1976) [100 meter, 1985], the author also resorts to different narrative levels although in this work the use of cinematographic techniques is more evident when relating the events. The main story narrates the final one hundred metres of an ETA activist before being shot dead in Constitution Square in San Sebastián. The novel describes the

handia emanez. 1980ko hamarkadan bertan sortu zituzten Euskal Idazleen Elkartea (1982), Euskal Itzultzale, Zuzentzaile eta Interpreteneen Elkartea (1987) zein euskarazko haur- eta gazte-literatura sustatzen duen Galtzagorri Elkartea (1990).

Garai honetan euskal literaturak lorturiko autonomiaren adibiderik onena da Jose Irazu Garmendia, goitizenetan Bernardo Atxaga. Atxaga euskal idazlerik sarituena eta itzulienea izan ez ezik, idazketara profesionalki dedikatzen den egile bakarrenetarikoa dugu. «Camilo Lizardi erretore jaunaren etxearen aurkitutako gutunaren azalpena» (1982) narrazioan azalduriko Obaba geografia imajinarioak toki garrantzitsua betetzen du Atxagaren obran. Obabak Bizkaiko seaska kantu batean du jatorria, eta espazio horretan jazotzen dira *Sugeak txoriari begiratzen dionean* (1984), *Bi letter jaso nituen oso denbora gutxian* (1984) eta *Bi anai* (1985) nobela laburretan zein *Obabakoak* (1988) bilduma ezaguneko narrazioetan azaltzen diren gertaerak. Natura eta kulturaren kontrajartzeak baldintzatzen du Obaban jazotakoa. Berez, mundu aurremoderno da, non *depresioa* edo *eskizofrenia* bezalako hitzak existitzen ez diren; animaliengana jo egiten dute herritarrek ulertu ezin dituzten gertaerak azaltzeko. *Obabakoak* zehazki harremana duten narrazioen bilduma da. Ipuin guztietañ Obabako paisaia afektiboa mugarik gabeko espazio birtuala da, non narratzailearen memoriak istorioak harilkatzen doan. Istorio hauek gogoeta metanarratiboa eta literatura fantastikoko estrategiak batzen dituzte. Bidaia fantastiko hori, ororen gainetik, bidaia literario bat da, bidaia intertextuala. *Obabakoakek* ipuingtonzaren maisuak omentzen ditu, dela generoari buruzko teoriak idatzi duten horiek (Edgar Allan Poe, Horacio Quiroga edo Julio Cortázar), dela XIX. eta XX. mendeko idazleak.

Gazteei zuzenduriko *Behi euskaldun baten memoriak* (1991) nobelarekin errealsismora jauzi egin zuen Atxagak. Pertsonaia nagusiak, Kantek akuilaturiko *sapere aude* leloa bere egiten duen Mo izeneko behiak, gerraostearen gogortasuna Hego Euskal Herrian azaltzen digu. Atxagaren hurrengo nobelek, *Gizona bere bakardadean* (1993), *Zeru horiek* (1995) eta *Soinujolearen semea*



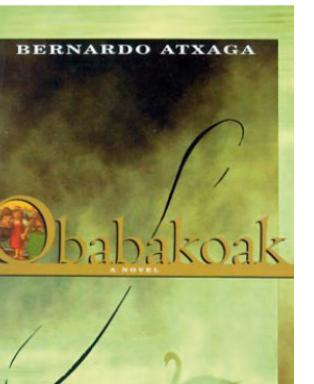
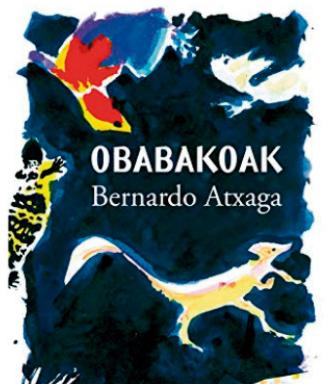
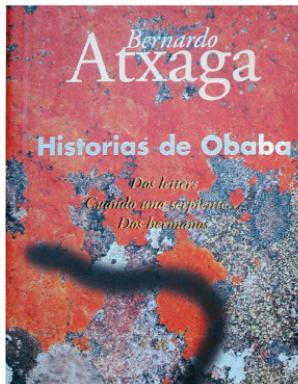
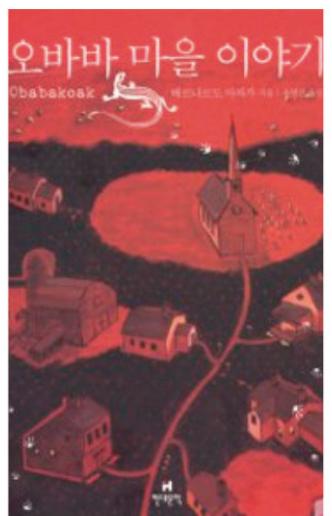
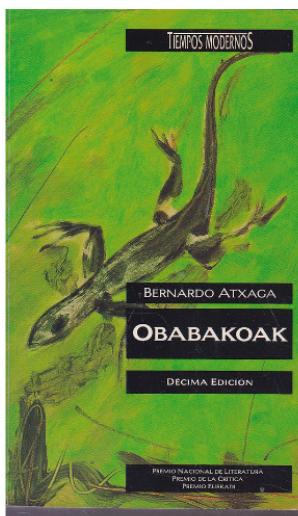
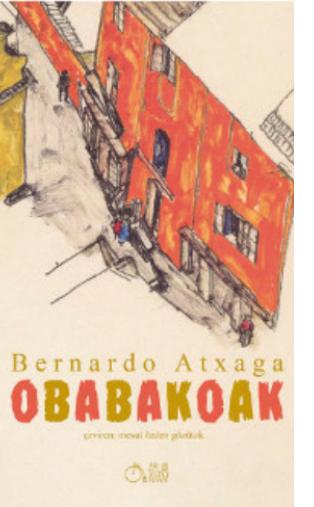
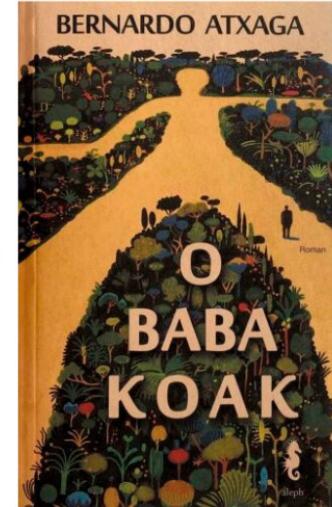
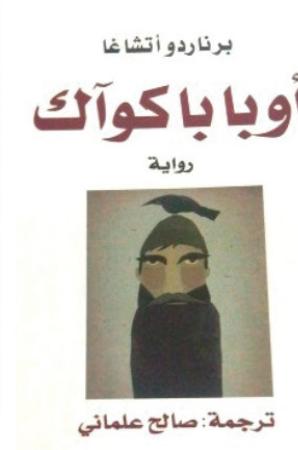
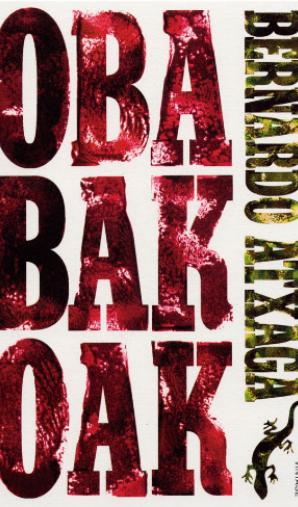
8. Bernardo Atxaga.

atmosphere during the final years of the Franco regime, a period of major political repression. Saizarbitoria wrote his third novel, *Ene Jesus* (1976), making use of the techniques of the *Nouveau Roman*.

Bernardo Atxaga and Koldo Izagirre were, together with Saizarbitoria, the main exponents of experimental models. In 1975 Atxaga and Izagirre published the journal *Panpina ustela*. In its public manifesto which declared that, "Ez dezagula konposturak gal, halere" (anyway, we shouldn't lose our composure), the authors criticised the situation of Basque literature and advocated radical change. Examples of this change are the neo-vanguard novels *Zergatik bai* (1976) by Izagirre and *Ziutateaz* (1976) by Atxaga. Both works closed the experimentalist phase of the 1970s.

After the ratification of the Spanish Constitution in 1978, Euskara became a co-official language with Spanish in the Basque Autonomous Community and the Foral Community of Navarre. This allowed for bilingual educational models to be offered and for grants to aid production in Euskara. Meanwhile, in 1981 university studies in Basque Philology were offered for the first time, encouraging literary research at an academic level. In the 1980s, the Association of Writers (1982), the Association of Translators, Editors and Interpreters (1987) and the Galtzagorri Association (1990), dedicated to the promotion of children's and young literature in the Basque language, were all established.

Jose Irazu Garmendia, better known as Bernardo Atxaga is, without any doubt, the best example of literature in Euskara managing to produce an autonomous writer in the 1980s. Besides being the most prizewinning and translated Basque author, Atxaga is one of the few full-time writers in the Basque language. The imaginary geography of Obaba, which appeared for the first time in "Camilo Lizardi erretore jaunaren etxearen aurkitutako gutunaren azalpena" (1982), occupies a stellar place in Atxaga's work. Obaba owes its origins to a lullaby from Biscay, and it is here that the stories contained in the short novels *Sugeak txoriari begiratzen dionean* (1984), *Bi letter jaso nituen oso denbora gutxian* (1984) [Two Basque Stories, 2009] and *Bi anai* (1985) [Two Brothers, 2001], as well as his book of short stories *Obabakoak* (1988), published in English in 1992, take place. The contraposition of nature and culture conditions everything that happens in Obaba. It is a pre-modern world in which there is no place for concepts like "depression" or "schizophrenia" and villagers look to animals to explain things that are beyond their reason. *Obabakoak* is, specifically, a collection of interrelated stories. In all of them the affective landscape of Obaba is an unlimited virtual space in which the narrator's memory weaves the stories. These stories combine metanarrative reflection with the particular strategies of fantasy literature. This voyage of fantasy is, above all else, a literary, inter-textual journey. *Obabakoak* pays tribute to the masters of storytelling, both those who wrote about the theory of this genre (Edgar Allan Poe, Horacio Quiroga or Julio Cortázar, for example), and nineteenth- and twentieth-century authors. Atxaga stepped into realism with the children's novel *Behi euskaldun baten memoriak* (1991) [*Memoirs of a Basque Cow*, 2020]. The main character, a cow called Mo who takes as her own Kant's saying *sapere aude*, tells us about the harsh nature of the post-Civil war era in the Southern Basque Country. The novels *Gizona bere bakardadean* (1993) [*The Lone Man*, 1996], *Zeru horiek* (1995) [*The Lone Woman*, 1999] and *Soinujolearen semea* (2003) [*The Accordionist's Son*, 2007] by the same author offer an ethical analysis of the Basque political conflict. All three novels have as their main protagonists ex-members of



ETA. In the case of *Gizona bere bakardadean* it is Carlos, who is tortured by his previous violent activities; in the case of *Zeru horiek*, we meet Irene, who is condemned to isolation and marginalisation. As regards *Soinujolearen semea*, the focus of the novel is on Franco's repression and ETA's armed struggle, and specifically the Condor Legion's bombardment of Gernika on 26 April, 1937. Throughout the novel, David recounts his memories, reflecting on painful childhood episodes: the Spanish Civil War and post-war era in Obaba. The Obaba in this novel is not, in contrast to its portrayal in *Obabakoak*, a place of whimsical events beyond reason. Rather, it takes on the appearance of a distant Arcadia. Here we come across Iruain, the birthplace of the protagonist, surrounded by bucolic green valleys which have little in common with the second utopian space in the novel: Stoneham Ranch, in Tulare County, California. The utopian hope that Stoneham Ranch initially provides is destroyed once its relationship to the Spanish Civil War is revealed. In reality, Stoneham Fields in Great Britain became a place of exile for four thousand Basque children who fled the war on 21 May, 1937, on the ship "Habana". In this sense, in *Soinujolearen semea* America, far from being the Arcadia which since the Renaissance had inspired all kinds of travellers and artists, becomes the destination for a Basque who decides voluntarily to go into exile for political reasons.

Atxaga's next novel, *Zazpi etxe Frantzian* (2008) [Seven Houses in France, 2011], took a different direction. Leaving aside Obaba and Basque historical memory, this novel focuses on the colonisation process in the Congo. Despite the fact that this is quite a well-known literary theme, Atxaga goes further in his description of colonialism and its ceaseless cruelty. This is not an adventure novel –a genre colonisers turned to in order to justify their crimes—but rather a parody of this through which he highlights the weak points of the hegemonic imperialist ideology. *Nevadako egunak* (2013) [Nevada Days, 2017], winner of the Euskadi Prize for literature, is a blend of fictional and non-fictional genres, whilst *Etxeak eta hilobiak* (2019) summarises the literary universe initiated in *Obabakoak*.

The nineteenth-century Carlist Wars and especially the Spanish Civil War are the focus of many novels in Euskara published in the 1980s and 1990s. Among these, one might point out the following titles: *Abuztuaren 15eko bazkalondoa* (1979) by Joxe Austin Arrieta; *Euzkadi merezi zuten* (1984) by Koldo Izagirre; *Azukrea belazeetan* (1987), *Gerezi denbora* (1998) and *Sagarrak Euzkadin* (2007) by Inazio Mujika Iraola; *Izua hemen* (1990) and *Kilkerra eta roulottea* (1997) by Joxemari Iturrealde; *Loitzu herrian udapartean* (1993) by Luis Mari Mujika; *Badena dena da* (1995) by Patxi Zabaleta; *Azken fusila* (1994) and *Kilkerraren hotsak* (2003) by Edorta Jimenez; *Zoazte hemendik!* (1995) by Patri Urkizu; *Bihotz bi. Gerrako kronikak* (1996) and *Gorde nazazu lurpean* (2000) by Ramon Saizarbitoria; *Pausoa noiz luzatu* (1998) by Andoni Egaña; *Tigre ehiran* (1996) by Aingeru Epaltza; and *Agur, Euzkadi* (2000) by Juan Luis Zabala.

Although at the beginning of his literary career in the 1970s he was associated with innovative and experimentalist trends, the Spanish Civil

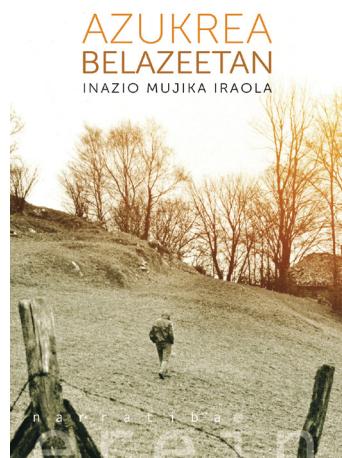


(2003), euskal gatazka politikora hurrerapen etikoa eskaintzen dute. Hiru nobelek etakide ohiak dituzte protagonista; ekintza terroristen memoriak torturaturiko Carlos azaltzen zaigu *Gizona bere bakardadeanen* eta bere militantzia politikoagatik bakardadera eta bazterketara bizi zera kondenaturiko Irene Zeru *horiekin*. Bien bitartean, frankismo garaiko errepresioa eta ETAren jarduera armatua ditu ardatz *Soinujolearen semea* nobelak. Bertan Davidek bere memoriak biltzen ditu, Obaba kokaleku izan zuen bere haurtzaroaren eta 36ko gerran zein gerraostean jazo ziren gertaera mingarrieta sakonduz. Nobelan azaltzen zaigun Obaba ez da, *Obabakoaken* bezala, arrazoiaren bidez nekez azal daitezkeen gertaera fantastikoen kokaleku, baizik eta arkadia urrun bat. Hor dago Iruain, protagonistaren jaiotterria, haran berde eta bukoliko batean kokatua, nobelako bigarren espazio utopikoarekin, Stoneham Ranch (Tulare County, Kalifornia), batere zerikusirik ez duena. Stoneham Ranchek pizturiko utopiaren lilura bertan behera geratzen da hasieratik leku horren eta Spainiako gerrarekin dagoen loturaren bitartez. Izen ere, Stoneham Fields (Britainia Handia) 1937ko maiatzaren 21ean 36ko gerratik Habana ontzian ihes egin zuten 4.000 euskal umeren erbesteleku izan zen. Ildo horretan, Amerika, denetariko bidaiaiak eta artistak inspiratu dituen arkadia izatetik urrun, arrazoi politikoak tarteko bere borondatez erbesteratzen den euskaldun baten helmuga da *Soinujolearen semean*.

Atxagaren hurrengo lanak, *Zazpi etxe Frantzian* (2008), garai kolonialeko Kongo du ardatz. Kongoren kolonizazio prozesuaren gaia literaturan arrotza ez bada ere, Atxagak koska bat estuago egiten du kolonialismoa eta haren krudeltasun mugagabea deskribatzeko orduan. Atxagaren nobela ez da abentura nobela bat, hots, kolonizatzaileek beren krimenak justifikatzeko erabili zuten generoa, baizik eta haren parodia zeinaren bitartez ideologia imperialista eta hegemonikoaren puntu ahulak erakusten zaizkigun. Euskadi saria jasotako *Nevadako egunak* (2013) hainbat genero nahasten ditu eta *Etxeak eta hilobiak* (2019) nobelak, beriz, *Obabakoakekin* abiaturiko unibertsio literarioa laburbiltzen du.

XIX. mendeko gerra karlistak eta, bereziki, 36ko gerra (1936-1939) 1980 eta 1990eko hamarkadetan euskaraz argitaraturiko nobelen askoren ardatz dira. Adibide moduan aipa genitzake Joxe Austin Arrietaren *Abuztuaren 15eko baziak* (1979); Koldo Izagireren *Euzkadi merezi zuten* (1984); Inazio Mujika Iraolaren *Azukrea belazeetan* (1987), *Gerezi denbora* (1998) eta *Sagarrak Euzkadin* (2007); Joxemari Iturralderen *Izua hemen* (1990) eta *Kilkerra eta roulottea* (1997); Luis Mari Mujikaren Loitzu herrian udapartean (1993); Patxi Zabaletaren *Badena dena da* (1995); Edorta Jimenezen *Azken fusila* (1994) eta *Kilkerrera hotzak* (2003); Patri Urkizuren *Zoazte hemendik!* (1995); Ramon Saizarbitorriaren *Bihotz bi. Gerrako kronikak* (1996) eta *Gorde nazazu lurpean* (2000); Andoni Egañaren *Pausoa noiz lutzatu* (1998); Aingeru Epaltzaren *Tigre ehizan* (1996); eta Juan Luis Zabalaren *Agur, Euzkadi* (2000).

Bere lehen lanak 1970eko ildor berritzaile eta esperimentalari lotuta egon arren, Spainiako gerra eta haren ondorio mingariak oso presente daude Koldo Izagirren lanetan. Horren adibide da *Euzkadi merezi zuten* (1984)



9. Koldo Izagirre.

9. Koldo Izagirre.



War and its painful consequences are central to the work of Koldo Izagirre. Evidence of this can be seen in his realist novel *Euzkadi merezi zuten* (1984). In *Metxa esaten dioten agirretar baten ibili herrenak* (1997) the author narrates, by means of fourteen stories full of humour and irony, the ups and downs of a war veteran, the stubborn Nikola de Agirre or *Metxa*. *Metxa* was the main character in Izagirre's next novel, *Agirre zaharraren kartzelaldi berriak* (1999), which tells the story of the voluntary gaol sentence of the old *gudari* (soldier). The Civil War and its consequences are also present in the book of short stories *Sua nahi, M. Churchill?* (2005) and *Franco hil zuten egunak* (2016).

Ramon Saizarbitoria has observed that for him, writing is a struggle against forgetting. He writes because, in the same way as his revered Samuel Beckett, he has a precarious memory (Olaziregi 2009b). For this reason memory is central to his work. His novel *Hamaika pauso* begins with the words "memory is a broken plate", a phrase the author attributes to the writer Claude Simon. Based on the suffering and execution of Daniel Zabalegi in 1975, the novel addresses the process of writing *Hamaika pauso* for its author Iñaki Abaitua. The story begins in 1973 and ends in 1984, after ETA's "autonomous commando units" have assassinated the PSOE (Socialist Party) senator Enrique Casas. As the story unfolds, the biographies of Zabalegi and Abaitua become intertwined. Abaitua, who is obsessed with death, loneliness and human weakness, ends up committing suicide. In this novel Saizarbitoria tells us that we can reconstruct the past in order to demonstrate, with an ethical goal in mind, what the official historiography has hidden: the suffering caused by the Basque political conflict at both an individual and collective level.

