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Roma Tearne: Weaving the Political and the Personal. Joyce Nickel gives us an in-depth look at the Sri Lankan author and her work.



Julie Wakeman-Linn: Kathleen Ambrogio reviews her novel *Chasing the Leopard Finding the Lion*, and talks with the author.



Sefi Atta's bold new novel is about more than African identity. . . Read chapter one of *A Bit of Difference*.

Belletrista - Issue 18

The end of 2012

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Reviews

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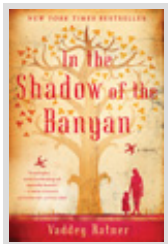
THE ART FORGER

B. A. Shapiro

I am sometimes masochistic in my reading choices. I chain myself to complex literary tomes through which I may trudge dutifully but not always joyfully. Those books pay a great dividend, so I don't regret my efforts, but there are ...

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Reviewed by **Kathleen Ambrogi**



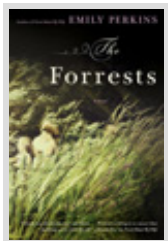
IN THE SHADOW OF THE BANYAN

Vaddey Ratner

Imagine that you are a five-year-old princess of the Cambodian monarchy, living a life of luxury, surrounded by love and a large family. Then imagine that one day your family is violently jettisoned into the countryside with the rest of the urban population, and everything you know is destroyed.

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Reviewed by **Lisa Sanders**



THE FORRESTS

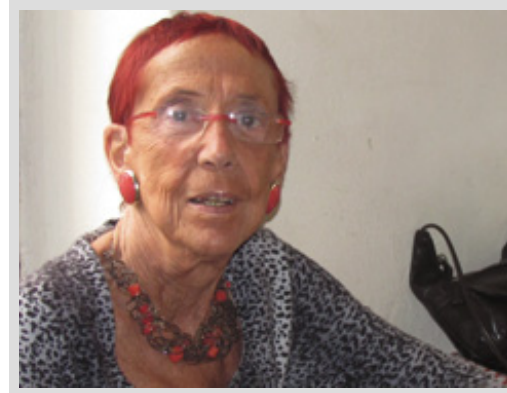
Emily Perkins

Frank and Lee move their family of four children from New York to Auckland. Frank is an unrecognized artist from a background of wealth and entitlement, but in New Zealand the family is barely surviving.

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Reviewed by **Judy Lim**

Angélica Gorodischer



The noted and versatile Argentinian author has a newly translated novel forthcoming in February. Read an excerpt of *Trafalgar*.



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PEDRA CANGA

Tereza Albués

Translated from the Portuguese by Clifford E. Landers

Pedra Canga, the eponymous fictional village, lies in a remote part of Brazil. It is dominated by the Mangueiral, a stone estate separated from the village by walls topped with barbed wire and broken glass on three sides, and the Saranzal River full of snakes and alligators on the fourth.

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Reviewed by Jean Hughes Raber



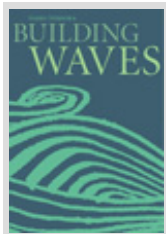
THE TENANTS OF THE HÔTEL BIRON

Laura Marella

Laura Marella's creative exploration of the Hôtel Biron in Paris between 1908 and 1912 is an historical novel, an art history, a collection of essays and an epistolary novel. She takes as her starting point the fact that during these years an extraordinary collection of artists resided in apartments above sculptor Auguste Rodin's studio, in what is today the Rodin Museum...

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Reviewed by Kathleen Ambrogi



BUILDING WAVES

Taeko Tomioka

Translated from the Japanese by Louise Heal Kawai

First published in Japan almost thirty years ago and now translated into English this year, *Building Waves* is a fictional and highly symbolic look at the social changes washing over Japan in the early 1980s. These changes include women moving out of their traditional roles...

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Reviewed by Joyce Nickel

Uzma Aslam Khan



A tribute to the nomadic peoples in the mountains of Pakistan and its border neighbors, Uzma's new novel *Thinner Than Skin* is also a love story. Read an excerpt.



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