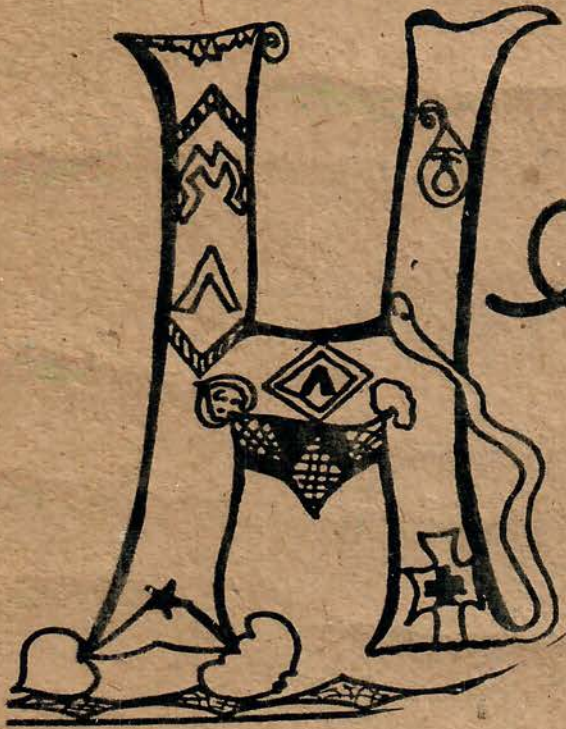


To

Seamus



Leaney

December 1995  
Stockholm





SCHOOL CLASS 9c and 9d

Rinkeby School

Rana Yacoub, Izla Safar, Helen Njuki, Mia Okamoto, Basak Arslanerkekoglu,  
Goran Jovanovic, Veselin Bulatovic, Nina Papadakis, Sabina Jahdadic,  
Giovanna Buendia, Magnus Johansson, Joel Delattre, Henrik Vestin, Hana Raisi,  
Andreas Melin, Robin Wahlsten, Dimitris Gialas.





**To You Seamus Heaney**

We greet you with a booklet we have made in honor of your poetry. Although your green farm villages may seem far away from our modern high-rise community, Rinkeby, we have followed many of our thoughts when we read your poems. It was Sweeney who most fascinated us. Several of us have drawn our Sweeney for you. We wonder what your Sweeney really looks like..

Our Rinkeby is sometimes called "the global village" because the 14000 people who live here come from all over the world. Altogether we speak 60 different languages here!

We also show you our impressions of the Old Town in Stockholm where you will speak at the Swedish Academy.

**We congratulate You!**

From the pupils in Class 9c and 9d in Rinkeby School  
and their teachers Hillevi Rindeby and Marie-France von Wachenfeldt

Through Elly Berg, Iris Berggren and Gunilla Lundgren  
Word & Picture Workshop in Rinkeby  
in cooperation with Mäster Olofsgården, Old Town, Stockholm.

## Rinkeby - the village of the world

Rinkeby is a small suburb of Stockholm. Rinkeby has 14 000 inhabitants.

Maybe 100 languages are spoken here.

Rinkeby is a multicultural area, a mixture of many different cultures and religions.

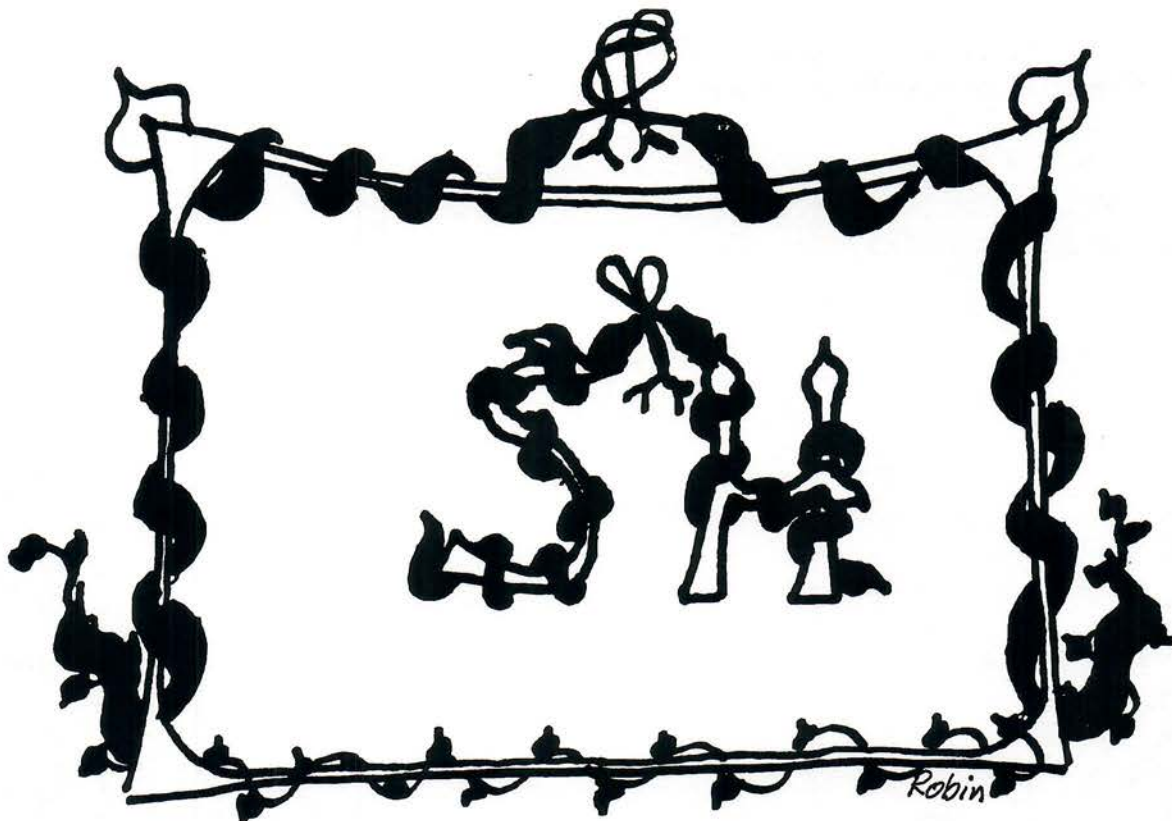
This makes people, who don't fit in in Swedish society, feel confident.

People started to build Rinkeby in the late 1960's. There was a housing shortage in Sweden and one million houses had to be built quickly. People from the north came to Rinkeby, to get a job in a big city. Many foreign men came here with their families because they could find good apartments. The first immigrants came here because Swedish society needed workforce. Today it's only political refugees and refugees from war areas that come here.

Unfortunately, Rinkeby has its problems. But the youths of today in Rinkeby, have started to realize that criminality for example doesn't lead anywhere, and they start concentrating more on studies.

All this together creates a harmony that can be found only in Rinkeby.

Rinkeby is unique.



## The Rinkeby School

The school was built in 1970.

There are 410 pupils in the school. The majority have immigrant background, mostly from Turkey, Greece and Somalia.

