

# Wallstein Verlag

Foreign Rights Catalogue | Autumn 2020

Fiction  
History  
Cultural Sciences  
About Literature  
Editions  
Backlist Highlights



**Wallstein Verlag**

Geiststraße 11  
D-37073 Göttingen

### **About Wallstein**

Wallstein Publishing was founded in 1986. A major event in the development of the publishing house was the huge success of Ruth Klüger's biography »weiter leben – Eine Jugend« (Still alive) in 1992. Partly due to its high literary quality, this book is one of the most-read literary works written in German on the subject of the holocaust, and has become a »classic of holocaust literature«.

Wallstein continues to add approximately 180 books per year to its list, with an annual turnover of approximately two million euros.

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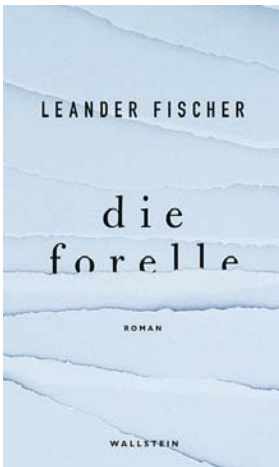
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»And that's exactly how it is, he says. A barbed hook is absurd. The fish has a fair chance. And if we were to catch it after all, we would set it free again. It's only the experience that counts, not the outcome.«



Leander Fischer  
**The Trout**  
Novel

782 pages

## Leander Fischer

# The Trout

Novel

Siegi Heehrmann, a graduate from the Mozarteum, a prestigious art school in Salzburg, has ended up in a provincial Upper Austrian backwater working as a music teacher for string instruments at a regional music school. His real passion, however, is reserved for something else entirely – the art of making perfect fishing bait. Being initiated into the secrets of fly-fishing by Ernstl Thalinger, his first task is learning how to tie the perfect fly-fishing lure that fish will take it for a real living being. Not only do the villagers consider Siegi and his friends to be outsiders, the local fly-fishing club also observes their activities with hostility. And doesn't fly-fishing club chairman Volki seem to be suspiciously close to Siegi's wife Lena?

In his debut novel, Leander Fischer develops a complex world out of fly-tying, with topics such as art and imitation, nature and environment as well as societal matters. The politics of Austria in the 1980s also play an important role, as does the National Socialist past, which continues to have an effect in the present day. His style captivates the reader from the very beginning, with ease and rhythm he lets the various levels of text flow into each other. The language gushes like a mountain stream, while being accurately constructed like one of the flies – an unusually strong debut.

**Leander Fischer**, born in 1992 in Vöcklabruck/Austria, completed his studies in creative writing and cultural journalism at the University of Hildesheim and now lives in Vienna. He has been published in literary magazines several times and was co-editor of the annual anthology of literary writing degree course at the University of Hildesheim (2018). In 2019 he took part in the Ingeborg-Bachmann Prize, and was awarded the Deutschlandfunk Prize.

## Ambra Durante

# BLACK BOX BLUES

»Everything I lay my hands on will be drawn on... It's a way of expressing my thoughts without having to speak.«

There are texts that take you by surprise. You didn't expect them, and you certainly weren't looking for them. It might, in very rare moments, happen to a publisher when a manuscript arrives on his or her desk, and it might happen to a reader when he or she picks up a book. »Black Box Blues« by Ambra Durante is one of these rare surprises. Is »graphic novel« an apt description for this book? Perhaps, perhaps not. But in the end it doesn't really matter – it is a work of such an intensity that the reader is immediately captivated, sensing that everything is at stake.

A nineteen-year-old writer and illustrator tells of the events that push her into her darkest moments – but more importantly of the things that keep her alive. She finds images and words for her despair, the fight against giving in to it and the thing to hold on to. For times she seems to be on the outside, observing herself, and even discovering a kind of humour. But with a topic that serious Ambra Durante doesn't resort to cursory consolation.

