



III International Biennial of Cartoon  
Niko Nikolla

# The third International Biennale of Cartoon “Niko Nikolla”



“PORTRAIT OF DRITAN ABAZOVIÇ”

The third International Biennale  
of Cartoon “Niko Nikolla”  
DT 8-10 NOVEMBER  
TIRANA 2024

Prepared by: Flora Nikolla



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## JURIA

Agim Krasniqi - Kryetar

Abbas Naaseri

Aristides Hernandez

Bujar Kapexhiu

David Vela

Gylten Krasniqi

Valentin Georgiev

# How is Abazovic Perceived by the World's Cartoonists?



By Flora Nikolla  
*Executive Director*

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For several years, war has dominated global headlines. News of military and electoral conflicts arrives from across the world. So, how is it possible that Dritan Abazovic, a politician born in a city at the intersection of two worlds-Albanian and Slavic;-in a country of only 600,000 people like Montenegro, has become a central figure at an international cartoon biennial? Yet, it has happened. His personal success, despite coming from a small country, has resonated globally. As a veteran culture journalist and the daughter of a founding figure of the caricature school in Tirana, I offered Abazovic's image as creative inspiration to artists worldwide. Imagine hundreds of artists around the world delving into his character: news, video reports, academic texts, producing a gallery where imagination knows no bounds. The ideas appear fertile and often remarkably accurate. Artists from Iran and Iraq, China and Pakistan, Serbia and Albania, Kosovo, and Indonesia, Brazil, and Cuba seem to enjoy the hunt. They have found ample material because Abazovic has made globally interesting history.

Between 2020 and 2024, Dritan Abazovic has been a protagonist—as an initiator, promoter, direct and indirect contributor to major political and economic developments for his ethnic group, his country, and beyond. He is the first Albanian politician to establish a civic party across the Balkans. With his party’s votes, he influenced the first political rotation in a country where governments previously changed only through... war in a century. Abazovic has been the primary contributor, with bold public criticisms and his party’s votes, to ending a nearly thirty-year-old governance. He became the first prime minister from a minority of only 5% de jure. He drastically reduced cigarette smuggling, a longstanding activity associated with the small republic. He increased the state’s economic influence, collecting more revenues in 2023, when the global mantra is privatization. In the Balkans, where the echoes of historical conflicts still resonate, he has removed interethnic and interfaith debates from the public stage. He has been received with state honors in all countries of a region where the West ensures Ukraine’s scenario is not replicated. With

excellent academic achievements, Abazovic, coming from Ulcinj with a population of 20,000, has dared to address globalization at audiences such as Harvard and Cambridge, with a highly regarded book.

Events like these are viewed differently by cartoonists from such a diverse geography. There’s consensus on his large curly head and eagle-like nose; red dominates as a color from both the Albanian and Montenegrin flags; the face is geometricized, and so on. However, artists diverge on what they perceive to be his national sympathies. Thus, an eclecticism emerges. This seems to stem from the fact that, as a politician, he has chosen to navigate beyond ethnicity and faith, serving as a bridge between them. Universality is found even in someone who comes from a small country and a small city, yet here we are in this suggestive collection of portraits of a unique figure. Abazovic comes from Ulcinj, a land of legends, alternating civilizations, a natural paradise for its beauty and resources, but also rich in myths like that of Servantes and his Dulcinea.