Some days there are pupils who are "on duty". That means that we have to help the cleaners to sweep the corridor, help the kitchen ladies to do the wash up, and help the caretaker to go and get the mail (the school mail).

The Rinkeby School has been renovated this year. The inside yard is now a big assembly-hall. On the outside of the school there has been a change of colours. Now it is one of the finest schools in Stockholm.



The Rinkeby Square

## Class 9c and 9d in Rinkeby School

We are 16 students in this group and we speak different languages: Serbian, Swedish, Spanish, Danish, Turkish, Arabic, Russian, French and Greek. Everybody speaks good Swedish. We learn sports and languages and so on. We are all friends in the class.

Five of the students don't live in Rinkeby. There are 16 Christians of whom 4 are Orthodox plus one Muslim. We have a good teacher in Swedish.

We have three Swedish groups. We are divided according to our knowledge of Swedish. We are the best group. We get many books to read and then write about them. We get lots of homework. Some students meet after school to dance and to do sports in their spare time. Now you know all about us.



Photo from our visit to the Old Town

## The Old Town

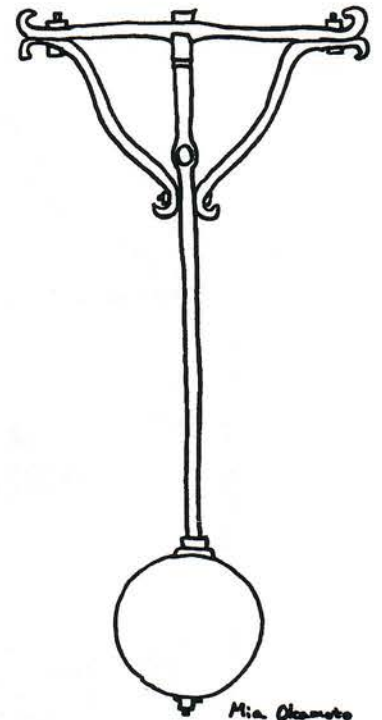
**The well : stone-iron-water,  
three important elements for Stockholm.**

On the Great Square (Stortorget) is a stone well.  
It was designed by Erik Palmstedt.

The well was made for the people in the Old Town  
as a meeting-place. It was important so the habitants  
could meet and get water at the same time.

But nowadays the well is more like a playground for  
the children, as well as a meeting-place.

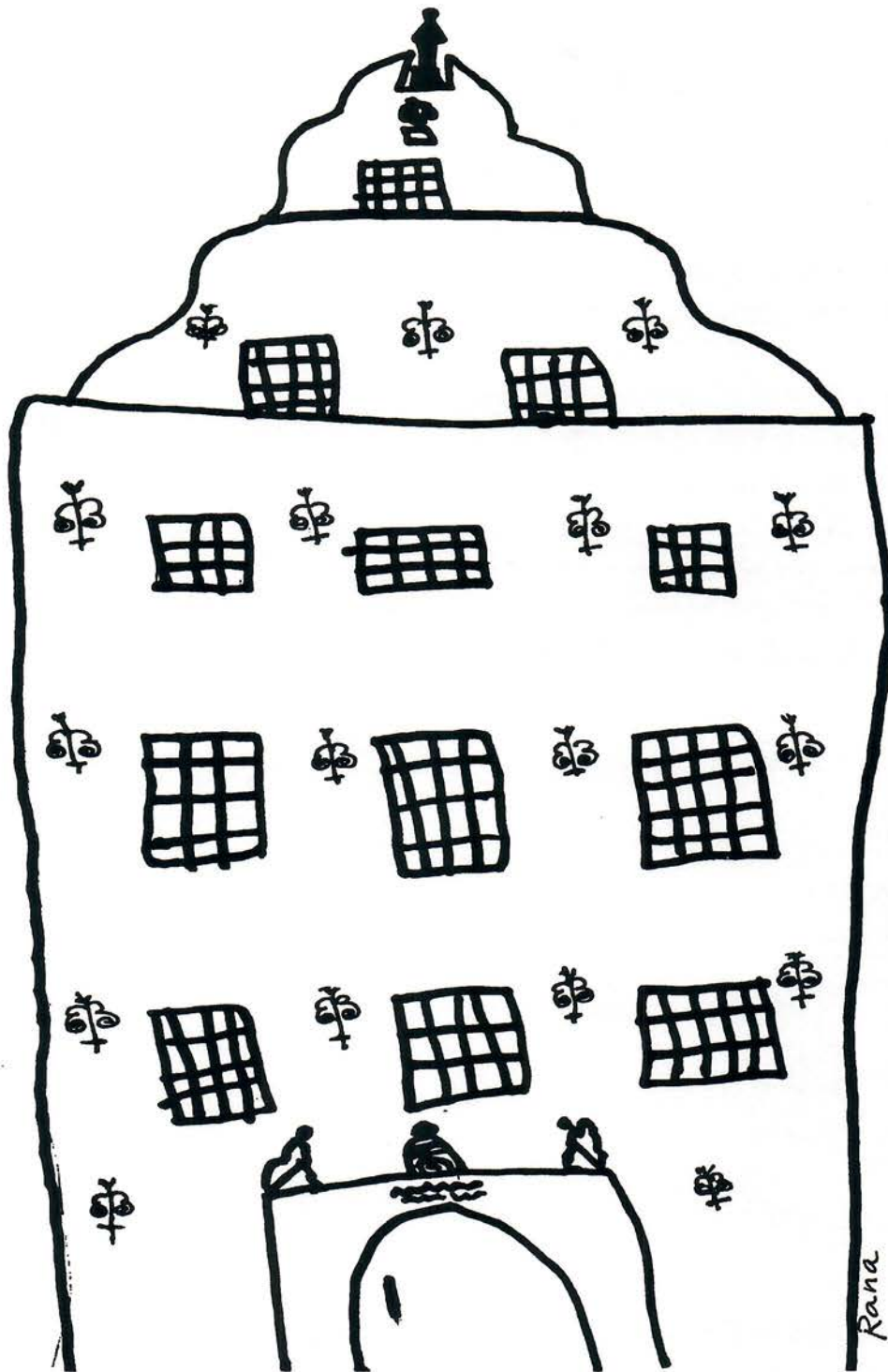
Mia Okamoto



For many years the Great square - Stortorget - missed its old well,  
a magnificent Rococo creation. It was moved to Brunkebergstorg in  
the year 1857 because the Old Town was out of date. Of course it was  
later moved back to its original place when the Old Town was popular  
again, almost one hundred years later.

