

Laina, Maria (b. 1947) Greek poet, dramatist. Born in Patras, Laina is widely regarded as one of the best writers of her generation. She studied law at the University of Athens. She has published six collections of poetry to date: *Enilikios* ('Coming of Age,' 1968), *Epekina* ('Beyond,' 1970), *Allagi topiu* ('Change of Scene,' 1972), *Simia stikseos* ('Punctuation Marks,' 1979), *Hers* (1985), and *Rodinos fovos* ('Rose Colored Fear,' 1992), for which she received the National Literature Prize for Poetry (1994) and the City of Munich Literary Prize (1995). Her collections involve a search for 'a place of her own,' a place that is 'hers.' The central problem is how to find a way to talk about a kind of love that others neither recognize nor approve of, a love that is 'strange.' As the introductory poem of *Hers* explains: 'The ground of love is missing.' She has also gained recognition for her theatrical pieces: *O kloun* ('The Clown,' 1985), *I pragmatikotita ine panta edo* ('Reality is Always Here,' 1990) and *Ena klefto fili* ('A Stolen Kiss,' 1966). Her translations include the short stories of Katherine Mansfield and critical writings by Ezra Pound and T. S. Eliot.

KVD

C.S. Lakshmi (see Ambai)

Lander, Leena (b. 1955) Finnish novelist, playwright. Born in Turku, Lander (a pseudonym for Leena Silander) earned a BA before she published her first novel *Syyspastoraali* ('Autumn Pastoral,' 1982). Her first six novels were historical romances. In 1986, she began also to write radio and television plays. Her writing shifted in *Tummién Perhosten Koti* ('Home of the Dark Butterflies,' 1991), and she won critical acclaim for the somber, dark story centered on young boys living in a reformatory. Translated into nine languages, the novel, nominated for the 1991 Finlandia Prize, was rewritten for the theatre in 1993. *Tulkoon Myrsky* ('Tulko's Storm,' 1994) part thriller, part romance

novel, part geology textbook, part mythology reader, further revealed her skill at creating novels that have wide appeal and earn critical acclaim, including a second nomination for the Finlandia Prize and first nomination for the Nordic Council's literature prize. *Cast a Long Shadow* (1995) continued her signature style of large traditional novels with postmodern subjects. *Iloisen Kotiinpalun Asuinsijat* ('The Tabernacles of the Joyous Homecoming,' 1997), also nominated for the Nordic Council prize, tells a story about mining in Olkikumpu and a family's fate in the shadow of the mountain.

KMW

Lapid, Shulamit (b. 1934) Israeli novelist, dramatist. Lapid's popular novel *Gei Oni* ('Valley of My Strength/Grief,' 1982), was the first Israeli book to be labeled 'feminist.' Its feminism is displaced, however, by its setting in Palestine of the 1890s, thereby establishing a precedent in Israeli fiction for masking feminist protest by historical distancing. A graduate of the Hebrew University, she continued her probe into history in *Kaheres hanishbar* ('As a broken Vessel,' 1984). She finally turned to the contemporary scene, featuring a 'new Israeli woman' in a series of four thrillers (1989-96). Detective Lizzi Badihi, a single young woman whose priorities are work and love (with no strings attached and in this order), is a popular heroine. Similar male-modeled feminism also underlies some of Lapid's translated work, such as 'The Bed,' a story about a 'counter-rape' in which expected gender roles are reversed (in *Akavishim smehim* ['Happy Spiders,' 1990]). While her earlier stories - *Mazal Dagim* ('Pisces,' 1969) and 5 other collections - were much more traditional, her recent work - the plays *Rekhus natush* ('Abandoned Property,' 1991) and *Rehem pundaki* ('Surrogate Mother,' 1991), and the novel *Etsel Babu* ('Chez Babu,' 1998) - is marked by both social and feminist consciousness. 'A happily