ALBANIA - ARBEN MEKSI







BELGIUM - LEJON DE BORGER

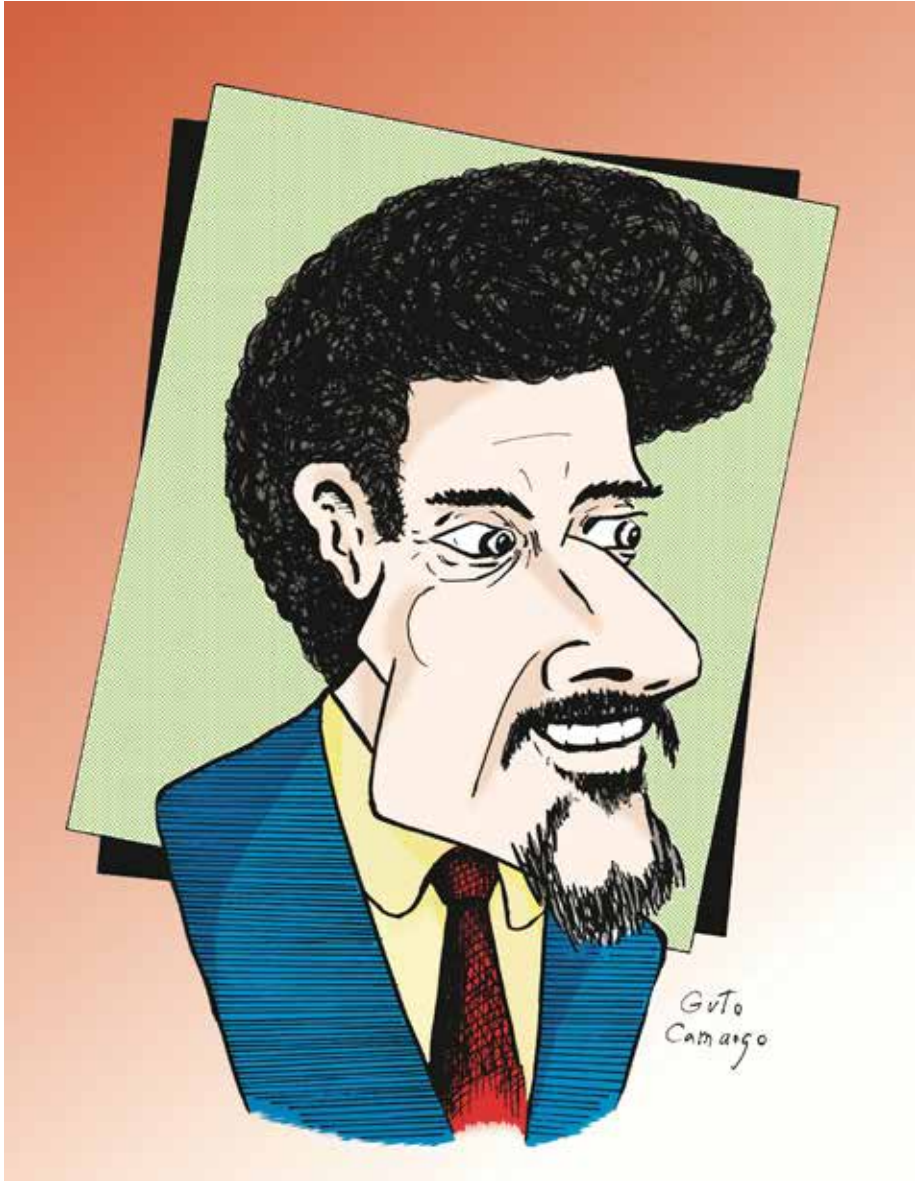