Henrik Vestin



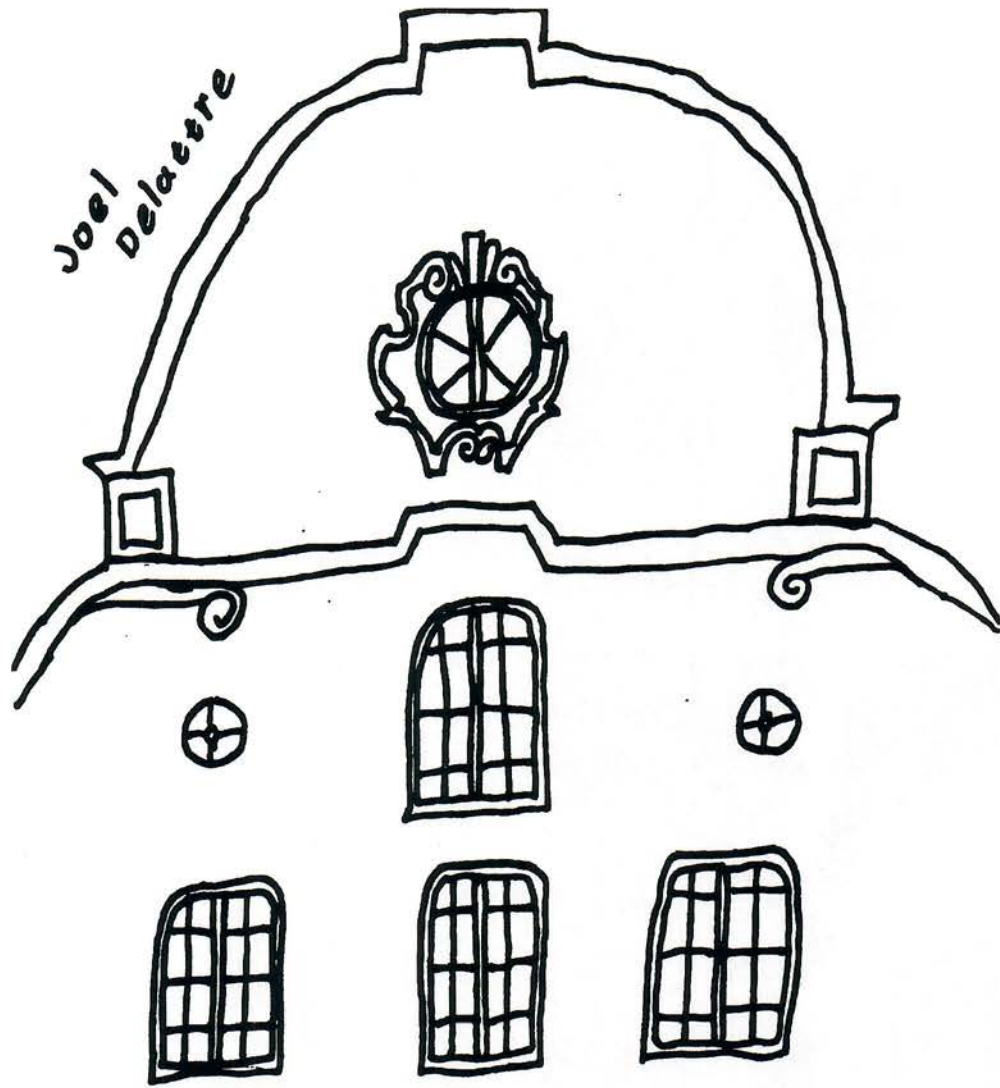


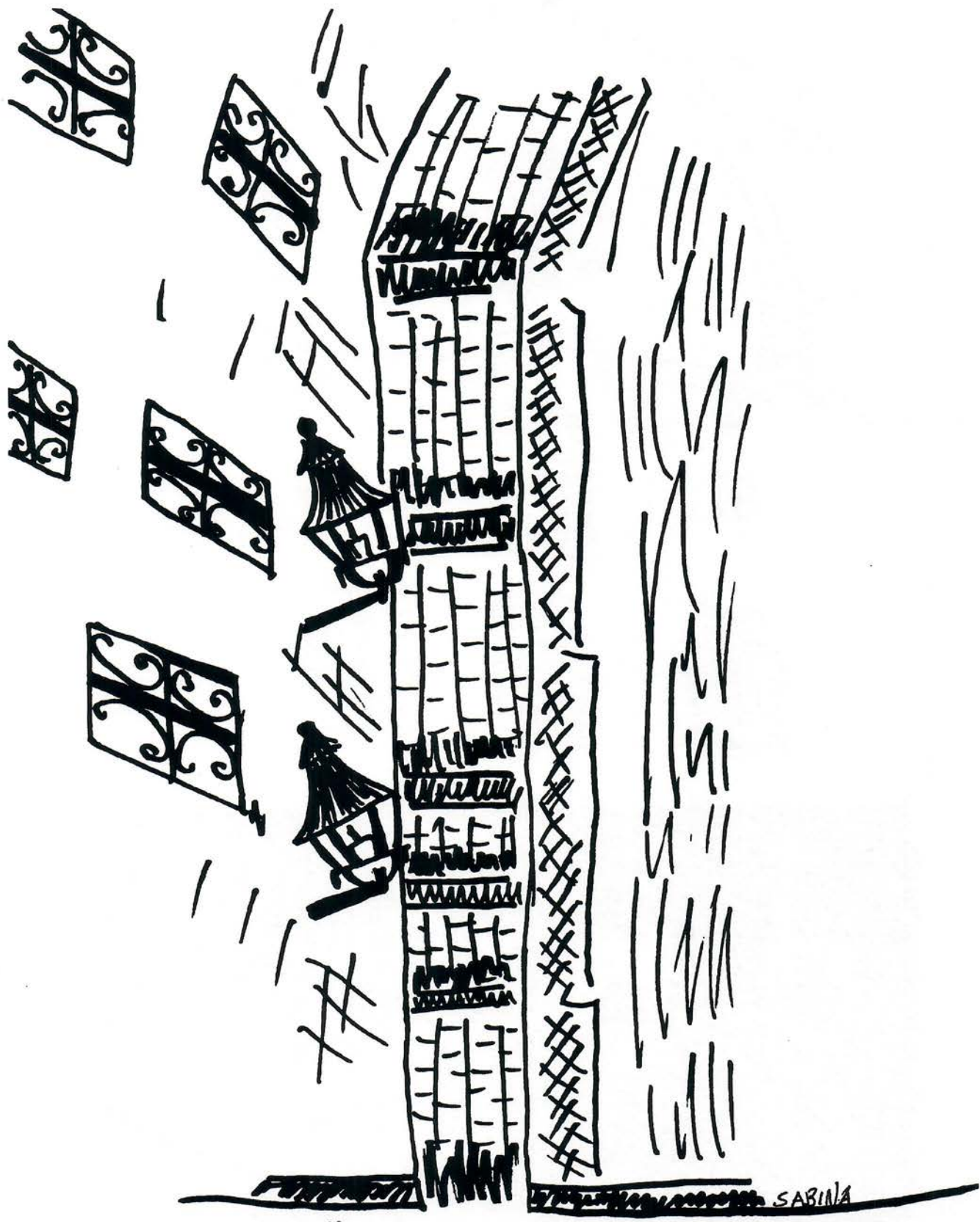
### The beautiful house

This beautiful house has a front door of stone. It is old - how old? The house was built in 1648 by the King's secretary. There is a story about this house, which has a number of stones around the windows. There are 82 stones. The stones remind you of the 82 people who got beheaded. This house is situated at Stortorget 20. It was a young immigrant from Germany, Johan Wedelstam who created this house.