This is not an outside perspective, but a personal and existential attempt at self-rescue. Ambra Durante speaks only for herself. But perhaps she also reminds readers of situations they have lived through themselves. Perhaps it is presumptuous to say that a book like this helps us to gain a better understanding of people in a situation like this. Still it may alleviate the feeling of helplessness from which many suffer when they experience it.

**Ambra Durante** was born in 2000 in Genoa, grew up bilingual (German/Italian) and has lived in Berlin since 2007. After high school graduation, she started studying film studies at the Freie Universität of Berlin. Her talent for drawing was apparent from early childhood on. Her skills are self-taught, developing a unique style.



Ambra Durante  
**BLACK BOX BLUES**

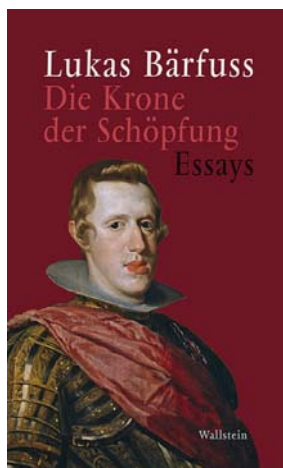
80 pages

In his columns, Lukas Bärffuss comments on the manifold urgent questions of our time.

## Lukas Bärffuss

# Crown of Creation

### Essays



Lukas Bärffuss  
**Crown of Creation**  
Essays

ca. 120 pages

»History does not move forward at a smooth, steady pace much like an ox. It rather wildly gallops like a horse, that is let out onto the meadows after several days in the stable«, says Lukas Bärffuss. In his columns dating from 2019 and 2020, he subjects history to his scrutiny in real time, so to speak. For instance, when he is surprised to observe what is really new about an iPhone that has just been released – nothing at all. He proceeds to reflect on the fundamental events that have happened in the few years this mobile phone existed, ever since 2008. Small and large issues are interlinked in an astonishingly plausible way.

One minute Bärffuss is analytically cool, the next he argues in a passionate and polemic way, whether the topic is Corona or women's equality, identity politics, the United States, China or the Brexit, and of course often Switzerland. While he asserts that people are afraid of constant change, he identifies stagnation as the greater danger. As a vigilant contemporary, a precise observer, and a thinking individual, he wants to get involved in everything, who unites the political and the poetic in the tradition of Heinrich Heine.

**Lukas Bärffuss**, born in 1971 in Thun/Switzerland, is a dramatist and novelist and essayist. His plays are staged all over the world, and his novels have been translated into 20 languages. Lukas Bärffuss is a member of the Deutsche Akademie für Sprache und Dichtung and lives in Zurich. Numerous awards, the most recent of which include: Berlin Literature Prize (2013), Swiss Book Prize (for »Koala«, 2014), Nicolas Born Prize (2015). In 2017, he was short-listed for the Leipzig Book Fair Prize for »Hagard«. In 2019, Lukas Bärffuss was awarded the Georg Büchner Prize.

## Sabine Peters

# A True Apple Shone in the Firmament

Novel

Marie creates an entire world in the sandpit. She holds a church service in the playroom with her sisters. She becomes a Native American, a car, a donkey, a bell. The mop in the broom cupboard is transformed into a maned idol.

A picture book about the mundane and magical experiences of a childhood in the 1960s – quarrels between siblings, holidays with the family in the Netherlands, perfect summer days. Yet, this idyll is constantly threatend or becomes a caricature, and comedy alternates with horror. Calmly, but with great intensity and imagination, Sabine Peters describes a sheltered upbringing with religious and literary influences. She tells tales of fear and elation, anger and affection, authority and the spirit of contradiction. A story book and a history book on the “years of prosperity” in the Federal Republic of Germany which then takes a leap into a surreal present. The images created are torn apart, form new patterns and flutter away.

It is novel about things that only appear to be small, full of poetry and quiet tones, told with sensitivity.

