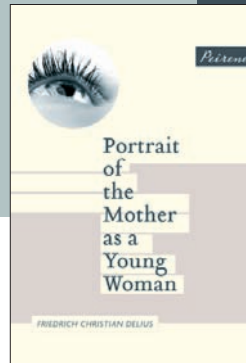
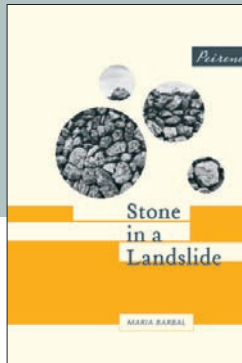


# Contemporary European Literature in Translation.

Thought provoking,  
well designed, short.

*Peirene*



*Peirene*

Spring 2010

“Here is a publisher who aims to produce books that are fresh, out-of-the-ordinary, good-looking and short. You’d never guess it from the contents of the average bookshop but this is better than dull, clichéd, ugly and overlong.”

JONATHAN SALE  
REVIEWER, THE INDEPENDENT

“It is a winning concept: bringing the undertapped riches of contemporary European literature to those who are strapped for time but keen to explore the very best of what is on offer.”

LUCY VICKERY, SPECTATOR

# Dear Booklovers,

In the summer of 2008 I decided to set up a little publishing house. I am a German journalist and writer, who has lived in London for the last 20 years, and so there was no doubt what I would publish: Contemporary fiction in translation.

A name was quickly found – Peirene, a Greek nymph who turned into a water spring. The poets of Corinth discovered the Peirene source and, for centuries, they drank this water to receive inspiration.

The idea of metamorphosis fits the art of translation beautifully. To turn a foreign book into an enjoyable English read involves careful attention to detail. I ensure that the translator understands the voice and rhythm of the original and then find an editor to fine-tune the nuances.

Peirene now has her first three gems for you: *the* Catalan modern classic “Stone in a Landslide” by Maria Barbal that is in its 50th edition – but has never been translated into English. The second, “Portrait of the Mother as a Young Woman” by Friedrich Christian Delius provides a compelling account of a young German woman’s response to the events of the Second World War. Finally “Beside the Sea”

by Véronique Olmi breaks literary and social boundaries dealing with a mother's desperation. I am proud and thrilled about each one of them!

But why stop here? Because literature – both reading and writing – can be a lonely affair, I decided to open our house and host regular literary salons. These are not boring readings followed by awkward questions but rather parties with performances, conversations, food and wine. The English writers Jacob Polley and Sophie Hannah are on our guest list.

I really hope you feel enticed to read Peirene books, comment on them, sell them, buy them and come to the literary salon. It would be lovely to see you there. Indeed it would be lovely to hear from you! Please email me [meike.ziervogel@peirenepress.com](mailto:meike.ziervogel@peirenepress.com) or leave a comment on my blog [www.peirenepress.com/blog](http://www.peirenepress.com/blog)

Best wishes

Meike Ziervogel



# Beside the Sea

PEIRENE TITLE NO. 1

*translated from the French by Adriana Hunter*

A single mother takes her two sons for the first time on a seaside trip. They stay in a hotel, drink hot chocolate and go to the funfair. She wants to protect them from a cold and incomprehensible world. She knows that it will be the last trip for her boys.

A haunting and thought-provoking story about how a mother's love for her

children can be more dangerous than the dark world she is seeking to keep at bay.

The French bestseller, first published in 2001, has been translated into all major European languages - now for the first time available in English.

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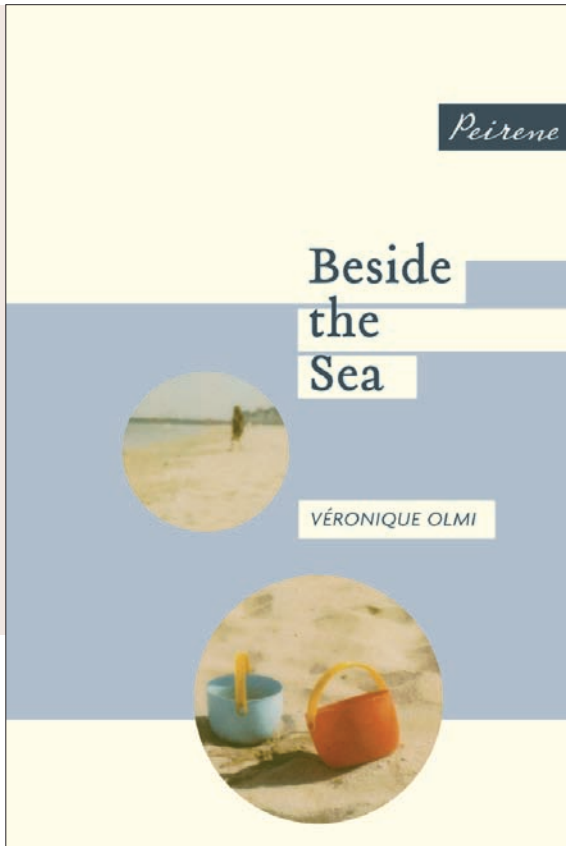
Véronique Olmi was born in 1962 in Nice and now lives in Paris. She is one of the best known dramatists in France and has written more than 12 plays for which she has won numerous prizes. *Bord de Mer* was her first novel.