Rana Yacoub







SABINA

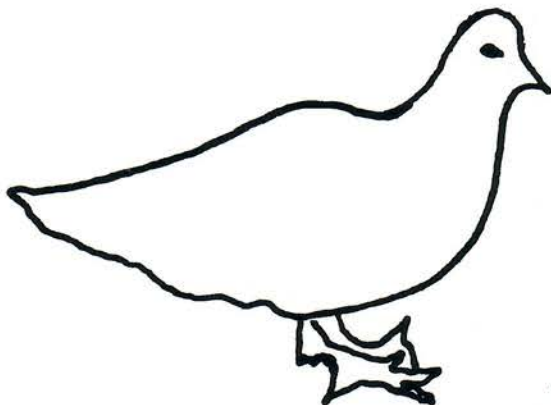
PRÄSTGATAN



## Gamla Stan

Gamla Stan (the Old Town) is a very beautiful part of Stockholm. It is very different from the rest of the city because of its old houses and the many coffee shops and souvenir shops. I like Gamla Stan because the streets and the houses look like those in France which I have visited.

Joel Delattre



Izla

## Legends



### The flame of Elin Wägner

Elin Wägner was a member of the Swedish Academy. She was a famous writer for the cause of peace and justice. Elin Wägner had seat number 15. During Elin Wägner's last Academy meeting a strange thing happened. When the Academy assembles every member has a candle in front of them. During her final meeting her candle started to burn more intensively. The flame grew bigger and bigger. When the meeting was over, her candle was all burned out but the others were just burned halfway down. Shortly after this Elin Wägner died. The seat of number 15 is now occupied by another woman writer, Kerstin Ekman, who has kept up the tradition. She has protested against the fatwa against Salman Rushdie.

Andreas Melin and Robin Wahlsten Böckerman



### **Gamla Stan - the Old Town**

The night between the 8th and the 9th of november you can see phantoms dancing on Stortorget. Faded ghosts without heads are dancing around on Stortorget and down along Kåkbrinken. It is the phantoms from the Blood-bath of Stockholm in 1520. If it's raining this night, you can see the rain mixed with blood flow down the alleys from Stortorget. Just like during the Blood-bath.

Nina Papadakis



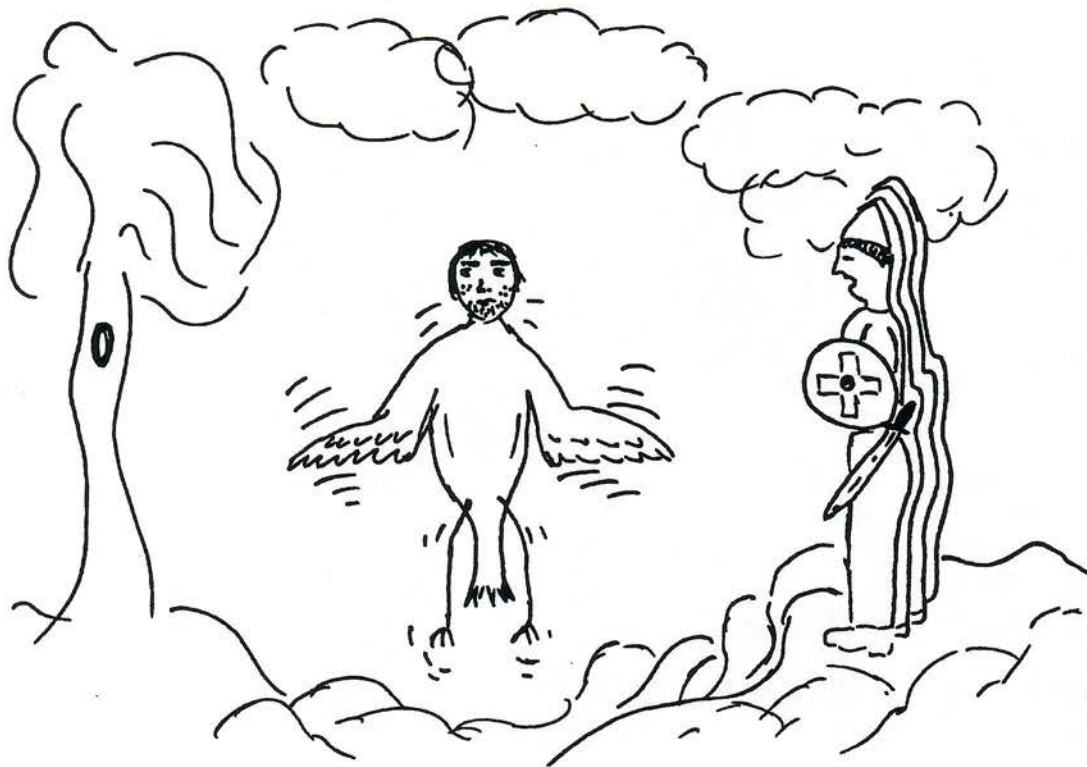
*Robin*

## The Sweeney Legend

### King Sweeney

Once upon a time in Ireland there was a king.  
The king's name was Sweeney.  
Near his castle some Christians were building a church.  
Sweeney became very angry and went over to stop them.  
When Sweeney started to argue with the Christians,  
he started to fight with a soldier. Sweeney accidentally killed  
the soldier. As a punishment for killing the soldier a curse  
was placed on Sweeney. Sweeney was transformed into  
a creature half man, half bird. In that shape Sweeney flew  
all over the country, eating watercress.  
Even today in Ireland people believe that whenever you are  
in a beautiful place in nature, Sweeney hides there somewhere  
among the trees.

Robin



Sweeney

When I thought about the legend of Sweeney I chose to draw Sweeney when he became a birdman. He got cursed because he didn't want to introduce a new religion - Christianity. A quarrel started. Soldiers followed him and were about to take him when he turned into a birdman and flew up in the sky. Sweeney lived his life forever as a birdman and saw nature from above.

