



Eurozine Review

du signs off an era in publishing; *Osteuropa* takes stock of post-election Ukraine and Poland; *Reset* fathoms the gulf between the American and European Left; *Le Monde diplomatique* (Oslo) criticizes the gullibility of Norwegian news reporters; *Nova Istra* proclaims the essay the literary genre of the future; and *Lettre Internationale* (Denmark) wants to make artists into journalists.

du 11–12/2007–08



"Nothing disappears", write the editors of *du*. "Physics shows this just as much as psychoanalysis." However, the editors themselves will disappear after this very last issue of *du* published in the format and design established over the last 67 years — at least as editors of *du*. As of 2008, *du* will have a new format, a new editor, a new design, and a new publisher.

For the issue, the *du* team has put together an "alphabet of disappearance". This veritable encyclopaedia counts 146 entries by 95 authors. From *Alpenbock* (*Rosalia Alpina*, the largest longicorn in Europe), to Xanthippe, Yeti, and *Zimmerantenne* (the forlorn-looking indoor aerials on the early TVs which always had to be readjusted in order to get the best results). It covers such well-known artefacts as the chamber pot, the double LP, plane tickets, girls' curtsies, and *contenance*.

"In reality", the editors write, "everything is very different than we maintain. Like the *petites madeleines*, those rich biscuits that Aunt Léonie dipped into Marcel Proust's tea on Sundays, memories will pop up when browsing through this issue. The bygone will prove itself to be immortal, the vanished to be timeless."

Because even if the madeleines exist only in memory, they might be reincarnated as an embroidered handkerchief or a botanist's container. In any case — or in many cases — these artefacts point to our childhood. "It has, indeed, become an issue on childhood, this vanishing-alphabet, maybe even a Swiss-German *Heimat*-issue, a little breviary of melancholy."

To collect as many *du* authors as possible was the hidden agenda of the editors at a time when they did not yet know that this issue would be their last: to celebrate a party without cause. "Now the party has got a cause, the gathered authors make this farewell issue into a firework of brilliant miniatures."

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on the perspectives of the Western Left.

Giuliano Amato, Italian Minister of Domestic Affairs, calls for courageous dialogue which avoids positioning "us" against "them"; Jean Cohen recommends first of all that we dismantle our ideologies; and Charles Taylor and Dilip Gaonkar warn against bloc thinking.

The Al–Jazeera effect: A mouthpiece for terrorism or counterinformation? From Qatar to New York, Al–Jazeera is regarded as the feared all–news channel. Daniela Conte, Lawrence Pintak, Najib Ghadbian, and others reflect how the satellite network is transforming Middle–Eastern public opinion — and not only that.

When Islam meets Greece: Senegalese philosopher Souleymane Bachir Diagne recalls a time when Islam was capable of opening itself to Greek philosophy. Starting in the ninth century, he reminds us, the Arab language was the language of great Muslim mediaeval philosophers such as Avicenna, Al Gazali, and Averroes, as well as of Jewish theologians such as Maimonides.

The [full table of contents](#) of *Reset* 103 (2007)

Le Monde diplomatique (Oslo) 11/2007



Large parts of the Norwegian mass–media's international coverage consist of unfiltered stories from international news agencies, states [Kim Bredeesen](#) in the November issue of *Le Monde diplomatique* (Oslo). When it was reported that the Swedish artist Lars Vilks had been threatened by al–Qaeda for drawing Muhammad as a "roundabout dog", important information about the identity of the person behind the threat

was left out. In a regular "whodunnit" style of detection, Bredeesen discovers that the alleged al–Qaeda leader al–Baghdadi is a completely fictional character. This information was readily available in the material proffered by the news agencies, but was deemed less interesting and was largely left out before presentation to the Norwegian public.

There is no doubt that Lars Vilks was threatened. His own reaction is that the threats are political and publicity based, though he takes the warnings of the Swedish police seriously, that it's always possible a local fanatic feels compelled to act on threats put forward by religious leaders, real or imagined.

