

Viola Di Grado

<http://www.violadigrado.com>

**“Viola Di Grado is a powerful and original writer.”
Michael Cunningham**

Viola Di Grado is an award-winning novelist with works published in fifteen countries. [REDACTED], and earned an MA in East Asian philosophies at the University of London. Acclaimed by Garzanti Dictionary as “one of the most representative writers of the decade”, she was the youngest writer to be awarded the prestigious Campiello Opera Prima Award. Her debut book *Settanta acrilico trenta lana* was also awarded the Rapallo Carige Award, it was longlisted for the IMPAC Dublin Literary Award and for the Strega Award and it was a bestseller in both Italy and in the US. Her second book *Cuore Cavo* was shortlisted for the PEN Literary Awards, the IMPAC Dublin Literary Awards and the IPTA Italian Prose in Translation Award. Her fourth book *Fuoco al cielo*, out in 2019, was awarded the Viareggio Repaci Selezione della giuria Award. She’s a contributing writer for *La Stampa* (Tuttolibri) and *Linus*.

Praise for *Fuoco al cielo*:

“An extreme, radical, proud protest against the absence of the other and the silence of God.”

—**La Repubblica**

“We needed Viola di Grado’s pen to tell the story of one of the nineteenth century’s worst atrocities.”

—**Il Giornale**

“*Fuoco al cielo* stitches itself to you, and to tear the seams loose would be like losing a part of yourself— all we must do to feel alive is hold it jealously close to ourselves and every now and again leaf through its pages.” —**Huffington Post**

“A bitter but potent medicine. Viola di Grado has enormous talent, her work is visionary and heartbreaking.” —**Nazione Indiana**

“One of the high-points of contemporary storytelling.”

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—Giuseppe Genna

“A book of tremendous beauty, which goes to the heart of the infinite disaster that is human folly.” —**Barbara Alberti**

Praise for “Hollow Heart”

"An extraordinary feat of linguistic gymnastics.”

—**The Times Literary Supplement**

"What is more surprising than Di Grado’s early success is how fully she has already crafted her aesthetic."

—**The Los Angeles Review of Books**

"A swirling, luminous journey into the afterlife. That we are convinced by this is testament to the hypnotic and mesmerising quality of Di Grado’s writing."

—**The Independent**

"A writer this powerful is scary."

— **Sarah Wu, Intense Sensations**

Praise for “70% acrylic 30% wool”

"A fearless first novel...Shimmering prose."

—**The New York Times T Magazine**

"The arrival of a considerable talent."

—**The Times Literary Supplement**

"Sophisticated ...a subtle meditation on language and its failures."

—**The Financial Times**

"Written in lavish language and with beautiful metaphors."

—**The Star Tribune**

"I’ve never read a debut novel as brilliant as 70% acrylic 30% wool."

—**Que Leer**

"70% acrylic 30% wool is radical and rich of incredible lyrical formulations."

—**Der Spiegel**

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"An incredibly inventive language."

—Le Figaro

Publications: novels

- “Bambini di ferro”, La Nave di Teseo, with a book soundtrack composed by Shedir, 2016
 - “Cuore cavo”, Edizioni e/o, 2013
also published in UK/US as “Hollow Heart”, Europa Editions, 2015
 - “Settanta acrilico trenta lana”, Edizioni e/o, 2011
also published in: France as “70% acrylique 30% laine”, Éditions du Seuil, 2012
Germany as “Siebzig Acryl, dreißig Wolle,” Luchterhand, 2012
UK/US as “70% Acrylic 30% Wool”, Europa Editions, 2012
Spain as “Setenta acrílico treinta lana”, Alpha Decay 2011
Argentina as “Setenta acrílico treinta lana”, Editorial Planeta 2012
Holland as “70% acryl, 30% wol”, Wereldbibliotheek 2013
Portugal as “70% acrílico 30% lã”, Sextante Editora
 - "Il Superuovo" *Feltrinelli (Zoom)*, 2012
Also published as “The superegg”, *Feltrinelli (Zoom)* 2013
- “Fuoco al cielo” *La Nave di Teseo*, 2019

