Deep Vellum is a nonprofit publishing house and literary arts organization founded in 2013 with the mission to bring the world into conversation through literature by publishing under-represented, marginalized, and vital literary voices, while advocating for literature’s place in a vibrant arts community, and building a more vibrant literary community in the Dallas area and beyond.

Founded as a translation publisher, our board of directors approved a mission expansion at the end of 2018 that allows us to publish great authors from anywhere and everywhere in the world, whether they’re from Seoul or Lubumbashi or Oaxaca or Dallas, as a way of building a more inclusive, more expansive publishing house that allows us to bring the world’s greatest writers into English while bringing the world’s greatest English writers to the world, all from here in Dallas.

Fall/Winter 2019-2020 is the first season we have English-language original work alongside the translations we’re known for, and at the same time our editorial vision has expanded greatly through of acquiring the backlist of two of our favorite indie presses: Phoneme Media, a translation publisher specializing in poetry and literary fiction out of Los Angeles led by editor David Shook, and A Strange Object, a fellow Texas press out of Austin specializing in debut American writers, led by editor Jill Meyers. These presses will remain as editorial imprints of Deep Vellum moving forward led by these visionary editors, adding to our list a rich and diverse list of books that expands our vision in all the ways we are growing.

In addition, we have founded a Texas-centric imprint of nonfiction, La Reunion, named after a colony of French utopian socialists who were among the first settlers in the then-fledgling city of Dallas, to specialize in books that explore the story of Texas from all sides, critically engaging with the myths, histories, and the untold stories that make Texas the land of literature come to life.

As of this moment, with the books of these new imprints included, Deep Vellum’s list proudly includes 100 books written in 32 languages originally by authors from over 50 countries. These new imprints and expanded backlist serve to put Deep Vellum’s mission into practice, through committing to sharing voices that should be heard worldwide, and striving every day to connect authors, translators, and readers, to make the world a more literary place.

Thank you for everything! We do this for you, and could not do it without you. We can’t wait to write the future together.

Will Evans, Publisher
“Promise me something, Fah,” she said one day as they were on their way to get coffee at that utterly trendy Bad Berry, where various oddballs sit out the livelong day, exposing the world to their exceptionality, the crux of which, it turns out later, is situated in their glasses frames . . . The coffee’s coffee, no revelation tastewise, and Fah thought that she might be out of her mind to be paying eight dollars for a regular coffee. Out the window stretched a view onto dusty Bath, opalescent in the heat, full of commotion and afternoon bustle, of mothers with children and schlub-by hipsters in alpine caps despite the heat, with bags that recalled old scrotas. “Promise me something, Fah,” Joanne said. “From now on we’re done with ratty old boys, okay? No more boys, no more socks, no more sound of them scratching their balls in the sleepless night. Promise me. Death to douchebags!”

“Slim and ferocious, Masłowska’s novel is a wild trip from beginning to end.” — Publishers Weekly

“So absurdly extended—and so deranged in its detail—that it’s genuinely funny.” — Kirkus Reviews

“A brain-scrambling blast of a book. A warped, wobbling anomaly in which the very syntax is filed down to points.” — Justin Walls, Powell’s Books at Cedar Hill Crossing

“A wild, technicolor send up of culture and consumerism.” — Caitlin Luce Baker, Island Books

“An incomparably hilarious satire of modern consumer culture, equal parts Virginie Despentes and Blade Runner, from an internationally acclaimed, award-winning voice of Poland today.

Joanne has everything the commercials say you should want: confidence, a carefree life, happiness to excess. Farah is a self-loathing, envious, germophobic malcontent. Through a shared metaphysical dream experience that spills over into their increasingly troubled day-to-day lives, these best friends find themselves consumed by their equal-and-opposite obsessions. Widely regarded as Polish literary sensation Masłowska’s best novel yet, Honey, I Killed the Cats is a powerfully emotional, hilariously grotesque satire of Western consumer culture and the trends that go along with it.

