



Photo: Piia Ruber

Ulla Saar

ESTONIA

Contact:

ulla.saar@gmail.com
Instagram @ullaisland
+372 521 2594



Ulla Saar (1975) is an illustrator and graphic artist. She graduated from the Estonian Academy of Arts in product design. Her first illustrated book *Lift* achieved immediate widespread recognition and was listed in the 2014 White Ravens catalogue. Since then, every one of her books has received international attention. Saar practices a contemporary, design-like approach to book illustration: her spirited and playful art is often more a part of the work's overall design than free-standing pictures.

I started illustrating books from about the age of three, when many of my children's books at home acquired new designs, mostly in a rather abstract form. A short break happened in the meantime, during which I dreamed about becoming a geologist. Instead. Back then, one of my favorite books was Anatoly Chlenov's *Geology in Pictures* - inspired by it, I started putting together my own personal rock collection. Over time, it became clear that field didn't suit me, and I turned back to art.

I try to proceed more from context in my works - whether it is some fragment of text that has been haunting me, a text I am presently illustrating, or else something that eludes me at first and demands more concentration from the viewer, hopefully resulting in questions and motivating me to seek answers.

Selected awards:

- 2020** International Illustration and Book Design Competition 'Image of the Book / Obraz knigi', Moscow, laureate
- 2020** 5 Best-Designed Estonian Children's Books, Certificate of Merit
- 2019** 25 Best-Designed Estonian Books, Certificate of Merit
- 2019** 5 Best-Designed Estonian Children's Books, Certificate of Merit, Special Prize of the Estonian Graphic Designers' Association
- 2019** Edgar Valter illustration Award nominee

- 2019** Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award candidate
- 2018** Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award candidate
- 2018** 25 Best-Designed Estonian Books, Certificate of Merit
- 2017** 25 Best-Designed Estonian Books, Certificate of Merit
- 2016** 25 Best-Designed Estonian Books, Certificate of Merit
- 2016** 5 Best-Designed Estonian Children's Books, Certificate of Merit, Special Prize of the Estonian Graphic Designers' Association

Selected exhibitions

- 2021** Sharjah Children's Book Illustrations Exhibition, the United Arab Emirates
- 2021** Exhibition of Estonian illustrators "Alluring Fox", Estonian Children's Literature Centre, Tallinn; Central Library of Lääne County, Haapsalu
- 2020** Tallinn Illustrations Triennial (TIT), Estonia
- 2019** Spring exhibition of Estonian illustrators, Estonian Children's Literature Centre, Tallinn
- 2019** Group exhibition of Estonian illustrators "Leafing Through Estonian Children's Books II", Moscow, Kolomna, Russia
- 2018-2020** Exhibition of Baltic illustrators "Running with Wolves", London, the United Kingdom; Estonian Children's Literature Centre ("Wolf Run"), Tallinn; Gdańsk, Wrocław, Białystok, Warsaw, Płock, Szczecin, Poland; Pordenone, Italy; Vilnius, Lithuania; selected works, Pskov, St. Petersburg, Russia
- 2018** Group exhibition of Estonian illustrators "*Tra ghiaccio e fuoco*", Rome, Pesco Sannita, Italy
- 2017** Biennial of Illustrations Bratislava (BIB), Slovakia
- 2017** Group exhibition of Estonian illustrators "Leafing Through Estonian Children's Books I", Moscow, Kolomna, Russia
- 2017** Exhibition of Estonian illustrators "A Window into the Fairy Tale World", Haapsalu Cultural Centre, Haapsalu Children's Library
- 2016** Travelling exhibition of Estonian illustrators, "A Walk on the Path of Fairy Tale Together with Charles Perrault", Moscow, Krasnoarmeysk, Mytishchi, Russia

Selected illustrated books

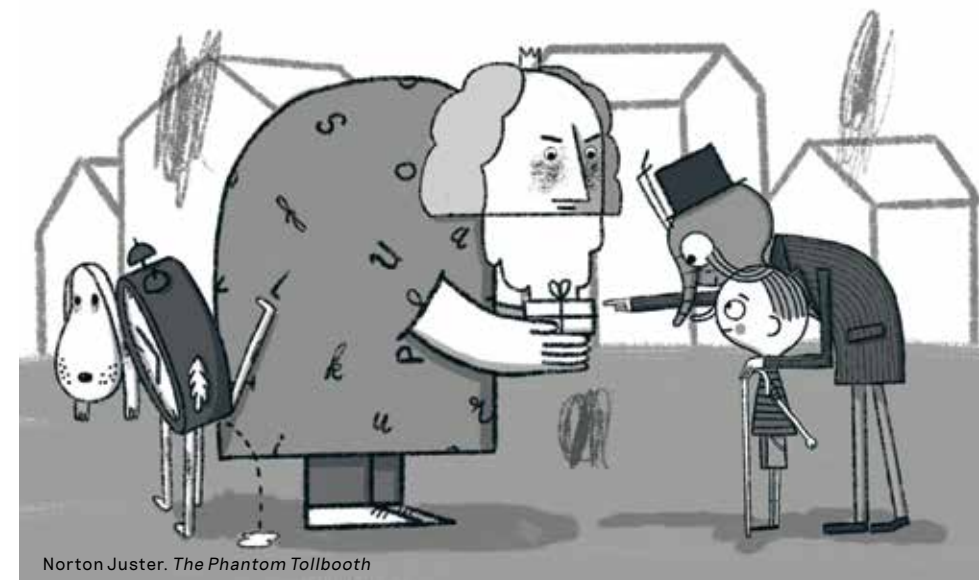
- Look, Kairi. *Piia Präänik ja Sõnasööbik* (Piia Biscuit and the Word-Snatcher). Koolibri, 2021
- Pervik, Aino. *Tuulelohe saab sõbraks* (The Kite Befriends). Tänapäev, 2021
- Hytönen, Ville. *Tötterman*. Enostone, 2021
- Niska, Heikki. *Hössöttävät Hörvelöt* (Fussing Hörvelö Family). Enostone, 2021
- Oster, Grigori. *Kõrgem kommiteadus* (Sweets Sciences). Varrak, 2020
- Reinmaa, Urmas. *Kust sa selle leidsid?* (Where Did You Find It?). Päike ja Pilv, 2020
- Look, Kairi. *Piia Präänik ja bandiidid* (Piia Biscuit and the Bandits). Tänapäev, 2019
- Lewis Jones, Huw. *Illustration in Archipelago: An Atlas of Imagined Islands*. Thames & Hudson, 2019
- Piiper, Kristi. *Armunud keldrikoll, vegan verikäkk ja teised* (The Lovesick Basement Monster, the Vegan Blood Sausage and Other Stories). Tänapäev, 2019
- Juster, Norton. *Milo imelised seiklused* (The Phantom Tollbooth). Draakon & Kuu, 2018



