



Formentor Literature Prize 2020

Jury Minutes

The Jury members of the Formentor Literature Prize 2020, were scheduled to meet at the headquarters of the Lisbon Saramago Foundation, given the impossibility of travel, they have deliberated from their respective places of residence: Judith Thurman and Alberto Manguel in Manhattan (New York), José Enrique Ruiz Domènec in Tres Torres (Barcelona), Alexis Grohmann in Craiglockhart (Edinburgh) and, as President of the Jury, Basilio Baltasar in Establiments (Mallorca).

After weighing the literary work of the chosen candidates, the Jury has decided to award with the Formentor Literature Prize 2020 to the Dutch author Cees Nooteboom.

As a poet, novelist, essayist, and art critic, Cees Nooteboom has exceeded with his incessant creativity the limit proposed by literary genres.

He is a traveling writer who has made nomadism a philosophical, aesthetic and spiritual stance that transcends borders and highlights the expansive nature of human horizons.

His careful gaze reveals the meaning of a world in perpetual transformation and his curiosity leaves no place free from the creative restlessness that has taken him from one place to another since the beginning of his fertile literary career.

For Nooteboom, the world is a maze in which he and his reader will be lost. But at the precise moment of loss the flash of grace will occur. That epiphany that will always accompany the reader, even a long time after he has closed his book.

Nooteboom's bookish erudition is at the service of experience that has made it one of the most lucid witnesses to the vastness and diversity of the world. Always attentive to insurgent realities that have not yet been told, Nooteboom has given fiction the certainty of a personal presence and the existential account of his travels the narrative delicacy of great literature. His work is integrated into the library of classics: those books that will accompany us and our descendants every time we return to them. Whoever has the ability to translate into truth the truths recovered from human experience never fails to lead us to the moment of revelation.



Nooteboom is one of the greatest chroniclers of our time, capable of transforming the experiences of his travels into the wisdom of a stoic cosmopolitanism, and capable of creating a symbolic analogy between the self and the world in a deeply hopeful light.

Nooteboom is a universal author who writes with the consciousness of belonging to the great European cultural tradition. He has both lived firsthand and contemplated from afar the spectacular historical moments of our continent: he knows very well the dilemmas that Europe must resolve. His work is the result of a penetrating inquiry into that spirit that is so lacking us today.

All through his extender creative effort, Cees Nooteboom has managed to avoid conventions that accelerate the aging of the world, has been able to renew the inspiration that vivifies him and, with the formidable narrative energy of his books, has managed to restore the intensity of life's great journey. His work highlights, with the crystalline gaze of a nomadic writer, the beauty of an immeasurable world.

Signed in Mallorca, Barcelona, Edinburgh and New York

April 28, 2020

Judith Thurman

Alberto Manguel

Alexis Grohmann

José Enrique Ruiz Domènec

Basilio Baltasar