

WORLD POETRY Yearbook 2025

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PAVOL JANIK (Slovakia)



Mgr. art. Pavol Janik, PhD. (*magister artis et philosophiae doctor*), a renowned poet, dramatist, prose writer and translator, 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). He has worked at the Ministry of Culture (1983–1987), in the media and in advertising. President of the Slovak Writers' Society (2003–2007), Editor-in-Chief of the literary weekly of the SWS *Literarny tyzdennik* (2010–2013). He has received a number of awards for his literary and advertising work both in his own country and abroad. **His works have been translated into 28 languages and published in 50 countries.**

PAX MILITARIS

Translated into English by Smiljana Piksiades

Peace is not female emotionalism.

Peace is a battle.

Peace doesn't dwell in words.

Peace is waiting for its opportunity
hidden in rockets heads.

Fastest peace.
Spreading at supersonic speed.

Do you want peace?
Have it.
It will come to you
in a few seconds.

Permanent and strongest peace-
-weighs 350 000 trinitrotoluenes.

(1985)

CHATTER ABOVE THE GRAVE

Translated into English by Smiljana Piksiades

Clumsy are hitting lamps
like night moths.

Matured drunks are falling down.
In the amusement park, weird generals
in a little green skirts are making grimaces.
In the middle of a metropolis, the forest burns.

In the shell of whispering lips
you swim in a part of the story.

My heart is beating the rest.

(1998)