In the case of the novel *Bihotz bi. Gerrako kronikak* (1996), Saizarbitoria portrays the disintegration of a marriage between the narrator of the story and his wife Flora. At the beginning of the story the narrator confesses to having murdered his wife by throwing her out of the window. From this moment on the narration goes back in time to describe the events leading up to the crime, concentrating on the crucial moments in this domestic conflict. The novel also mentions another conflict, the Spanish Civil War, which is brought to mind through conversations the couple have with former *gudaris* in a cider house. These *gudaris*, from different factions

nobelaren errealista. *Metxa esaten dioten agirretar baten ibili herrenak* (1997) liburuan, umorez eta ironiaz beteriko hamalau istorioren bitartez, egileak 36ko gerran parte hartu zuen Nikola de Agirre *Metxa agure burugogorraren poz eta tristeziak azaltzen ditu*. Metxa Izagirreren hurrengo nobelan ere agertu zen, *Agirre zaharraren kartzelaldi berriak* (1999), gudariaren borondatezko kartzelaldia azaltzeko. Gerra eta haren ondorioak dituzte ardatz egilearen *Sua nahi, Mr. Churchill?* (2005) eta *Franco hil zuten egunak* (2016) narrazio bildumek ere.

Ramon Saizarbitoriaik adierazi du idaztea berarentzat ahanzturaren kontrako borroka dela; idatzi egiten duela hainbeste miresten duen Samuel Beckettek bezala oroimen kaskarra duelako (Olaziregi 2009b). Horregatik, oroimena oso presente dago bere obran. «Oroimena plater hautsia da», egileak Claude Simon idazlearen ahotan jartzen duen esaldiak abian jartzen du *Hamaika pauso* nobela. 1975ean jazotako Daniel Zabalegiren agonia eta fusilamenduan oinarrituta Iñaki Abaitua osatzen ari den «Hamaika pauso» izeneko nobelaren idazketa-prozesua azaltzen du liburuak. Istorioa 1973an hasten da eta 1984an bukatu, komando autonomoek Enrique Casas PSOEko senataria hil ostean. Narrazioak aurrera joan ahala, Zabalegi eta Abaituaren biografiek bat egingo dute, eta heriotza, bakardadea eta giza ezintasunarekin obsesionaturiko Abaituak bere buruaz beste egingo du. *Hamaika pauson* Saizarbitoria esatera datorriguna zera da, iragana berriro osa daitekeela historiografia ofizialak azaldu ez duena, hots, euskal gatazkak eragin duen sufrimendu indibiduala eta kolektiboa kontatzeko helburu etikoarekin.

*Bihotz bi. Gerrako kronikak* (1996) nobelaren kasuan, Saizarbitoria narratzailearen eta bere emazte Floraren bikote-harremanaren haustura azaltzen du. Nobela hasieran narratzaileak aitortzen du emaztea hil egin duela, sukaldetxo leihatik botata. Une horretatik aurrera, denboran atzera egingo du kontakizunak, eta narratzaileak hilketa burutzeko jarraitu zituen urratsak eta *gerra* domestikoaren gertaera esanguratsuenak azalduko ditu. Gerra domestikoarekin batera, beste gerra bat du aipagai nobelak, 36ko gerra, bikoteak sagardotegi batean gudari zahar batzuekin igaroko dituzten saioetan gogora ekarria. Gudari zaharrak, kontrako bando eta ideologietakoak gerra garaian, arratsaldero elkartzen dira eszena berberak gogoratzeko. Erreferentzia hauek guztiak agerian uzten dute gertaera beraren azpian milaka istorio daudela eta iragana bisitatzea ekintza subjektiboa dela.

*Gorde nazazu lurpean* (2000) liburua bost nobela laburrek osaturik dago: *Gudari zaharraren gerra galdua*; *Rossetti-ren obsesioa*; *Bi bihotz, hilobi bat*; *Marcel Martinen aitatasun ukatua* eta *Asaba zaharren baratza*. Bost lanek, modu batean ala bestean, euskal nazionalismoaren fantasiek eragin duten atrofia afektiboari egiten diote aipamen. *Martutene* (2012) eta *Lili eta biok* (2015) nobeletan, berriz, gerraren traumak belaunaldi ezberdinetan duen eragina aztertzen du Saizarbitoriaik.

36ko gerrarekin batera ETAren indarkeriari buruzko nobelen kopuruak gora egin zuen 1980 eta 1990ko hamarkadetan. Aipatzeko da 1980eko hamarkadan ETAren jarduera handitu egin zela (1987an Hipercor supermarketuan jazotakoa



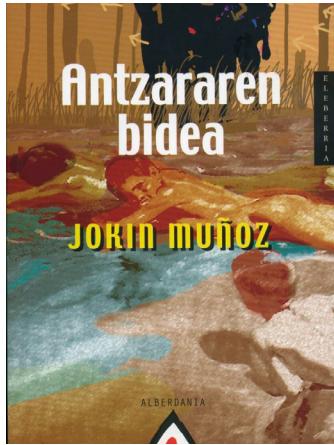
and with opposing ideologies during the war, meet every afternoon to remember the same scenes. All these references reveal that a thousand stories are hidden behind the same event, and that revisiting the past is a subjective act.

*Gorde nazazu lurpean* (2000) is composed of five short novels: *Gudari zaharraren gerra galdua* ("The Old Soldier's Lost War" in the anthology Our Wars, 2012); *Rossetti-ren obsesioa* [Rossetti's Obsession, 2006]; *Bi bihotz, hilobi bat*; *Marcel Martinen aitatasun ukatua* and *Asaba zaharren baratza*. These five works, in one way or another, refer to the affective atrophy caused by the fantasies of Basque nationalism. In the novels *Martutene* (2012), published in English in 2016, and *Lili eta biok* (2015), however, Saizarbitoria analyses the traumatic effect of the war on different generations.

In a similar way to what happened with the Spanish Civil War, the number of novels addressing ETA's violence increased in the 1980s and 1990s. One should mention that ETA's activity increased in the 1980s (its attack on the Hipercor supermarket left twenty-one people dead). Some of the novels focusing on ETA violence are: *Mugetan* (1989) and *Eulien bazka* (2003) –although the latter indirectly—by Hasier Etxeberria; *Etorriko haiz nirekin?* (1991) and *Ohe bat ozeanoren erdian* (2001) by Mikel Hernández Abaitua; Bernardo Atxaga's already mentioned novels; *Nerea eta biok* (1994); *Nerea and I*, 2005) by Laura Mintegi; *Hamaika Pauso* (1995) by Ramon Saizarbitoria; *Berriro igo nauzu* (1996) by Xabier Mendiguren Elizegi; *Arian-arian* (1996) by Patxi Zabaleta; *Joaten zaretenean* (1997) and *Antzararen bidea* (2009) by Jokin Muñoz; *Kilkirra eta roulettea* (1997) by Joxemari Iturralde; *Pasaia blues* (1999) by Harkaitz Cano; *Zorion perfektua* (2002); *Perfect Happiness*, 2007) and *Etxeko hautsa* (2011) by Anjel Lertxundi; *Hamar urte barru* (2003) by Joxe Belmonte; *Denboraren izerdia* (2003) by Xabier Montoya and *Ezinezko maletak* (2004) by Juanjo Olasagarré. Among all these works, *Antzararen bidea* (2007) by Jokin Muñoz stands out.

Jokin Muñoz began his literary career in the 1990s with the novel *Joan zaretenean* (1997), which demonstrates the influence the past exercises on human beings. Positive critical reception came later for the book of short stories *Bizia lo* (2003), in which he analyses the Basque political conflict from different points of view. The author received the Euskadi Prize for Literature for this work. His most accomplished work, however, is the novel *Antzararen bidea* (2007), for which he also won the Euskadi Prize. *Antzararen bidea* tells the story of Lisa. Lisa's son, Igor, is a member of ETA and he dies after a bomb

he is preparing explodes in an apartment in Salou (Tarragona, Catalonia). Following her son's death, Lisa starts looking after an old man called Jesús. Jesús belongs to a landowning family from Trilluelos, a fictitious town in the Eribera (Ribera) region of Navarre, which during the Spanish Civil War suffered repression at the hands of Falangists. The novel reads like a psychological thriller, demonstrating how violence has destroyed the lives of its protagonists, how it has taken away from them what they most loved in life. It is a gallery of characters without direction, like the geese

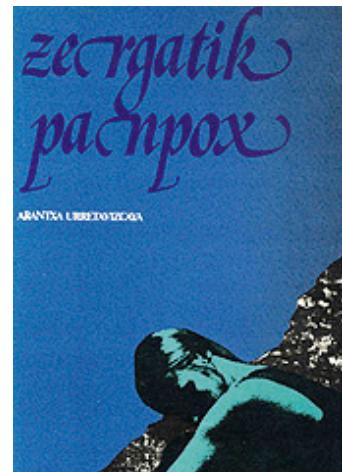


atentatuak 21 hildako utzi zituen). ETAren indarkeria ardatz duten nobeletako batzuk dira Hasier Etxeberriaren *Mugetan* (1989) eta *Eulien bazka* (2003), azken horrek zeharka egiten badu ere; Mikel Hernandez Abaituaren *Etorriko haiz nirekin?* (1991) eta *Ohe bat ozeanoren erdian* (2001); Laura Mintegiren *Nerea eta biok* (1994); Xabier Mendiguren Elizegiren *Berriro igo nauzu* (1996); Patxi Zabaletaren *Arian-arian* (1996); Jokin Muñozen *Joaten zaretenean* (1997) eta *Antzararen bidea* (2009); Joxemari Iturralderen *Kilkirra eta roulottea* (1997); Harkaitz Canoren *Pasaia blues* (1999); Anjel Lertxundiren *Zorion perfektua* (2002) eta *Etxeko hautsa* (2011); Joxe Belmonteren *Hamar urte barru* (2003); Xabier Montoiaren *Denboraren izerdia* (2003) eta Juanjo Olasagarreren *Ezinezko maletak* (2004). Horien artean nabarmentzekoa da Jokin Muñozen *Antzararen bidea* (2007).

Jokin Muñozek 1990eko hamarkadan hasi zuen bere literatur ibilbidea. Ordukoa da bere lehen nobela, *Joan zaretenean* (1997), iraganak gizakiongan duen eragina azaltzen duena. Kritikaren onarpena geroxeago, gatazka politikoak euskal gizartean duen eragina hainbat ikuspuntutik aztertzen duen *Bizia lo* (2003) narrazio bildumarekin heldu zittaion. Lan horrekin, hain zuen, Euskadi literatura saria jaso zuen egileak. Bere lanik biribilena, ordea, *Antzararen bidea* da, harekin ere Euskadi saria jaso zuen. *Antzararen bideak* Lisaren istorioa kontatzen du. Lisaren semea, Igor, ETAko kidea da eta Salouko (Tarragona) apartamentu batean manipulatzen ari den bonba eztandaren ondorioz hil egiten da. Jesus izeneko agure bat zaintzeaz arduratzan da Lisa. Jesus Nafarroako Erriberan kokaturiko Trillueloseko (asmaturiko herria) Iur-jabe familia baten ondorengoa da, eta 36ko gerran errepresio faxista jasan zuen. Nobela *thriller* psikologiko moduan planteatuta dago, indarkeriak istorioko protagonisten bizitza nola hautsi duen, gehien maite zutena nola kendu dien azalduz. Norabide jakinik gabe mugitzen diren pertsonaia galeria da, nobela hasieran aipatzen diren antzaren antzeko: Jesusen osaba falangistak burua moztu ostean, antzarek ibiltzen jarraitzen zuten harik eta lurrera erori arte, odolputzu baten erdian. Muñozen lana, ordea, harantzago doa gerran altxatutakoek erakutsitako indarkeria ETAren indarkeriarekin harremanean jarriaz.

Aro demokratikoko literatur panoraman jazotako gertaera esanguratsuenetako bat emakumeen parte-hartzea euskal literaturan izan da. Gizonezkoekin konparatuta, emakumeen kopurua oraindik ere txikia da euskal literaturan (%15 ingurukoa dela uste da). Bestetik, euskal kritika feministak salatu du, Linda Whitek (1996) egindako azterketatik abiatuta, euskal literaturaren historiografia irizpide androzentrikoetan oinarritu izan dela (Olaziregi 1999). Edonola ere, emakumeek idatzitako euskal literatura nabarmenago egin da XX. mendeko azken hamarkadatik aurrera, doktorego tesiei (Nuñez Betelu 2001, Gonzalez 2007) eta ikerketa akademikoei esker (Iris Zavala 2000; Gabilondo 2006).

Arantxa Urretabizkaiaren *Zergatik, panpox* (1979) nobela laburrak duela bost urte senarrak utzitako emakume baten eta bere zazpi urteko semearen bizitzan egun bat jasotzen du. Nobelak, 1970ean Frantzian agertu zen «diferentziaren feminismoa» delakoari jarraituz argitaratu ziren lanen antzera, emakumearen rolaren gaineko gogoetak



10. Arantxa  
Urretabizkai.



10

10. Arantxa  
Urretabizkai.

mentioned at the beginning of the novel: after the Falangist uncle of Jesús used to cut their heads off, the geese would continue to walk for a while before falling wearily to the ground in a pool of blood. The novels of Muñoz, however, go further still, by linking the violence of the rebels during the Civil War with that of ETA.

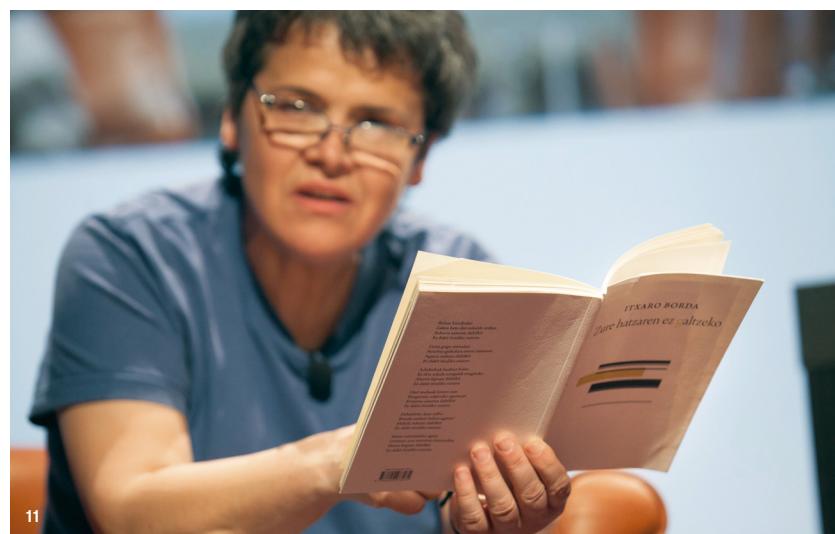
One of the most striking features of the literary panorama in the democratic era has been the participation of women in literature written in Euskara. The number of women writers is still small in comparison to that of men (it is believed to be around 15 per cent). Meanwhile, based on the research undertaken by Linda White (1996), a feminist critique has criticised the fact that, to date, the historiography of Basque literature has been based on androcentric criteria (Olaziregi 1999). Whatever the case, literature written by women from the 1990s on has become markedly more visible as a result of several doctoral theses (Nuñez Betelu 2001, González 2007) and academic works (Iris Zavala 2000; Gabilondo 2006).

The short novel *Zergatik, panpox* (1979) [Why Little Darling, 2020] by Arantxa Urretabizkai describes the ups and downs in a day in the life of a mother abandoned by her husband five years earlier and of her seven-year-old. In the same way as novels published within the framework of the “feminism of difference” in France during the 1970s, this novel reflects on women’s roles. In this regard, it addresses women’s working conditions, motherhood and women’s bodies, amongst other topics. In her second novel, *Saturno* (1987), Urretabizkai chose a more conventional narrative style. This novel is about the romantic relationship between an alcoholic sailor and a nurse called Maite. After an eleven-year silence, the author from Gipuzkoa then published *Koaderno gorria* (1998) [The Red Notebook, 2008]. This work is organised on two levels: the first focuses on a letter which the protagonist, Ama (the name appears in block capitals in the text) writes to her children in a red notebook. Since their father took them with him seven years ago, the woman has had no news of them at all. The

islatzen ditu. Alde horretatik, aipamen ugari egiten zaizkie emakumeen lan baldintzei, amatasunari eta emakumearen gorputzari, besteak beste. Bere bigarren nobelan, *Saturno* (1987), konta molde tradizionalagoetara jo zuen Urretabizkaiak. Lanak marinel alkohol zale baten eta Maite izeneko erizain baten arteko maitasun harremana azaltzen du. Hamaika urteko isilunearen ostean, gipuzkoarrak *Koaderno gorria* (1998) argitaratu zuen. Nobela bi planotan antolatuta dago: lehenengoak, protagonistak, Ama (testuan letra larriz agertzen da), bere seme-alabei koaderno gorri batean idatziriko gutun luzea du oinarri. Zazpi urte lehenago aitak berarekin eraman zituenetik, emakumeak ez du haurren berririk izan. Bigarren planoan, Amak seme-alabei koadernoa emateko Venezuela bidali duen abokatuaren bidaia azaltzen zaigu. *Koaderno gorriak* generoak baldintzaturiko gizartean militanzia politikoaren eta amatasunaren bateraezintasunaz gogoeta egiten du. *3 Mariak* nobelan, berriz, emakumeek euskal gizartean betetzen duten rola du hizpide, kasu honetan zahartzaroaren ikuspuntutik egiten du.

Euskal nazionalismoari, bai tradizionalari bai erradikalari zuzenduriko kritika da Itxaro Borda idazlearen lan askoren ardatza, Euskadi literatura saria jasotako %100 Basque (2001) haien artean. *Susmaezinak* (2019) nobelan, berriz, 1980eko hamarkadan euskal gatazkak Iparraldean izandako eragina azaltzen zaigu. Bordaren lanik esanguratsuenak Amaia Ezpeldoi detektibe protagonista duten nobelak ditugu: *Bakean ützi arte* (1984), *Bizi nizano munduan* (1996), *Amorezko pena baño* (1996), *Jalgi hadi plazara* (2007), *Boga boga* (2012) eta *Ultimes déchets* (2015). Nobela beltza baliatuz, Bordak euskal gizartearren gatazka gune nagusiak (egoera politikoa, euskara, intsumisioa, industrializazioa, migrazioa, genero gatazkak, neoliberalismoa) aztertzen ditu. Era berean, beste hainbat emakume idazleren antzeria (Walton & Jones 1999), Bordak Raymond Chandler eta Dashiell Hammett-ek bultzaturiko nobela beltzan azaltzen den *hard boiled detective* delakoa birplanteatu egiten du: Amaia Ezpeldoi detektibea abertzalea eta lesbiana da, eta Lenin miresten du.

Euskal egoera politikoa eta emakumeek bertan betetzen duten rola dira Laura Mintegiren lan gehienetan oinarri. Bere estreinako nobela, *Bai... baina ez*



11

**11.** Itxaro Borda.  
**12.** Laura Mintegi.



12

second level focuses on a trip to Venezuela by a female lawyer hired by the mother to hand the notebook to her children. *Koaderno gorria* addresses the relationship between maternity and nation or, to be more precise, the difficulty of combining political activism with maternity in a society conditioned by its perspectives on gender. In 2010 Urretabizkai published *3 Mariak*. Here, once again, the author analyses the role of women in Basque society, but on this occasion from the perspective of old age.

