



БЕОГРАДСКИ КОНТРАПУНКТ  
BELGRADE COUNTERPOINT  
БЕЛГРАДСКИЈ КОНТРАПУНКТ  
贝尔格莱德多重旋律  
CONTRAPUNTO DE BELGRADO

## **BELGRADE COUNTERPOINT**

Belgrade Counterpoint, organised by the Ministry of Culture and Information of the Republic of Serbia and the Center for Studies in Cultural Development, is an international conference with the aim to gather artists and thinkers from different parts of the world, who with their work contribute significantly to an understanding of contemporary global currents, regarding the situation in which humanity finds itself today.

Belgrade Counterpoint is an opportunity for conversation about questions which concern common and important experiences, and which, with varied personal and geo-cultural points, can provide varied answers, while also putting those differences into harmony in a wide and nuanced view, as in a musical counterpoint.

Why specifically “Belgrade” Counterpoint? Belgrade was and still is a space of counterpoints. Belgrade has grown accustomed to serving as a stage, not only for conflicts but also for encounters. Everyone gains a fuller conception of themselves through encounters with others. Literary creation and free thinking on that basis builds expansive and deep understanding of the world and time. Belgrade Counterpoint is conceptualised to be an indicative example of the belief that humans are conversational beings, and that in dialog everyone can confirm their own truths, while not disregarding the truths of others.

Belgrade Counterpoint was first organised from 9-10 June 2017, when questions regarding the theme “What can literature offer today?” were answered by Peter Handke, Frédéric Beigbeder, Zahar Prilepin, Yu Hua, and Milovan Danajlić. The discussion was moderated by Vladan Vukosavljević, Minister of Culture and Information, and Emir Kusturica, film director.



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## **BELGRADE COUNTERPOINT 2018 – PERSONAL VIEWS OF A WORLD IN TRANSITION**

This year's Belgrade Counterpoint will be held from 4-5 June 2018 with the subtitle "Personal views of a world in transition". The central portion of the event will be a roundtable on the theme "What about globalisation in culture?", in which we will be particularly interested in answering the following questions:

- What is globalisation today and how much has that term changed since the 1990s, when the idea of economic and political globalisation was at its peak?
- Is globalisation only a political and economic construct in the interests of certain centers of power, or does it have true universal potential?
- Is globalisation a concept or a process which is superior or subordinate to certain cultural-civil forms? Does it depend on or overcome those forms?
- Can globalisation „survive“ the current trends of renewed national identity and multipolarity on a global scale?
- What is the role of art and culture in the global processes which lie ahead of us, and how are they reflected in the discursive flows of art and the concept of culture itself?
- Can and should art search for new expressive forms and possibilities so that it can adequately confront all of the complex and unforeseen processes on a global scale, and with all the complex and unforeseen images of the world? Should art rely on the experiences of contemporary science, philosophy, and religion in these processes, and in which manner?

This year Belgrade Counterpoint will also feature an accompanying program, the public forum "Cultures on the Silk Road", where participants will express their views on questions regarding the cultural relations between Serbia and China (yesterday, today, and tomorrow) and the significance of China on world cultural heritage.



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Participants in Belgrade Counterpoint 2018 are Zhang Kangkang, Gunnar Kvaran, Vladimir Pištalo, Yury Polyakov, Francisco López Sacha and David Homel. The moderators of the conference are Emir Kusturica and Minister of Culture and Information of the Republic of Serbia Vladan Vukosavljević, initiator of the idea for Belgrade Counterpoint.



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## PARTICIPANTS

**Zhang Kangkang** is one of the most respected Chinese writers of her generation. She appeared on the literary scene in the 1970s. Currently she is Honorary President of the Writers Association of Heilongjiang Province, Vice President of the Writers Association of the People's Republic of China, and Deputy Director of the Chinese PEN Center. She has written more than a hundred books of different genres. Her work has been translated into English, French, German, Japanese, and Russian, and she is the recipient of many significant national and international awards.

**Gunnar Kvaran** was born in Iceland. He is an art historian and Director of the Astrup Fearnley Museum of Modern Art in Oslo. Previously he was Director of the Reykjavik Art Museum (1989-1997), the Bergen Art Museum (1997-2001), and Curator of the Icelandic Pavilion at La Biennale di Venezia (1984, 1986, 1988, 1990). He is the Artistic Director of the 57<sup>th</sup> October Salon in Belgrade in 2018. Kvaran has written and edited many books on contemporary art.

