

PROUST

QUESTIONNAIRE

Ndrek Gjini

What is your idea of perfect happiness?

-The word perfect itself is always relative, so is happiness. Both are virtual notions. No one can reach or touch them. If we do, that could happen in our dreams or maybe after we die.

Which historical figure do you most identify with?

-Peter Kropotkin for his polemical essays against Darwin; and Socrates for his philosophical ideas, especially for his quote: 'The only true wisdom is in knowing you know nothing.'

Which living person do you most admire?

-Any person trying to uplift mankind.

Which is the trait you most deplore in yourself?

-Being too compulsive. Taking everything by heart.

What is your greatest extravagance?

-Travelling endlessly to the most exotic places.

What is your favorite journey?

-Visiting Dubrovnik, Ashford Castle, and the Vatican Library.

On what occasion do you lie?

-A lie is a tool, like any other tool. I don't know who, when and why it was invented. However, I am not good at using it at all, and when I do use it I feel regretful afterward.

Which living person do you most despise?

-Mark Zuckerberg for creating the greatest and the dirtiest toilet in world called Facebook.

What or who is the greatest love in your life?

-My family. They occupy my thoughts, every second of my life.

When and where were you happiest?

-It was July 1992. An early morning, staring at the eyes of my just-born son.... And after that being drunk more from happiness than from grappa.

Which talent would you most like to have?

-To be able to write like Jorge Luis Borges.

What is your current state of mind?

-Troubled about the future that I and my family will inherit.

What do you consider your greatest achievement?

-Earning the MA in Writing from National University of Ireland, Galway, while 10 years ago I didn't know even a single word in English. And the greatest of the greatest maybe has yet to happen. I'm thinking of doing a PhD after my retirement. I think, this is the best way to make myself busy during those dull and lonely years.

If you were to die and come back as a person or a thing, what do you think it would be?

-A bird.

What is your most treasure possession?

-My memory. I've got an excellent memory. This is just a gift from God.

What do you regard as the lowest depth of misery?

-Looking powerlessly at the great tides of hate, and seeing love being killed by those horrible tides.

What is your favorite occupation?

-Travelling, writing, reading.

What is the quality you most like in a man?

-The lack of passion for hunting for the small mistakes which other people make.

What is the quality you most like in a woman?

-Smile and patience.

Who are your favorite writers?

-It is a long list. I just mentioned one; Jorge Luis Borges. However, I should list others, some of whom changed my life; like Faulkner, Dickens, Dostoevsky, Hemingway, Kafka, Joyce, Nabokov, Twain, Orwell, Woolf, Kadare, and more.

What is your motto?

- I'm increasingly drawn to a quote by Mother Teresa: "People are unrealistic, illogical, and self-centered. Love them anyway."

* Ndrek Gjini is an Albanian journalist and writer, living in Galway. He is author of many books and on-line editor of www.thegalwayreview.com

Enjoy the imaginative world of creative writing at the Galway Arts Centre with Susan Millar DuMars this year

BY SINEAD FARRELL

Daytime classes for both beginner and advanced creative writing students will begin this month in the Galway Arts Centre under the stewardship of poetry and fictional writer Susan Millar DuMars.

The classes are aimed at poetry and fictional writers of all abilities. Each week students will participate in writing exercises which are designed to inspire them and allow them to express their talent. They will each be given constructive feedback on their work from both classmates and the teacher and the focus of the classes is to utilise the strengths of the student to improve their writing. The first class will begin on Monday January 21, 2 - 3.30pm, and will run weekly from then onwards for the

duration of 10 weeks.

Susan Millar DuMars is an accomplished composer of poetry and fiction. A collection of her stories, *Lights In The Distance*, was published in December 2010 by Doire Press; she has published two collections of poetry, *Big Pink Umbrella* (2008) and *Dreams For Breakfast* both with Salmon Poetry. Her next collection of poetry, *The God Thing*, will be published by Salmon Poetry in early 2013. She is also co-organiser of the *Over The Edge* reading series which specifically promotes new writers.

The cost to participants of these writing classes is €110 with a concession price. Booking is essential as places are limited. For booking, contact Galway Arts Centre, 47 Dominick Street, phone 091 565886, or email info@galwayartscentre.ie



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