

Frankfurt 2020
Non-fiction
Fiction

Kirsty Bell
HER BERLIN
Window to a City

HER BERLIN is a hybrid literary portrait of Berlin, a close-reading of a city, told from a precise vantage point: the view from her apartment window offers her a ringside seat onto the city's theatre of action.

To her – female, British, mid forties, adrift – the view appears as a puzzle that she begins to take apart. Tapping into energetic undercurrents, she recovers untold or forgotten stories beneath the city's familiar narratives. A new topography of Berlin emerges; a cultural history from the mid 19th Century to the present day, which seeks out female viewpoints and unseen aspects, beyond that which appears quite plainly on its surface.

The collected stories are woven together through 24 chapters, which ask questions about what a city can be, and the nature of its inhabitation. Rather than a strict chronology, the narrative interweaves past and present, circling through histories to reflect the complex simultaneity of a place in which so much has happened so fast.

HER BERLIN emerges as a chorus of recovered voices and disappearances made seen. It is a lesson in compassion.

- English world rights to Fitzcarraldo Editions
Rights available in all other territories
- Ms spring 2021, Publication: Spring 2022
- Approx. 280 pages



Kirsty Bell is a British/American writer and art critic living in Berlin. A contributing editor of *frieze*, for which she has written since 2001, she has also published widely in magazines and journals including *Tate Etc.*, *Art in America*,... Kirsty Bell was awarded a Warhol Foundation Grant for her book *The Artist's House*. Her essays have appeared in over seventy exhibition catalogues for major international museums and institutions such as the Whitney Museum for American Art, The Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam, and Tate, UK. Her approach to writing is rooted less in her degree in Art History and English Literature from Cambridge University (1990-93) than in her hands-on experience with contemporary art production, while working in galleries and curating exhibitions. Since moving to Berlin in 2001 she has been writing about art as a freelance critic. The critical reading of what is in front of her, and extrapolation of a broader cultural context, has thus been the basis of her professional life for the past twenty years. (For details of publications please visit www.kirsty-bell.com)

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FICTION

Żanna Słoniowska
The House with the Stained Glass Window

„Żanna Słoniowska writes beautifully; with empathy, sensitivity and with real political impact. As a Ukrainian from the multicultural city of Lviv, she provides an important new voice in Polish literature!”

Olga Tokarczuk

In 1989, Marianna, the beautiful star soprano at the Lviv opera, is shot dead in the street as she leads the Ukrainian citizens in their protest against Soviet power. Only eleven years old at the time, her daughter tells the story of their family before and after that critical moment - including, ten years later, her own passionate affair with an older, married man. Just like their home city of Lviv, which stands at the crossroads of nations and cultures, the women in this family have had turbulent lives, scarred by war and political turmoil, but also by their own inability to show each other their feelings. Lyrically told, this is the story of a young girl's emotional, sexual, artistic and political awakening as she matures under the influence of her relatives, her mother's former lover, her city and its fortunes.



Żanna Słoniowska was born in 1978 in Lviv and is a journalist and translator. She now lives in Kraków. She is the first winner of the Znak Publishers' Literary Prize, for which her novel was chosen from among over a thousand entries. In 2016, Żanna Słoniowska won the prestigious Conrad Award, the Polish award for first novels.

Publishers: Znak, Poland, The Old Lion Publishing House, Ukraine, McLehose, UK, Kampa Zürich, Delcourt, France, Alianza Editorial, Spain

- Rights available in all other territories

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Press:

The House with the Stained-Glass Window is remarkable, a gripping, Lvivian evocation of a city and a family across a long and painful century, at once personal and political, a novel of life and survival across the ages (*Philippe Sands*)

Few novels will engage the heart and mind as cohesively as this emphatic performance that triumphs through its depiction of the human stories overshadowed by history. (Eileen Battersby, *Financial Times*.)

Dans Une ville à cœur ouvert, Żanna Słoniowska raconte le combat de femmes à Lviv, en Ukraine, cité symbole des changements politiques de l'Europe. Visite guidée avec la romancière. (...) Il serait dommage de ne pas profiter de l'exceptionnelle porte d'entrée qu'est ce roman aux accents boulgakoviens proposé par Żanna Słoniowska. (Marianne Payot, *L'Express*)

À elles quatre, ces femmes symbolisent leur ville bringuebalée par l'Histoire, malmenée par les occupations successives. Dans ces pages envoûtantes, Żanna Słoniowska éblouit par sa faculté à mêler les époques, mais aussi l'art et l'amour, l'intime et la politique. (Laurence Caracalla, *Le Figaro Magazine*)

Słoniowska writes subtly and beautifully - every phrase conjures up images, casting colourful lights just like the stained-glass window of the title. (Sylvia Chutnik)

Słoniowska is a fascinating story-teller... This is an astonishing literary discovery. (Justyna Sobolewska *Polityka*.)

