



DURGAPUR REVIEW
An International Literary Magazine

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DURGAPUR - KOLKATA
INDIA

DURGAPUR REVIEW : ANNUAL ISSUE - 2025

PAVOL JANIK :: SLOVAKIA

ON THE LINE MAN – WOMAN AND BACK
Translated into English by James Sutherland Smith

You escape from me
like gas.
With astonishment I watch
how with a single scrawl of your legs
you ignite your silk dress.

With such blinding nakedness you pre-empt sky-blue flame.

Blazingly ablaze and perhaps wholly otherwise

I address a fire
which you will no longer damp down.

That time I wanted to declare at least what was essential
to all chance passers-by,
to all chance passing aircraft.

So under such circumstances who wouldn't have spoilt it?

(1981)

NIGHT BUS

Translated into English by James Sutherland Smith

I admire the smiles
of the wax figures
and the drunks.

Their faith.
Their humility.
Their precision.
Their infallible wisdom
determined by the office of normalization.

I admire
their wallpapered souls
full of light and brocade.
Their responsibility and legality
surpassing
the price of taxis and wine.

I'm terrified by the indifference
with which they listen
to the heavy breathing of the last trolley buses.

(1981)

SUMMER

Translated into English by James Sutherland Smith

The sun smashes our windows.
An urgent song reaches us from the street.

On the cellophane sky
steam condenses.

Unconfirmed reports are reproduced
about the wind.

The trees are the first to begin to talk
about the two of us.

(1981)

THE MOMENT BEFORE TOUCH

Translated into English by James Sutherland Smith

The air grows still.
As in an illustrated weekly
I leaf through your eyes.

To hear silence
as it walks in new shoes
and lulls the buzzing bees.
Somebody furiously addresses us with wings.

It's said that you've seen
burning birds tumble from the sky!

It's just at the base of your breasts
there's something making a ceaseless hullabaloo.

(1981)

Mgr. art. Pavol Janik, PhD., (magister artis et philosophiae doctor) was born in 1956 in Bratislava, where he also studied film and television dramaturgy and scriptwriting at the Drama Faculty of the Academy of Performing Arts (VSMU).

This virtuoso of Slovak literature, Pavol Janik, is a poet, dramatist, prose writer, translator, publicist and copywriter. His literary activities focus mainly on poetry.

Pavol Janik's literary works have been published not only in Slovakia, but also in Albania, Argentina, Austria, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Columbia, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, France, Germany, Hungary, India, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kosovo, Kyrgyzstan, Macedonia, Mexico, Moldova, Morocco, Nepal, Pakistan, Poland, the People's Republic of China, the Republic of China (Taiwan), Romania, the Russian Federation, Serbia, Singapore, South Africa, South Korea, Spain, Syria, Turkey, Ukraine, the United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, the United States of America, Uzbekistan, Venezuela and Vietnam. Pavol Janik's works have been translated into 28 languages and published in 50 countries.