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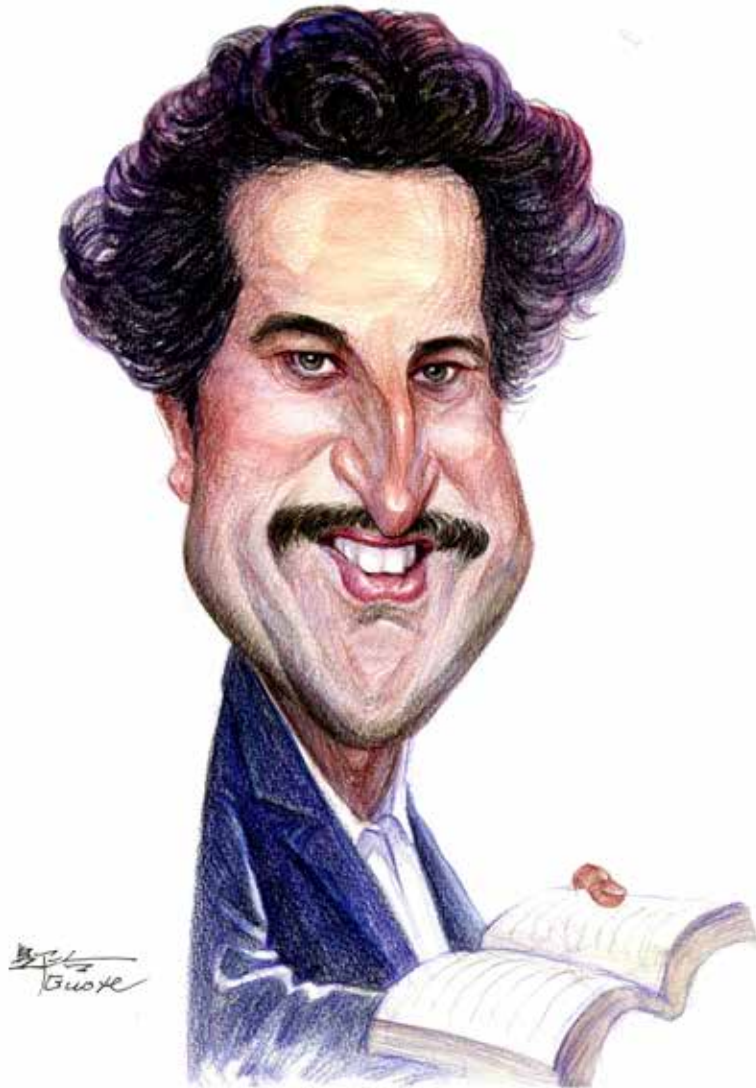