Nina Papadakis



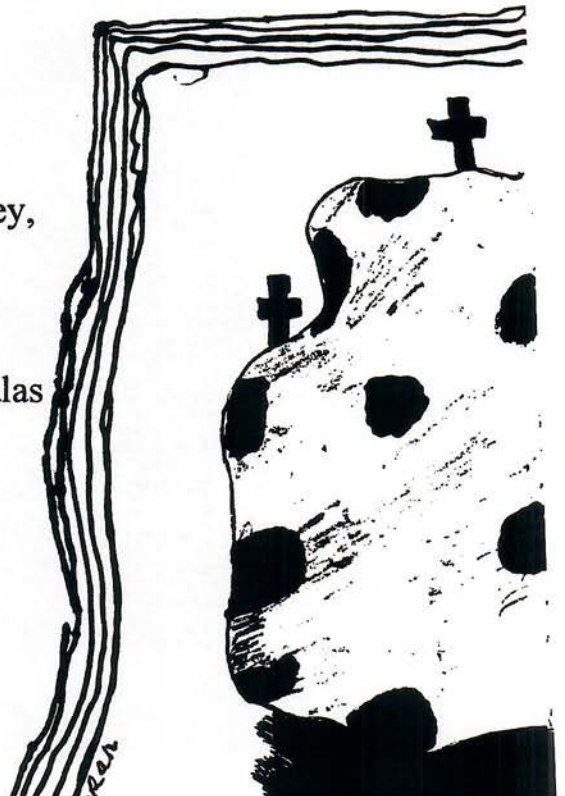


### The Legend

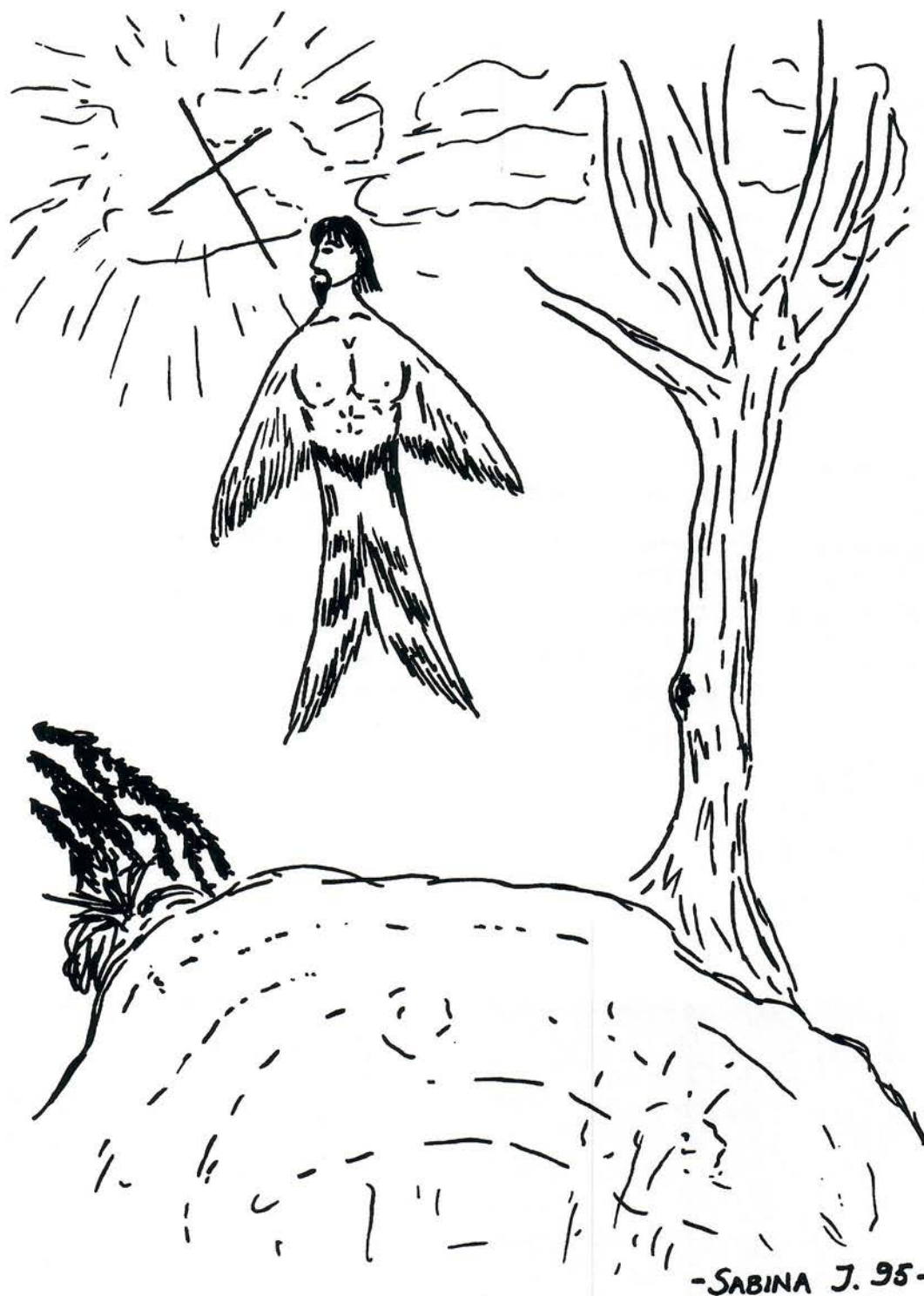
When I was told about the king in the legend of Sweeney, I decided to draw him naked.

But I didn't draw his private parts because it would be embarrassing for him.

Dimitris Gialas







Here we see Sweeney in fine weather. The nature is very fine and the trees and bushes are like flowers and roses. The water is crystal-clear and he can see himself in it. Sweeney got everywhere when it comes to nature and I think he had a good life in some ways. I mean, he could fly, anyway.

Sabina

## More about The Old Town

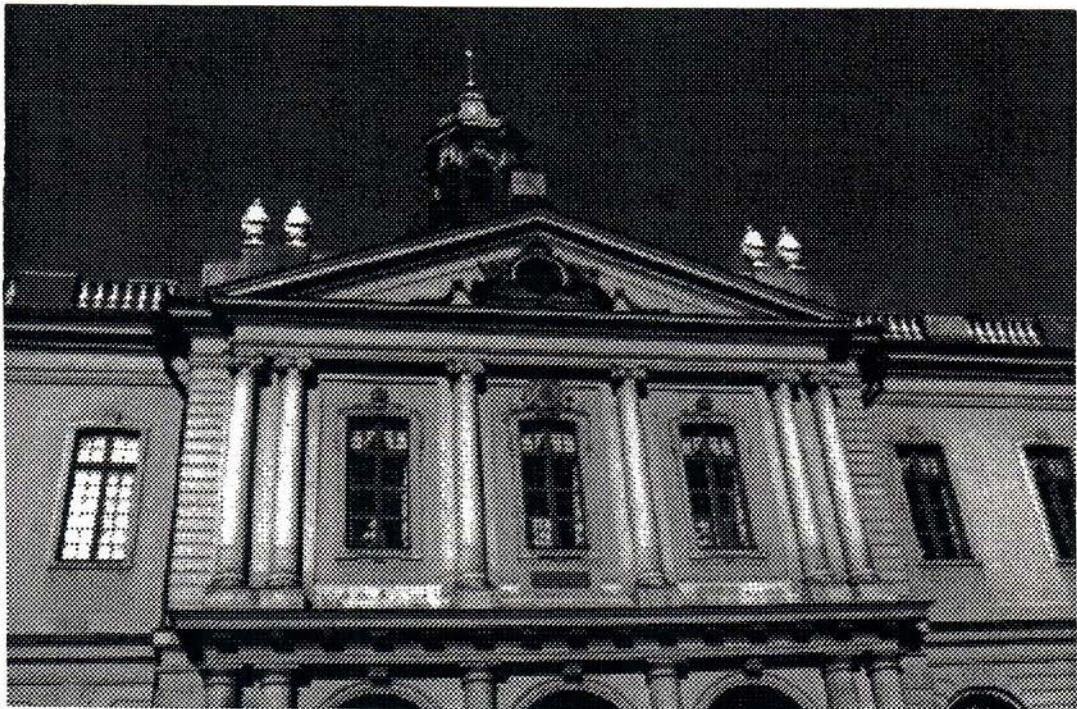


Gamla Stan - the Old Town is built on an island which used to be called Stadsholmen. The town was protected by a city wall. In the 16th century the town had between 8000-9000 inhabitants. In 1582 2/3 of 700 houses were built of bricks.

