

## AND HERE ARE MY THOUGHTS by Gaja Turnšek

Nature has provided Slovenia with fertile soil and various types of terrain. Slovenia is a place where the Alps, the Mediterranean region, the Pomurje plains and the Dinaric Karst meet. There are many agricultural areas, but - do we appreciate all of this? In the past, people spent much more time farming than today. This was crucial for their survival, something ordinary. People valued the Slovene soil, poets accentuated its value and encouraged Slovenes to work on it, because farmers presented the larger part of the population. Today we take our soil for granted. We are not aware of the fact that every year we exhaust the soil. Every year our trees bear fruit, fields are full of healthy wheat and vegetables grow in our gardens. We never think about it, people only take food with greed we thin forests for new houses, factories. There are less and less of those who decide to take up farming. There is prejudice in our society that farmers are poor, unimportant. Anyone who decides to follow a profession in agriculture is ridiculed. And exactly this is important, that people start being aware of the appropriate ways of treating soil and of its importance. People are conscious of the fact that we pollute the air and water and we strive to undo it. But, what about the soil? We use chemicals on the soil, we use up its nutrients, cut down trees and cause erosion every year. We are now in the year 2018 and we should along side water and air also be aware of the importance of healthy, good soil and take action so we do not lose this treasure given to us by nature.