BRAZIL - EVALDO OLIVEIRA





















CHINA - YU SHIXIN





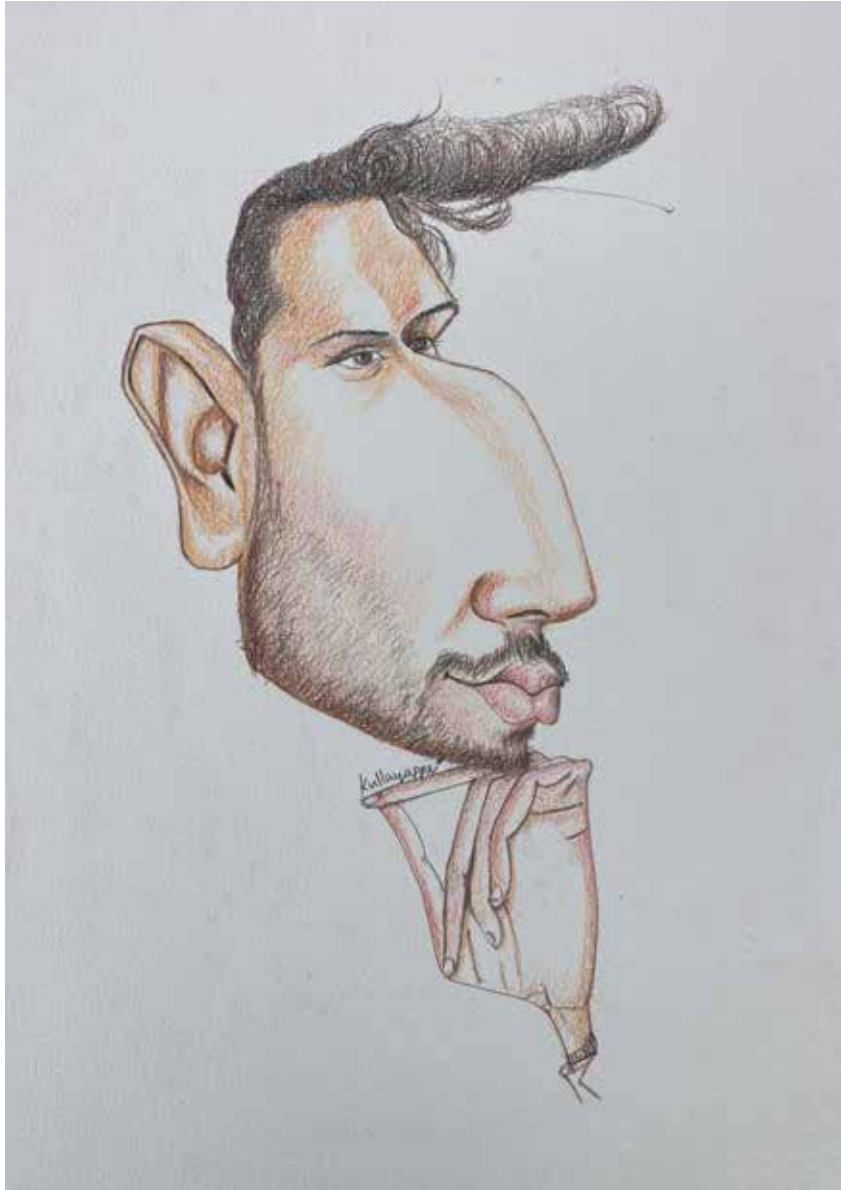
CUBA - JULIO CESAR ORTIZ





INDIA- B V PANDURANGA RAO







INDONESIA - AHMAD MUDIANTO







Jiwenk 20