**Sabine Peters**, born in 1961, studied literature, political science and philosophy in Hamburg. After spending several years in Rhederland, she returned to Hamburg in 2004, where she has lived ever since. As well as novels, short stories and radio plays, Sabine Peters also writes essays and reviews. Awards include the Ernst Willner Prize at the Ingeborg Bachmann Competition, the Clemens Brentano Prize, the Evangelischer Buchpreis and the Georg K. Glaser Prize. She also received the Italo Svevo Prize in 2016.

**Sabine Peters' novel tells the story of a sheltered childhood, shaped by religion and literature. Simultaneously, it explores universal human fears that inhabit all of us.**



Sabine Peters  
**A True Apple Shone in the Firmament**  
Novel

184 pages

For the third part of his trilogy on human culture, Ralph Dutli turns his attention to the »eternal« metal: gold.

## Ralph Dutli **Gold of Dreams**

Cultural history of a divine and demonized metal



Ralph Dutli  
**Gold of Dreams**  
Cultural history of a divine  
and demonized metal

238 pages

Throughout the ages, gold has been coveted and worshipped as an indestructible, »eternal« metal. The gleam of gold is found in religion and in myths, in fairy tales, art and literature. It is a symbol of grandeur and greed, of power and magic.

When handling gold, human beings reach the height of their intellectual capacities and dreams – and the depths of their destructive passions.

From the bible and the pharaohs to the search for Eldorado, from the deities of India to digital gold currency, Ralph Dutli gathers gold dust for his cultural history from an astonishingly diverse range of sources. It was poets – from Horace to Rilke – who had profound thoughts on the nature of gold. Modern writers, from Baudelaire and Rimbaud to the surrealists, placed themselves as successors of the alchemists. And left us a legacy: the precious gold of their poetry.

Ralph Dutli dedicates the third volume of his successful cultural histories to the most contradictory of metals. Starting olive tree, followed by the honey bee, he now turns to a mineral element. A trilogy of human culture, from centuries full of surprising episodes and stories.

**Ralph Dutli**, born in 1954, studied French and Russian in Zurich and Paris and now lives in Heidelberg where he works as a freelance writer, lyricist and translator. He is the editor of the ten-volume Ossip Mandelstam Complete Edition. He has received many renowned prizes and distinctions, including the Johann Heinrich Voss Prize awarded by the German Academy for Language and Literature in 2006. Ralph Dutli has published more than 30 books and editions to date. In 2013 and 2015 Ralph Dutli was nominated for the German Book Prize and the Swiss Book Prize. He received the Rheingau Literature Prize in 2013, the LiteraTour Nord Prize in 2014 for his novel »Soutine's Last Journey« and the Düsseldorf Literature Prize in 2014 for his complete literary works.



# Monika Hinterberger

## Traces of Happiness

Women readers throughout history

Reading as an act of female self-determination.

Monika Hinterberger goes on a historical expedition, following traces of female readers back to antiquity. Based on portraits of women with books, she challenges the idea that the female gender was unacquainted with reading for long periods of time. She depicts where women learned to read, which books they chose and the interests as well as the expectations behind their pursuit of reading. One thing falls into place: being able to read laid the foundation for self-determined action, giving women the opportunity to learn, acquire education and go their own way. And it led them onwards to something new and quite unexpected – traces of happiness.

**Monika Hinterberger**, born in 1950, studied German, history and geography. She worked as a research assistant on projects relating to the history of women at the University of Bonn, including research on women's studies and presentation of women and gender in historical museums.



Monika Hinterberger  
**Traces of Happiness**  
Women readers throughout history

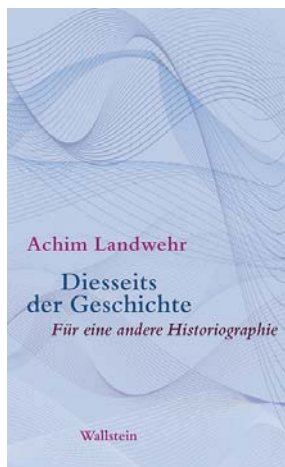
ca. 256 pages, ca. 10 partly coloured illustrations

**Are we all now at once?  
Historiography under the  
conditions of multiple tem-  
poralities.**

Achim Landwehr

## **On this Side of History**

On an alternative concept of historiography



History is present everywhere. For more than two centuries now, not only in western societies, we have been accustomed to thinking within this collective singular. Everything that happens is subjected to the assumption of having an effect as well as being the result. Leading to a paradox: everything has a history, apart from history itself. Since western historiography with its own, special concept of history has been confronted with different approaches to and understandings of temporality and transformation due to postcolonial discourse this special concept proves as out of time. And there is a lack of alternatives.