“She is the hope of Polish literature.” — Frankfurter Allgemeine Sonntagszeitung

Honey, I Killed the Cats
by Dorota Masłowska
translated by Benjamin Paloff

Dorota Masłowska is a Polish writer, playwright, and journalist. She is the recipient of the prestigious Polityka Prize for her debut novel Snow White and Russian Red (Grove Atlantic), published when she was just 19 years old. The book garnered massive critical acclaim in Poland, has been translated into dozens of languages, and was made into a movie directed by Xawery Żuławski. Since then, she has written several novels and plays and has become a celebrated literary figure in Poland. She currently resides Warsaw.

Benjamin Paloff is the author of Lost in the Shadow of the World, which received the American Comparative Literature Association’s Helen Tartar First Book Subvention Prize. He has also published two collections of poems. A former poetry editor at Boston Review, his poems have appeared in A Public Space, The Paris Review, and elsewhere. He has translated several books from Polish and Czech, including works by Richard Weiner, Dorota Masłowska, Marek Bienczyk, and Andrzej Sosnowski. He is currently a professor at the University of Michigan.
Late in the evening, when everything had calmed down, when only close family were left in the house, when the cleaning up had been finished and we were getting ready for bed after the hard day, in a quiet place on the veranda, in the darkness, beyond the edge of the circle of light drawn by the street lamp in the yard, I sat down on a small, portable bench. I was very tired and sat in silence, staring into the darkness. And then I understood that I was sitting in the very place where my father used to like to sit. I was sitting on his favorite bench, the one he’d made himself. And then I distinctly and clearly understood that he was gone. I felt it physically—here’s his place, here’s his bench, but he’s not here, and he’s never coming back. It was frightening to feel this emptiness, this blackness. And I started to cry, quietly, slowly, not making a sound.

“Today you exist in a cell that must feel soundproof. If only you could know that all around the world people are calling your name, decrying the behavior of the Russian government, and calling for your freedom. Your courage gives us all courage. We need you. Don’t give up.”

— Svetlana Alexievitch, Nobel Prize-winning author of Secondhand Time and Voices from Chernobyl

“Through his courage and determination, by putting his life in danger, the filmmaker Oleg Sentsov has become a symbol of the struggle for the release of political prisoners held in Russia and around the world.”

— Antonio Tajani, European Parliament President

“A timely collection of stories by Sakharov prize-winning Ukrainian film director whose political imprisonment in Russia from 2014 until September 2019 is an international cause célèbre.

The stories in Ukrainian film director, writer, and dissident Oleg Sentsov’s debut collection are as much acts of dissent as they are acts of creative expression. These autobiographical stories display a mix of nostalgia and philosophical insight, written in a simple yet profound style looking back on a life’s path that led Sentsov to become an internationally renowned dissident artist. Sentsov was sentenced to 20 years in prison in August 2015 on spurious charges after he was kidnapped in his house and put through a grossly unfair trial by a Russian military court, marred by allegations of torture. He spent 145 days on hunger strike in 2018 to urge the Russian authorities to release all Ukrainians unfairly imprisoned in Russia, an act of profound courage that contributed to the European Parliament’s awarding him the prestigious Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought. Sentsov was released as part of a prisoner swap between Russia and Ukraine just as this book was going to print in September 2019.

“An imprisoned Ukrainian dissident artfully unearths his past in stories.”

— Kirkus Reviews

OLEG SENTSOV is a Ukrainian film director, screenwriter, and author from Simferopol, Crimea, in Ukraine, who first came to international prominence following the release of his 2011 film, Gamer. Sentsov was arrested in his hometown by Russian occupying forces in May 2014 on dubious charges. He was sentenced to twenty years in prison after a farcical show trial, causing an outcry by international human rights groups. Sentsov’s prolific creative works includes two books of short stories; several scripts, plays, essays; one feature film; and two short films: A Perfect Day for Bananafish and The Horn of the Bull. He is the recipient of the Taras Shevchenko National Prize of Ukraine, the PEN/Barbey Freedom to Write Award, and the Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought. In September 2019, Sentsov was released in a prisoner swap with Russia. He is now back in Ukraine, where he plans to continue making movies and writing, while advocating for the release of all remaining Ukrainian political prisoners in Russia.