A critical perspective of Basque nationalism, whether traditional or radical, is the focus of many works by Itxaro Borda, amongst them %100 Basque (2001), which won the Euskadi Prize. The novel *Susmaezinak* (2019), however, reflects on the effects of the Basque conflict in the Northern Basque Country during the 1980s. Borda's most significant work is that of the novels whose main protagonist is the detective Amaia Ezpeldoi: *Bakean ützi arte* (1984), *Bizi nizano munduan* (1996), *Amorezko pena baño* (1996), *Jalgi hadi plazara* (2007), *Boga boga* (2012) and *Ultimes déchets* (2015). Employing the techniques of detective fiction, Borda explores the key conflictive points in Basque society (the political situation, Euskara, refusal to do military service, industrialisation, immigration, gender conflicts, neoliberalism). Likewise, in the same way as other authors (Walton and Jones 1999), Borda reconsiders the so-called hard-boiled detective characteristic of the detective fiction created by Chandler and Hammett: the detective Amaia Ezpeldoi is a patriot and a lesbian, as well as being an admirer of Lenin.

The Basque political situation and the role of women in it form the basis of the work of Laura Mintegi. Her first novel, *Bai... baina ez* (1986), a counterstory of the novel *Haur besoetakoa* by Jon Mirande, is a love story located outside social norms. Her next work, *Legez kanpo* (1991), follows the techniques of detective fiction to show the torture suffered by Basque political prisoners. A female prisoner, Nerea, is the co-protagonist of *Nerea eta biok* (1994). In *Sisifo maite minez* (2001) and *Ecce Homo* (2006), Mintegi reflects on love and the contribution that women can make to politics respectively.

In her novel *Eta emakumeari sugeak esan zion* (1999) [And the Serpent Said to the Woman, 2005] Lourdes Oñederra breaks with some features which have tended to be considered typically female (maternity, weakness, passivity). The serpent promised Eve she would get wisdom by eating the apple. The consequences of this act were, however, varied: guilt and punishment, and having to live in submission to men. The journey

(1986), Jon Miranderen *Haur besoetakoaren kontraerrelatoa*, gizarte arauetatik at kokatzen den maitasun istorioa dugu. Egilearen hurrengo lanak, *Legez kanpo* (1991), nobela beltza jarraitzen du euskal presoek jasandako torturak azaltzeko. Preso dagoen emakume bat, Nerea, da bere hurrengo nobelako koprotagonista, *Nerea eta biok* (1994). *Sisifo maite minez* (2001) eta *Ecce Homo* (2006) lanetan, berriz, Mintegik maitasunaren nondik norakoak eta politikari emakumeek egin diezaioketen ekarpena azaltzen ditu, hurrenez hurren.

Bien bitartean, Lourdes Oñederraren *Eta emakumeari sugeak esan zion* (1999) nobelak emakumeei lotu izan zaizkion rolekin (amatasuna, ahultasuna, pasibotasuna) hautsi egiten du. Sagarra jaten bazuen jakinduria osoaren jabe egingo zela zin egin zion sugeak Evari. Ondorioak, baina, bestelakoak izan ziren: errua eta zigorra, eta gizonen menpe bizi behar izatea. Nobelako protagonistak, 35 urteko Teresa, W-ra egingo duen bidaia bere burua eta orain arte erabilitako hizkuntza auzitan jartzeko aitzakia izango da. *Intemperies (babes bila)* (2013) nobelan bikote harremanei heltzen die berriz egileak.

Bestetik, Pello Lizarralderen literaturan zentzumenez jasotzen dena kontatzen da, interpretaziorik egin gabe; gertaerak azaltzen dira, baina gertaeren atzean dagoena jakinarazi gabe. Giro honetan, isilaldian gordetzen dena, esan edo ikusten ez dena misterio handia suertatzen zaio irakurleari eta, horrenbestean, edozein ekintzaren atzean (denik eta ekintzarik arruntena ere) zerbaite bitxia dagoelako impresioa uzten dio, zerbaite bitxi eta misteriotsu hori zehazki zer den jakitera inoiz heltzen ez den arren. Ondoko nobelak argitaratu ditu Lizarraldek: *E pericoloso sporgersi. Zuri beltzean* (1984), *Hatza mapa gainean* (1988), *Un ange passé -isialdieten-* (1998), Euskadi saria jasotako *Larrepetit* (2002), *Iragaitzaz* (2008), *Orbanak* (2012), *Elur bustia* (2016) eta *Argiantza* (2021) Euskadi saria izan zena. Ipuin bilduma bat ere idatzi du, *Sargori* (1994).

Harkaitz Canok poesia, haur- eta gazte-literatura, kronika, saiakera eta narratiba jorratu ditu. Azken horren barruan kokatzen dira *Telefono kaiolatua*



**13.** Pello Lizarralde.  
**14.** Harkaitz Cano  
idazlea eta Leire  
Palacios kazetaria,  
Durangoko Azokan,  
2018.

**13.** Pello Lizarralde.  
**14.** The writer Harkaitz  
Cano and journalist  
Leire Palacios at the  
Durango Book and  
Record Fair (Biscay),  
2018.



undertaken by Teresa, the protagonist of the novel, to W. serves as a pretext for her to question and analyse the language used to date. In *Intemperies (babes bila)* (2013), the writer analyses couples' relationships.

Other authors that stand out are: Pello Lizarralde, Harkaitz Cano, Unai Elorriaga, Kirmen Uribe, Karmele Jaio and Katixa Agirre. The literature of Pello Lizarralde reflects what the senses harness without making any interpretation; it shows us the events, but without revealing what lies behind them. In this context, what remains silent, unsaid or unseen is a complete mystery for the reader and, for this reason, conveys the impression that something strange lies behind any act, however routine, although one never really knows what is so strange or mysterious. To date, Lizarralde has published these novels: *E pericoloso sporgersi. Zuri beltzean* (1984), *Hatza mapa gainean* (1988), *Un ange passé -isialdieten-* (1998), the winner of the Euskadi Prize for Literature *Larrepetit* (2002), *Iragaitzaz* (2008), *Orbanak* (2012) and *Elur bustia* (2016); *Argiantza* (2021) winner aswell of the Euskadi Proze for literature in 2021; together with a book of short stories *Sargori* (1994).

Harkaitz Cano has written poetry, children's literature, newspaper columns, essays and narrative. In the latter category are his short story works *Telefono kaiolatua* (1993), *Neguko zirkua* (2005) and *Beti oporretan* (2015), as well as the novels *Beluna Jazz* (1996), *Pasaia blues* (1998), the winner of the Euskadi Prize for Literature *Belarraren ahoa* (2004; *Blade of Light*, 2010), *Twist* (2011), published in English in 2018, and *Fakirraren ahotsa* (2018). Following the techniques of dirty realism practiced by, amongst others, Raymond Carver, Cano's narrative draws on an apparently balanced reality to highlight its breaking points. Likewise, the main feature of both his narrative and his poetry is the postmodern city, a decentred city, in which Cano's characters (musicians, writers, psychopaths) roam. In the novels *Twist* and *Fakirraren ahotsa* Cano turns his gaze towards the conflict in order to delve into topics such as memory, forgetting, involvement, blame and redemption.

Unai Elorriaga and Kirmen Uribe won the Spanish National Prize for Literature with their first novel, in 2002 and 2009 respectively. Amongst

(1993), *Neguko zirkua* (2005) eta *Beti oporretan* (2015) narrazio bildumak, eta *Beluna Jazz* (1996), *Pasaia blues* (1998), Euskadi literatura saria jasotako *Belarraren ahoa* (2004), *Twist* (2011) eta *Fakirraren ahotsa* (2018) nobelak. Raymond Carver-ek landuriko dirtyrealism edo errealsismo zikinaren ildotik, Canoren ipuingintza utez orekauta den errealtatetik elikatu egiten da haren hausturak azaltzeko. Era berean, bere narratibaren zein poesiaren ezaugarri nagusia hiri posmodernoa da. Gune zehatzik gabeko hiria dugu, zeinetatik norabiderik gabe mugitzen diren Canoren pertsonaiak (musikariak, idazleak, psikopatak). *Twist* eta *Fakirraren ahotsa* nobeletan euskal gatazkari heltzen dio Canok, memoria, ahanztura, inplikazioa, erruduntasuna eta erredentzioa bezalako gaietan sakontzeko.

Unai Elorriagak eta Kirmen Uribek Espaniako Literatur Sari Nazionala jaso zuten beren lehen nobelagatik, 2002an eta 2009an hurrenez hurren. Elorriagak orain arte argitaratutako lanen artean –*Van't Hoffen ilea* (2003), *Vredaman* (2005), *Londres Kartoizkoa da* (2009), *Iazko hezurrak* (2014) eta *Iturria* (2019)– aipagarriena da *SPrako tranbia* (2001). Nobela hainbat hizkuntzatara itzuli dute eta zinemara egokituz zuen Aitzol Aramaiok 2007an. Lanak Alzheimerren eraginez oroimena galtzen ari den Lucas du protagonista. Bi kontuk mantentzen dute Lucas bizirik: Shisha Pangma igotzeak eta jadanik hilda dagoen emaztearen oroitzapenak. Lucasekin batera bere arreba Maria eta haietan bizitzera joango den Marcos gaztea azaltzen dira. Elorriagak gehien estimatzen dituen idazleen artean daude Jorge Luis Borges, Julio Cortázar, Juan Rulfo eta William Faulkner eta, hain zuzen, azken horren eragina sumatu daiteke *SPrako tranbian*. Faulknerren *Hotsa eta ardaila* nobelan erabilitako ahots aniztasuna bere eginez, oroimen arazoak tarteko fantasiaren eta errealtitatearen artean bereizteko gai ez den Lucasen mundua gerturatzen digu egile bizkaitarrak.

Kirmen Uriberen *Bilbao-New York-Bilbao* (2008) lanak idazlearen homonimoak Bilbotik New Yorkera egindako hegazkin bidaia azaltzen du. Bidaia aitzakia hartuta, bere familiaren hiru belaunaldiren gorabeherak, 36ko gerra garaian bizitakoak batez ere, gogora ekartzen ditu lanak. Bidaia, era berean, artearen funtziaren zein artistak bizitzarekiko izan behar duen erantzukizunaren gainean gogoeta egiteko baliatzen du egileak. Irakurlea



15. Kirmen Uribe.

15. Kirmen Uribe.

Elorriaga's published novels—*Van't Hoffen ilea* (2003), *Vredaman* (2005) [*Plants Don't Drink Coffee*, 2009], *Londres Kartoizkoa da* (2009), *Iazko hezurrak* (2014) and *Iturria* (2019)—the most important is *SPrako tranbia* (2003). This novel has been translated into several languages and was made into a film by Aitzol Aramaio in 2007. The protagonist of *SPrako tranbia* is Lucas, an old man who is losing his memory as a result of Alzheimer's. The only thing that keeps Lucas going is his desire to climb Shisha Pangma and the memory of his late wife. Together with Lucas, the other main characters are his sister Maria and a young man who ends up living with them, Marcos. Elorriaga's favourite novelists include Jorge Luis Borges, Julio Cortázar, Juan Rulfo and William Faulkner. The latter, in particular, has had a clear influence on *SPrako tranbia*. Imitating the diversity of voices in Faulkner's *The Sound and the Fury*, the author from Biscay takes us inside Lucas's mind, which, because of his confused memory, is incapable of differentiating between fantasy and reality.

*Bilbao-New York-Bilbao* (2008), published in English in 2014, by Kirmen Uribe tells the story of a trip by the author's namesake by plane from Bilbao to New York. Taking the trip as an excuse, the author revisits the events in the lives of three generations of his family, and especially those during the Spanish Civil War. The trip, likewise, serves as the pretext for reflecting on the function of art and the artist's responsibility towards life. The reader is witness to the process of writing itself; the text takes shape before one's

very eyes via electronic messages, diary entries, texts taken from Wikipedia, and so forth. In the novels *Mussche* (2012) and *Elkarrekin esnatzeako ordua* (2016) the author once again discusses episodes taken from reality in order to recover a series of lives conditioned by war.

The perspective of gender forms the backbone of the narrative of Karmele Jaio, inviting readers to imagine family relations and social dynamics in another way. Generational differences, old age and the influence that the past may end up having on the present are some of the subjects addressed by the novels *Amaren eskuak* (2006) and *Musika airean* (2009). *Aitaren etxea* (2019), for its part, reflects on the father-husband role in order to question traditional attitudes and suggest other

types of masculinities. Jaio is, moreover, the author of three books of short stories: *Hamabost zauri* (2004), *Zu bezain ahul* (2007) and *Ez naiz ni* (2012).

The novels of Katixa Agirre reflect how popular culture and the media construct and deconstruct both individual and national identity. In *Atertu arte itxaron* (2015) she recounts a couple's road trip through the Basque Country in order to get to know one another better. However, the trip will not go as planned since their different backgrounds condition the couple more than they think. For its part, the novel *Amek ez dute* (2018) focuses on myths of maternity through the case of a mother who kills her children. Throughout the narrative, Agirre weaves together examples from history, philosophy, literature, and film to pose provocative questions about the creative act (in relation to both maternity and writing), the representation of gender (who usually has



testuaren beraren idazketa prozesuaren lekuo da; haren aurrean osatzen joango da mezu elektroniko, eguneroko zati, Wikipedia sarrera eta abarren bidez. *Mussche* (2012) eta *Elkarrekin esnatzeo ordua* (2016) nobeletan ere benetako gertaerei heltzen die gerrak baldintzaturiko bizitzak berreskuratzeko.

Genero ikuspegiak gidatzen du Karmele Jaioen nobelagintza, eta irakurlea bultzatzen du familia eta gizartearen dinamikak beste modu batera imajinatzera. Belaunaldien arteko aldea, zahartzaroa eta iraganak orainaldia nola baldintzatu dezakeen aztertzen dute bere *Amaren eskuak* (2006) eta *Musika airean* (2009) nobelek. *Aitaren etxea* (2019) lanean, beriz, aita-senaren rola du hizpide jarrera tradizionalak baztertu eta bestelako maskulinitateak proposatu aldera. Hiru ipuin bildumaren egile ere bada Jaio: *Hamabost zauri* (2004), *Zu bezain ahal* (2007) eta *Ez naiz ni* (2012).

Katixa Agirreren nobelek kultura popularrak eta komunikabideek nortasuna, dela indibiduala dela nazionala, nola eraiki eta deseraikitzen duten aztertzen dute. *Atertu arte itxaron* (2015) lanean hobeto elkar ezagutzeko asmoz bikote batek autoz Euskal Herrian zehar egiten duen bidaia kontatzen zaigu. Bidaian ezer ez da planifikatukoaren arabera aterako, ordea, jatorri ezberdintasunak uste baino gehiago baldintzatzen duelako beren arteko harremana. *Amek ez dute* (2018) nobelak, beriz, bere haurrak hil dituen ama baten kasutik abiatuta amatasunaren gaineko mitoei heltzen die. Istorioan zehar historia, filosofia, literatura zein zinematik harturiko adibideak trebetasun handiz txertatzen ditu Agirrek sortzearen (dela amatasuna dela idazketa), generoaren, errepresentazioaren (nork hitz egiten duen eta noren izenean) zein justizia sistemaren (gizarte zigortailea ala errehabilitatzalea ote da gurea?) gainean galdera interesgarri askoak planteatzen dituen nobelan.

Elkar fundazioak eta Siadeco ikerketa taldeak euskal kulturaren erabilera eta kontsumoaren gainean osatu eta 2018ko udaberrian zabaldutako txostenak nahiko panorama beltza aurkeztu zuen. Txostenaren arabera, inuesta egin dieten artean %28k bakarrik adierazi zuen euskaraz idatzitako liburuak sarri irakurtzen dituztela. Paradoxikoki, argitalpen kopuruari zein edukiari begira, indartsu hasi zuen euskal literaturak XXI. mendea. Nabarmenzeko da mendeko lehen bi hamarkadetan memoria historikoak euskal literaturan izan duen pisua, batik bat 36ko gerraren memoria berreskuratzeari dagokionez.



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16. Karmele Jaio.  
17. Katixa Agirre.

16. Katixa Agirre.  
17. Uxue Alberdi.



the floor and on whose behalf) and the judicial system (is ours a punitive or rehabilitating society?).

A study carried out in the spring of 2018 by the Elkar Foundation and the Siadeco research group on the use and consumption of Basque culture revealed quite a bleak panorama. According to the study, 28% of respondents indicated reading books written in Euskara assiduously. Paradoxically, Basque literature began the twenty-first century strongly as regards the number of books published and their quality. It is worth noting the importance of historical memory in the literature produced in the first two decades of the century, especially with regard to regaining the memory of the Civil War.

The interest of Basque literature in memory is not an isolated phenomenon; on the contrary, it should be understood as part of the memory boom that took place in Western countries from the 1980s onwards. The main feature of this memory literature is that it is not limited to narrating what happened in the past; the mnemonic process itself is under study. In other words, *what* is remembered is as important as *the manner* in which it is remembered. Likewise, intertextuality is highlighted, linking the violence of war to other types of violence. It is worth emphasising that some of the works published in the first two decades of the 2000s are the result of the so-called post-memory generation, according to Marianne Hirsch. This is a generation that has not lived through the events they write about and whose memory they have received through their parents, grandparents, school and textbooks. Examples of this type of work are *Bilbao-New York-Bilbao* (2008), *Mussche* (2012) and *Elkarrekin esnatzeo ordua* (2016) by Kirmen Uribe, and *Aulkki-jokoa* (2009) by Uxue Alberdi.

Interest in historical memory is not limited to the Spanish Civil War. Through Basque literature, visibility has also been given to the First World War, as in the case of *Hezur gabeko hilak* (1999) and *Blackout* (2004) by Xabier Montoya or *Ur biren artean* (2019) by Patxi Iturregi. While ETA violence was not a new topic, the end of the armed conflict (in 2011 the organisation ended its armed activity) has allowed writers to delve more deeply into all kinds of perspectives. The Dirty War carried out by the Spanish state is the central focus of *Twist* (2011) by Harkaitz Cano, whilst *Deklaratzekorik ez* (2019) by Beñat Sarasola reflects on the effects of the *kale borroka* (rioting and vandalism). Meanwhile, *Gerra txikia* (2014) by Lander Garro, *Jenisjoplin* (2017) by Uxue Alberdi and *Susmaezinak* (2019) by Itxaro Borda reflect the turbulent atmosphere of the 1980s. *Jenisjoplin* analyses the effect of political activism, drugs and AIDS in the Southern

Euskal literaturak memoriarekiko agerturako interesa ez da fenomeno isolatua; aitzitik, 1980eko hamarkadatik aurrera Mendebaldeko herrialdeetan jazo zen memoriaren eztandaren barruan kokatu behar dugu. Memoriaren literatura honen bereizgarria da ez dela iraganeko gertaerak azaltzera mugatzen; oroimen prozesua bera du aztergai, hots, zer gogoratzan den nola gogoratzan den bezain garrantzitsua da. Bestetik, interseksionalitateari helduta gerrako indarkeria beste indarkeria mota batzuekin jartzen du harremanetan. Nabarmenzeko da 2000ko lehen bi hamarkadetan gerraren inguruan argitaraturiko zenbait lan Marianne Hirsch-ek postmemoriaren belaunaldia deituriko horrek, hau da, gertaera bizi ez eta haren inguruko informazioa guraso, aitona-amona, eskola, zein testuliburu etatik jaso duen belaunaldiak idatzitituela. Horren adibide ditugu Kirmen Uriberen *Bilbao-New York-Bilbao* (2008), *Mussche* (2012) eta *Elkarrekin esnatzeko ordua* (2016) zein Uxue Alberdiren *Aulkiko jokoa* (2009).