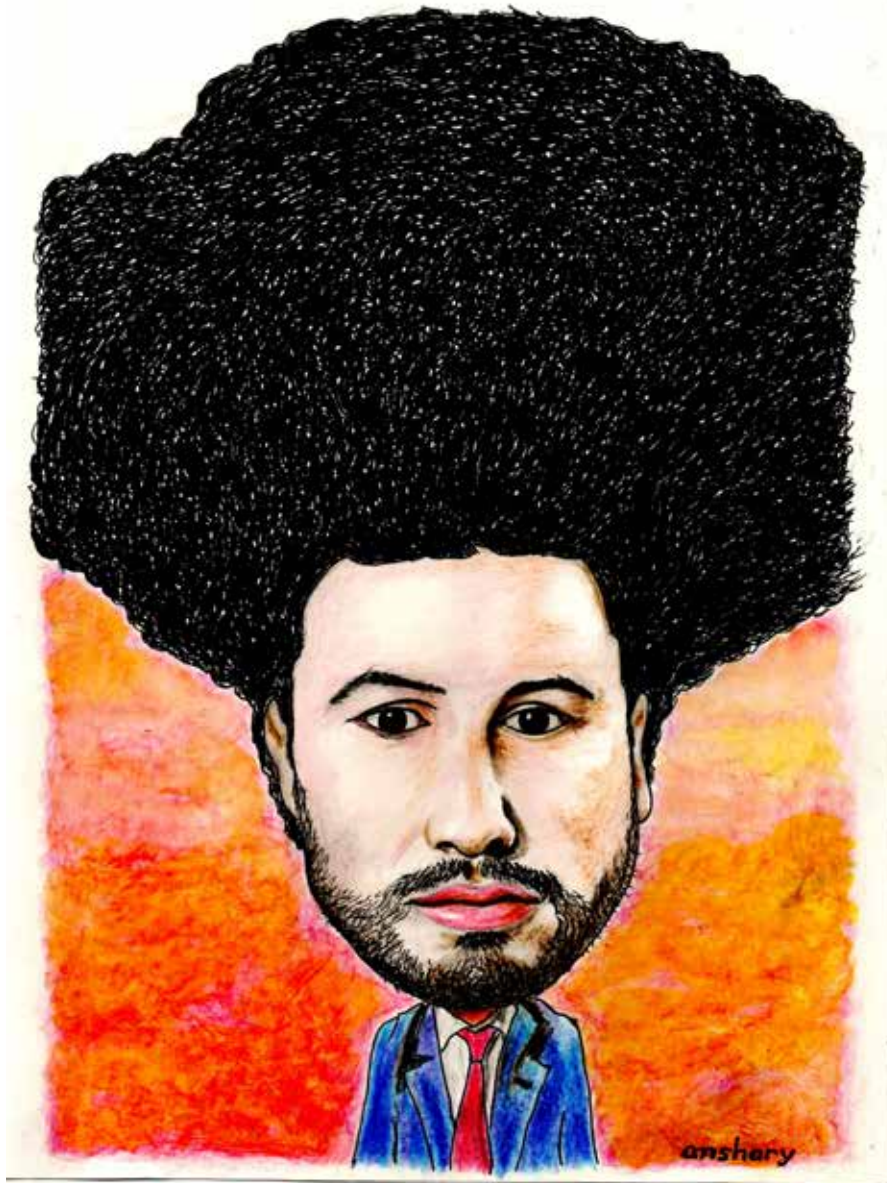
INDONESIA - SUSTHANTO THANTO





INDONESIA - TAUFAN HIDAYATULLAH

















IRAN - AMIN MONTAZERI

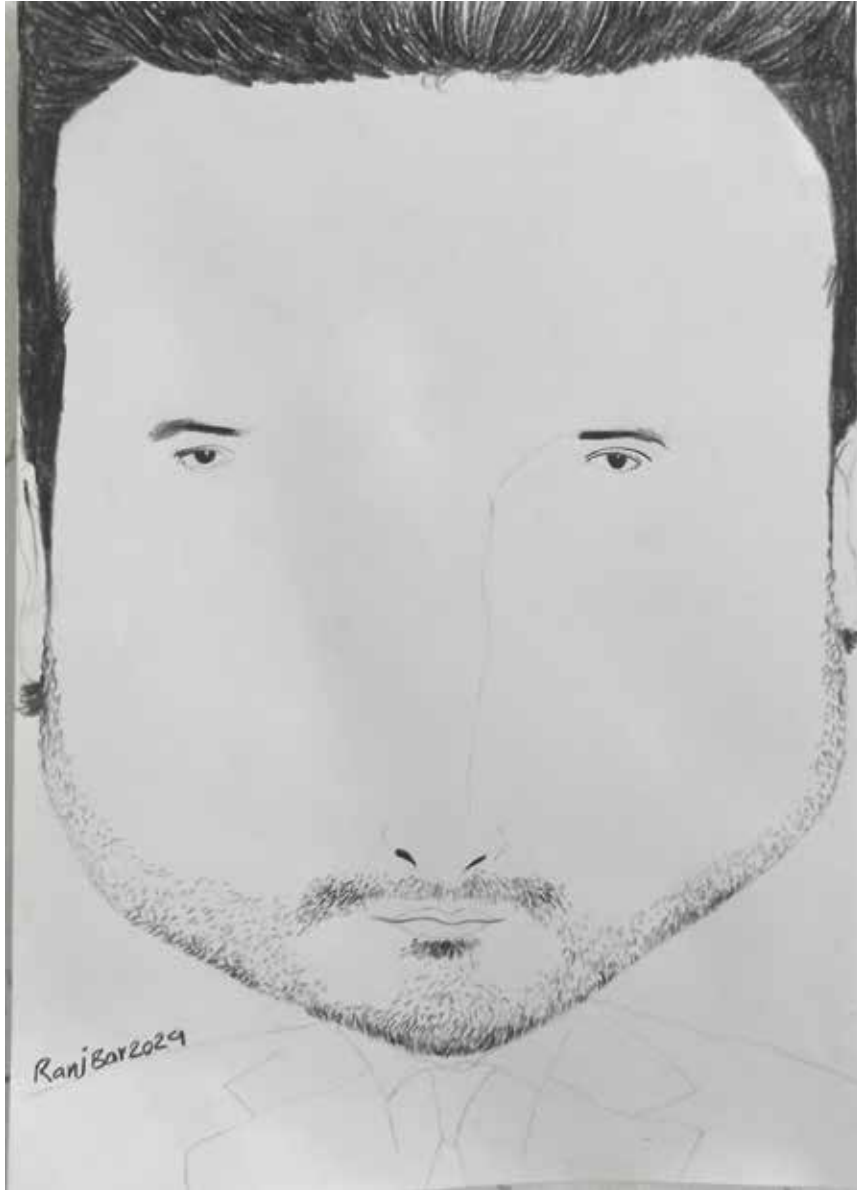




IRAN - IMAN NEMATI







