

Tomas Espedal

Against Nature

Imot naturen

Gyldendal 2011

176 Pages

English edition available

FICTION
NOVEL



PHOTO: HELGE SKODVIN

In contemporary Norwegian fiction Tomas Espedal's work stands out as uniquely bound up with the author's personal experiences. *Tramp* (2006) introduced us to the wanderer Tomas. *Against Art* (2009) is a novel that focuses on the author; on how a boy approaches art and eventually becomes a writer. It is about the profession of writing, about routines, responsibility and obstacles.

Against Nature is an examination of factory work, love's labour, the job of writing. Working in order to live in compliance with society and nature. But what is natural, and why is the narrator drawn towards impossible, impossible love, books, myths, taboos? He reads the story of Abélard and Héloïse, about young Marguerite Duras and her Chinese lover, and realizes that he too is turning into one of those who live against nature.

Longlisted for the 2017 International Dublin Literary Award

Tomas Espedal made his debut in 1988. A graduate of the University of Bergen, he has published both novels and short prose collections. In 1991 he won an award from the joint Radio P2/Book Club Novelists' competition for *She and I*. Founder of the Bergen International Poetry Festival, Espedal's later works explore the relationship between the novel and other genres such as essays, letters, diaries, autobiographies and travelogue. Espedal's *Tramp* (*Or the art of living a wild and poetic life*) (2006) and *Against Art* (2009) have been nominated for the Nordic Council Literature Prize.

FOREIGN SALES

Bulgaria, Croatia, Denmark, France, Germany, Hungary, Israel, Italy, the Netherlands, Serbia, South Korea, Turkey, UK/USA/India

AWARDS

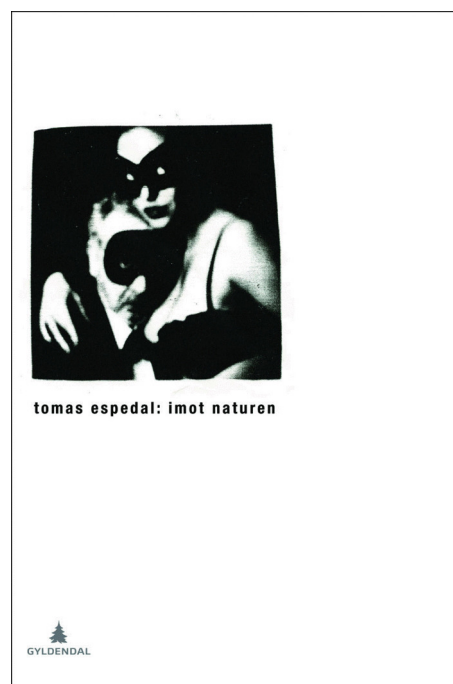
The Brage Prize, 2011
 Nomination Nordic Council's Literary Prize, 2009 and 2006
 The Gyldendal Award, 2009
 The Literary Critics' Prize, 2009
 The Bergen Award, 2006

PREVIOUS TITLES

Imot kunsten, novel 2009
GÅ, eller kunsten å leve et vilt og poetisk liv, short prose, 2006
Brev (et forsøk), novel, 2005
Dagbok (epitafer), novel, 2003
Biografi (glemsel), novel, 1999
Blond (erindring), novel, 1996
Hotell Norge, novel, 1995
Hun og jeg, novel, 1991
Jeg vil bo i mitt navn, novel, 1990
En vill flukt av parfymen, novel, 1988

RIGHTSHOLDER

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"a love story unlike any other ... wins you over with its concentrated calmness, by being so direct, unaffected and irresistible ... a masterpiece of literary understatement. Everybody who has recently been thirsting for a new, unexhausted realism, like water in the desert, will love this book."
Die Zeit, Germany

"Against Nature is one of the year's most powerful and original books."

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