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JÜRI TALVET was born on December 17, 1945 in Pärnu (Estonia). A graduate of Tartu University in English philology (1972) and a PhD by Leningrad (St. Petersburg) University (1981, with a dissertation on the Spanish Golden Age picaresque novel), he has over several decades taught Western literary history (from 1992 as a Chair) at Tartu University. As a writer (a member of the Estonian Writers' Union since 1984), he has published a number of books of poetry and essays. Selections of his translated poetry and essays have appeared in English, Spanish, French, Romanian and Catalan. He has been an invited participant of international poetry festivals in Lithuania, Spain, Colombia, Slovenia, Bolivia and Romania. Talvet was awarded Estonian Annual Prize of Literature in 1986, the Juhan Liiv Prize of Poetry in 1997, and the Ivar Ivask's Memorial Prize for poetry and essay in 2002.

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