

## 38th Zagreb Literary Talks 2017

### Summary

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Hodanje u hrvatskom i engleskom 'Nature Writing': Andriana Škunca, Edo Popović, Robert Macfarlane (et al.)

Walking in Croatian and English Nature Writing.  
Andriana Škunca, Edo Popović, Robert Macfarlane (et al.)

There have been a number of intensive developments in Croatian literature in the past years and one of these is in 'nature writing'.

Nature is a motif in literature that is deployed often and in various functions. At the same time, the debate on nature and writing about it as well as about its human inhabitants has brought about a complex literary genre: 'nature writing'. For about the last 200 years this development has been taking place especially in British and American literature and can be discerned in all types of texts from poetry to non-fiction. In this respect, nature writing is comparable to the novel.

This presentation provides an overview of nature writing in contemporary Croatian literature, concentrating mainly on the cultural and literary experience of walking in the texts of the selected authors. Mapping and creating territory by walking and seeing in the works of Andriana Škunca, Edo Popović and Robert Macfarlane are fittingly illustrated in the traditional context of 'nature writing'.

The Croatian poet, Andriana Škunca, develops a geo-cosmopoetics especially in her poetry volumes *Pomaci, tišine* (1981) and *Novaljski svjetlopiš* (1999), both of which concern the island of Pag. The lyrical subject roves over the isle in the sea and develops its cartography while walking.

In contrast, Edo Popović conceives his 'Directions for Walking' (*Priručnik za hodaće*) as cultural and civilization criticism while Robert Macfarlane treads and explores paths of long standing (*The old ways. A journey on foot*, 2012).

In conclusion, the question is posed of what implications the impulses emanating from 'nature writing' have for literature and culture in Croatia.