Goran Jovanovic

Gamla Stan - the Old Town is built on an island. The houses are very old. When you walk there it's like going back to the times of the 13th Century. The buildings are built very close to one another. It's very strange that many houses are still standing, because there have been so many fires over the years. This is in fact because they were built of brick.

Dimitris Gialas



This is the Swedish Academy in the Great Square



*Giovanna B.*

### **The Great Church in the Old Town**

The Great Church is one of the oldest buildings in the Old Town. To the Great Church came fishermen, sailors and guards from Mälaren to pray to the Christian God. In some parts of the church there are bricks on the walls from the 13th century. The bricks have suffered fires, restorations and repairs. Nowadays the church is a cathedral in the diocese of Stockholm.

Giovanna Buendia

## Gamla Stan - Old Town

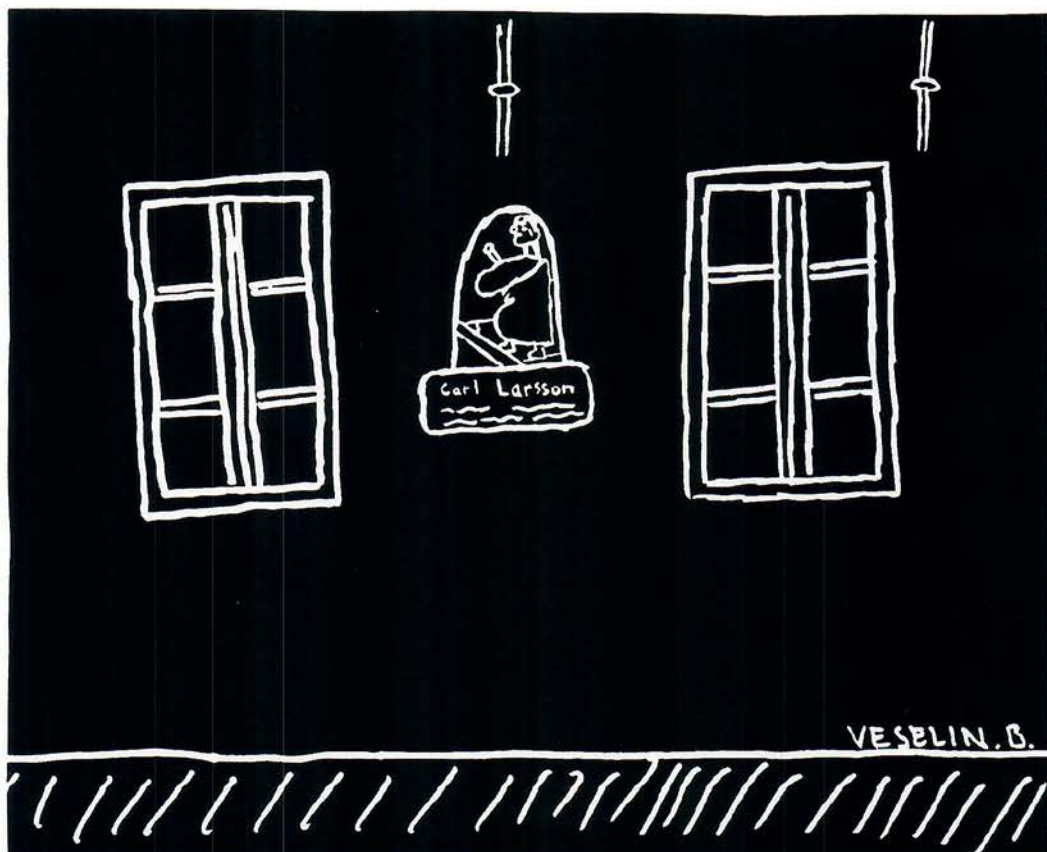
There is a runestone set into the wall at the corner of the house with the address Kåkbrinken, 17 Prästgatan. The history of this stone is uncertain. We think it was carted into the Old Town with other stones for building, discovered and set up here as a decoration.

Helen Njuki

## Carl Larsson

In Gamla Stan many famous Swedish artists had lived and some still do. One of the most famous who lived here is Carl Larsson. He was born in Dalecarlia in 1853. He is a very popular artist and he made pictures of his children, wife and friends. On the house where he lived there is a decoration with his name and picture. As you walk around the Old Town you can find other plaques on houses telling you who lived there.

Veselin Bulatovic





The Stock Exchange with the Swedish Academy upstairs  
and the Christmas market in the Square

## We read your poems

### Widgeon

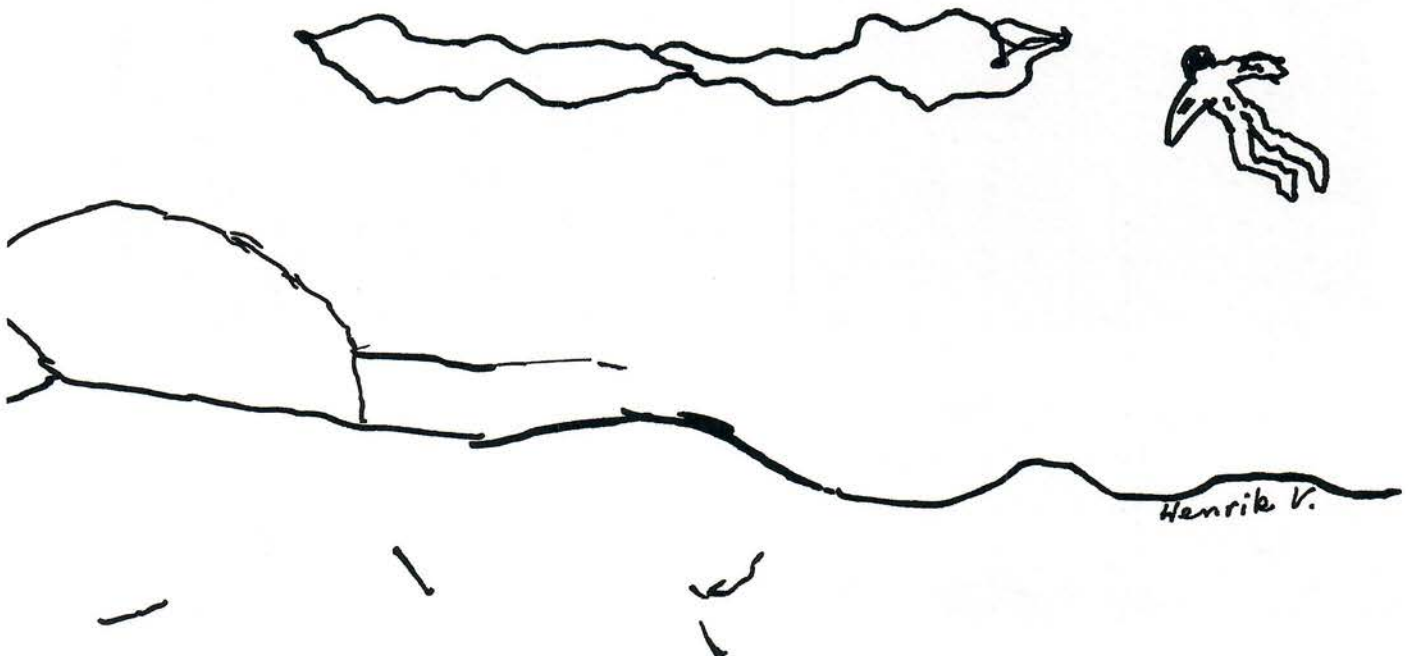
We have read the poem about a duck. The duck was shot. When the hunter plucked the feathers from the bird he saw the vocal chord. The vocal chord seemed like a flute. We usually don't read poems, because many poems are boring to us and we don't understand them. But this poem about the duck we understood and it was strong and struck us when we read about the cry.