Religion and atheism: Remi Nilsen interviews the Italian philosopher Gianni Vattimo about his refusal to adhere to absolutes, including a final labelling of himself as atheist. "Atheism is the opposite of the claim of God's existence. I don't know if God exists. What is he supposed to exist as? A physical, spatial–temporal phenomenon? [...] I am undoubtedly an atheist because I don't believe in an entity called 'God'. But I don't think I can live without a tradition where God plays a role."

"Third Cinema": [Truls Lie](#) looks at the Latin American film movement of the 1960s and 70s which decries neo–colonialism, the capitalist system, and the Hollywood model of cinema as mere commercial entertainment. Though in favour of the genre, he also points out its shortcomings in providing a comprehensive background of economic, cultural, and political structures of repression.

Also to look out for: Arnstein Bjørkly's reaction to Peter Watkins's 33 year old movie about Edvard Munch, and [Philip S. Golub's assessment](#) of the slow but inevitable decline of the US world empire.

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Nova Istra 1–2/2007



Pula-based *Nova Istra* has a new format. For those who liked the old, thick, almost square magazine with its soft feel, the change will probably be perceived as radical. New *Nova Istra* has a classical look: small, sober, and very readable.

The focus of the Croatian literary journal, however, remains the same. Featuring contributions from the 4th Pula Essay Days, that took place last October, the new issue dwells on a form of writing that editor [Boris Biletic](#) calls "the literary genre of the future". In texts true to the dictum of Croatian poet Tin Ujevic (1891–1955), "the essay is literature in italics", Croatian and international writers take on the grand theme "Love and Hate".

Slovene poet and essayist Taja Kramberger describes the world as a place characterized by a multitude of complex realms rather than of incompatible polarizations and their dark shades. And in "Labyrinth and flight", [Aleksandar Prokopiev](#), Macedonian rock star and professor of philology, analyzes both Eros' and Thanatos' hard work "in the service of wonders".

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Lettre Internationale (Denmark) 17 (2007)



In the series "The cosmopolitan", the Danish edition of *Lettre Internationale* publishes an interview with Norwegian journalist and writer Åsne Seierstad, best known for the international bestseller *The Bookseller of Kabul*, which has been translated into more than thirty languages.

Seierstad, who has reported from Chechnya, Kosovo, Afghanistan, and Iraq, is a controversial writer. She is regularly praised for her courage and her style, but just as often criticized for being too "literary". Her books have triggered a heated debate about the limits of writing: how subjective can reportage be and still be said to be a form of journalism?

"What you add in style and literary embellishments, you lose in precision", admits Seierstad. "But if you are going to do more than just provide a reference to what others have said and also describe atmosphere and people, then you have to use other means of expression. For what is it to report, whether in newspaper or book-form? It's about making choices."

Art, documentary, and political activism: The interview with Seierstad fits well into the issue's main focus on hybrid genres and political activism.

Alongside Jacques Rancière on the poetics of documentarism, Simon Critchley on the ethics of commitment, and Nicole Brenez on the cultural history of activism, editors Andreas Harbsmeier and Karsten Wind Meyhoff provocatively ask if the world has become too complicated for Danish journalism. Their recipe: mix the genres and make artists into journalists! (For more on this topic, see the [Eurozine Review](#) from 17 July.)

Literature of the real: Two long essays — or, if you will, reportages — illustrate at least one of the hybrid genres called for by the Lettre editors. In an article reprinted from *New Left Review*, American theorist and environmental activist Mike Davis [describes](#) the oil state Dubai as scary mirage that, on the rim of the war zone, gets ready to host the world's jet set in dinosaur parks, under-water hotels, and artificial archipelagos. And in "[Back in the ghetto](#)", Swedish writer [Göran Rosenberg](#) attends a family funeral in Israel — a land of lost chances, spoiled dreams of independence and peace, where the insane has become part of everyday life.

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