IRAN - MOHAMMAD BAGHER RANJBA





IRAN - ROHAM AMIRPOUR AMRAEE





IRAQ - JABAR SABER QADER LASI



























NICARAGUA - WILBER CHAVARRÍA CENTENO

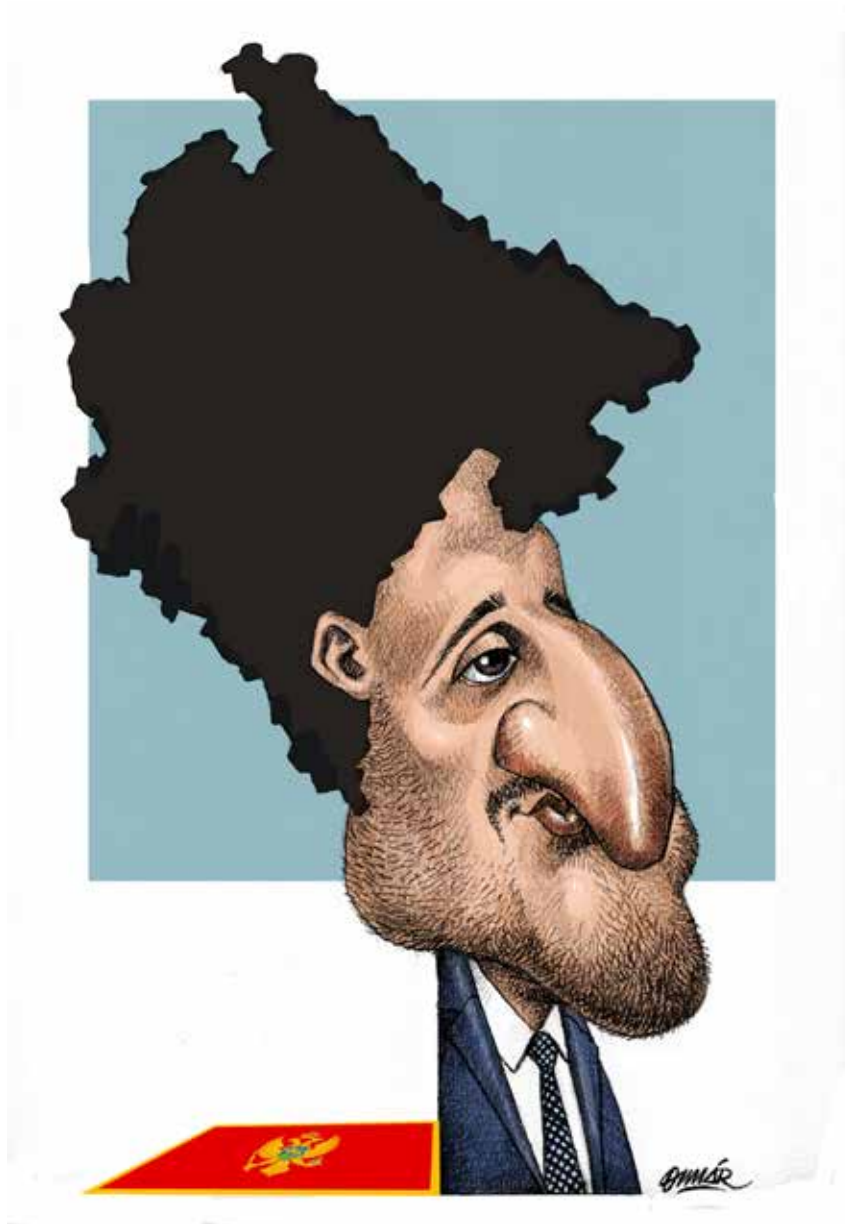