Memoria historikoarekiko interesa ez da Espainiako gerrara mugatzen. Iragan hurbileko zein aurreko mendeetako gatazkei ere bide egin zaie euskal literaturan, besteak beste Lehen Mundu Gerrari, Xabier Montoiaren *Hezur gabeko hilak* (1999) eta *Blackout* (2004) zein Patxi Iturregiren *Ur biren artean* (2019) lanek azaldu bezala. ETAren indarkeria gai berria ez bazeen ere, gatazka armatuaren amaierak (2011n arma bidezko jarduera politikoa behin betiko utzi zuela iragarri zuen erakundeak) denetariko ikuspegieta sakontzeko aukera eman die euskal idazleei. Espainiar estatuak bideraturiko gerra zikina agertzen zaigu Harkaitz Canoren *Twist* (2011) nobelan, eta kale borrokaren mundua Beñat Sarasolaren *Deklaratzekorik ez* (2019) lanean. Bien bitartean, 1980ko giro nahasia dute hizpide Lander Garroren *Gerra txikia* (2014), Uxue Alberdiren *Jenisjoplin* (2017) zein Itxaro Bordaren *Susmaezinak* (2019) lanek. *Jenisjoplin* aipatu hamarkadan Hego Euskal Herrian militantzia politikoaren, drogen eta HIESAren eragina azaltzen duen kontaketa eskaintzen digun bitartean, Bordaren nobelak garai berean Iparraldean errefuxiatu politikoek GALen eskuistik jasandako errepresioa, ETAren indarkeria eta biktimak parez pare jartzen ditu.

Memoria historikoaren eztandak ez du gaur egungo gaiekiko interesa apaldu. Aitzitik, XXI. mendeko Euskal Herria begi kritikoz aztertzen duten nobeletako askok, Europan eta, oro har, Mendebaldean betetzen duen tokia galdekatzen dute. Genero kontuei heltzen diente lan hauetako batzuek, hala nola jadanik aipaturiko Katixa Agirreren *Amek ez dute* (2018) eta Karmele Jaioren *Aitaren etxea* (2019) nobelek zein Hego Euskal Herriko gay mugimenduaren etnografia modukoa eskaintzen duen Juanjo Olasagarreren *Poz aldreibesa* (2017) lanak. Politika neoliberalen eragina eta immigrazioa dute hizpide beste batzuek; Iñaki Frieraren *Lehorreko paterak* (2001), Iñigo Aranbarriren *Zamaontzia* (2011) eta *Apirila* (2014) zein Amets Arzallus eta

Ibrahima Balderen *Miñan* (2019) aipa daitezke adibide moduan.

Ezin aipatu gabe utzi nobela grafikoak bizi duen loraldia euskal literaturan. Euskal Herriarentzat iragan alternatibo bat irudikatzen duen Hedoi Etxarte idazlearen eta Alain M. Urrutia marrazkilariaren *Ihes ederra* (2009) lanak

**18.** 2020ko Euskadi sariak Durangoko Azokan. Iñigo Astiz, Idoia Santamaría, Uxue Alberdi eta Karmele Jaio.



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**18.** 2020 Euskadi Prize winners at the Durango Fair. Iñigo Astiz, Idoia Santamaría, Uxue Alberdi and Karmele Jaio.

Basque Country during that era, whilst Borda's novel creates a dialogue between the repression suffered by political refugees in the Northern Basque Country at the hands of the GAL, the violence of ETA and the victims.

The historical memory boom has not weakened interest in current affairs. On the contrary, many of the novels offer a critical view of the Basque Country in the twenty-first century, questioning the place it occupies in Europe and the Western world in general. Some of these works focus on gender issues, such as the aforementioned *Amek ez dute* (2018) by Katixa Agirre and *Aitaren etxea* (2019) by Karmele Jaio, or *Poz aldreibesa* (2017) by Juanjo Olasagarré, which offers a kind of ethnography of the gay movement in the Southern Basque Country. The effect of neoliberal policies and immigration is the focus of other works like *Lehorreko paterak* (2001) by Iñaki Friera, *Zamaontzia* (2011) and *Apirila* (2014) by Iñigo Aranbarri and *Miñan* (2019) by Amets Arzallus and Ibrahima Balde.

One must also mention the resurgence of the graphic novel in Basque literature. The work *Ihes ederra* (2009), by Hedoi Etxarte and Alain M. Urrutia, which suggests an alternative past for the Basque Country, started off this movement. It was followed by *Black is beltza* (2018) by Fermín Muguruza, Harkaitz Cano and Jorge Alderete, *Joana Maiz* (2019) by Yurre Ugarte and Joseba Larratxe, *Buyan. Heriotzaren uhartea* (2019) by Etxeberria brothers and Aritz Trueba, and *Antzara eguna* (2019) by Harkaitz Cano and Adur Larrea.

## THE SHORT STORY

The short story, in the modern sense of the term, is quite a recent genre in Euskara. Indeed, it was not until the 1950s and 1960s, with works by Gabriel Aresti (*Ipuinak* 1979) and Jon Mirande (*Gauaz parke batean*, *Ipuin izugarriak* 1984), that short stories in the modern tradition of Poe, Gogol and Maupassant first emerged. One should also note Martin Ugalde's collection *Iltzalleak* (1961). That said, this genre gained ground in the 1980s, both in terms of quality and output. Together with the aforementioned historic-cultural reasons,

abiarazi zuen mugimendu hau. Argitaraturiko beste nobela grafikoetako batzuk dira Fermín Muguruza, Harkaitz Cano eta Jorge Aldereteren *Black is beltza* (2018), Yurre Ugarte eta Joseba Larratxeren *Joana Maiz* (2019), Etxeberria anaien eta Aritz Truebareni *Buyan. Heriotzaren uhartea* (2019) zein Harkaitz Cano eta Adur Larrearen *Antzara eguna* (2019).

## IPUINA

Ipuina, terminoaren zentzu modernoan, genero berria da euskaraz. 1950 eta 1970eko hamarkadetan agertu ziren, Gabriel Aresti (*Ipuinak* 1979) zein Jon Mirande (*Gauaz parke batean, Ipuin izugarriak* 1984) bezalako egileen eskutik, Poe, Gogol zein Maupassant bezalako idazle modernoen estiloko ipuinak. Aurrekari bezala Martin Ugalderen *Itzalleak* (1961) ere aipa genezake. Dena dela, 1980eko hamarkadan sendotu zen generoa, kopuru zein kalitate aldetik. Lehenago aipaturiko arrazoi historiko-kulturalekin batera, Pott Bandaren (1978-1979) ekarpena azpimarratu behar da generoari eman zion bultzadagatik.

Pixkanaka-pixkanaka narraziogintza aberastuz joan da eta gaur egun, nobelarekin gertatu bezala, eklektizismoa da nagusi. Azken hamarkadetako euskarazko narraziogintzan badira errealsmoa jorratu duten ipuinak, dela ukitu fantastikoduna (Hasier Etxeberria, Unai Elorriaga, Imanol Zurutuza...), dela Raymond Carver edo Tobias Wolff-en errealsmo zikinaren ildokoa (Pako Aristi, Xabier Mendiguren, Edorta Jiménez, Xabier Montoya, Arantxa Iturbe, Pello Lizarralde...); gogoeta metanarratiboa bilatzen duten errelatoak (Juan Garzia, Anjel Lertxundi, Iban Zaldua, Aurelia Arkotxa...); fantasia absurdoarekin tartekatzen duten narrazioak (Karlos Linazasoro, Harkaitz Cano...); mikroerrelatoak (Iban Zaldua, Joseba Sarrionandia, Karlos Linazasoro, Ana Malagon).

Narraziogintzan nabarmendu diren egileetako bat da Joseba Sarrionandia. *Narraziokoak* (1983), *Atabala eta euria* (1986) eta *Ifar Aldeko*



**19.** Txomin Peillen eta Arantxa Iturbe Gutun Zuria jaialdian, Bilbon, 2014an.

the contribution of Pott Banda (1978-1979) was especially important because of the particular boost it gave this genre.

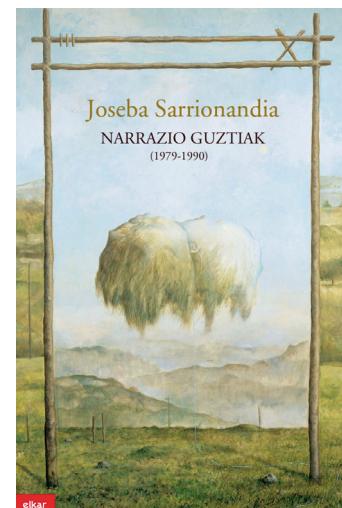
Little by little, the short story form has improved and currently, in the same way as developments in the novel, there is a truly eclectic panorama. Amongst the prevailing tendencies in the Basque short story of recent decades are realism, whether of the fantasy variety (Hasier Etxeberria, Unai Elorriaga, Imanol Zurutuza) or that resembling the American dirty realism of Carver or Wolff (Pako Aristi, Xabier Mendiguren, Edorta Jiménez, Xabier Montoya, Arantxa Iturbe, Pello Lizarralde); culturalist kinds of short stories that seek metanarrative reflection (Juan Garzia, Anjel Lertxundi, Iban Zaldua, Aurelia Arkotxa); narrations where fantasy occasionally takes on the guise of absurd situations (Karlos Linazasoro, Harkaitz Cano); and microfiction (Iban Zaldua, Joseba Sarrionandia, Karlos Linazasoro, Ana Malagon).

One of the most prominent authors in the short story field is Joseba Sarrionandia. His books in this field include *Narraziokoak* (1983), *Atabala eta euria* (1986) and *Ifar Aldeko orduak* (1991). His prose is full of metaphors and suggestive images; in his work, the author combines fantasy elements with legends and traditional tales. In his latest short story works one can find highly intense extremely short tales.

The narrative of Inazio Mujika Iraola resembles magic realism and authors like Juan Rulfo. The short stories in his first collection, *Azukrea belazeetan* (1987), take place in the fictional place Auzune, a landscape which draws inspiration from Basque traditions. Here, moral laws are transgressed and this transgression ends up being paid for, in the same way as in the work of Rulfo, Faulkner and Atxaga, by metamorphosis. In his later work Mujika Iraola tends more towards legend and Borgesian erudition.

Existential suffering is the central focus of many short stories by Karlos Linazasoro. Amongst his abundant work, the collections *Eldarnioak* (1991), *Zer gerta ere* (1994), *Ez balego beste mundurik* (2000), *Ipuin errortikoak* (2001) and *Bestiarioak. Hilerrikoak* (2006) stand out. Linazasoro's short stories are full of asphyxiating absurd tales which manage to reflect the contradictions in the reality that surrounds us. For this author, the short story is the genre which gives him most freedom when attempting to break all kinds of rules.

In his first book of short stories, *Emakume biboteduna* (1992), the writer and musician Xabier Montoya embraced the techniques of dirty realism when composing a series of short stories about love and enmity. The short stories in *Gasteizko hondartzak* (1997), however, address the Spanish Civil War and the post-war era. The goal of these stories is not to offer a documented historical testimony but, instead, to reflect



**19.** Txomin Peillen and Arantxa Iturbe at the Gutun Zuria Festival, Bilbao, 2014.

*orduak* (1991) dira bere bildumarik ezagunenak. Metaforez eta irudi iradokitzaleez jositako prosa da bera; egileak elementu fantastikoak eta elezahar zein ipuin tradizionalei egindako erreferentziak tartekatzen ditu bere lanetan. Bere azken narrazio bildumetan narrazio hiperlaburrak, intentsitate handikoak aurki daitezke.

Errealismo magikotik eta Juan Rulfo bezalako egileetatik gertu dago Inazio Mujika Iraolaren narraziogintza. Bere lehen bildumako ipuinak, *Azukrea belazeetan* (1987), Auzunea asmaturiko geografian kokaturik daude. Aipatu geografiak ahozko euskal tradizioa du oinarri, eta kokaleku horretan arau moralen haustea, Rulfo, Faulkner zein Atxagaren lanetan bezala, metamorfosiarekin ordaintzen da. Geroko narrazio bildumetan Mujika Iraola elezaharraren eta erudizio borgiarraren bidetik abiatzen da.

Larritasun existenciala da Karlos Linazasororen narrazio askoren ardatza. Bere narrazio bildumen artean aipatzekoak dira *Eldarnioak* (1991), *Zer gerta ere* (1994), *Ez balego beste mundurik* (2000), *Ipuin errortikoak* (2001), eta *Bestarioak. Hilerrikoak* (2006). Linazasororen ipuinek istorio maiz absurdoak eta itogarriak azaltzen dituzte, baina inguratzen gaituen errealityaren kontraesanak azaltzen asmatzen dute. Linazasororentzat, ipuina idazleari lege ororekin hausteko askatasun handien ematen dion generoa da.

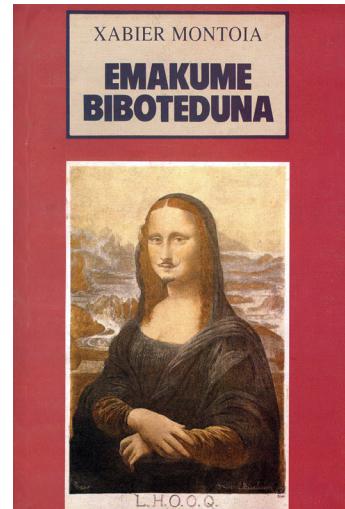
Aipatzeko da ere Xabier Montoia idazle eta musikariaren lana. Bere lehen narrazio bilduman, *Emakume biboteduna* (1992), bere egin zituen errealsmo zikinaren teknikak amodio eta desamodio egoerak ardatz zituzten narrazioak osatzeko. *Gasteizko hondartzak* (1997) bildumako narrazioek, berriz, 36ko gerra eta gerraostea dute abiapuntu. Haien helburua, baina, ez da lekukotza historiko dokumentatua eskaintza baizik eta errealitye gogor batean harrapaturik dauden pertsona anonimoen egoeraren berri ematea. *Baina bihotzak dio* (2002) liburuko narrazioetan, berriz, hainbat arrazoirengatik erbestean diren pertsonaien bizipenak azaltzen dira. *Euskal hiria sutan* (2006) bildumak, Euskadi saria jasotakoa, gaur egungo gizartearen erretratu errealistako eskaizten du.

Bikote harremanak ardatz dituzte orain arte Arantxa Iturbek argitaratu dituen narrazio bildumek, *Ezer baino lehen* (1992), *Lehenago zen berandu* (1995) eta *Honetara ezkero gaur* (2017). Iturberen prosak apaingarri hutsalei eta beharrezkoak ez den artifizioari ihes egiten dio, ironia handiz maitasun faltan diren hiritarren frustrazioak, bakardadea eta gaizki- ulertuak azaltzeko.

Iban Zalduaren narrazioek umore, zorroztasun eta ironia handia erakusten dute. Idazleak Borgesen estiloko joko metaliterarioak gogoko ditu, baina kultura popularrera jotzen du erreferentzia bila. Hainbat ipuin bilduma argitaratu ditu: *Veinte cuentos cortitos* (1989), *Ipuin euskaldunak* (1999, Gerardo Markuleta batera), *Gezurrak, gezurrak, gezurrak* (2000), *Traizioak* (2001), *La isla de los antropólogos y otros relatos* (2002), *Itzalak* (2004), the winner of the Euskadi Prize for Literature *Etorkizuna* (2005), *Biodiskografiak* (2011), *Idazten ari dela idazten duen idazlea* (2012), *Inon ez, inoiz ez* (2014) and *Sekula kontatu behar ez nizkizun gauzak* (2018). Zaldua's narrative avoids the obvious; he breaks with the clichés and prejudices which envelop a complex Basque society at the literary, social and political levels.



20. Iban Zaldua.



20. Iban Zaldua.

the stories of anonymous people trapped in a harsh reality. In the book *Baina bihotzak dio* (2002), the author narrates the experiences of several people who have been exiled for different reasons. The collection *Euskal hiria sutan* (2006), winner of the Euskadi Prize for Literature, is a realist portrayal of contemporary Basque society.

The collections published by Arantxa Iturbe, *Ezer baino lehen* (1992), *Lehenago zen berandu* (1995) and *Honetara ezkero gaur* (2017), focus on couples' relationships. Iturbe's prose avoids any unnecessary artifice to recreate, in a highly ironic tone, the frustrations, solitude and misunderstandings of loveless city-dwellers.

The stories of Iban Zaldua demonstrate a great sense of humour, wordplay and irony. The author likes metaliterary games in the style of Borges, but turns to popular culture in search of his references. Zaldua has published several books of short stories: *Veinte cuentos cortitos* (1989), *Ipuin euskaldunak* (1999, with Gerardo Markuleta), *Gezurrak, gezurrak, gezurrak* (2000), *Traizioak* (2001), *La isla de los antropólogos y otros relatos* (2002), *Itzalak* (2004), the winner of the Euskadi Prize for Literature *Etorkizuna* (2005), *Biodiskografiak* (2011), *Idazten ari dela idazten duen idazlea* (2012), *Inon ez, inoiz ez* (2014) and *Sekula kontatu behar ez nizkizun gauzak* (2018). Zaldua's narrative avoids the obvious; he breaks with the clichés and prejudices which envelop a complex Basque society at the literary, social and political levels.

Eider Rodriguez dissects middle class daily life with a sharp eye in the stories included in the books *Eta handik gutxira gaur* (2004), *Haragia* (2007), *Katu jendea* (2010) and *Bihotz handiegia* (2017). In the latter work, for example, she skilfully describes the silent struggles, frustrations and revolutions which form part of everyday relationships among couples and families. Readers will not find the situations and characters that appear in this collection of short stories strange; on the contrary, they will immediately recognise traces of a family member, an acquaintance or even themselves in the characters.



*Itzalak* (2004), Euskadi Literatura Saria jasotako *Etorkizuna* (2005), *Biodiskografiak* (2011), *Idazten ari dela idazten duen idazlea* (2012), *Inon ez, inoiz ez* (2014) eta *Sekula kontatu behar ez nizkizun gauzak* (2018). Zalduaren narratibak agerikoa denetik ihes egiten du; literaturaren, bizitzaren eta politikoki hain konplexua den euskal gizartearren inguruko topiko eta aurreiritziekin hautsi egiten du.

Eta handik gutxira gaur (2004), *Haragia* (2007), *Katu jendea* (2010) eta *Bihotz handiegia* (2017) liburuek biltzen dituzten ipuineta begirada zorrotzez disezionatzen du Eider Rodriguezek klase ertainaren egunerokotasuna. *Bihotz handiegian*, esaterako, trebetasun handiz deskribatzen ditu egileak bikote zein familia harremanen egunerokotasunaren parte diren borroka, frustrazio eta iraultza isilak. Irakurleari ez zaizkio *Bihotz handiegia*ko ipuineta azaltzen diren egoerak eta pertsonaiak arrotzak egingo; aitzitik, normala den hori —besteetan onartu baina nork bere buruari onartu egin ohi ez dion hori— lortu nahi baina helmugatik behin eta berriro urrun sentitzen diren pertsonaietan zein haien bizi dituzten egoeretan senide baten, ezagunen baten, baita norberaren aztarnak antzemango ditu berehala. Ipuin bilduma horrekin irabazi zuen Euskadi Literatura Saria 2018an.

Ana Malagonen lehen ipuin bildumak, *Lasai, ez da ezer gertatzen* (2014), ironia handiz idatzitako 162 mikroipuin biltzen ditu. Ipuinok frustrazioaren koordenadak erakusten dizkigute, atsekabearen eta inkomunikazioaren kartografia. *Gelditu zaitezte gurekin* (2017) osatzen duten hamalau ipuinak, berriz, tonu errealistan idatzita daude eta zaintzaren inguruan dihardute. *Ez dakit zertaz ari zaren* (2021) ipuin bilduma ere argitaratu du.

## POESIA

Poesiaren atala *olerkariak* taldearekin hasiko dugu. Euskal Pizkundeko poetei esaten zaie *olerkariak*, beren lanak Euskaltzaleak elkarteak antolatutako literatura-lehiaketen harira egin zituztenei. Euskaltzaleak elkarte, 1927an Arrasaten sortua, euskarakoz kulturarekin

who seek to achieve a degree of normality -that which is accepted by others but which we do not normally accept ourselves- but which increasingly eludes them. She won the Euskadi Prize for Literature in 2018 for this collection.