**Vladimir Pištalo** is a Serbian novelist. He defended his doctoral dissertation “Juggling Three Identities: Serbian, Yugoslav, and American Identity among American Serbians (1900-2000)” at the University of New Hampshire, and currently he lectures in world history and United States history at Becker College in Massachusetts. He has published many novels and collections of stories and poetic prose, including “Storybook”, “Manifestos”, “The End of the Century”, “Stained Glass Memories”, “Stories from the Whole World”, “The Millennium in Belgrade”, “Venice”, “Tesla, a Portrait with Masks”, and “The Sun of Today”. His work has been translated into many languages and he is the recipient of a large number of literary awards.

**Yury Polyakov** is a Russian novelist and dramatic writer, poet, essayist, and socially-engaged intellectual. He is one of the most widely-read and translated authors in contemporary Russia. In addition to his artistic work and his socio-political essays, he was the longtime editor of the leading literary journal „Literaturnaya Gazeta“, a member of the Presidential Council of the Russian Federation for Culture and Art, member of the Commission of the Social House of the Russian Federation for the Development of Civil Society, Deputy Director of the Social Council of the Ministry of Defense of the Russian Federation, President of the Social Council of the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation, President of the Russian Dramatic Writers Guild, and member of the Presidential Council of the Russian Heritage Society. He is the winner of



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many literary awards. His novels that have been translated into Serbian include „Goat in Milk“, „Skyfall“, „I Created an Escape“, „The Parisian Love of Kosta Humankova“, „Apotege or Vertigo from Success“, and the drama „Homo Erectus or Russian Swingers“.

**Francisco López Sacha** is a Cuban novelist, theater critic, formerly Professor at the Advanced Institute for Art in Havana (1978-1991), and current Associate Professor of the International School of Film and Television of San Antonio de los Baños in Cuba. From 1990 to 1995 he was the director of the journal “Letras Cubanas”, and from 1995 to 2007 he was President of the Writers Association of Cuba. He was given a recognition for national culture in 1994 and many other significant awards. He has published thirteen books – novels, story collections, and essay anthologies.

**David Homel** is a Canadian novelist, screenwriter, journalist, and translator from the French language. He is the author of ten novels and a few documentary films, and the two-time winner of the Governor’s Prize for translation. His articles have been published in the leading newspapers and magazines in France, Mexico, Germany, and the United States, and since 1999 he has been a regular columnist for the newspaper “La Presse”. He is currently lecturing in creative writing at the Department of English Languages, Literature, and Translation at the School of French Languages and Literature at Concordia University. He is the recipient of many significant literary awards and his work has been translated into many languages. His novels “Get On Top” and “The Traveling Circus” have been translated into Serbian.



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## INTRODUCTION AND MODERATORS

**Vladan Vukosavljević** is the Minister of Culture and Information of the Republic of Serbia. He graduated from the Faculty of Law at the University of Belgrade and did a number of research visits in France and Germany. He completed a graduate-level specialisation course at the Faculty of Law on international contract law. He wrote articles for “Pravnik”, “Literary Word”, and “NIN”. Since 2004 he has been a member of the Royal Council of the Karadjordjević Family, and he was the Vice President of the Board of Directors of the Miloš Crnjanski Foundation. In 2013 he was named Secretary of Culture of the City of Belgrade. He speaks English and French.

**Emir Kusturica** is a Serbian film director, actor, novelist, and musician. He is a two-time winner of the Palme d’Or at the Cannes Film Festival, the Golden Lion at the Venice Film Festival, the César Award, and other significant awards. He was named Knight of the Order of Arts and Letters of the Republic of France. He is the founder and director of the film and music festival Küstendorf, in the ethno-village Drvengrad, and the creator of the idea for Andrićgrad, a cultural center dedicated to Ivo Andrić. He directed the films “Do You Remember Dolly Bell?”, “When Father Was Away on Business”, “Time of the Gypsies”, “Arizona Dream”, “Underground”, “Black Cat, White Cat”, “Life is a Miracle”, “The Pledge”, “On the Milky Road”, and he wrote the books “Death is Only an Unconfirmed Rumor” and “One-Hundred Blows”.



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## PARTICIPANTS OF ACCOMPANYING PROGRAM

**Zhao Mei** is a Chinese novelist, the author of more than ten books, a few short story anthologies, and also television scenarios. Her novels have been compared to the work of Virginia Woolf and she is considered one of the most important feminist leaders in her country. She is the President of the Writers Association of Tianjin Province and a member of the National Committee of the Writers Association of the People's Republic of China. She is the recipient of many significant national and international awards.