PANAMA - BENJAMÍN SAMUDIO MONTE



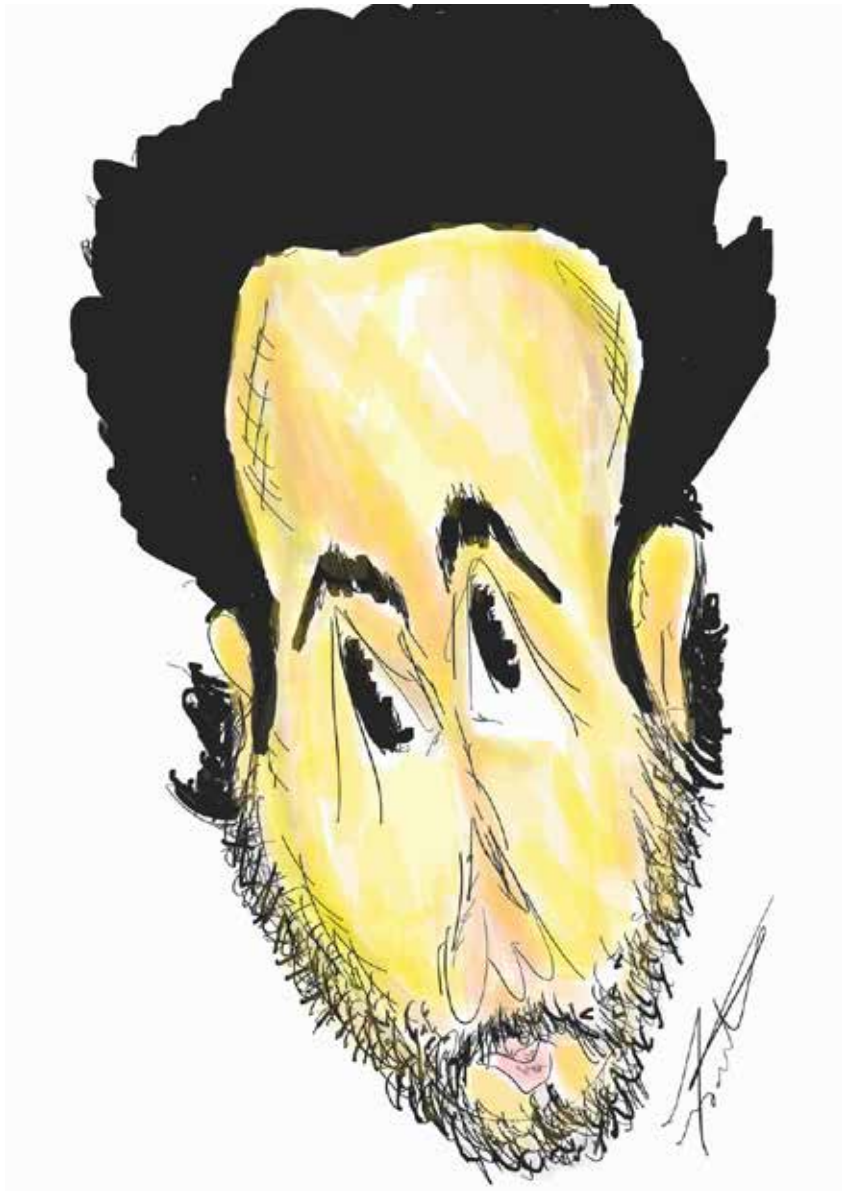


PERU - OMAR ZEVALLOS VELARDE

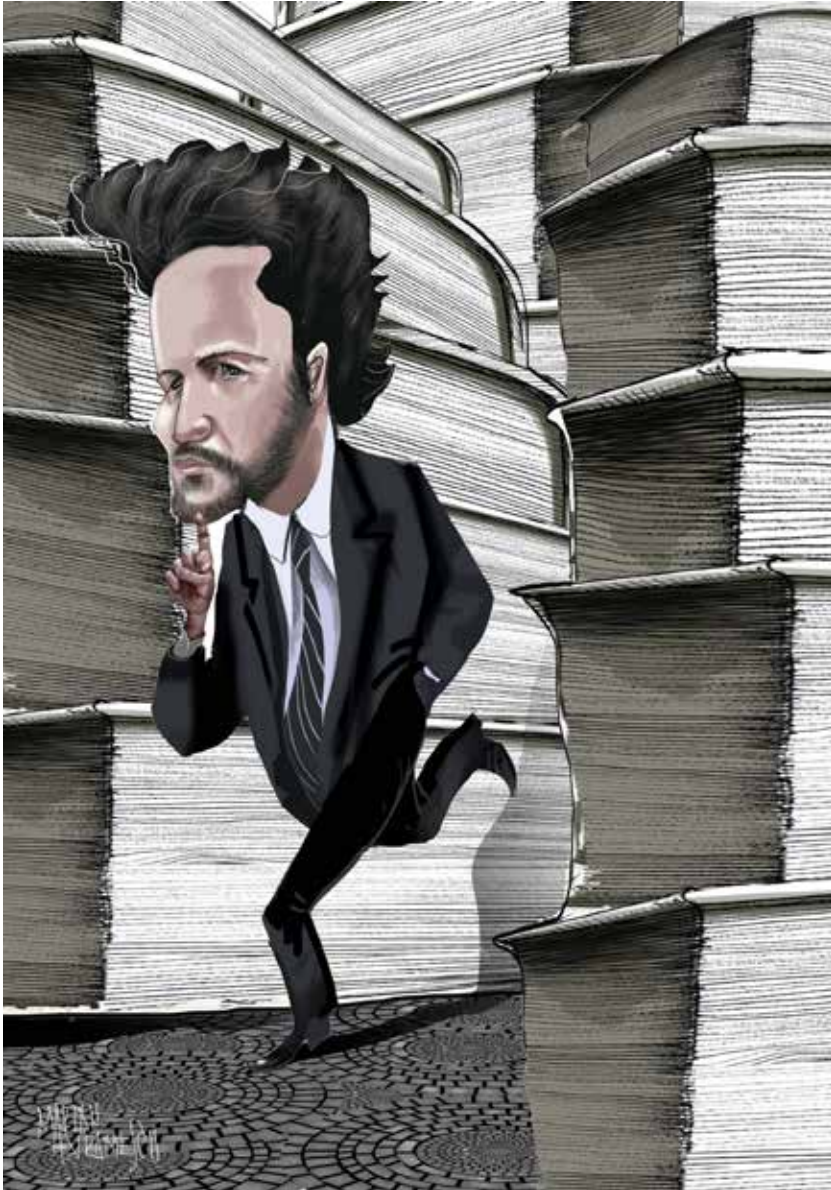
















ROMANIA - RADU MIHAI CHIRUȚĂ







RUSSIA - ANDREY CHESNOKOV

















TURKEY - EDA UZUNOĞLU







TURKEY - KAMRAN SOKHANPARDAZ





UKRAINE - OLEKSIY KUSTOVSKY







**CIP Katalogimi në botim BK Tiranë**

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