

# Constantin Severin

**Well-known writer  
and visual artist  
from Romania**

## AWARDS

**The poetry award of the *Daily Yomiuri* newspaper, Japan, 1996. The award for cultural journalism given by the Romanian Ministry of Culture, 1998. The award for cultural journalism given by the City Hall and the County Council of Suceava, 2001.**



Constantin Severin is a member of the Romanian Writers Union, an editorial associate of *It's Liquid*, an Italian magazine concerned with art and architecture, and an international critic and theoretician of events organized by various new movements in the arts worldwide.

He has published over 800 articles, essays and interviews on culture, art theory and criticism, as well as on other issues of Romanian and international interest. He has introduced into our current vocabulary two new concepts: *archetypal expressionism* and *post literature*, in essays published on the site of the well known Saatchi Gallery of London (these may be viewed at <http://www.saatchi-gallery.co.uk>). The first essay concerns contemporary art, the latter, an original philosophy of culture.

Severin has worked as a journalist for various Romanian publications. From 1992 to 1996 he collaborated with the BBC and Free Europe radio stations. Born in 1952, he lives and works in Suceava, Romania.

## Works:

- "The Sunday of Things Real" (poetry), Junimea Publishing House, Iasi, Romania, 1984;
- "Wall and Neutrino" (poetry, bilingual edition-Romanian/English, translated by Liviu Martinescu), Vlasie Publishing House, Pitesti, Romania, 1994; the poem was included as such in the anthology of "Contemporary Romanian Poetry" by Marin Mincu, Pontica Publishing House, 2000; the poem won The Bucovina Cultural Foundation Awards;
- "Wall and Neutrino", Minerva Publishing House, London, 1997; translation by Liviu Martinescu;
- "Improvisations on armonic key" (poetry), Axa Publishing House, Botosani, Romania, 1998;
- "The Axolotl" (poetry), Masina de Scris Publishing House, Bucharest, 1998; the first renga (renku) book in the Romanian literature, bilingual edition-Romanian/English, translation by Liviu Martinescu; awarded by the Bucovina Cultural Foundation, 1999;
- "The Alchemical City" (selected poems), Dacia Publishing House, Cluj-Napoca, Romania, 2002; awarded by the Bucovina Cultural Foundation, 2003;
- "The Sacred Empire. Monasteries and churches in Northern Moldavia", Paralela 45 Publishing House, Pitesti, Romania, 2003.

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*- Constantin Severin is breaking new ground.  
Morrison Madison*

***Next pages: Read more about Constantin Severin's production***

# Said about Constantin Severin's works



"Constantin Severin is a real poet, aware of the fact that the life of the spirit is completely imbued with *ethos*, feeling respect for all forms of life, reclaiming their redemption and integrity. He suggests, more than saying.

It's not good to draw anyone near someone else, but since the name of Eliot has been put forward, I guess mostly for the feeling of distress which is omnipresent, I would say that his use of the words is closer to Pound's.

His images are dramatic and strong, mixing the stability of archaics and the mobility of actuality. The strings of his lyra are ever tense and its sounds are sharp. His words float on a stormy sea, green leaves torn off from their trees by furious winds, becoming the symbols of ideas and feelings."

*Manrico MURZI, Poet, Italy*

**About the Japanese poetry from "The Axolotl" :**

To date The Renku Column has been conservative in its choice of material; the two solo Nijuin, *After Light the Fire* and *Beyond the Labyrinth*, mark a departure. Romanian poet Constantin Severin brings a radically different sensitivity to haikai-no-renga, by turns surreal and introspective, speculative and metaphysical. The poems, with English translation by Liviu Martinescu, are from the ground breaking *The Axolotl*: the first collection of renga to be published in Romanian.

**By John Carley, Rossendale 11.05.04** (British expert John Carley, published by the magazine "Simply haiku")

"*Wall and Neutrino* is a collection of accomplished, acutely observed verse which takes a critical and uncompromising look at today's society. Severin's style is compelling in its unconventionality and recalls the brevity, intensity and minimalism of the Imagist poets of the 1930's, particularly in his portraits of the city.

This anthology is both a celebration of, and a grim testament to, the condition of modernity".

*Ann AUSTIN, Poetry critic, Great Britain*

"I have also read his translation of Constantin Severin's *Wall and Neutrino* into English, and I can see from this fine work that he clearly is a gifted translator with an excellent sense for the nuances of the English language".

*Emory ELLIOTT, the author of the Columbia Literary History of the United States, on Professor Liviu Martinescu.*

**Represented in German Work "Wall and Neutrino" has been included into the best anthology of the Romanian poetry published in Germany by Dieter Schlesak, "Gefährliche Serpentina" (1989, 2001).**

**Joaquin Garrigos, the director of Cervantes Institute in Bucharest, translated and included some of Severin's poems in anthologies of the Romanian literature published by the Spanish cultural magazines "Cuadernos del Ateneo" and "Empireuma".**

In literary and visual expression, but perhaps most notably in his clear-sighted theory of our present condition, Constantin Severin is breaking new ground. The concept of "Post-Literature" (which he has articulated in an article accessible at <http://www.inst.at/trans/14Nr/severin14.htm>) reveals him as one of the most original of contemporary thinkers concerning the nature of creative activity and the self-transformation that it is currently undergoing.

One would be missing something important not to know of what Severin (situated of all places in Suceava, Romania) is up to. Take a look at the article, then search the web for his reductively symbolic paintings, which are on the verge of forging a new post-modern vocabulary from modernist precedent and nativist tradition. As western Europe declines, esthetically, morally, politically, something apparently is happening in Eastern Europe, and Severin is a part of it.

*Written by Madison Morrison about Constantin Severin.*

### **This is Madison Morrison**

MADISON MORRISON, B.A., Yale, A.M., Ph.D. Harvard,

taught for many years in the USA before taking a series of positions in Asia, where he retired from teaching in 2002. Recently he has been invited to lecture in Venice, Jeju City (South Korea), Ho Chi Minh City and Beijing. He promulgates his own activity through a network of more than 5000 writers, artists, intellectuals and academics in 109 countries. His life-long project, the 26-book universal epic called **Sentence of the Gods** (see <http://www.madisonmorrison.com>) has been compared by various critics and commentators to the work of Joyce, Dante, Vergil and even Homer.



If an important Western publishing house is interested in publishing the work of a Romanian author, then the Romanian Cultural Institute (Institutul Cultural Roman) could support the costs for translation and even for a part of the publishing process!

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