The first book of short stories by Ana Malagon, *Lasai, ez da ezer gertatzen* (2014), is made up of 162 micro-stories full of irony. These stories offer coordinates of frustration, a cartography of dissatisfaction and a lack of communication. The fourteen stories which make up her second collection, *Gelditu zaitezte gurekin* (2017), are written in a realist tone and revolve around the theme of care.

## POETRY

We begin the section on poetry in Euskara with the *olerkariak*. The *olerkariak* were poets of the Basque renaissance who elaborated their work in contests organised by the Euskaltzaleak association. This was founded in 1927 in Arrasate (Gipuzkoa) by a group of people who wanted to defend and promote Basque culture. Sabino Arana's plans to modernise lyric poetry, which advocated a metre distinct from that of *bertsolaritza* (improvised oral poetry) which dominated the art during the nineteenth century, were especially influential in the work of the *olerkariak*. Jose María Agirre, Xabier Lizardi was at the forefront of the Euskaltzaleak association, practically from the beginning. Through his work, Lizardi completely transformed poetic language in Euskara. He sought formal and intellectual perfection in every one of his poems, an exact expression of feeling balanced with thought. His best-known book of poems, *Biotz-begietan* (1932), reveals the poet's literary universe, which revolves around two subjects: love and nature.

*Bide barrijak* (1931) was the first book of poems published by Estepan Urkiaga Lauaxeta, after receiving first prize in the first Poetry day, held in Errenteria (Gipuzkoa). His first work includes an introduction by Aitzol who describes Lauaxeta's work as pure poetry, in other words, the kind of poetry encouraged by Arana. However, the book was also the target for harsh criticism from authors who advocated a more accessible and popular form of poetry, putting Lauaxeta, Lizardi and the rest of the new poets in an uncomfortable position. Lauaxeta's second book of poems, *Arrats beran* (1935), is considered his best work. Here, he tones down his sentimentalism and incorporates new stylistic elements originating in popular Basque lyric poetry, in particular romantic ballads and old folksongs. Likewise, Lauaxeta's work draws obvious inspiration from Federico García Lorca's *Romancero gitano* (1928).

Other members of the *olerkariak* group included Juan Arana Ezpeleta Loramendi and Nicolas Ormaetxea Orixe. Pre-Spanish Civil War poets were full of hope and good intentions, looking towards the future, and their work radiated with great energy.



konprometitutako lagun talde batek osatu zuen. Sabino Aranak poesiarako proposaturiko arau modernoek, XIX. mendean nagusi izandako bertsolaritzaren metrikatik bereizita, eragin handia izan zuten haien lanetan. Hasiera-hasieratik Euskaltzaleak taldeak Jose Maria Agirre *Xabier Lizardi* izan zuen buru. Lizardiren lanak hizkera poetikoa errrotik aldatu zuen. Perfekzio formal eta intelektuala bilatzen zuen poema bakoitzean, pentsaerarekin orekatua zen sentimendua zehatz-mehatz adieraztea. Bere lanik ezagunena *Biotz-begietan* (1932 / 2021) dugu. Bertan azaltzen zaigu Lizardiren literatur unibertsoa, bi garen inguruan oinarritua: maitasuna eta natura. 2021ean berriro argitaratu zuten Lizardiren *Biotz-*



*begietan* euskara batura ekarrita.

*Bide barrijak* (1931) izena jarri zion Estepan Urkiaga *Lauaxetak* bere lehen liburuari, eta 1931n argitaratu zuen, Erreenterian egin zen Poesiaren Lehen Egunean lehen saria irabazi ondoren. *Lauaxetaren* lehen liburuak Aitzolena du sarrera, eta bere lana poesia garbizalearekin, hots, Aranak bultzaturiko korrontearekin lotzen du horrek. Hala ere, kritika garratzak jaso zituen *Lauaxetaren* liburuak poesia ulergarriagoa eta herrikoagoa aldarrikatzen zutenen aldetik, eta *Lauaxeta*, *Lizardi* eta gainerako berritzaileak egoera deserosoan jarri zituzten. *Arrats beran* (1935) bigarren liburua *Lauaxetaren* lanik onena dela esaten da. Bere sentimentalitasuna pixka bat leundu eta herri-lirikatik, erromantzeetatik eta kopla zaharretatik batez ere, harturiko elementu estilistiko berriak bere egingo ditu. Era berean, Federico García Lorca's *Romancero gitano* (1928) lanak *Lauaxetaren* sortutako miresmena antzeman daiteke lanean.

Olerkarien taldean aritu ziren baita ere Juan Arana Ezpeleta *Loramendi* eta Nikolas Ormaetxea *Orixe*.

Etorkizunari itxaropentsu eta asmo onez begiratzen zioten gerra aurreko idazleen lanak tonu bizi eta indar handikoak ziren; gerra ondoren, aldiz, animoak behera egin zuen. Hala, gerraosteko poetek nostalgicaz beterik gogoratzen zituzten Pizkundeko ilusioa, gaiak lantzeko indarra, umorea, ironia, gai aniztasuna eta planteamenduen bizitasuna. 1942-1963 urteetako poesia egileek euskararen eta euskal kulturaren egoera islatu zituzten. Larritasuna eta ezkortasuna nabari dira beren poemetan, baina etsipenean ez erortzen saiatzen dira.

Gerraondoan, erbestean argitaratu zituzten euren lehen lanak Telesforo Monzonek eta Jokin Zaitegik. Zenbait poetek herrialdean bertan jarraitu zuten beren lanarekin, hala nola Salbatore Mitxelenak, Nemesio Etxanizek, Juan San Martin Otsalarrek eta Joan Inazio Goikoetxea *Gazteluk* Hego Euskal Herriaren kasuan. Iparraldean, Xavier Diharce *Iratzeder* eta Manex Erdozaintzi-Etxart dira aipagarri. Testuinguru horretan sortu zen Parisen Jon Mirande heterodoxoa. Azpimarratu behar da Monzon, Otsalar eta Mirande izan ezik, gerra ondorengo errepresio giroan euskal poesiaren garrari eutsi zioten idazle gehienak hainbat

Following the war, however, this vitality faded. Indeed, post-war poets looked back nostalgically at the spirit, strength, irony, diversity and vivacity of the renaissance work. Poets in the period 1942-1963 focused on reflecting the situation of Euskara and Basque culture. Their poems are examples of the pain and negativity of the moment, although they manage to not fall into desperation. In the post-war period Telesforo Monzón and Jokin Zaitegi published their first works in exile. Some poets continued their work without abandoning the country, as was the case with Salbatore Mitxelenak, Nemesio Etxaniz, Juan San Martin Otsalar and Joan Inazio Goikoetxea *Gaztelu* in the Southern Basque Country. In the Northern Basque Country Xavier Diharce *Iratzeder* and Manex Erdozaintzi-Etxart stood out. In this context, the heterodox figure of Jon Mirande also emerged in Paris. One should also mention that, with the exception of Monzón, Otsalar and Mirande, the rest of the authors that kept the flame of Basque poetry alive in the repressive environment of the post-war era were members of different religious orders. This explains the religious perspective and content of their work.

The work of Jon Mirande became known through the pages of the journals *Egan*, *Euzko-Gogoa* and *Igela*. In the period 1950-1952 this author tried to publish a book of poems titled *Ihun-Argi*, but the project was never realised. Several collections of his work were, though, published posthumously: *Orhoitzuz* (1976), edited by A. Eguzkitza; *Ene Jainko eidol zaharra, Iurl* (1984), edited by X. Olarra; *Poemak* (1950-1966) (1984), edited by Txomin Larrea and *Ihun-Argiak. Claroscuros* (1993), edited by Iñaki Aldekoa and Eduardo Gil Bera. Mirande's work tends towards extremes (addressing subjects like prostitution, alcohol, paedophilia and homosexuality) and utopian visions. For Sarrionandia, Mirande's poetry was similar to the intellectual romanticism of Poe and Baudelaire; where poetry gives preference to the use of reason, calculation and method, yet lets the imagination fly to express dreams and mysteries. According to Sarrionandia, Mirande rose up against moralism and didacticism. His poetry seeks beauty rather than truth; it does not interpret reality but instead avoids it, and is even against it.

The Baudelarian symbolism developed by Mirande did not have any followers during that time. However, there are some traces of it in the early poems of Gabriel Aresti and the work of Mikel Lasas, which are collected in the book *Poema bilduma* (1971). Lasas's work was inspired by early twentieth-century French poetry, that located somewhere between Baudelaire's *Spleen* and Rimbaud's poetry. Lasas's poems reveal an empty, desolate and gloomy landscape, characteristic of a totally human consciousness; for this consciousness there is no longer any ideal that can help one escape reality and loneliness. Specifically, Lasas relinquished that romanticism approaching nature



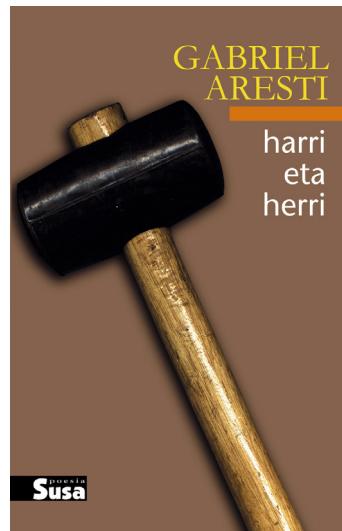
ordena erlijiosotako elizgizonak zirela. Beraz, oso nabarmenak dira ikuspegia eta gai erlijiosoak beren lanetan.

Egan, Euzko Gogoa eta Igela aldizkarien bidez ezagutzen eman zuen Jon Mirandek bere lana. 1950 eta 1952 bitartean *Ihun-Argi* izeneko bilduma argitaratu nahi zuen, baina proiektua ez zen aurrera atera. Hura hil ondoren haren lanaren hainbat argitalpen egin dira: *Orroituz* (1976), Andolin Eguzkitzak egindako; *Ene Jainko eidol Zaharra, Iur!* (1984), Xabier Olarrarena; *Poemak (1950-1966)* (1984), Txomin Larrearena eta, azkena, *Ihun-Argiak. Claroscuros* (EHU, 1993), Iñaki Aldekoak eta Eduardo Gil Berak atondua. Muturretarra (prostituzioa, alkohola, pedofilia, homosexualitate...) eta utopiara jotzen du Miranderen lanak. Edgar Allan Poe-ren eta Charles Baudelaire-ren erromantizismo intelektualetik gertu kokatu du Sarrionandiak Miranderen poesia; poesia horrek adimena, kalkulua eta metodoa lehenesten ditu, baina aske uzten du irudimena, ametsak eta misterioak adierazteko. Sarrionandiaren iritziz, moralismoaren eta didaktismoaren aurka altxatu zen Mirande. Edertasuna bilatzen du haren poesiak, ez egia. Haren poesiak ez du errealitya interpretatzetan; aitzitik, ihes egiten du errealityatik, haren aurka dago.

Mirandek landutako sinbolismo bauaderailekarrak ez zuen jarraitzailerik izan garai hartako euskal literaturan; hala ere, nolabaiteko arrastoa utzi zuen Gabriel Arestiren lehen poemetan zein Mikel Lasaren poesian, *Poema bilduma* (1971) lanean jasotakoa berau. XX. mendea hasierako Frantziko poesiaz elikatzen da Lasaren lana, Baudelaireren *spleen*-aren eta Rimbauden poesiaren artean kokatzen dena. Bere poemek paisaia atsekabe, huts eta tristea eskaintzen dute, erabat gizatiarra den kontzientziaren emaitza; kontzientzia horrentzat jada ez dago errealityatik zein bakardadetik ihes egiten lagunduko dion idealik. Lasak atzean uzten du naturara haien islaren bila hurbiltzen den erromantizismoa: haren poemak padura, hondarza, euri eta areto hutsez osatutako paisaia bakartuetan kokatuta daude.

Iñaki Aldekoaren iritziz, Gabriel Aresti da XX. mendearren erditik aurrerako poetarik garrantzitsuena. Hain zuen, bere *Harri eta Herri lana* (1964) erabakigarria izan zen orduko egile gehienentzat. Arestik lotura handia izan zuen Bilborekin, eta bere poemen bidez, hiriaren errealitya ekarri zuen euskal poesiara. Bere lehen lan garrantzitsua, *Bizkaitarra* poema, 1959an eman zuen argitara. Poema sinboliko luze bat ere idatzi zuen garai berean, *Maldan behera*, eta harengatik Euskaltzaindiaren Loramendi saria jaso zuen (1959). Aldekoaren arabera, Britania Handiko poeta sinbolistak eta 27ko Belaunaldiokoak zituen gustuko Arestik 1954-1959 urteen jiran, T. S. Eliot eta Pedro Salinas bereziki, eta horien lanak ezinbestekoak dira Arestiren lana ulertzeko.

Arestik oso hurbiletik ezagutu zituen 1958an industrializazioaren ondorio ankerrak, pobrezia eta langileen esplotazioa. Gertakari horiek eta Gabriel Celya zein Blas de Otero poetei irakurtzeak protesta-poesia mota

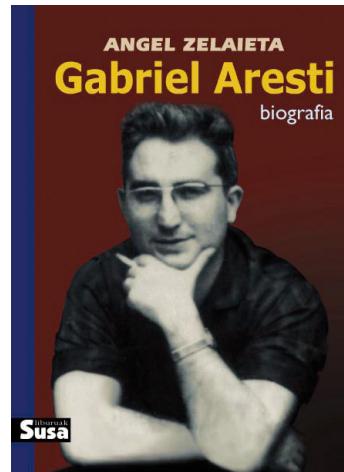


in search of both: his poems are located on desolate rain swept wastelands, beaches and landscapes made up of empty buildings.

According to Iñaki Aldeko, Gabriel Aresti was the most important Basque poet of the second half of the twentieth century. It is certainly true that his book of poems *Harri eta Herri* (1964) [Rock & Core, 2017] became a key text for most poets of the time. Aresti had a close relationship with Bilbao, and through his poems he introduced the reality of the city to poetry in Euskara. His first major work, the poem "Bizkaitarra", was published in 1959. Around the same time he wrote a lengthy symbolic poem, *Maldan behera* (Downhill, 2017), with which he won the Loramendi Prize, awarded by Euskaltzaindia, in 1959. According to Aldeko, in the period 1954-1959, Aresti was interested in British symbolist poetry and the poets of the Spanish "Generation of 27", especially T.S. Eliot and Pedro Salinas respectively. This information is vital to understanding the work of this poet from Biscay. Aresti experienced first-hand the disastrous consequences of industrialisation, poverty and the exploitation of workers, in the late 1950s. This experience, added to his reading of Gabriel Celya and Blas de Otero, led him to write protest poetry. Shortly afterwards, he published the result of this: *Harri eta Herri* (1964). He opted for the same direction too in his later works: *Euskal harria* (1967) and *Harrizko herri hau* (1970).

Aresti was very influential in both literary creativity and the critical and ideological evaluation of literature in Euskara at that time. Bitoriano Gandiaga and Juan Mari Lekuona were influenced by social poetry in their own symbolist poetry. Yet in spite of the fact that they shared similar roots, their poetic style was quite different. In the final years of his career, Gandiaga returned to traditional liturgical poetry while Lekuona moved towards surrealism. In the first book of poems by Xabier Lete, *Egunetik egunera orduen gurpillean* (1968), there is a clear blend of Arestian roots and traditional approaches of the era. In truth, the influence of oral literature and especially bertsolaritza pervades Lete's whole work. With the publication of his second book of poems, *Bigarren poema liburua* (1974), Lete turned towards existentialism, creating more intimate poems. His later publications included *Urrats desbideratuak* (1981), *Zentzu antzaldatuen poemategia* (1992) and *Eguntasentiareneko esku izoztuak* (2008), the latter being awarded the Euskadi Prize for Literature.

The 1970s was an era of major ideological control for Basque artists, given that they had to yield to the discipline of social commitment. In 1975, several collective publications took the first steps towards creative freedom in the literary sphere. The group Pott Banda in Bilbao, which combined Aresti's poetic perspective with those of the principal European avant-garde movements, played a decisive role in this period. *Etiopia* (1978) by Bernardo

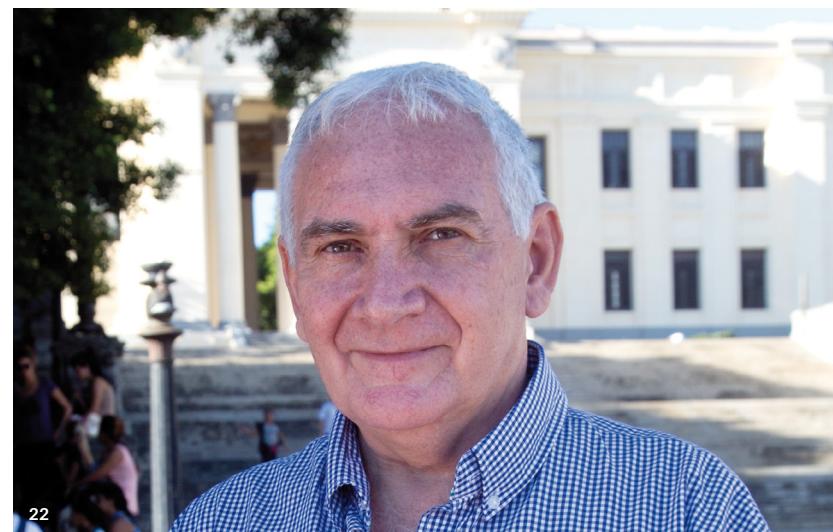


egitera bultzatu zuten; handik gutxira ikusi zuen argia planteamendu horren lehen emaitzak: *Harri eta Herri* (1964) bildumak. Hurrengo lanetan ere, *Euskal harria* (1967) eta *Harrizko herri hau* (1970), bide beretik abiatu zen.

Arestik eta bere lanak eragin handia izan zuten orduko literatura-sormenean zein euskal literaturaren balorazio kritiko eta ideologikoan. Bitoriano Gandiagak eta Juan Mari Lekuonak poesia sozialaren eraginpean bideratu zuten euren poetika sinbolista. Dena den, oinarrian bat etorriagatik ere ordezkari horien poetikek ez zuten bilakaera bera izan; Gandiaga poesia liturgikoa eta herri poesia egiten hasi zen azken urteetan, eta Lekuonak, aldiz, surrealismorantz jo zuen.

Xabier Leteren lehen poemategian, *Egunetik egunera orduen gurpilean* (1968), ezin hobeto uztartuta daude sustrai arestitarra eta herri sustraiak; ahozko literaturaren eta bereziki bertsolaritzaren aberastasuna begi bistakoa da haren obran. *Bigarren poema liburua* (1974) lanetik aurrera, Letek existentialismora jo zuen, poema askozaz intimoagoak sortuz. Haren ostean argitaratu zituen *Urrats desbideratuak* (1981), *Zentzu antzaldatueng poemategia* (1992) eta *Egunguentiaren esku izoztuak* (2008), azken hori Euskadi saria jasotakoa.