Dr. Uilleam Blacker is an academic and translator specializing in Ukrainian, Polish and Russian literature. His translations of contemporary Ukrainian literature have appeared in numerous publications, including Modern Poetry in Translation, Words Without Borders and Dalkey Archive’s Best European Fiction series.
Black Forest
by Valérie Mréjen
translated by Katie Shireen Assef

A man is at home one afternoon. He attempts to carry out a number of actions in a particular order, focusing on their progress. His gaze is drawn to the window overlooking the street, and he takes in the people coming and going, their shoulders pulled down by various loads: bags of all sizes, overcoats, trenches. Legs carry these bodies composed and comprised of organs, some of which function better than others; legs continuously cross paths, legs march on; heads nod, ruminating over a thousand disparate things, and hair swings forward and back. Anonymous heads of hair shine in the pale, cold light of the winter sun, curling, lifting in cowlicks, fading, and becoming streaked with white strands—just a few at first, then many, if only they’re given the time and the chance.

Valérie Mréjen (b. 1969) is a writer, filmmaker, and mixed media artist. She has written five novels, most recently Troisième personne (2017), and exhibited widely in France and abroad, including in a solo retrospective at the Jeu de Paume gallery in Paris. She is an alumna of residencies at Villa Medici in Rome and Villa Kujoyama in Kyoto. Mréjen’s first feature–length film, En ville, co–directed with Bertrand Schefer, was a Director’s Fortnight selection at the Cannes Film Festival in 2011, and her children’s play, Trois Hommes Verts, premiered at the Théâtre Gennevilliers in 2014. This is her first book in English.

Katie Shireen Assef is a literary translator living between Los Angeles and Arles, France. Black Forest is her first full–length translation.

“A masterful and delicate book... Among the greats.”
— A.N., l’Humanité
Seven Samurai Swept Away in a River
by Jung Young Moon
translated by Yewon Jung

D and N, who knew I had begun working on a new novel, asked me what the novel was about and I told them it was a novel written by someone who didn’t know much about Texas because he didn’t know about Texas, a novel that didn’t really have much to say, a halfhearted attempt to come up with of a series of groundless hypotheses, a mixture of the stream of consciousness technique, the paralysis of consciousness technique, and the derangement of consciousness technique, a novel that even a passing dog would laugh at, and after I said these things they rang true and my friends seemed perplexed, and I said the novel was going to be a disastrous failure to be mocked by everyone to which we toasted. But there was an advantage to writing with failure in mind, which was to say that failing to write a failure wouldn’t really be a failure, so the fear of failure wouldn’t weigh you down as heavily as you wrote.

“Impressive fluidity... like a lucid dream.” — Foreword Reviews

“One of South Korea’s more eccentric contemporary writers, Jung could almost be described as a cross between Beckett and Brautigan...recently the balance has tipped towards lightness, of touch as much as of mood. It’s all part of an aesthetic which prizes vagueness, randomness, digression rather than progression.” — Deborah Smith

“Truly meaningful literature.” — Jan Dirk

In his inimitable, recursive, meditative style that reads like a comedic zen koan but contains universes, Seven Samurai Swept Away in a River recounts Korean cult writer Jung Young Moon’s time spent at an artists’ and writers’ residency in Corsicana, Texas. Jung embraces the rambling landscape of Texas, two-stepping, cowboy hats and cowboy churches, antique stores and their antique owners, and transmutes them into the even more expansive space of his mind. The author plucks at each surprisingly elucidating concept over pages of reflection – moving seamlessly from chili recipe etiquette (with beans or without?) to the origins of Texas itself – and muses on his outsider experiences in this most unique of places. All the while, the author is asking what a novel is and must be, while accompanied by an invented mental cast of seven samurai who the author carries with him, silent companions in a pantomime of existential theater. Jung blends fact with imagination, humor with reflection, and meaning with meaninglessness, as his meanderings become an absorbing, engaging, quintessential novel of ideas.

