

"Reading Balkans" - project for authors residencies

Udruga Kurs, Split, Croatia, July 2018

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I was a guest of the literary residence programme "Reading Balkans" in Split, Croatia during the month of July (From 3rd until 31st of July), perfect period and great place for such kind of work. This was my first longer stay in Split, and the first possibility to get in touch with the Croatian art scene and with this majestic and inspiring city.

During my stay I have been working on my fifth novel "The Death of the Sphinx". This novel is the first of series reveling cities and characters in unique way of style and perception. It will be a mix of different genres composing an ultimate-genre fiction. Blending crime, history, love, pseudo-autobiography and philosophy this novel will be turning point in my writing.

And Split is a perfect spot for setting the action for book of this kind. With its rich layers of past memories and cultural heritage it combines different historical ages in a glance of presence. Everybody and everything, from the people to the objects, in Split are telling their moving stories worth to be heard and worth to be written down on paper.

I have visited all important locations for my novel in the city, such as: Ivan Mestrovic gallery, Diocletian Basement Halls, Peristyle, Saint Dominus Cathedral, Old City, Riva, Bachivce beach, etc, and made a deep paper research for all the places and characters involved. Also, I have been to another places mentioned in the novel - City of Dubrovnik, Plitvice Lakes, city of Zagreb, etc.

Split is famous also with its eventful days full of tourists from all around the world, boat trips, beautiful islands, prestigious restaurants, high-pressure night life and all this was helpful for the story as well. I had meetings with many locals and I did a lot of talks crucial for the topic of the work.

Pace of my writing was beyond expectations so I insist to stuck to it instead of distracting with public event or reading with me as author during the stay, but with exceptional people in charge from Udruga Kurs have been agreed for collaboration in autumn 2018 and of course just after book will be at the market.

Hopefully, novel should be finished and published until the end of 2019 the latest. Within the book will be noted that it is written

during literary residence programme "Reading Balkans" in Split,
Croatia.