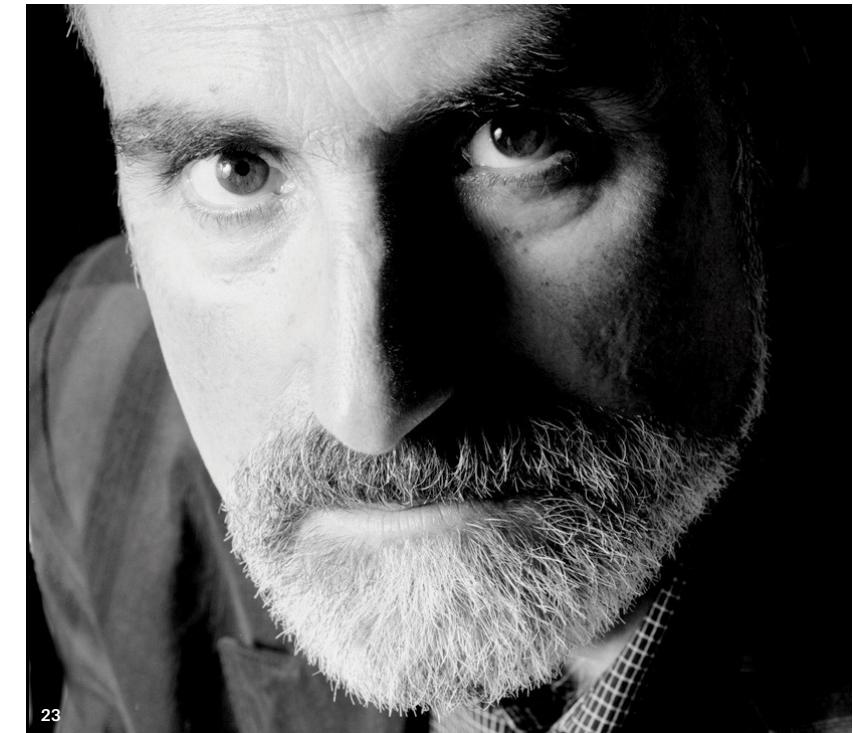
1970eko hamarkada kontrol ideologiko handiko garbia izan zen euskal sortzaileentzat, gizarte konpromisoaren diziplinara makurtuta bizi baitziren. 1975ean eman ziren literatura-esparruan askatasuna zabaltzeko lehen urratsak, hainbat argitalpen kolektiboren bitartez. Arlo horretan bereziki azpimarragarria izan zen Bilboko Pott Bandaren eragina, Arestiren ikuskera poetikoa eta Europako lehen abangoardien estetika uztarta zituena. Bernardo Atxagaren *Etiopia* (1978) lanak ezin hobeto laburbiltzen du Pott Bandaren filosofia. Poesia expresionistaren eredu da *Etiopia*, poesiaren eta antipoesiaren integrazioaren artekoa. Pott Bandan aritu ziren ere Joseba Sarrionandia eta Koldo Izagirre. Sarrionandieren poema liburu artean honako hauek nabarmendu behar dira: *Izuen gordelekuetan barrena* (1981), *Marinel Zaharrak* (1987), *Izkiriaturik aurkitu ditudan ene poemak* (1985), *Gartzelako poemak* (1992) eta *Hnuy illa nyha majah yahoo* (1995). Bidaia eta deserria dira *Izuen*



22

**22.** Joseba  
Sarrionandia.  
**23.** Xabier Lete.

**22.** Joseba  
Sarrionandia.  
**23.** Xabier Lete.



23

Atxaga captured to perfection the philosophy of the Pott Banda; a group whose members also included Joseba Sarrionandia and Koldo Izagirre. Sarrionandia's main books of poetry are: *Izuen gordelekuetan barrena* (1981), *Marinel Zaharrak* (1987), *Izkiriaturik aurkitu ditudan ene poemak* (1985), *Gartzelako poemak* (1992) and *Hnuy illa nyha majah yahoo* (1995) (see the anthology *Prisons and Exiles: Poems*, 2019). Travelling and exile are the central themes of *Izuen gordelekuetan barrena* (1981). This work, which is full of quotes and references, echoes the poetry of Kavafis, Pessoa, Yeats, Dylan Thomas, Kafka and other well-known poets. Specifically, as its preface points out, all literature is, at the end of the day, metaliterature. Some of the poems in *Izuen gordelekuetan barrena* resurface in *Marinel Zaharrak*, as well as other poems written during the author's time in gaol and subsequent escape. This work has a pessimistic tone. Abandoning the intertextual nature of his previous works, Sarrionandia is sceptical about the power of literature. The title of his *Hnuy illa nyha majah yahoo* is taken from *Gulliver's Travels* and means "take care of thyself, gentle Yahoo". The main focus of this book of poems is, besides death, a constant theme in Sarrionandia's work, exile.

Izagirre write the books of poems *Itsaso ahantzia* (1976), *Oinaze zaharrera* (1977) and *Guardasola ahantzia* (1978) during the initial avant-garde period of his career. After a ten-year period of silence, he then published *Balizko erroten erresuma* (1989), which constitutes for Josu Landa a "militant manifesto". In his next book of poems, *Non dago Basques' Harbour?* (1997), without sticking to a specific

*gordelekuetan barrena* (1981) liburuaren ardatz tematikoak. Kavafis, Pessoa, Yeats, Dylan Thomas, Kafka... eta hainbat idazle ezagunen oihartzunak kausi ditzakegu erreferentzia eta aipuz beteriko liburu honetan. Izan ere, liburuaren hitzaurrean esaten den bezala, literatura oro finean metaliteratura baita. *Marinel zaharrak* liburuak *Izuen gordelekuetan barrena* liburuko hainbat poema berreskuratu zituen, kartzelan eta ihesaldian idatzitako poemak eskaintzearekin batera. Ahots ezkorra da nagusi bertan, eta aurreko liburuaren intertestualitate nabarmena baztertuz, literaturak ahal duenari buruzko eszeptizismoa da nagusi. *Gulliverren Bidaia* liburuko perpaus bat parafraseatzen du *Hnuy illa nyha majah yahoo* poemategiaren izenburuak, «zaindu zaitez, lagun» esan nahi duen perpausa hain justu. Poetaren ibilbide literario guztian hain presente dagoen heriotzaren gaiaz gain, deserriarena da, ezbairik gabe, liburu honetan nabamentzen dena.

Koldo Izagirrek *Itsaso ahantzia* (1976), *Oinaze zaharrera* (1977) eta *Guardasola ahantzia* (1978) idatzi zituen abangoardismoko lehen aldian. Hamar urtean libururik argitaratu gabe egon ondoren, *Balizko erroten erresuma* (1989) kaleratu zuen, Josu Landaren iritziz «manifestu militantea» dena. Hurrengo poemategiak, *Non dago Basques' Harbour?* (1997), gai edo sinesmen jakin bati lotu gabe, gizakiak ongi sustraituta dituen hainbat sentimendu adierazten ditu: aberria, maitasuna eta beldurra, besteak beste. Poema guztiak poetaren bizitzari lotutako alegiazko portu batean kokatuta daude.

XX. mendeko bigarren erdialdeko poeten artean bi emakumezko nabarmendu behar ditugu: Amaia Lasa eta Arantxa Urretabizkaia. Bere lehen poemak 1971n eman zituen argitara Amaia Lasak, Mikel anaiaarekin batera, eta *Geroaren aurpegia* (2000) izeneko liburuan daude bilduta. Lasak ikuspegi feminista eta femeninoa ekarri zuen euskal poesiara, iruditeria konstante eta primarioaz (itsasoa, lurra, haizea) baliatuta, eta hizkuntza zuzena, inolako itzulingururik gabekoa, erabiliz. Bere poemek bizitzaren alde guztiak jorratu dituzte, eta egilearen eskubide sozial eta politikoekiko konpromisoa erakusten dute. Bestalde, Arantxa Urretabizkaia ezaugarri intimistengatik eta maitasunari zein sentimenduei egiten dizkien erreferentziengatik da aipagarria, 1960ko hamarkadaren erditik poesia sozial-errealista baitzen nagusi.

1980 eta 1990eko hamarkadetako euskal poesia askotarikoa da, eta nekez sar daiteke honako edo halako talde edo mugimendutan.

Felipe Juaristiren poesiak, esaterako, gogoeta du oinarri, maitasun geldo eta zaindua. *Galderen geografia* (1997) lanagatik Euskadi saria irabazi zuen. Horren aurretik argitaratu zituen *Denbora, nostalgia* (1985), *Hiriaren melankolia* (1987), *Laino artean zelatari* (1993), *Begi-ikarak* (2004) eta *Piztutako etxea* (2014).

Tere Irastortzaren poetika egilearen esperientziatik abiatzen da. Poetak asko lantzen du hitza, etengabeko zalantzaz betiere, eta adierazpena ahalik eta gehien zehaztu nahi izaten du; horrek minimalismo

subject or credo, Izagirre expresses diverse sentiments rooted in human beings, like the idea of homeland, love and fear, tying his poems to an imaginary port that is very close to his own real-life experience.

Amongst the major poets of the second half of the twentieth century, two women stand out: Amaia Lasa and Arantxa Urretabizkaia. Amaia Lasa published her first poems in 1971, together with her brother Mikel, and these have been collected in *Geroaren aurpegia* (2000). Amaia Lasa incorporates a feminist and female perspective into Basque poetry via a constant primary imaginary (the sea, the land and the wind) and expresses herself through direct language, without beating around the bush. Her poems integrate all aspects of life and are an expression of a personality committed to social and political rights. Meanwhile, Arantxa Urretabizkaia is the author of the long poem "San Pedro bezperaren ondokoak" (1972). This stands out for its intimate features and its references to love and feelings, in a context dominated by the poetry of social realism that, as noted, came to the fore from the mid-1960s onwards.

Poetry in the 1980s and 1990s was very diverse and, for this reason, difficult to classify. Some of the names associated with this period are: Aurelia Arkotxa, Luigi Anselmi, Juan Kruz Igerabide, Felipe Juaristi, Rikardo Arregi Díaz de Heredia, Itxaro Borda, Jose Luis Otamendi, Xabier Montoia, Tere Irastortza, Karlos Linazasoro, Juanjo Olasagarré and Iñigo Aranbarri.

Felipe Juaristi's poetic work is rooted in the reflexive word, a love of careful deliberate rhyme. His book of poems *Galderen geografia* (1997) was awarded the Euskadi Prize for Literature, and his other works include *Denbora, nostalgia* (1985), *Hiriaren melankolia* (1987), *Laino artean zelatari* (1993), *Begi-ikarak* (2004) and *Piztutako etxea* (2014).

All of Tere Irastortza's work is based on her own experiences. She develops and elaborates words, engaging in a persistent questioning and desire for expressive precision, which has on occasion led her to a strict minimalism. Her books of poetry include *Hostoak. Gaia eta gai aldaketak* (1983), *Derrotaren fabulak* (1986), *Osinberdeko khantoreak*



24. Tere Irastortza.

24. Tere Irastortza.



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maila handi batera eraman du batuetan. Hainbat poema bilduma argitaratu ditu, besteak beste, *Hostoak. Gaia eta gai aldaketak* (1983), *Derrotaren fabulak* (1986), *Osinberdeko khantoreak* (1986), *Manual devotio gabekoa* (1994), *Izan gabe direnak. Haurdunaldi beteko khantoriak* (2000) eta *Mundua betetzen zenuten* (2015).

Juan Kruz Igerabidek haurrentzako poesia egin du, *Begi-niniaren poemak* (1992) ezaguna eta *Botoi bat bezala* (1999) adibidez, eta ahozkotasunaren, poesiaren eta haurtzaroaren arteko harremanari buruzko saiakera interesgarriak ere idatzi ditu (*Bularretik mintzora*, 1993). Helduentzako hainbat poema liburu ere argitaratu ditu, *Sarean leho* (1994) eta *Mailu isila* (2002) esaterako. Bere poemak laburak dira; lakonikoak, aforismoetatik eta Zen behaketatik hurbil daude. Ekialdeko Zen eta Tao espiritualtasuna dira, euskal literaturako zein literatura unibertsaleko beste lirika iturri batzuekin batera, bere poesiaren isileko erreferentziak.

*Anfetamiña* (1983) poemategiarekin eman zen, egile gisa, ezagutzen Xabier Montoia. Ordutik, beste bi poema bilduma argitaratu ditu: *Likantropo* (1985) eta *Narratzien mintzoa* (1988). Atxagaren *Etiopiak* planteatu zuen hausturaren oihartzuna suma daiteke Gasteizkoaren lanean. Rocka inguratzan duen bazterreko mundutik gertu dagoen Montoia hizkuntza jasoaren eta subalternoaren arteko bereizketa tradizional diskriminatzaileari ihes egiten dio. Gaiei begira, espazio urbano desolatuak erakusten dizkigu, eta bakardadean kokatzen du bere burua. Maitasuna baino gorrotoa du balore, eta gorputzarekin batera transfiguratzan zaio espiritu, amoral bihurtzen da, indibidualtasuna aldarrikatzen du.

Rikardo Arregi Diaz de Herediak hiru poema liburu argitaratu ditu: *Hari hauskorak* (1993) *Kartografia* (1998) eta *Bitan esan beharra* (2012). Poeta kosmopolita da, erreferentzia ugarikoa, eta Atxagak eta Sarriónandia bezala, eta haien bitarbez, Pessoaaren, Audenen eta Kavafisen eragin sendoa jaso du. Haien bezala, bere lanetan kultura klasikoari aipamen egiten dio, iragan historikoari, kultur tradizio ezagun guztiei, baina baita egungo gertaerei zein egunerokotasunari ere, gertuko errealitatea begirada sakonago, kartsuago eta lirikoago batekin lantzko helburuarekin.



estetikaren aldetik, Jean-Michel Basquiat pintorearekin eta ordezkarri nagusi Charles Bukowski duen errealsimo zikinarekin pareka daiteke hori.

(1986), *Manual devotio gabekoa* (1994), *Izan gabe direnak. Haurdunaldi beteko khantoriak* (2000) and *Mundua betetzen zenuten* (2015).

Juan Kruz Igerabide is the author of poetry books for children like the well-known *Begi-niniaren poemak* (1992), and interesting theoretical essays on the relationship between oral culture, poetry and childhood (*Bularretik mintzora*, 1993). He has also published several books of poems for adults, among which *Sarean leho* (1994) and *Mailu isila* (2002) stand out. His poetry is concise, laconic, close to aphorism and Zen-like observation. Popular literature, Zen and Tao spirituality, together with other lyrical sources by Basque authors or from world literature, make up the quiet sources of his poetry.

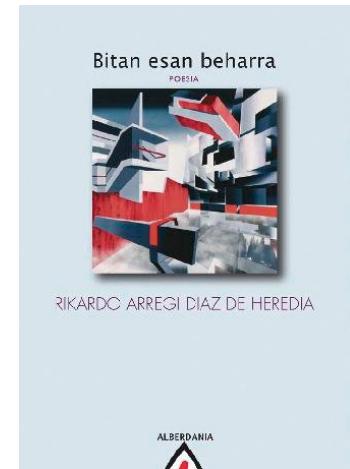
Karlos Linazasoro is the poet of extreme solitude, of the difficulty of identifying with the collective, of lacking in love and affection and, at the same time, of the expression of need. He is the author, amongst other works, of *Euriaren eskuak* (1995), *Kartapazioko poemak* (co-written with Igerabide, 1998), *Inoiz izan ez garenotan* (2000), *Eguzkia ateri* (2001) and *Denboraren aleak* (2005).

Xabier Montoia's first book of poetry was *Anfetamiña* (1983). Since then, he has published two other poetry works: *Likantropo* (1985) and *Narratzien mintzoa* (1988).

The work of this writer from Vitoria-Gasteiz echoes the ground-breaking effect of Atxaga's *Etiopia*. Montoia, who is close to the marginal world that surrounds rock music, avoids the traditional and discriminatory division between polite and subaltern language. As regards his subject-matter, he portrays desolate urban spaces. He places hate over love, and his body transforms in line with his spirit, making him amoral as he proclaims his individuality.

Rikardo Arregi Díaz de Heredia has published three works of poetry: *Hari hauskorak* (1993), *Kartografia* (1998) and *Bitan esan beharra* (2012). A cosmopolitan poet who makes use of a wide range of references, like Atxaga and Sarriónandia, he has been especially influenced by Pessoa, Auden and Kavafis. Like these authors, he alludes to classical culture, the historical past and the whole cultural tradition, but also to the present and mundane in life, in order to approach his close reality with a more penetrating, vibrant and lyrical gaze.

Poetry at the beginning of the twenty-first century favoured communication and transmitting concern. An example of this can be found in the work of Harkaitz Cano, Kirmen Uribe and Miren Agur Meabe. Harkaitz Cano is the author of the poetry books *Kea behelainopean bezala* (1994) and *Norbait dabil sute eskaileran* (2001). *Kea behelainopean bezala* resembles the urban aesthetic of Atxaga's poetry in *Etiopia*. In contrast, his second work of poetry reflects different narrative works of his set in New York. His thus transformed his perspective significantly: his earlier work set out from a position of an unfinished poetics and subjective experience expressed in a





25. Miren Agur Meabe.

Gabriel Arestiren *Harri eta Herri* zein Bernardo Atxagaren *Etiopia* lanekin batera, Kirmen Uriberen *Bitartean heldu eskutik* (2001) dugu euskal irakurleen artean arrakasta handien izan duen poemategia. Zazpi ataletan banaturik dago poemategia, eta atal bakoitza gai baten inguruan antolatuta dago. Horrela, poetak gogoeta egiten du gauregungo gizartearen, gizatasuna bera mehatxatzen duten teknologiaren, aurrerapenaren edota perfekzio nahiaren gainean, baita esentziara bueltatzearren beharra planteatu ere. Poemetako batean esaten duen bezala, «gizakia... munduaren neurria» ekartzea bilatzen du poetak. Nahi horrek, ezinbestean, gizabanakoen arteko harremanean sakontzera bultzatzen du poeta eta zera ondorioztatzen du: hitza ez dela bitartekorik egokiena edo, behintzat, ez eraginkorrena norberaren sentimenduak besteari helarazteko. Horren aurrean, keinuen balioa azpimarratzen du: gorputz komunikazioaren garrantzia. *17 segundo* (2019) bilduman aurreko poemategian jorraturiko gaiak antzeman daitezke.

Miren Agur Meaberren *Azalaren kodea* (2000) poema liburuak interes handia pitzu zuen kritikarien artean, lirismoa, erotismoa eta sentsualitatea uztartzen baititu. *Azalaren kodea* lan arras pertsonala da. Meaberren beraren hitzetan, poemategiak egilearen «erradiografia kaleidoskopikoa» eskaintzen dio irakurleari. Esperientzia horien barruan kokatu beharko genituzke iraganak orainean utzitako aztarnak ez ezik ametsak, zeinetan erotismoak toki handia betetzen duen. Emakumearen desio sexualen azaleratze horretan, Hélène Cixous-en postulaturekin nolabaiteko lotura antzematen du Iratxe Gutierrez kritikariak, *Le rise de la Méduse* lanaren egileak inkontientearen eta libidoaren ildotik abiaturiko idazketa proposatzen baitzuen. *Azalaren kodea* poemategiagatik Kritika Saria jaso zuen Meabek, 2001ean. *Bitsa eskuetan* (2010) bilduman ohiko gaiak agertzen zaizkigu: amodia, heriotza, sexua, bakardadea. Meabek 2021eko Poesia Sari Nazionala eskuratu zuen *Nola gorde errautsa kolkoan* (2020) poema bildumarekin.

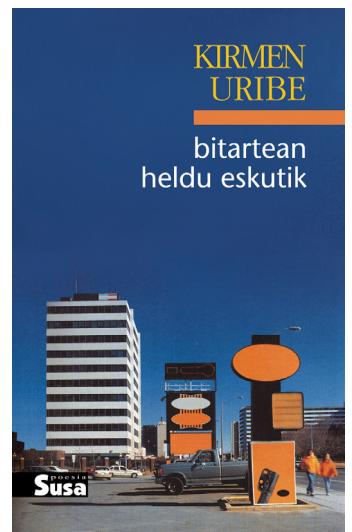
Aipatu beharreko beste poeta batzuk dira Igor Estankona, Jon Gerediaga, Beñat Sarasola, Iñigo Astiz eta Hedoi Etxarte.

solemn way; yet in his second work he inclines more towards an ironic and humorous expression of life, exploring everyday things through the use of direct language and identifying himself aesthetically with the painter Jean-Michel Basquiat and dirty realism.

Together with Gabriel Aresti's *Herri eta Herri* and Bernardo Atxaga's *Etiopia, Bitartean heldu eskutik* (2001) [Meanwhile Take My Hand, 2007] by Kirmen Uribe is arguably the most popular book of poetry among Basque readers. The book is structured around seven sections, with the poems in each section concerning a different topic. In this way, the poet reflects on technology, progress or the search for perfection and their harmful effects in contemporary society, and on humanity itself, and argues for a return to essence. As he writes in one of the poems, his goal is to "adapt human beings to the size of the world". The need to adapt human beings to the world leads the poet inevitably to reflect more deeply on personal relationships to arrive at the following conclusion: the word is not the most appropriate, or at least the most effective, medium for communicating one's feelings. For that reason, he emphasises the value of gestures – the value of corporeal communication. In *17 segundo* (2019), he demonstrates a similar subject matter to the previous book of poems.