“A literary meandering into the mythology of place and what a novel can be, inspired by the author’s time at an artist residency in small-town Texas.

Jung Young Moon, born in 1965, is an award-winning Korean writer and translator. A graduate of Seoul National University with a degree in psychology, Jung is also an alum of the University of Iowa’s International Writing Program, and has been a resident at the University of California at Berkeley’s Center for Korean Study and the 100 West Corsicana Artists’ & Writers’ Residency in Texas, which inspired this novel. Deep Vellum published his novel Vaseline Buddha in 2016, and will publish his linked novella trilogy Arriving in a Thick Fog in 2020.

Yewon Jung was born in Seoul, and moved to the US at the age of 12. She received a BA in English from Brigham Young University, and an MA from the Graduate School of Interpretation and Translation at Hankuk University of Foreign Studies. Her translations include Jung Young Moon’s Vaseline Buddha (Deep Vellum, 2015) and Hwang Jung-eun’s One Hundred Shadows (Tilted Axis, 2016).

“An heir to Witold Gombrowicz.” — Los Angeles Times
The Love Story of the Century
by Märta Tikkanen
translated by Stina Katchadourian

Märta Tikkanen is a Finnish-Swedish journalist, writer, and teacher. Much of her writing deals critically with gender roles and the shackles that bind women, as well as women’s liberation and the desire for self-realization. She became a central figure in the Nordic women’s movement with her novel *Manrape* (1978), which was adapted into a 1978 film directed by Jörn Donner. She is the recipient of several awards for her work, including the Nordic Women’s Alternative Literature Prize, Finland’s State Prize for the Dissemination of Knowledge, the Swedish De Nios Grand Prize, the Swedish Academy’s Finland Prize, and Finland’s State Literary Prize. Her work has been translated into over 20 languages.

Stina Katchadourian is an author, journalist, and literary translator. She was born and raised in Helsinki, Finland.

“Tikkanen has an unusual ability to let language lightly touch the most delicate topics, to capture the expression of emotion as it is being experienced, and – perhaps, above all – an entirely unique ability to describe falling in love as fresh and new as it is to those who have just been cast under its spell.”

— Lisbeth Larsson, *Expressen*

A modern classic Swedish-Finnish novel in verse: a profoundly personal dissection of one woman’s fraught relationship with her alcoholic husband in haunting, evocative language.

Hailed an immediate classic of Finnish literature on its publication in 1978 and an international bestseller that has been translated into 19 languages, this new edition of the long-out-of-print English translation has been revised by the translator. Märta Tikkanen’s verse novel is a haunting, profoundly evocative portrait of one woman’s fraught relationship with her alcoholic husband, inspired by the author’s own experience. In language that is as delicate as it is fierce, Tikkanen explores the depths of fear and violence that often accompany addiction and the struggle to reconcile that pain with the deep love and strength necessary to hold a family together through it all. As much a story of resilience as it is suffering, *The Love Story of the Century* is a bitter-sweet account of the complexities of addiction, the power of creativity, and the redemption of love.

“Expressing her own bitterness, tenderness, anger, love and rage, Märta Tikkanen speaks and has spoken to the concern of thousands of women.”

— Books from Finland
Girls Lost
by Jessica Schiefauer
translated by Saskia Vogel

My body clung to me like something foreign, a sticky, itchy rubber suit, but no matter how much I scratched and scraped at it, it was where it was. At night I dreamed of shedding my body. It was so simple, suddenly a zipper appeared in my skin. Sometimes it was along my inner thigh, sometimes across my stomach, along my back or between my legs. I opened it, I could feel the air flowing towards my real skin underneath, like a vacuum seal breaking. And I peeled off my skin, climbed out of it like a soiled garment and I could feel the cool floor against my new soles. But before I could get to the mirror and discover what I actually looked like, I’d wake up.

