

CV, Stefan Foconi

Author

I have been writing full time since 1995 and have at the moment published ten literary books. I live in Stockholm and do not exclude any literary genre from my work.

I have travelled all over the world, since 1999 particularly in the Middle East. Apart from books I'm at the moment also involved in a forthcoming documentary TV-serie on that same region, in collaboration with colleague Tomas Andersson, Stefan Wrenfelt and Claes Herrlander (se below).

Published work:

Lergök (Clay ocarina), Bonnier 1991. The subtitle of this book is "natures", a "cokoo" in the fauna of literature, a collection of textual mutations from the animal kingdom, ranging from fairly simple organisms to the higher branches on the tree of evolution. Clay ocarina puts a special focus on parasitical relations between various species and individuals.

Inga vildar (No savages), Bonnier 1992, is a human ABC in the form of a serie of quasi-anthropological surveys of what was once called "primitive cultures" ranging from Australian hunter gatherers to Native American tribes of Alaska. Every group of humans is obviously impregnated with culture, even those most unlike our own seemingly so successful one, but for that matter not necessarily less violent. If there is at all any original populations today, then their rituals are taking place in our midst.

As can be seen from the title of **Vitahusår, White house years** (Bonnier 1993) this unconventional novel – the last piece in a trilogy about life on earth from creation to apocalypse – takes place in Washington DC, since I wanted to hint that the very crescent of creation should be exemplified by the persona of Ronald Reagan, while the real protagonist is a missile carrying strategic submarine hidden in the depths of the ocean, awaiting order to release its deadly cargo in a nuclear Armageddon.

In 1998 Bonnier published an account of an italian childhood between the two world wars, called **Rå umbra bränd umbra, Raw umber burned umber**, an episodic version of my fathers youth in Umbria, eventually resulting in his final escape from the family to that land of ice and desolation called Sweden.

My first collection of poetry was published in 2006, named **Människa strax, Human instantly** (Symposion), about death observed from the perspective of a prolonged withering away of a father being immediately followed by a younger brother's more sudden and unexpected decease. What does death do with us while we live? What is the relation between the living and those that have gone before us? These poems mould with rage and astonishment how death transforms life while it goes on.

Om trädgårdskonsten, On the art of gardening (Themis 2011) is a philosophic essay about the human existence. The subtitle is: on the art of living with a garden and learning how to die with it. Experiences from growing more than 300 different species of trees from seed permeates a narration that relates to the genre of garden books as the roar of laughter to anxiety, or the abyss and deViance towards assured faith and the decorative.

Hade en bror, Had a brother (Themis 2012) with its subtitle a son, a man, a love, is a collage of voices in three parts: a novel in the Virst person singular, a digging reportage and a dramatic dialogue. From many perspectives the question about the value of a human life is asked. Another mayor theme is an exploration of the borders between truth and lie in a relationship. Is the psychopath perhaps the ultimate symbol of our own narcissistic, exhibitionistic and consumistic era? The Inferno of Dante is here and now. Hamlet is you and I. The mosaic of witnesses is without end.

Together with Tomas Andersson I have also published three books on the Middle East (taken in its grandest sense). These are no conventional travelogues. We have striven to merge literary impressions and roaming with interviews and essays in culture history. The composition is fragmented. The reader is supposed to put the details of the "carpet" together on his or her own. We have wanted to show the richness of the Middle East, giving a face to strong and individual persons and voices against the background of traditions and rapidly changing circumstances.

These three books are called **The man in the ceiling, aspects of Iran** (Tranan 2003, translated into persian by Namdar Nasser, published by nordient 2011), **Café Musa, Egyptian travels** (Leopard 2007) and **Land of the turks, Anatolian portraits** (Leopard 2009).

A forth book on the region is taking shape at the moment, also with Tomas Andersson. It portrays – with todays borders – contemporary Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Israel/Palestine and northern Iraq. This forthcoming volume together with the books on Egypt and Turkey is also relevant for the documentary teve serie in eight sight speciVic parts that we are planning to shoot starting in May 2014 in Beirut, the whole enterprise in collaboration with director/ photographer Stefan Wrenfelt and producer/sound recorder Claes Herrlander, with myself and Tomas as script writers and protagonists.

My forthcoming book is a monograph on the city of Istanbul that is being published by Dialogos in September 2014.

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