The book of poems *Azalaren kodea* (2000) by Miren Agur Meabe, which displays a pronounced lyricism, eroticism and sensuality, was well-received by critics. It is a highly personal work. In Meabe's own words, the book provides readers with a "kaleidoscopic x-ray" of the author. Amongst these experiences one might emphasise, as well as the mark the past leaves on the present, those dreams with a pronounced erotic content. The critic Iratxe Gutiérrez sees some connection between this external projection of women's sexual desire and the arguments of Hélène Cixous, given that the author of *Le rise de la Méduse* proposes a writing based on the unconscious and the libido. The work received the Spanish Critics' Prize in 2001. The book of poems *Bitsa eskuetan* (2010) offers common themes in Meabe's work: lack of affection, death, sex and loneliness.

Other poets worth mentioning are Igor Estankona, Jon Gerediaga, Beñat Sarasola, Iñigo Astiz and Hedoi Etxarte.



## Beste hizkuntzetan egindako literatura



Niebla

**Unamuno**

Alianza editorial

Euskara ez beste hizkuntzetan aritu diren Euskal Herriko idazleen atzerabegirako gaztelaniaz idatzi duten horiekin hasiko dugu. Narratibari begira, nabarmentzeoak dira 98ko Belaunaldiko kide izandako Miguel Unamuno eta Pío Baroja.

Nobela, antzerkia eta saiakera landu zituen Miguel Unamunok. Bere lehen eleberria, *Paz en la guerra* (1895), Filosofian doktore-titulua eskuratzeko idatzi zuen tesian (*Crítica del problema sobre el origen y prehistoria de la raza vasca*) defendaturiko ideietan oinarrituta dago. Hirugarren Karlistaldian oinarritzen zen eleberri hura, baina ez zuen batere zerikusirik

aurreko belaunaldiaren elezaharretako literatura historikoarekin, hala nola Navarro Villosladaren *Amaya o los vascos en el siglo VIII* lanarekin (1879). Jesus Maria Lasagabasterren esanetan, 98ko Belaunaldiko Euskal Herriko idazleen literatura erregionalista «aurreko belaunaldien, hots, Trueba, Campion, Araquistain, Goizueta, Arana eta enparauen foruzaletasunaren eta literatur nazionalismoaren heriotza-agiria izango zen» (2002: 274). Hauek ere idatzi zituen Unamunok: *Niebla* (1914) [Laino, 1998], *Abel Sánchez, una historia de pasión* (1917) [Abel Sanchez, 1992], *Tulio Montalbán* (1920), *San Manuel Bueno, mártir* (1930) eta *Don Sandalio, jugador de ajedrez* (1930).

Pío Baroja nobela jorratu zuen nagusiki, baina saiakera ere landu zuen maiz, baita antzerkia, lirika eta biografia ere. Arthur Schopenhauer-en ezkortasun sakonaren eragina zuen filosofia adierazi zuen bere eleberrietan, baina ekintzaren bidezko berrerosketa aldarrakatu zuen nolabait, Friedrich Nietzsche-ren ildoan: pertsonaia abenturazale eta bizizale ugari ageri dira bere nobela gehienetan, baita pertsonaia gogogabe eta desengainatu batzuk ere, hala nola Andrés Hurtado *El árbol de la ciencia* (1911) [Jakintzaren arbola, 2006] lanean eta Fernando Ossorio *Camino de perfección (pasión mística)* (1902) lanean.

XX. mendeko lehenengo bi hamarkadetan jaiotako egielen artean, aipatzekoak dira Ignacio Aldecoa, Luis Martín Santos, Ramiro Pinilla eta Pablo Antoñana.

Luis Martín Santosek 1962an argitaraturiko *Tiempo de silencio* nobelak iraultza ekarri zuen orduko eleberrigintzara, hainbat berrikuntza estilistiko ezarri baitzituen, besteak beste barne-bakarrizketa, bigarren pertsonaren erabilera, zeharkako estilo librea eta kontzientziaren jarioa. James Joyce-z gerotzik, europar eleberrigileak prozedura horiek lantzen arituak ziren, baina errealsmo sozialarekin batere zerikusirik ez zuten. Horren guztia ondorioz, Martín Santosek berak *errealsmo dialektiko* izendatu zuena sortu zen.

## Basque Literature in Other Languages

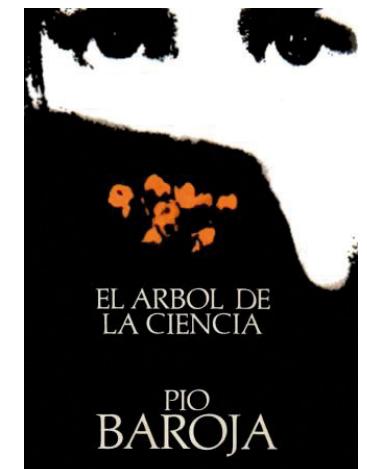
We will begin this section on Basque literature in other languages with Spanish. As regards narrative, one must begin with the authors associated with the Generation of 98: Miguel Unamuno and Pío Baroja.

Miguel Unamuno wrote novels, theatrical works and essays. His first novel, *Paz en la guerra* (1895) [Peace in War: A Novel, 1983], is based on some of the ideas in his doctoral thesis in philosophy (*Crítica del problema sobre el origen y prehistoria de la raza vasca*). In spite of being set during the third Carlist War (which the author experienced first-hand during his childhood), this work has nothing to do with the historical legend literature of the previous generation in, for example, *Amaya o los vascos en el siglo VIII* (1879) by Francisco Navarro Villoslada. According to Jesús María Lasagabaster, regionalist literature by the Basque writers of 98 "was in fact a demonstration of the death of fuerismo and the literary nationalism of previous generations, from Trueba to Campión, via Araquistain, Goizueta and Arana" (2002: 274). Other novels by Unamuno include *Niebla* (1914) [*Mist: a Tragicomic Novel*, 1928], *Abel Sánchez, una historia de pasión* (1917) [*Abel Sánchez, Unabridged Novel*, 1947], *Tulio Montalbán* (1920), *San Manuel Bueno, mártir* (1930) and *Don Sandalio, jugador de ajedrez* (1930).

Pío Baroja preferred the narrative genre, but frequently wrote essays and very occasionally theatrical works, poetry and biographies. His novels reveal a philosophy marked by the deep pessimism of Arthur Schopenhauer, although he preached to some extent a kind of redemption through action along the lines of Friedrich Nietzsche: this is the source of the dynamic adventurer heroes that pervade most of his novels, but also of the scarcer apathetic and disillusioned characters, such as Andrés Hurtado in *El árbol de la ciencia* (1911) [The Tree of Knowledge, 1974] or Fernando Ossorio in *Camino de perfección (pasión mística)* (1902) [Road to Perfection, 2008], two of his best novels.

Amongst the authors belonging to the generation which emerged in the first two decades of the twentieth century, one might mention Ignacio Aldecoa, Luis Martín Santos, Ramiro Pinilla and Pablo Antoñana.

The novel *Tiempo de silencio* (1962) [Time of Silence, 1964] by Luis Martín Santos implied a revolution in the world of novel-writing at the time. It introduced several new stylistic elements such as the internal monologue, the use of the second person, free indirect speech and stream of consciousness – all narrative techniques which had been present in European novels since the time of James Joyce but which were absent in the fashionable social realism of the era. All this went to make up what Martín Santos himself classified as "dialectic realism".



Ignacio Aldecoa poesia idazten hasi zen, baina narrazioaren alde egin zuen berehala. Genero horretan, hain zuen, nabarmendu zen egilea. Hainbat narrazio bilduma atondu zituen, eta, horien artean, aipatzekoak dira hauek: *Espera de tercera clase* (1955), *Vísperas del silencio* (1955), *El corazón y otros frutos amargos* (1959), *Caballo de pica* (1961), *Arqueología* (1961), *Cuaderno de Godo* (1961), *Neutral corner* (1962) eta *Pájaros y espantapájaros* (1963). Aldecoaren narrazioak joera neorrealistaren barruan kokatzen dira, eta behartsuen eta babesgabeen mundua azaltzen dute.

Ramiro Pinilla 1960an hasi zen literatur munduan ezagun bihurtzen, *Las ciegas hormigas* lanari esker Nadal saria eskuratu ostean. 2005ean *Verdes valles, colinas rojas* trilogia idazteari ekin zion. *La tierra convulsa*, *Los cuerpos desnudos* eta *Las cenizas del hierro* lanek osatzen dute trilogia, eta Euskal Herriaren eta abertzalesunaren azkenaldiko historiaren irudi handinahia eskaintzen dute. 2005ean, Euskadi saria irabazi zuen Pinillak, *La tierra convulsa* lanari esker, eta 2006an, Spainiako Narratiba Saria, *Las cenizas del hierro* lanari esker.

1930eko eta 1940ko hamarkadetan jaiotako egileen artean, aipatzekoak dira Raúl Guerra Garrido, Jorge González Aranguren, Ángel García Ronda, Germán Sánchez Espeso, Rafael Castellano de la Puente, J.J. Rapha Bilbao, Manuel Blanco Chivite eta Toti Martínez de Lezea.

Raúl Guerra Garrido 1969an idatzi zuen lehen eleberria, *Ni héroe ni nada*, eta, ordutik, hogei bat lan argitaratu ditu. 1976an, Nadal saria irabazi zuen *Lectura insólita de El Capital* lanarekin eta 1984an, berriz, Planeta sarirako finalista izan zen *El año del Wolfram* lanari esker. 1987an *La*



**26.** Ramiro Pinilla.  
**27.** Luisa Etxenike.

**26.** Ramiro Pinilla.  
**27.** Luisa Etxenike.



27

Ignacio Aldecoa began writing poetry, but soon decided on narrative, a genre in which he excelled especially for his narrations. He authored several collections of short stories, including *Espera de tercera clase* (1955), *Vísperas del silencio* (1955), *El corazón y otros frutos amargos* (1959), *Caballo de pica* (1961), *Arqueología* (1961), *Cuaderno de Godo* (1961), *Neutral corner* (1962) and *Pájaros y espantapájaros* (1963). His narrative work forms part of the neorealist movement, and describes the world of the disadvantaged and helpless.

Ramiro Pinilla began to make a name for himself in the literary world after winning the Nadal Prize in 1960 for *Las ciegas hormigas*. In 2005 he began to publish the trilogy *Verdes valles, colinas rojas*, made up of the works *La tierra convulsa*, *Los cuerpos desnudos* and *Las cenizas del hierro*, an ambitious fresco on the contemporary history of the Basque Country and nationalism, as well as being a shrewd portrait of Getxo in Biscay, his home town. Pinilla won the Euskadi Prize for Literature for *La tierra convulsa* in 2005, and in 2006 he received the Spanish National Prize for Narrative for *Las cenizas del hierro*.

Amongst those authors born in the 1930s and 1940s we might mention Raúl Guerra Garrido, Jorge González Aranguren, Ángel García Ronda, Germán Sánchez Espeso, Rafael Castellano de la Puente, J. J. Rapha Bilbao, Manuel Blanco Chivite and Toti Martínez de Lezea.

Raúl Guerra Garrido wrote his first novel, *Ni héroe ni nada*, in 1969 and since then has published around twenty other works. He won the Nadal Prize in 1976 for *Lectura insólita de El Capital* and was a finalist in the Planeta Prize of 1984 for *El año del Wolfram*. In 1987 he published *La mar es una mala mujer*, which according to critics was his most complete work to date, and which was later made into a film, *Terranova*. This work tells the story of the struggle of a character, Antxon, against time. Terrorist violence is one of his major subjects, as explored in *La carta* (1990) and the more recent *La soledad del ángel del guarda* (2007), a psychological portrayal of a man who becomes the shadow of a professor threatened by terrorism and for which he received the National Prize of Spanish Letters in 2006.

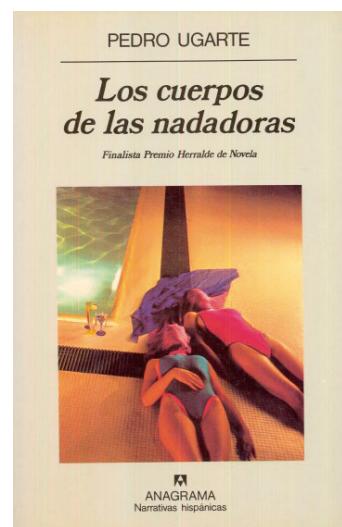
*mar es una mala mujer* kaleratu zuen. Kritikarien ustez, horixe da Guerra Garridoren lanik osoena, *Terranova* izenburuaz zinemararatutakoa; Antxonek denboraren aurka egiten duen borroka azaltzen du lanak, eta indarkeria terrorista du gai nagusietako bat. *La carta* (1990) eta *La soledad del ángel del guarda* (2007) lanek ere gai horretan sakontzen dute. *La soledad del ángel del guarda* nobelak mehatxaturiko irakasle baten itzal bihurtzen den gizon baten erretratu psikologikoa eskaintzen du, eta Espaniako Letren Saria eskuratu zuen 2006an.

1950eko hamarkadan sortutako egileen artean, nabarmentzeakoak dira Miguel Sánchez-Ostiz, Antonio Altarriba, Miguel González San Martín, Paloma Díaz-Mas, Luisa Etxenike, José Javier Abásolo, Fernando Marías, Álvaro Bermejo, Fernando Aramburu eta Juan Bas.

Luisa Etxenikek *La historia de amor de Margarita Maura* narrazio bilduma (1990) eta *Querida Teresa* (1988), *Efectos secundarios* (1996), *El mal más grave* (1997), *Los peces negros* (2005) eta *Ejercicios de duelo* (2010) eleberriak argitaratu ditu, besteren artean. 2008an, *El ángulo ciego* kaleratu zuen; laneko protagonistaren aita bizkartzaina da ofizioz eta ETAK hil du.

Fernando Aramburu *Fuegos con limón* lanari esker egin zen ezagun, 1996an. Idazle-belaunaldi baten kronika da *Fuegos con limón*, eta Donostian girotuta dago, 1970eko hamarkadan. Ondotik, hainbat eleberri argitaratu ditu Aramburuk: Euskadi Literatura Saria jasotako *Los ojos vacíos* (2000), *El trompetista de Utopía* (2003), *Vida de un piojo llamado Matías* (2004) eta *Bami sin sombra* (2005). 2006an, *Los peces de la amargura* narrazioen liburua plazaratu zuen: ETAren biktimengan jartzen du arreta lanak, eta, hari esker, 2007ko Dulce Chacón Espaniako Narratiba Saria eta Espaniako Errege Akademiaren 2008ko Saria eskuratu zituen Aramburuk. *Patria* (2016) nobelarekin, berriz, Espaniako Sari Nazionala jaso zuen.

1960ko eta 1970eko hamarkadetan jaiotako egileen artean, aipatzekoak dira: Pedro Ugarte, Juan Manuel de Prada, María Laura Espido Freire, Ander Izagirre eta Txani Rodríguez.



Pedro Ugartek hainbat narrazio bilduma kaleratu ditu: *Los traficantes de palabras* (1990), *Noticias de tierras improbables* (1992), *Manual para extranjeros* (1993), *La isla de Komodo* (1996) eta *Materiales para una expedición* (2003). Bere lehenengo eleberria, *Los cuerpos de las nadadoras* (1996), Herralde sarirako finalista izan zen, eta gaztelaniazko Euskadi literatura saria eskuratu zuen 1997an.

25 urte zituela, 1999an, Espido Freirek Planeta saria irabazi zuen, *Melocotones helados* lanari esker, eta sari hori irabazi duen egilerik gazteena izan zen. Pintore gazte bat da lan horren protagonista, ezezagun baten heriotza-mehatxuak hartu ostean etxetik alde egin eta aitonaren etxera doana bizitzera. Aurrez, beste bi eleberri argitaratu zituen Espido Freirek: *Irlanda* (1998) —Frantziako Millepage saria— eta *Donde siempre es octubre* (1999). Liburu hauek ere idatzi ditu: *Diabulus in Musica* (2001),

Amongst those authors born in the 1950s one might mention Miguel Sánchez-Ostiz, Antonio Altarriba, Miguel González San Martín, Paloma Díaz-Mas, Luisa Etxenike, José Javier Abásolo, Fernando Marías, Álvaro Bermejo, Fernando Aramburu and Juan Bas.

Luisa Etxenike has published one book of short stories, *La historia de amor de Margarita Maura* (1990) and the novels *Querida Teresa* (1988), *Efectos secundarios* (1996), *El mal más grave* (1997), *Los peces negros* (2005) eta *Ejercicios de duelo* (2010). In 2008 she published *El ángulo ciego*, in which the young protagonist's father, a bodyguard by profession, has been killed by ETA.

Fernando Aramburu rose to fame with *Fuegos con limón* (1996), the chronicle of a generation of writers in San Sebastian in the 1970s. Thereafter, he published the novels *Los ojos vacíos* (2000), which won the Euskadi Prize for Literature, *El trompetista de Utopía* (2003), *Vida de un piojo llamado Matías* (2004) and *Bami sin sombra* (2005). In 2006 he published a book of short stories, *Los peces de la amargura*, focusing on the victims of ETA, for which he won the Dulce Chacón for Spanish Narrative in 2007 and the Spanish Royal Academy Prize in 2008. He was awarded the Spanish National Prize for the novel *Patria* (2016) [*Homeland*, 2019].

Among the authors born in the 1960s and 1970s one might mention Pedro Ugarte, Juan Manuel de Prada, María Laura Espido Freire, Ander Izagirre and Txani Rodríguez. Pedro Ugarte has published several books of short stories: *Los traficantes de palabras* (1990), *Noticias de tierras improbables* (1992), *Manual para extranjeros* (1993), *La isla de Komodo* (1996) and *Materiales para una expedición* (2003). His first novel, *Los cuerpos de las nadadoras* (1996), was a finalist for the Herralde Prize and won the Euskadi Prize for Literature in 1997.

Espido Freire won the Planeta Prize at the age of twenty-five in 1999 for *Melocotones helados*, becoming the youngest ever author to receive the award. The protagonist of the novel is a young painter who, after leaving her home after receiving threats from an unknown source, goes to live with her grandfather. Previously, Freire had published two other novels: *Irlanda* (1998), published in English in 2011, for which she won the French Millepage prize, and *Donde siempre es octubre* (1999). Her other works include *Diabulus in Musica* (2001), *Nos espera la noche* (2003), *La diosa del pubis azul* (2005) and *Soria Moria* (2007). Her work in general addresses the ambiguity of appearances, social values based on being good and a fascination with evil, by means of magical worlds as well as everyday life, creating extremely complex universes and non-existent times.

As regards poetry, the following names stand out from the first half of the twentieth century: Ernestina de Champourcín and the so called triumvirate of social poetry: Ángela Figuera Aymerich, Gabriel Celaya and Blas de Otero.



*Nos espera la noche* (2003), *La diosa del pubis azul* (2005) eta *Soria Moria* (2007). Itxuraren anbiguotasuna, gizartearren balioen araberako ongia eta gaizkiaren liluragarritasuna lantzen ditu Espido Freireren obrak, bai mundu magikoetan, bai eguneroko bizitzan, eta, horretarako, oso unibertsoko konplexuak eta existitu ez diren garaia darabiltza.

Poesian, XX. lehen erdialdean ondoko egileak nabarmendu ziren: Ernestina de Champourcín eta poesia sozialaren euskal triunbiratu delakoa: Ángela Figuera Aymerich, Gabriel Celaya eta Blas de Otero.

Ernestina de Champourcín 27ko Belaunaldiko kide izan zen, eta poesia intimista jorratu zuen hiru fasetan: lehen fasean, 1905 eta 1936 artean, giza maitasunaren poesia; bigarrenean, 1936 eta 1974 artean, jainkozko maitasunaren poesia; eta, hirugarrenean, 1974 eta 1991 artean, maitasun sentituarena landu zuen. Bere lanen artean aipatzekoak dira *En silencio* (1926), *Ahora* (1928), *La voz en el viento* (1931), *Cántico inútil* (1936), *Presencia a oscuras* (1952), *Cárcel de los sentidos* (1960) eta *Primer exilio* (1978).