Jessica Schiefauer has established herself as one of Sweden’s foremost writers of literary young adult and adult fiction. She has won the August Prize twice for her books Girls Lost and The Eyes of the Lake. Her books have been translated into several languages and adapted into theater and film. She has contributed short stories to the erotica collection Hot (2012) and the science fiction collection Other Ways – Ten New Utopias (2015), among others. Schiefauer holds a teaching degree in Swedish, English, and creative writing. She lives in Gothenburg, Sweden.

Saskia Vogel is from Los Angeles and lives in Berlin, where she works as a writer and literary translator. She has written on the themes of gender, power and sexuality for publications such as Granta, The White Review, The Offing, and The Quietus. Her translations include work by leading female authors, such as Katrine Marcal, Karolina Ramqvist and the modernist eroticist Rut Hillarp. Previously, she worked as Granta magazine’s global publicist and as an editor at the AVN Media Network, where she reported on the business of sex work and adult pleasure products. Her novel, Permission, came out from Coach House Books in 2019.

An award-winning, magical novel of four adolescent girls’ friendship, exploring the transformation of bodies as a battlefield in the construction of self.

What would you do if you could switch genders at will? What powers would you gain? What would you lose? Winner of Sweden’s most prestigious literary prize for young readers, Girls Lost is a YA-crossover thriller exploring these questions, following three teenage girlfriends: Kim, Bella, and Momo, whose developing bodies have become objects of abuse, both verbal and physical, by their male classmates. One day, the three friends plant a strange seed in the greenhouse, and in a few days, a shimmering, magical flower blooms. Intrigued, they drink the nectar from the flower, and suddenly find themselves transformed from girls to boys. The girls return night after night to drink from the flower, and as they fall deeper into the boy’s world, they discover a new reality, one of power and violence, of gangs and drugs. In this tale, the body is a battlefield, and masculinity as a drug. Brilliantly poetic and deeply poignant, this story was adapted into an internationally-recognized feature film exploring how we shape our identity, and how we cope with our own transformations.

“In a glowing and contemporary saga about love, death and rebirth [Jessica Schiefauer] helps her three teenage Orlando characters free themselves and explore the limits of the self. Together, and on their own, the three characters explore their genders, their bodies and their desires, beyond established boundaries. During the day they are “the girls”: the maladjusted, the exposed, the constantly observed. When night falls they become “the boys”: the anonymous observers. The borders of existence are – and must be permitted to be – so much larger than the volume restricted by the skin.”

— Expressen

“Well done to Jessica Schiefauer for not choosing the simple way.”

— Smålandsposten
The sharp, lyrical verse, personal and political, of Kurdistan’s most famous living poet.

A collection of 50 years of poetry by Abdulla Pashew, a highly influential Iraqi-Kurdish poet who draws crowds in the thousands to his events in Kurdistan, including a foreword by National Book Award-winning author William T. Vollmann.

Pashew’s poems chart a personal cartography of exile, recounting the recent political history of Kurdistan and its struggle for independence. Poet-translator Alana Marie Levinson-LaBrosse worked with the poet to select and translate his most iconic poems, balancing well-known, politically engaged contemporary Kurdish classics like “12 Lessons for Children” with the concise love lyrics that have always punctuated his work.

When he gives readings in Kurdistan, Abdulla Pashew draws audiences in the thousands. In addition to his eight volumes of poetry, Pashew is a prolific translator, fluent in Russian and English, responsible for bringing Whitman and Pushkin to Kurdish readership. This is the first book-length selection of his poetry to appear in English.

Alana Marie Levinson-LaBrosse is a poet, translator, and co-director of Kashkul, a research, translation, and arts collaborative based in Sulaymaniyah, Kurdistan. Her poems, translations, and essays have appeared in The Iowa Review, Modern Poetry in Translation, The Sewanee Review, and World Literature Today, among others.

An evocative, immersive memoir that charts the personal evolution of an American philanthropic thought leader and arts advocate. A Life of My Own follows the author’s journey from girlhood to the woman she would become.