**Liang Ping** is a Chinese writer and novelist, a member of the National Committee and Deputy Director of the Committee for Poetry of the Writers Association of the People's Republic of China, the Vice President of the Writers Association of Sichuan Province, and President of the Federation of Literature and Art of the City of Chengdu. He is the author of ten poetry anthologies, one essay anthology, and one novel. His work has been translated into English, French, German, Japanese, Polish, Bulgarian, Russian, and other languages, and he is the recipient of many awards.

**Bai Xue** is Deputy Director of the Sector for European and United States Relations in the Department of International Affairs of the Writers Association of the People's Republic of China.

**Chen Tao** is a Chinese writer, literary theoretician and critic, and a doctor of literary studies. Currently he is engaged as a researcher at the Writers Association of the People's Republic of China, working on modern and contemporary Chinese literature. He has written research programs such as "Field Research on the Literary Creation and Living Situation of Writers Born in 1980s" and "The Textual Analysis of the Short Stories of I-IV Lu Xun Literature Award". His works are published in leading Chinese and international journals and he is the editor of the editor of *Chinese Classic Young Adults' Literature*.



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**Liu Fang** is a Chinese publisher and Deputy Executive Editor of the publishing division of the Writers Association. He is the editor of a large number of outstanding books, and in 2011 he was proclaimed “leading talent in the field of press and publishing in China” by the State Administration for Press, Publishing, Radio, Film and Television of the People’s Republic of China.

## **MODERATOR OF ACCOMPANYING PROGRAM**

**Radosav Pušić** is a Serbian philosopher, Sinophone scholar, and Professor at the Philological Faculty at the University of Belgrade. Since 2006 he is the director of the Confucius Institute in Belgrade, and since 2007 he is the coordinator of international relations with the People’s Republic of China at the University of Belgrade. Since 1996 he has been a member of the International Association for Studies in Chinese Language based in Beijing, and since 2008 he has been a member of the editorial board of the „Chinese Journal of European Languages and Cultures“ (Beijing, China). He is the author of a large number of academic works and translations from the Chinese language, the editor of many academic anthologies, and the author of the books „Time Inscribed in Images“, „Bird in the Sun“, and „Tao of Love: Clouds and Rain“.



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## PROGRAM

### MONDAY, 4 June 2018

#### **10.00-14.00: Roundtable “What about globalisation in culture?”**

Yugoslav Film Archive (Grand Hall), Uzun Mirkova 1, Belgrade

Participants: Zhang Kangkang, Gunnar Kvaran, Vladimir Pištalo, Jury Polyakov, Francisco López Sacha, and David Homel

Introduction and Moderators: Vladan Vukosavljević and Emir Kusturica

#### **14.00-15.00: Drinks**

### TUESDAY, 5 June 2018

#### **10.00-11.00: Roundtable “What about globalisation in culture?” (concluding thoughts, the signing of a united declaration)**

Yugoslav Film Archive (Grand Hall), Uzun Mirkova 1, Belgrade

Participants: Zhang Kangkang, Gunnar Kvaran, Vladimir Pištalo, Yury Polyakov, Francisco López Sacha, and David Homel

Introduction and Moderators: Vladan Vukosavljević and Emir Kusturica



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**11.00-12.00: Presenting conference results to the media**

Yugoslav Film Archive (Grand Hall), Uzun Mirkova 1, Belgrade

**12.00:** Visit to Oplenac – tour of Saint George Church, the home of King Petar, and the royal winery with wine-tasting; lunch; return to Belgrade in the evening



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## **ACCOMPANYING PROGRAM**

**MONDAY, 4 June 2018**

**15.00-17.00: Accompanying Program – Public Forum “Cultures on the Silk Road”**

Yugoslav Film Archive (Multimedia Hall), Uzun Mirkova 1, Belgrade

Participants: Zhang Kangkang, Zhao Mei, Liang Ping, Bai Xue, Chen Tao, Liu Fang

Introduction: Vladan Vukosavljević, Minister of Culture and Information of the Republic of Serbia

Moderator: Professor Radosav Pušić, PhD

**11.00-13.00: Working meeting with the delegation of the People’s Republic of China and representative cultural associations of the Republic of Serbia**