

## ASF TRANSLATION COMPETITION 2024 OPENS

**New York, NY**—The American-Scandinavian Foundation has announced the opening of its 44th annual competition for outstanding translations of poetry, fiction, drama, or literary prose written by a 20th- or 21st-century author from the Nordic region (Denmark, Faroe Islands, Greenland, Iceland, Finland, Norway, Sweden, and Sápmi).

Four prizes will be awarded this year: the **Nadia Christensen Prize**, which recognizes an outstanding translation of a literary text from a Nordic language into English and includes a \$2,500 award; the **Leif and Inger Sjöberg Prize**, which recognizes distinguished effort by an individual whose literary translations from a Nordic language have not previously been published and includes a \$2,000 award; the **Wigeland Prize**, which recognizes the best translation from Norwegian by a Norwegian and includes a \$2,000 award; and the **Inger and Jens Bruun Translation Prize**, supported by Scan Design Foundation, which recognizes the best Danish translation and includes a \$2,000 award. All four prize recipients will also have an excerpt of their translations published in *Scandinavian Review* (ASF's illustrated journal) and will receive a commemorative bronze medallion.

The 2024 Translation Prize Competition is open through **September 1, 2024**.

To read the guidelines and apply, [please click here](#).

### 2023 TRANSLATION PRIZE WINNERS: MIA SPANGENBERG, RACHEL BRITTON, and MISHA HOEKSTRA



—IMAGE—MIA SPANGENBERG (LEFT), AWARDED THE 2023 NADIA CHRISTENSEN PRIZE; RACHEL BRITTON (MIDDLE), AWARDED THE 2023 LEIF AND INGER SJÖBERG PRIZE; MISHA HOEKSTRA (RIGHT), AWARDED THE 2023 INGER AND JENS BRUUN TRANSLATION PRIZE, SUPPORTED BY SCAN DESIGN FOUNDATION

The 2023 Nadia Christensen Prize was awarded to **Mia Spangenberg** (Seattle, WA) for her translation excerpt from Finnish of Pirkko Saisio's *Pienin yhteinen jaettava* (*The Lowest Common Denominator*). The jury noted that “[Mia Spangenberg] seamlessly captures the author’s distinctive style and experimental approach to narrative, not least in her frequent and often sudden transitions from first-person child narrator to third-person adult observer.” Spangenberg received her PhD in Scandinavian Studies from the University of Washington, Seattle, in 2009, and has since worked as a translator of Finnish, Swedish, and German into English. She was awarded an Honorable Mention in ASF’s 2021 Translation Prize Competition for her translation from Finnish of Pirkko Saisio’s *Punainen erokirja* (*The Red Book of Farewells*), which was published in 2023 by Two Lines Press.

The 2023 Leif and Inger Sjöberg Prize was awarded to **Rachel Britton** for her translation excerpt from Icelandic of Brynja Hjalmsdóttir’s *Kona litur við* (*A Woman Opens the Door*).

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The judges praised Britton's translation of Hjalmsdóttir's poetry collection for "convey[ing] the arresting imagery and cutting satire of the original [and transporting] the reader into an otherworldly society that explores the modern woman's experience and reflects a reality many of us may—tragically—recognize as our own." Britton is a writer and translator from New York. She holds a BA in English and Creative Writing from the State University of New York at Geneseo and is pursuing an MA in Translation Studies at the University of Iceland. She has received support from the Fulbright Commission, the Árni Magnússon Institute for Icelandic Studies, and the Icelandic Literature Center.

The 2023 Inger and Jens Bruun Translation Prize, supported by the Scan Design Foundation, was awarded to **Misha Hoekstra** for his translation from Danish of Jens Christian Grøndahl's *Fra i nat sover jeg på taget* (*As of Tonight I'm Sleeping on the Roof*). The jury lauded Hoekstra's translation for "elegantly embody[ing] the bittersweet, sometimes bemused voice of the narrator, and treat[ing] the fluid, dreamlike quality of memory with a deft hand." Hoekstra was the recipient of ASF's 2012 Leif and Inger Sjöberg Prize for his translation of Christian Jungersen's *You Disappear*. He has also received numerous awards, including the Danish Translation Prize, both the English PEN and PEN America for his translation of Tine Høeg's *New Passengers*, and a three-year literary fellowship from the Danish Arts Foundation.

The American-Scandinavian Foundation is a publicly supported American nonprofit organization that promotes intellectual and creative exchange between the United States and the five Nordic countries.

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