Ángela Figuera Aymerichek joera modernistako poesia landu zuen, emakumetasuna eta amatasuna ospatu eta emakumeen eta haurren kontrako gehiegikeriak salatzeko. Bere lehen liburua *Mujer de barro* 1948an argitaratu zuen eta, ondotik, *Soria pura* (1949), *Vencida por el ángel* (1950), *Víspera de la vida* (1953), *Los días duros* (1953), *Belleza cruel* (1958) eta *Toco la tierra* (1962) plazaratu zituen. Azken biek arreta handiagoa jartzen dute gizarte gaietan, eta sufritzen ari den gizakiaren aldeko jarrera sutsua adierazten dute.

Gabriel Celaya poeta aipagarria izan zen poesia konprometitua delakoaren barnean. Poesia existencialista landu zuen lehen etapan. 1950eko hamarkadan, konpromisoaren estetikarekin bat egin zuen, eta horren frutu dira *Lo demás es silencio* (1952) eta *Cantos íberos* (1955) poema liburuak. Halaber, esperimentalismoa eta poesia konkretua landu zituen *Campos semánticos* (1971) lanean. 1986an, Spainiako Letren Saria eman zioten.

Blas de Oteroren ibilbidea hiru etapatan sailka dezakegu, poetak izan zituen hiru krisialdien arabera: etapa espirituala (*Cántico espiritual*, 1942), etapa existencialista (*Ángel fieramente humano*, 1950 eta *Redoble de conciencia*, 1951) eta etapa soziala (*Pido la paz y la palabra*, 1955).

Gerraostean jaiotako poeten artean, aipagarriak dira: Juan Ramón Corpas, Eduardo Apodaca, Julia Otxoa, Francisco Javier Irazoki, Iñaki Ezkerra, Karmelo C. Iribarren, José Fernández de la Sota, Kepa Murua, Javier Alcibar, María Maizkurrena, Amalia Iglesias Serna, Eli Tolaretxipi eta José Blanco.

Julia Otxoa sortzaile aldakorra da eta poesia, arte plastikoak, haurrentzako kontaketa, mikroipuin edo mikrotestua, eta poesia bisuala landu ditu hasiera-hasieratik, saiakeraz eta egunkarietako artikuluez gain. 1978an argitaratu zuen lehen liburua, *Composición*



28. Karmelo C. Iribarren.

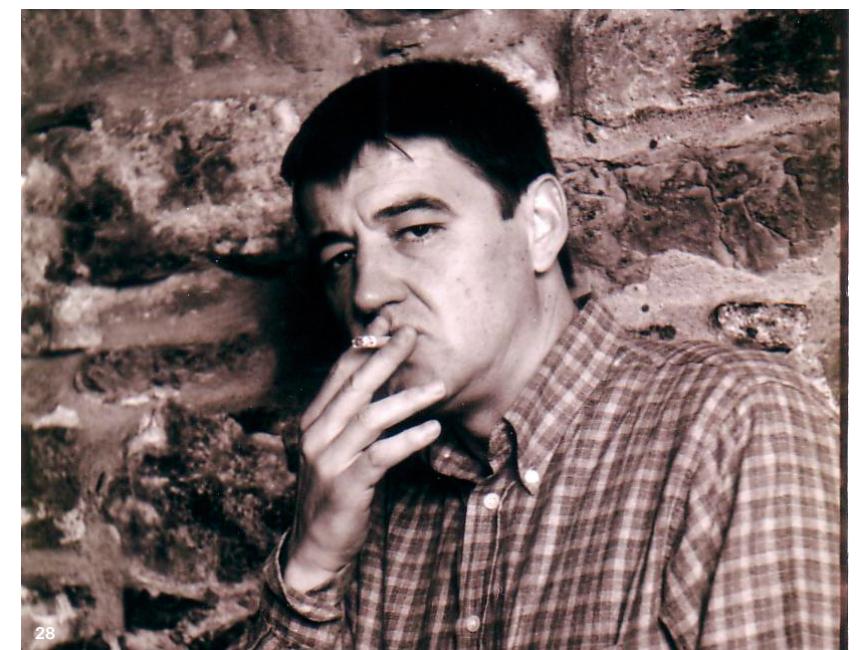
Ernestina de Champourcín belonged to the Generation of 27 and created an intimate poetry which can be divided into three phases: the poetry of human love (1905–1936), the poetry of divine love (1936–1974) and the poetry of heartfelt love (1974–1991). Her books of poems include *En silencio* (1926), *Ahora* (1928), *La voz en el viento* (1931), *Cántico inútil* (1936), *Presencia a oscuras* (1952), *Cárcel de los sentidos* (1960) and *Primer exilio* (1978).

The poetry of Ángela Figuera Aymerich is modernist in style, and celebrates femininity and maternity, while at the same time condemning the abuse of women and children. Her first book was *Mujer de barro* (1948), and this was followed by *Soria pura* (1949), *Vencida por el ángel* (1950), *Víspera de la vida* (1953), *Los días duros* (1953), *Belleza cruel* (1958) and *Toco la tierra* (1962). These last two works demonstrate a growing interest in social questions and a radical position in favour of those humans who experience suffering.

Gabriel Celaya was one of the represented figures of the so-called committed poetry. His initial work was characterised by an existentialist tone. In the 1950s he joined the aesthetic of commitment, resulting in the poetry books *Lo demás es silencio* (1952) and *Cantos íberos* (1955). He also played with experimentalism and concrete poetry in *Campos semánticos* (1971). He was awarded the National Prize for Spanish Letters in 1986.

The career of Blas de Otero might be classified in three stages, all coming as the result of three crises the poet himself experienced: a spiritual stage (*Cántico espiritual*, 1942), an existential stage (*Ángel fieramente humano*, 1950 and *Redoble de conciencia*, 1951), and a social stage (*Pido la paz y la palabra*).

Amongst the authors born after the Spanish Civil War, one might mention: Juan Ramón Corpas, Eduardo Apodaca, Julia Otxoa, Francisco



28. Karmelo C. Iribarren.

entre la luz y la sombra. Hasieratik, gerra aurreko eta gerraosteko poeta existencialisten eta konprometituen (Antonio Machado, Federico García Lorca, Miguel Hernández, Blas de Otero, Ángela Figuera) eragin handia duen poesia landu du, baita isiltasunaren poesiatik hurbil dagoen poesia minimalistak ere, prosa poetikoranzko eta aforismoranzko joera duten poemek osatutakoa. Hainbat liburu argitaratu ditu Otxoak, eta, horien artean, nabarmentzeko da *Taxus baccata* (2005).

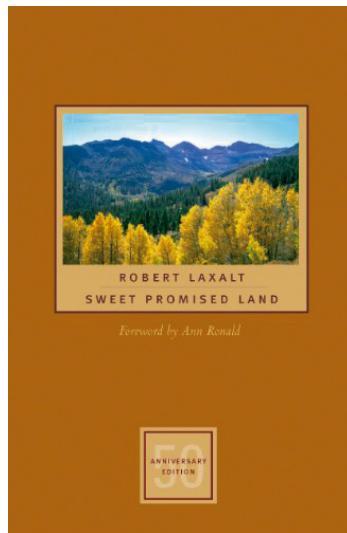
Saiakerari dagokionez, azpimarratzekoak dira hauek: Ramiro de Maeztu, Jorge Oteiza, Elías Amézaga, José María Jimeno Jurio, Manuel Leguineche, Fernando Savater, Jon Juaristi eta Daniel Innerarity.

Frantsesez idazten duten egileen artean, Marie Darrieussecq da zalantzarik gabe arrakasta gehien lortu duena. Emakumezko pertsonaiak, bikote-harremanak eta amaren eta seme-alaben arteko harremanak dira nagusi bere lanetan, eta desagerpenez, absentzia, mamuez eta oroinmena galtzeaz dihardu maiz. Nortasun eta kidetasun kontuak ere etengabeak dira bere obran. Besteak beste, lan hauek argitaratu ditu: *Truismes* (1996) [Ahardikeriak, 2005], *Naissance des fantômes* (1998), *Le mal de mer* (1999), *Précisions sur les vagues* (1999), *La plage* (2000), *Bref séjour chez les vivants* (2001), *Le bébé* (2002), *White* (2003), *Le pays* (2005) [Herria, 2005], *Zoo* (2006), *Tom est mort* (2007) [Tom hil da, 2007], *Tristes pontiques* (2008) nobelak eta *Le musée de la mer* (2009) antzezlana.

Azken bi mendeetan, AEBetan bizi diren euskal jatorrikoen kopuruak nabarmen egin du gora, eta euskal-amerikarren bigarren, hirugarren eta laugarren belaunaldiko autoreak aipatuko ditugu guk: Miriam Isasi, Robert Laxalt, Frank Bidart, Frank Bergon, Monique Laxalt, Trisha Zubizarreta, Gregory Martin, Martin Etchart eta Gabriel Urza.

Robert Laxalt, zalantzarik gabe, idazle euskal-amerikarrik ezagunena da. *Sweet Promised Land* (1957) [Dominique, artzain xiberotar bat Nevadan, 1988 / Aita artzain zen, 2005] AEBetan bizi zen euskal erkidegoaren ordezkaritza gain, diasporaren errealitatea helarazi zien Europaren bizi ziren euskal herritarrei, euskal herriko gaztelaniazko eta frantseseko itzulpenei esker. Urte askoren buruan jaioterrira itzultzen den emigratzailearen esperientziaren lekuko leialtzat hartu izan dute lan hori, eta azaltzen du zer sentipen izan zituen

Laxaltek berak Dominique aitarekin batera Euskal Herriko egin zuen lehen bidaian. Nolanahi ere, ezin esan dezakegu *Sweet Promised Land* lana emigrante asimilatuaren lekukotasuna denik, Dominiquek Euskal Herriaren gara sentitzen duen arroztasuna inoiz bere etxe berriaren gara (AEBengana) sentitzen duenarekin pareka baitaiteke. Laxaltek dioenez, artzaina zuen aita, eta mendia zen haren etxea. Muga da mendia, esekiduran dagoen toki bat, hirugarren lekua agian; mugatu eta, aldi berean, batu egiten du. Bi kulturaren artean dago Dominique; batak



29. Marie Darrieussecq.



Javier Irazoki, Iñaki Ezkerra, Karmelo C. Iribarren, José Fernández de la Sota, Kepa Murua, Sergio Arroeta, Javier Alcibar, María Maizkurrena, Amalia Iglesias Serna, Eli Tolaretxipi and José Blanco.

Julia Otxoa is a versatile artist who, since the beginning of her career, has written poetry and practiced the plastic arts, as well as also writing children's stories, microfiction and visual poetry (and also essays and newspaper columns). Her first book, *Composición entre la luz y la sombra*, was published in 1978. From the beginning, her poetry has been influenced greatly by existentialists and the committed poets of the pre- and post-Spanish Civil War era (for example, Antonio Machado, Federico García Lorca, Miguel Hernández, Blas de Otero and Ángela Figuera). It is also a minimalist poetry close to that of silence, where the poem tends toward a form of poetic prose and aphorism. Amongst her fourteen books published to date, one might highlight *Taxus Baccata* (2005).

As regards the essay, the following authors stand out: Ramiro de Maeztu, Jorge Oteiza, Elías Amézaga, José María Jimeno Jurio, Manuel Leguineche, Fernando Savater, Joseba Zulaika, Jon Juaristi and Daniel Innerarity.

Amongst Basque authors who write in French, Marie Darrieussecq is, without doubt, the most successful. She prioritises female characters and the relationships between both couples and mothers and daughters in her work. Recurring themes include disappearances, absence, ghosts and memory loss. Questions of identity and belonging are also constant topics in her work. To date, she has published the following titles: *Truismes* (1996) [*Pig Tales: A Novel of Lust and Transformation*, 1997], *Naissance des fantômes* (1998) [*My Phantom Husband*, 1999], *Le mal de mer* (1999) [*Breathing Underwater* (UK) / *Undercurrents: A Novel* (USA), 2001], *Précisions sur les vagues* (1999), *La Plage* (2000), *Bref séjour chez les vivants* (2001) [*A Brief Stay With the Living*, 2003], *Le bébé* (2002), *White* (2003) published in English in 2005, *Le pays* (2005), *Zoo* (2006), *Tom est mort* (2007), *Tristes Pontiques* (2008) and the theatrical work *Le Musée de la mer* (2009).

In the last two centuries, the number of inhabitants of Basque origin in the United States of America has been increasing. Below we cite a list of authors belonging to the second and third generations of Basque-

bestearekin zerikusirik ez duten baina, aldi berean, bere baitan bat egiten duten bi mundurenen artean. Bere errealityea plurala da orain –egiaz, zer errealityez da plurala?–, eta, beraz, ez du onartzen singularra balitz bezala trata dezaten; hau da, ez du nahi bere iraganaren edo, zehazkiago esanda, bere iragan jakin baten arabera defini dezaten. *Sweet Promised Land* lanaren ondotik, AEBen mendebaldera emigratutako euskal familia baten esperientziei buruzko trilogia bat argitaratu zuen Laxaltek; familia horretako kide Pete Indart da kontalaria, eta liburu hauek hartzen ditu barnean: *The Basque Hotel* (1989), *Child of the Holy Ghost* (1992) eta *The Governor's Mansion* (1994).

American authors: Miriam Isasi, Robert Laxalt, Frank Bidart, Frank Bergon, Monique Laxalt, Trisha Zubizarreta, Gregory Martin, Martin Etchart and Gabriel Urza.

Robert Laxalt was, without doubt, the best known Basque-American author on both sides of the Atlantic Ocean. *Sweet Promised Land* (1957) not only gave a voice to the Basque community in the United States but also, by means of translations into Euskara, Spanish and French, allowed Basques in Europe a window on the reality of the Basque diaspora there. *Sweet Promised Land*, which has been described as faithful rendition of the experience of the emigrant who returns home to his birthplace after many years away, is a record of Laxalt's own impressions on his first visit to the Basque Country in the company of his father, Dominique. Whatever the case, one cannot say that *Sweet Promised Land* is the testimony of an assimilated immigrant. The strangeness Dominique feels for the Basque Country is matched by the strangeness he continues to feel on occasion in his new home, the United States. In perhaps the most cited part of the work, the beginning, Laxalt tells us his father was a sheepherder and that his home was the hills. Mountains are a frontier land, a suspended place, a third place if one prefers; they divide but, at the same time, they also unite. Dominique finds himself between two cultures, two worlds that have nothing in common with one another, and yet they come together in him. His is now a plural reality (although what reality isn't?) which is why he cannot be defined in the singular. This is why he resists only being defined by his past or, to put it another way, by a specific past. Later, Laxalt published a trilogy based on the experiences of a Basque family that had emigrated to the American West as told by one of its members, Pete Indart, and made up of: *The Basque Hotel* (1989), *Child of the Holy Ghost* (1992) and *The Governor's Mansion* (1994).

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## Estibalitz Ezkerra Vegas (Bilbo, Bizkaia, 1979)

Estibalitz Ezkerra Vegas ACLS Emerging Voices posdoktorego ikertzalea da Arizona State Universityko Historia, Filosofia eta Erlilio Ikasketen Eskolan. Literatura konparatuan doktorego ikasketak egin zituen Illinoisko Unibertsitatean, Urbana-Champaignen, eta ingelesezko masterra Nevadako Unibertsitatean, Reno. Indarkeria politikoaren eta memoriaren alorrean lan egiten du, batik bat kultur ekoizpenean duten eraginari begira, eta immigrazio kontuetan ere interesa du. Euskal Herriko idatzizko prentsan ohiko kolaboratzailea da.

Estibalitz Ezkerra Vegas is an ACLS Emerging Voices postdoctoral researcher at the Arizona State University School of Historical, Philosophical and Religious Studies. She holds a doctorate in comparative literature from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign and a master's in English literature from the University of Nevada, Reno. She works in the field of political violence and memory and the effect they have on cultural production, and is also interested in immigration issues. She is a regular contributor to the written press in the Basque Country.

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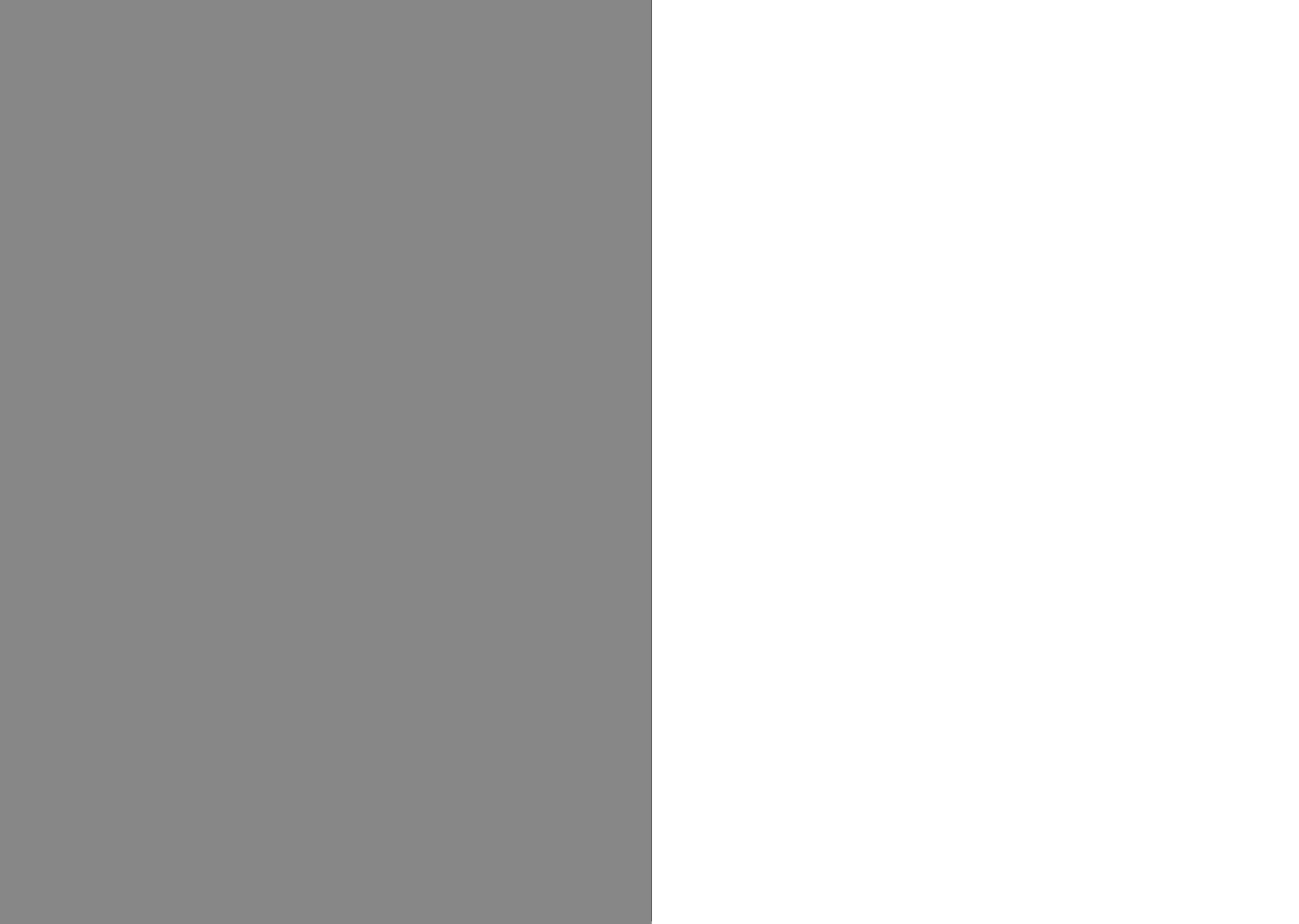
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