Writing Awards and special mentions (“Fuoco al cielo”)

- Winner of the Premio Viareggio Selezione della giuria, 2019
- Winner of the Premio Grotte della Gurfa Award, 2019
- Shortlisted for the Premio Biblioteche di Roma, 2019
- Shortlisted for the Premio Padula, 2019

Writing Awards and special mentions (“Cuore Cavo”)

- Shortlisted for the PEN Translation Prize 2016
- Longlisted for the Dublin Literary Awards 2017
- Shortlisted for the IPTA (Italian Prose in Translation Award) 2016
- Listed among "the most representative writers of the decade" in Garzanti Dictionary, 2013

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Writing Awards and special mentions (“Settanta acrilico trenta lana”)

- Longlisted for the International IMPAC Dublin Literary Award, 2014
- Featured in the *Marine Independent's* best-selling books list, 2012
- Winner of the Premio Campiello Opera Prima, 2011 (youngest Campiello winner)
- Winner of the Premio Rapallo Opera Prima, 2011
- Shortlisted for the Premio Strega, 2011
- Shortlisted for the Premio Viareggio Award, 2011
- Shortlisted for the Premio Comisso, 2011
- Shortlisted for the Premio Zocca Giovani, 2011
- Shortlisted for the Premio Edoardo Khilgren, 2011
- Longlisted for the Premio Mondello Giovani, 2011
- Longlisted for the Premio Massarosa, 2011
- Longlisted for the Premio Brancati-Zaffara, 2011

Honors and invited events

- Recipient of the Kulturvermittlung Steiermark Kunstpädagogisches Institut of Graz's writing fellowship
- Appointed a member of the advisory board of *NEKE, The New Zealand Journal of Translation Studies*
- Recipient of the *International writers and translators centre of Rhodes Residency*, Rhodes 2018
- Recipient of the *Baltic Centre For Writers and Translators' Residency*, Visby 2018
- Recipient of the *Gunnarshús Writers Residency*, Reykjavik 2017
- Participant in the Sydney Writers Festival 2017
- Participant in the Auckland Writers Festival 2017
- Keynote speaker at the conference “Literatur aus Sizilien – zwischen Tradition und Erinnerung”, Italienisches Kulturinstitut, Berlin, 2015
- Participant in the *Vancouver Writers' Fest 2013*
- Participant in the *IFOA Toronto International Festival of Authors 2013*
- Participant in the *Worfest: Banff Calgary International Writers Festival 2013*
- Participant in the *Litquake Festival of San Francisco, 2013*
- Recipient of the *Civitella Ranieri Fellowship 2013*
- Keynote speaker at the conference “Writing today: the body of the writing between desire and influences” for the *Cairo Mediterranean literary Festival*, Egypt 2012
- Keynote speaker at the conference “The elsewhere of writing: femininity and solitude” for the 30th anniversary of Jacques Lacan's death, Istituto Freudiano, 2012

Translating (english to italian) and teaching experience

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- Translated Anne Boyer's "Undying" (La Nave di Teseo, fall 2020)
- Translated Joyce Carol Oates' "New Heaven New Earth", Il Saggiatore 2021
- Translated Jami Attenberg novel's "All Grown up", Giuntina 2018
- Revised the English edition of her novel "Hollow Heart", Europa Editions 2014
- Taught a Creative Writing Workshop for the cultural association *Parole sulla corda*, Rome, 2013
- Taught a Creative Writing Workshop for the cultural association *Parole sulla corda*, Catania, 2013
- Revised the English edition of her novel "Settanta acrilico trenta lana", 2012
- Taught the workshop "East Asian philosophies and religions" at the University of Catania, 2010