

Seminar on poetry translation

Kristiina Ehin and Ilmar Lehtpere

26 November 2010, 12 noon-3 pm
8-9 Lilybank Gardens Seminar Room



A good translation of a poem is a declaration of love for the original. Kristiina Ehin and Ilmar Lehtpere will present an introduction to the art of translating poetry and, in the course of the ensuing discussion, will endeavour to give participants a practical understanding of the joys and complexities of conveying the voice of the poet into another language.

KRISTIINA EHIN



Kristiina Ehin was born in Estonia in 1977. She received an M.A. in Comparative and Estonian Folklore from Tartu University in 2004. She has published five volumes of poetry in her native Estonia and has won a number of prizes there, including Estonia's most prestigious poetry prize for her fourth volume, written during a year spent as a nature reserve warden on an uninhabited island off Estonia's north coast. She has also published a book of short stories and has written a play as well. *The Drums of Silence* (Oleander Press, Cambridge, 2007), a volume of her selected poems in English translation, was awarded the Poetry Society Corneliu M. Popescu Prize for European Poetry in Translation in 2007. *The Scent of Your Shadow* (Arc Publications, Todmorden, 2010) is a **Poetry Book Society Recommended Translation** and was awarded the **Ventspils International Writers' House Silver Ink Bottle Award for Poetry**. Her other books in English translation are *Põletades pimedust – Burning the Darkness – An Dorchadas á Dhó* (trilingual Estonian-English-Irish selected poems, Coiscéim, Dublin, 2009), *A Priceless Nest*, (short stories, Oleander Press, Cambridge, 2009), *Päevaseiskaja – South-Estonian Fairy Tales* (Huma, Tallinn, 2009) and *Noorkuuhommik – New Moon Morning* (selected poems, Huma, Tallinn, 2007). Modern Poetry in Translation will publish a new volume of her poetry in English in 2011 in their new MPT Poets series. She is often invited to take part in international arts and literary festivals. Her work has been translated into twelve languages.

ILMAR LEHTPERE



Ilmar Lehtpere had a bilingual upbringing in Estonian and English. His translation of Kristiina Ehin's *The Drums of Silence* (Oleander Press, Cambridge, 2007) was awarded the **Poetry Society Corneliu M. Popescu Prize for European Poetry in Translation**. His other translations of Kristiina Ehin's work are *Põletades pimedust – Burning the Darkness – An Dorchadas á Dhó* (trilingual Estonian-English-Irish selected poems, Coiscéim, Dublin, 2009), *A Priceless Nest* (short stories, Oleander Press, Cambridge, 2009), *Päevaseiskaja – South-Estonian Fairy Tales* (Huma, Tallinn, 2009) and *Noorkuuhommik – New Moon Morning* (selected poems, Huma, Tallinn, 2007). He has also translated her play, *A Life Without Feathers*, and has already started working on her next collection of poems in English. His translations of Kristiina Ehin's poetry and prose appear regularly in leading Irish and British literary journals. His own poetry has appeared in Estonian and Irish literary journals.