Wilhelm reveals her unique upbringing, diverse work history, family challenges and journey of personal growth with unbridled honesty and narrative energy. When life on the outside seemed under control, her inner life was in turmoil. Her search for self-realization explores lies and deception about her origins, and a quest for truth and understanding that ultimately shapes a woman with profound purpose and mission.

Donna Wilhelm’s memoir will inspire future generations to take ownership of their own life choices and stories as they travel with her on a journey as universal as it is empowering.

Donna Wilhelm is a philanthropist and arts advocate in Dallas, Texas. Following the 9/11 attacks, Wilhelm became one of 14 philanthropists to form The Pluralism Fund, dedicated to building the capacity of women and girls in Iran and Pakistan. She holds many board and advisory capacities with Dallas area non-profits, including KERA North Texas Public Broadcasting and the World Affairs Council. She graduated from The City University of New York with a degree in Art History and Studio Art, and did post graduate work in jewelry design at New York’s Parsons School of Design.
A light-hearted ode to the immense pleasure of reading and its resulting neuroses in a collection of cartoons created by a beloved bookstore.

Who hasn’t peeked over the shoulder of the person reading next to them on the subway, curious about the book in their hands? Who doesn’t secretly love skipping the party to stay home and read? Who hasn’t daydreamed of catching the eye of a future significant other as you discover from across the room that you’re reading the same book?

Reading Quirks explores, in 72 light-hearted four-frame cartoons, all these weird things readers do, from the existential dilemma of picking your next read to the frustrations of watching an overzealous dog-carer in action. The series was written and created by a bookstore in Dallas, The Wild Detectives, originally as a social media campaign—a way to connect with other readers over a shared understanding of what it means to be crazy about books. Laura Pacheco’s adorable illustrations introduce a cast of endearing characters, whose flaws and obsessions range from disarming good nature to mischievous playfulness. Reading Quirks is a witty and light-hearted ode to the immense pleasure of reading and its resulting byproduct: neurosis.

The Wild Detectives is an independent bookstore, bar, and venue in Oak Cliff, Dallas. Since its opening in 2014 this small bookstore has hosted over 600 events and featured authors and artists such as Ben Fountain, Leni Zumas, Morgan Parker, Damien Jurado, and Bill Callahan. They also maintain a strong Spanish language calendar of events, featuring authors such as Eduardo Rabasa, Daniel Saldaña Paris, Verónica Gerber, among others, in single events or as part of the international Hay Festival.
A Strange Object

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Based in Austin, Texas, A Strange Object has an award-winning catalog dedicated to surprising, heartbreaking debuts willing to take risks and buck form.

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translated by Zsuzsanna Oszváth & Frederick Turner

POETRY APRIL 2019
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Vivid and lyrical, this new translation of Goethe's selected poetry illuminates him as philosopher, storyteller, and revolutionary.

“Yideum is primarily a poet and this is evident in the texture and sensuality of her prose, skillfully translated by Ji Yoon Lee.” — Asymptote Journal

“Translating the twists and turns and folds of Sergio Pitol's sentences must have been no easy feat, which is why George Henson deserves a medal for his work here. Henson renders Pitol's sentences in a rich mix of formality and informality—fitting for a writer who was both a lawyer and diplomat, someone so used to exacting methods of communication.” — Greg Walkin, Literal Magazine

“Muslim:” A Novel
by Zahia Rahmani
translated by Matt Reeck

FICTION FEBRUARY 2019
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US $14.95

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“Translating the twists and turns and folds of Sergio Pitol's sentences must have been no easy feat, which is why George Henson deserves a medal for his work here. Henson renders Pitol's sentences in a rich mix of formality and informality—fitting for a writer who was both a lawyer and diplomat, someone so used to exacting methods of communication.” — Greg Walkin, Literal Magazine

Mephisto’s Waltz
by Sergio Pitol
translated by George Henson

STORIES JANUARY 2019
ORIG LANG SPANISH
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