*Why Peirene chose to publish this book:*

*"It is the most impressive novel about the relationship between mother and child that I have read. The end of this story is incredibly sad, but the inner truth of the text achieves an extraordinary poetry."* MEIKE ZIERVOGEL

“This story tears your heart apart ... Véronique Olmi, thank you for this marvellous novel.”

JOURNAL DU DIMANCHE



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February, 2010  
ISBN 978-0-9562840-2-0  
English World Rights

# Stone in a Landslide

PEIRENE TITLE NO. 2

*translated from the Catalan by Laura McGloughlin  
and Paul Mitchell*

The beginning of the 20th Century: 13-year-old Conxa has to leave her home village in the Pyrenees to work for her childless aunt. After years of hard work she finds love with Jaume – a love that will be thwarted by the Spanish Civil War.

Approaching her own death, Conxa looks back on a life in which she has

lost everything except her own indomitable spirit.

The Catalan modern classic, first published in 1985 and now in its 50th edition, has sold over 50 000 copies in the last two years in Germany alone.

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Maria Barbal was born in 1949 in Tremp (Pyrenees) and studied Philology in Barcelona where she still lives today. She is the most influential contemporary Catalan author and has won numerous prizes, including the national literature prize of Spain and the renowned *Prudenci-Bertrana* prize.

*Why Peirene chose to publish this book:*

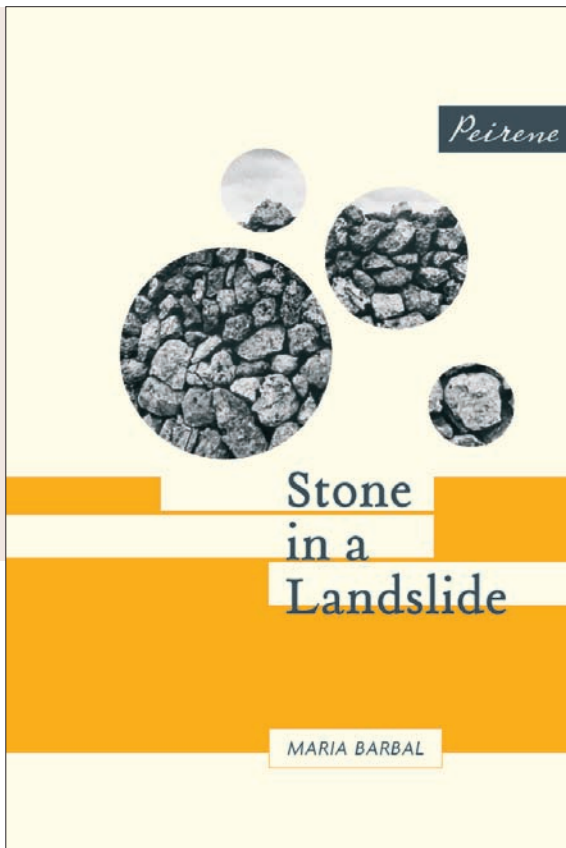
*“I fell in love with Conxa’s narrative voice, its stoic calmness and the complete lack of anger and bitterness. It’s a timeless voice, down to earth and full of human contradictory nuances. It’s the expression of someone who searches for understanding in a changing world but senses that ultimately there may be no such thing.”*

MEIKE ZIERVOGEL

“ This book possesses such force  
and overpowering beauty,  
I haven’t read something like  
this for a long time.”

**ELKE HEIDENREICH**

Germany’s Judy from Richard & Judy in her TV show “lesen”



110pp, Paperack, £8.99  
April, 2010  
ISBN 978-0-9562840-1-3  
English World Rights

# Portrait of the Mother as a Young Woman

PEIRENE TITLE NO. 3

*translated from the German by Jamie Bulloch*

Rome one January afternoon in 1943. A young German woman is on her way to listen to a Bach concert at the Lutheran church. Innocent and naïve, the war is for her little more than a day-dream, until she realizes that her husband might never return.

This is a mesmerizing psychological portrait of the human need to

safeguard innocence and integrity at any cost - even at the risk of excluding reality.

The literary masterpiece by one of Germany's most renowned contemporary writers was published in 2006 and immediately reprinted three times within the first couple of months.

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Friedrich Christian Delius was born in 1943 and lives in Berlin and Rome. His first poetry collection appeared in 1965. Since then he has published more than 20 novels and poetry collections. His books have been translated into 17 languages.

*Why Peirene chose to publish this book:*

*"I was simply enthralled by the structure of this narrative, a single 105-page long sentence with a beautifully clear rhythm. At the same time it's a compelling and credible description of a "typical" young German woman during the Nazi era. If we can relate to her we come close to understanding the forces that were shaping an entire generation".* MEIKE ZIERVOGEL

“A slim text.  
Huge literature.”

OBSERVER, VIENNA



*Peirene*

Portrait  
of  
the  
Mother  
as a  
Young  
Woman

FRIEDRICH CHRISTIAN DELIUS

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