

Title: Newest Tradition: Translating Maria Stepanova
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This paper discusses the experience of translating poetry by Maria Stepanova (born in Moscow in 1972). Some of the concerns that arise in translation are common to any rendering of Russian poetry into English: rhyme and metrics must be handled differently to convey a plausible sense of formal pattern without sing-song or monotony; Russian words tend to have more syllables, so paraphrase may be needed to avoid padding a line; cultural referents may need explanation. Other concerns are more specific to Stepanova: she writes in a variety of genres, often making reference to foreign cultures as well as to Russian literature, and she mixes generic and stylistic elements in a playful and amusing manner. As usual, translation proves to be the closest possible reading of a poet, allowing a substantial presentation of this poet's distinct achievements.