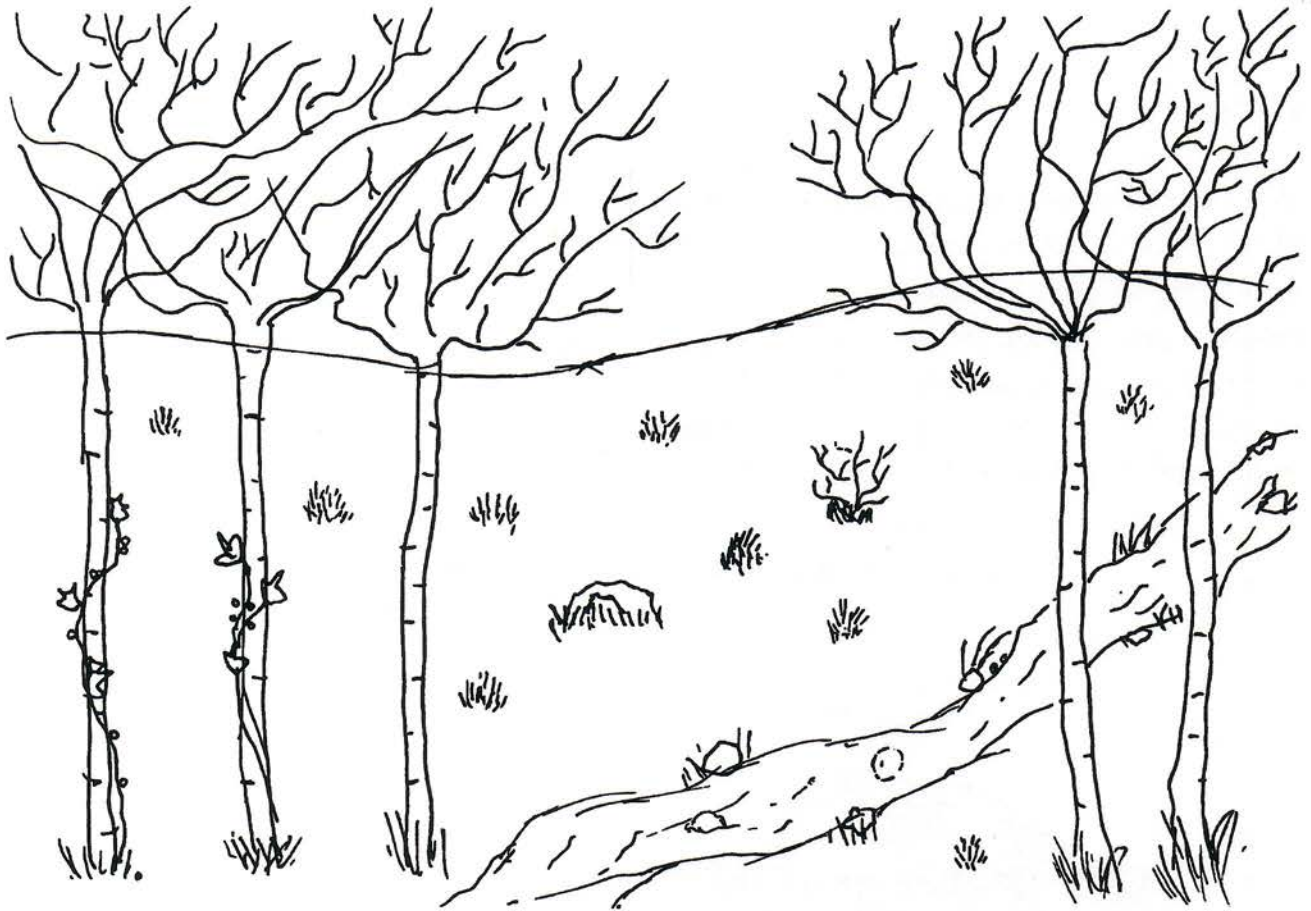
Basak Arslanerkekoglu, Veselin Bulatovic and Goran Jovanovic

### Home-comings

We have been reading a poem called "Home-comings". The feeling of coming home seems to be a safe and strong feeling that we all recognize. We think that the swallow symbolizes freedom but the swallow also has a safe hole in the ground. Maybe you want to be like a swallow.

Magnus Johansson and Giovanna Buendia





### Exposure

December in Wicklow - the trees, the comet, the light and the stars.  
But I think this poem is about a girl thinking about her "friends".  
They don't care about her, she knows that.

Hani Raisi

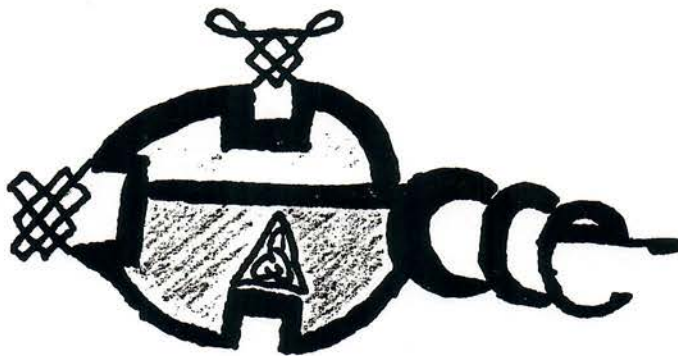


## Casualty

We have read the poem "Casualty". We think you respect the man although he is drunk and out of work. In Sweden nowadays there is not much difference between educated and uneducated people, but their interests and way of talking differ. Uneducated people talk a lot about their family and educated talk about their jobs.

Most interesting for us was the end of the poem where the fisherman was killed. We wonder how you yourself feel about the IRA.

Joel Delattre, Andreas Melin and Dimitris Gialas



## Clearances

We just read a part of one of your poems.  
It's about your mother and you,  
peeling the potatoes. We thought the poem  
was very emotional and beautiful.  
We liked your choice of words. It touched our souls.