Żanna Słoniowska surprises and seduces. (Jarosław Czechowicz, *Krytycznym Okiem*.)

This novel was written as a challenge to crushing, cruel history; it arose from a desire to give a voice to the individual experiences of women. But at a certain point it turns in a direction contrary to its original ambitions, and the counter-history disappears in the fog of exploding smoke grenades. (Dariusz Nowacki *Gazeta Wyborcza*.)



Publication May 2021:

Annette Kehnel

We've Done It Before – A Concise History of Sustainability

Communities that functioned on the basis of sharing on the Monte Subiaco in Italy, sustainable fishing at Lake Constance, common lands in the UK, the economy of transient grazing among Alpine shepherds in the south of France, banks providing microcredit in Bologna and other Italian cities (Monti di Pietà) and crowdfunding to finance bridges in Avignon; progressive thinkers who analysed capital five hundred years before Marx; systems to provide collectively for those in need like the Fuggerei (social housing) in Augsburg; second-hand markets in Paris and the Beguines who lived in female communities based on the idea that less is more and who planted exquisite self-sufficient gardens in the middle of medieval cities like Antwerp and Bruges ...

Pre-modern history is full of inspiring and amazing examples and concepts that are ripe for rediscovery. And we urgently need them as today's challenges – finite resources, the twilight of consumerism, growing inequality – are pressing, but we are having difficulty finding new ways forward, because we still think and act according to nineteenth-century concepts that have become completely dysfunctional in the twenty-first century.

Historian Annette Kehnel shows us that we have to go further back in history to find inspiration for our future and provides surprising and vivid examples from medieval and early modern history. Her work is full of fundamental and inspiring alternatives to the status quo and its leading doctrine. Growth and returns were not always the measure of all things; we acted and lived differently and we could do so again. This amazing book takes a stimulating and revelatory look at a past that has the power to change our future.

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"Finally, here is a historically enlightening approach to the sustainability debate. Kehnel opens our eyes to the facts that, first and foremost, human life existed even before capitalism, and second, that sustainability is neither a modern invention nor something that still needs to be invented. A wonderful and much-needed book!"

Harald Welzer, best-selling author and editor of *futurzwei* Magazine

"Recycling, sharing, co-operation – it was all happening before! Annette Kehnel, a medievalist, argues that our conception of economics is stuck in the nineteenth century. We have to go further back in history to think our future afresh, and save the planet. She offers surprisingly practical examples and introduces remarkable individuals from the last two thousand years. This is set to be a bold and exciting book – a must-read!"

Lyndal Roper, Regius Professor of History, Oriel College, Oxford

"A committed and thought provoking book – rich in engaging examples and surprising alternatives - , that makes clear that we need the past for our future."

Bernd Schneidmüller, Professor of Medieval History, Heidelberg University

Annette Kehnel was Chair of Medieval History at the University of Mannheim. She has published numerous works on cultural and economic history and historical anthropology, the main focus of her research.

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Award for Bushra Al-Maktari

For her impressive reportage stories **What have you left behind? Voices from a forgotten war** Bushra al-Maktari has just won the Johann-Philipp-Palm-Award for Freedom of Speech together with the imprisoned Chinese publisher Gui Minhai. The prize is awarded every two years and is endowed with 20 000 €.

“The images that arise in the mind when reading this book leave deeper traces than news images. That makes this book so important.” ttt-magazine



Bushra al-Maktari (b. 1979) is a writer and journalist living in Sanaa, Yemen. In 2015, she decided, like her role model Svetlana Alexievich, to document the suffering of people in the war in Yemen. Her writings are published in various Arabic and international newspapers. In 2013, she received the Françoise Giroud Award for Defense of Freedom and Liberties in Paris as well as the Leaders for Democracy Prize awarded by the Project on Middle East Democracy in Washington.

- all rights available (Germany: Ullstein Verlag; Berlin)
- Approx. 270 pages, English proposal available, Arabic and German

<https://www.dw.com/en/award-winning-yemeni-author-has-one-hope-an-end-to-the-war/a-53869682>