Helvi Jürisson. *What Letters Say*



Kätlin Vainola. *The Boy Who Drew Maps*



Norton Juster. *The Phantom Tollbooth*



Norton Juster. *The Phantom Tollbooth*



Heikki Niska. *Hössöttävät Hörvelöt*

Ulla Saar

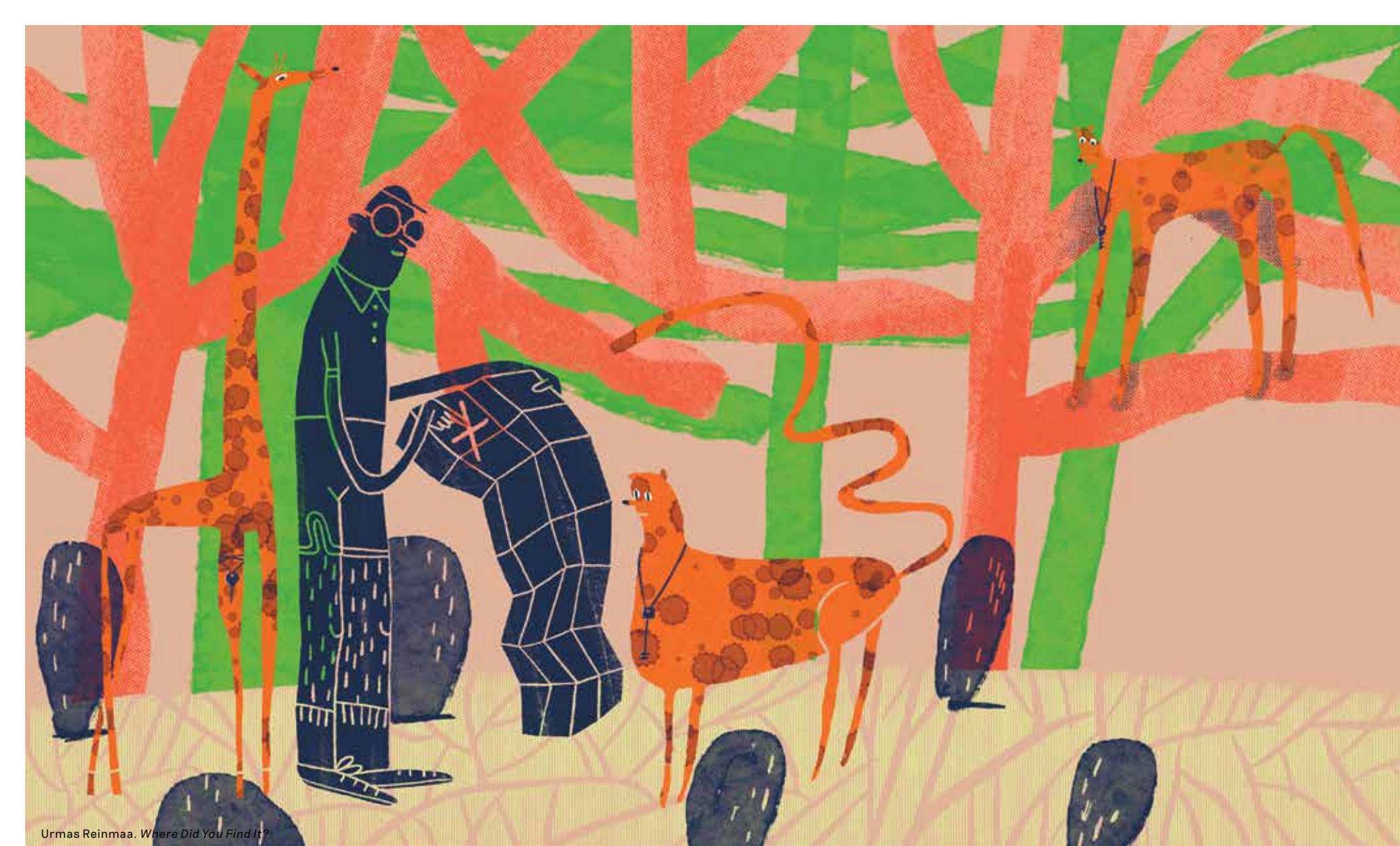
ESTONIA



Ville Hytönen. Tötterman



Ville Hytönen. Tötterman



Urmas Reinmaa. Where Did You Find It?



Urmas Reinmaa. Where Did You Find It?