From your future fans Helen, Mia and Rana





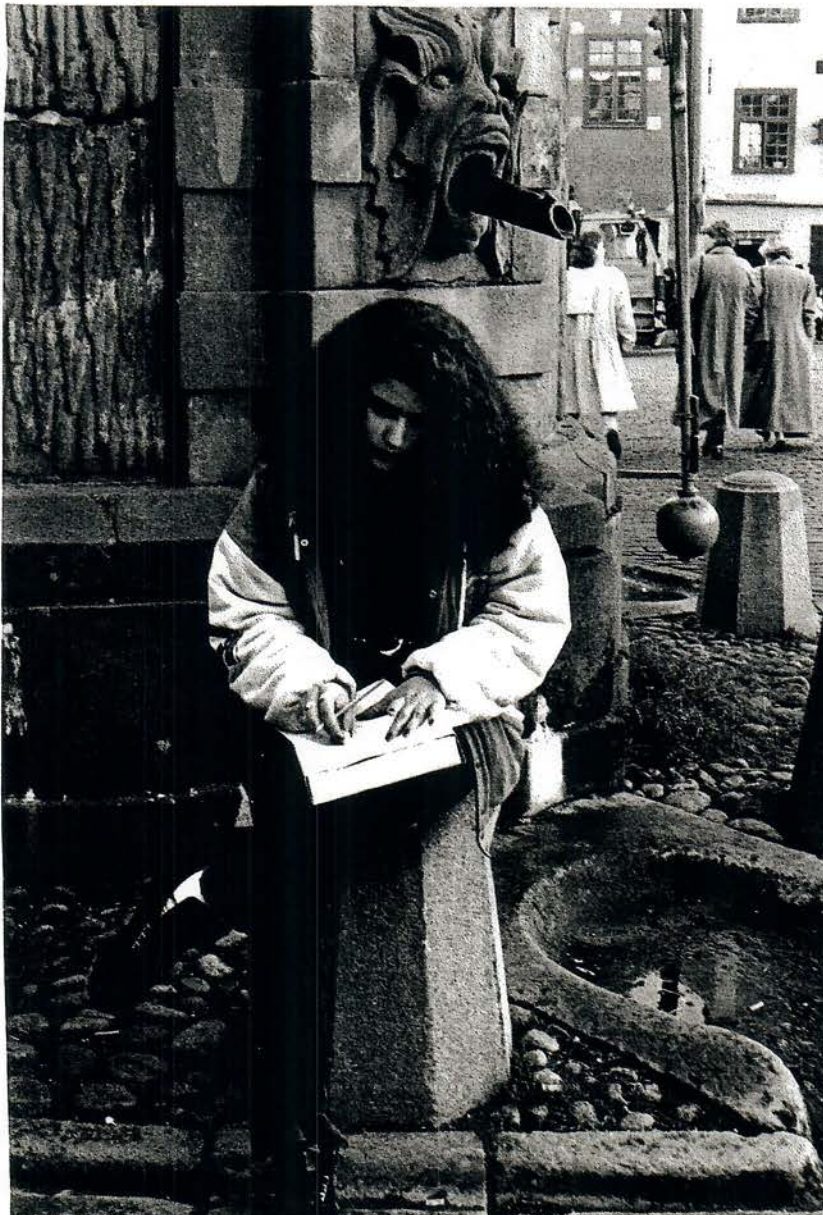


**Some of us.**

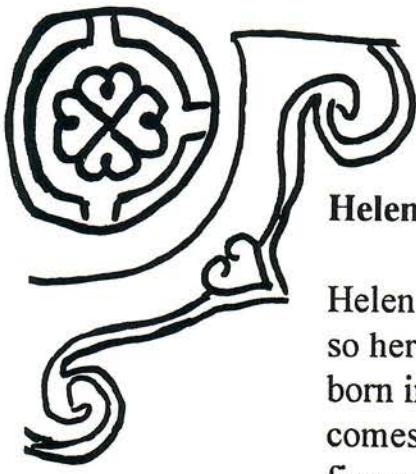
**Izla Safar**

Her name is Izla Safar and she is 16 years old. She was born in Syria in 1979. She came to Sweden in 1990 and to Rinkeby in 1994. She came to Sweden because her father had problems in Syria. She wasn't very happy to move to Sweden. She missed her friends in Syria. She has three sisters and they are all older than herself. She's interested in dancing and writing. She's an Orthodox Christian and she often goes to a church near Rinkeby. In the church they speak Syrian. That's the old language that Jesus spoke. But Izla doesn't understand it so well. At home she speaks Arabic but she also speaks good Swedish. Izla's grandfather was a farmer in Turkey in a little village, but because he was persecuted he went to Syria and got married there. Izla's father worked in a bakery shop. In Sweden he is unfortunately unemployed.

Izla wants to be a journalist and because of that she has to work very hard. She likes it very much in Rinkeby.



Magnus Johansson



### **Helen Njuki**

Helen doesn't want to talk about personal matters, so her you'll only get some facts about her. She was born in Moscow in the 25th of June in 1980. Her mother comes from Uganda. They came to Sweden when she was five years old. Her mother's parents still live in Moscow. Helen has a halfsister on her father's side. Her parents are divorced. Helen speaks four languages: Russian, English, Swedish and some French. In her spare time she likes to read books, watch television and go out with her friends. In the future she would like to be a psychologist.

Veselin Bulatovic

### **Veselin Bulatovic**

Veselin Bulatovic was born in Sweden on the 10th of August in 1980. His parents come from Yugoslavia, from Montenegro. His grandmother still lives there and he visits her every summer. His father has nine brothers and sisters. Veselin has to older sisters. Veselin speaks four languages: Yugoslavian, English, Swedish and some French. He is a Yugoslavian Orthodox. On his free time he likes to play tennis, watch television, skate and go out with his friends. In the future he would like to be a businessman.

By Helen Njuki





Felicitaciones por el premio noble!

Grattis till Nobelpriset!

Félicitations pour le prix Nobel!

Hjärtliga gratulationer till Nobelpriset!

Сретна вам Нобелова награда!

Сρεένα вам Nobelova nagrada!

مبروك لى جائزة نوبل

Nobel ödülünüzü candan kutlanım!

Συγχαρητήρια για το βραβείο Νουβέλ

ПОЗДРАВЛЯЮ С НУБЕЛПРИЗОМ





The Rinkeby Word & Picture Workshop began in 1983, in honor of the 500th anniversary of the printing of the first book in Sweden. Rinkeby children and youth drew pictures of their own environment, wrote about their own life, made paper and printed their poems on a simple press. The booklet **Rinkeby Writes, Draws and Prints** was followed by several other books in which the children wrote in their mother tongues as well as in Swedish.

After our latest book **In Rinkeby We Live with Our Hearts** (1991) we have continued our work on the themes of "Rinkeby History" and "Crossroads", a study of urban squares. The present booklet to Seamus Heaney includes two of these squares - Rinkeby, "our home square" and Stortorget in the Old Town. Through our work with "Crossroads", we have an exchange with other pedagogues, children and youth throughout the world - in Turkey, South Africa, Cuba, Japan, Estonia, England and Poland.

Elly Berg  
Art Educator

Gunilla Lundgren  
Author

Iris Berggren  
Projekt Leader

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Iris Berggren, Cultural Secretary



# Rinkeby

Ord och Bild

Verkstad

**Rinkeby Word & Picture Workshop**  
**Rinkeby Borough Administration**  
**Stockholm, Sweden 1995**