This book proposes another kind of historiography, based on the concept of *chronofERENCE*, developed in theory and case studies. Taking into account the fundamental human ability to live in and with different times at once, for no present is concurrent with itself.

**Achim Landwehr**, born in 1968, is a historian and professor of early modern history at the University of Düsseldorf.

Achim Landwehr  
**On this Side of History**  
On an alternative concept of  
historiography

380 pages

## Daniela R ther

# The »Nutritional Value Case«

An economic crime novel from the time of World War II

The purpose of »Gesellschaft f r N hrwerterhaltung«, founded in 1939, was to supply the Wehrmacht with food. Seen from today's perspective, it was a public private partnership project between the Army Administration Office and leading German food manufacturers – the participating companies included Dr. Oetker, Wilh. Schmitz-Scholl / Tengelmann und Knorr. The contract was a lucrative one for companies. Sales figures increased immensely right after the society was founded.

Based on vast historical sources, Daniela R ther tells the fascinating story of the society and its various actors. The protagonists were not only entrepreneurs and members of the army high command, representatives of the SS, a rival organisation to the Wehrmacht, also attempted to infiltrate the corporation. The history of »nutritional value« not only provides new insights into army catering, but also reveals conflicts and intrigues in the fight for a place in the processed food market in the »Third Reich«.

**Daniela R ther**, born in 1963, is a historian and scientific associate at the »Institut f r Soziale Bewegungen« at the University of Bochum.

**German food manufacturers and World War II**  
– a historical review of the  
»Gesellschaft f r N hrwerterhaltung«.



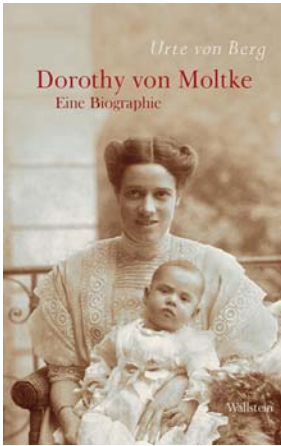
Daniela R ther  
**The »Nutritional Value Case«**

An economic crime novel from the time of World War II

ca. 224 pages, ca. 10 illustrations

The fascinating biography  
of a wise and courageous  
woman.

## Urte von Berg **Dorothy von Moltke** A biography



Urte von Berg  
**Dorothy von Moltke**  
A biography

248 pages, 29 illustrations

Dorothy Innes (1884-1935) was born into the white South African upper class. In 1905 she married young Count Helmuth von Moltke, heir to the Kreisau estate in Lower Silesia. She wrote weekly letters to her parents in South Africa about her new life and the Prussian milieu she now lived in. The main topic was her oldest son, Helmuth James, who was later to become the head of the »Kreisauer Kreis« in the fight against Hitler and National Socialism. Her reports on his childhood and youth are full of deep affection. From an Anglo-Saxon perspective, the letters cast an interesting light on the German Empire and World War I, as well as the Weimar Republic and the beginnings of National Socialism.

Dorothy died in 1935 at only 51 years of age, and was spared witnessing the death of her son on the gallows. Urte von Berg presents the biography of a wise and courageous woman who raised her five children with humour and kindness and who fulfilled her duties as lady of the manor. The numerous excerpts from the letters are embedded in historical context.

**Urte von Berg**, born in East Prussia, studied scientific policy, German and English in Hamburg, Oxford and Freiburg im Breisgau. She worked as a freelance journalist for »Radio Bremen« and »Die Zeit« for ten years. Later she set up educational programmes at Herzog August Bibliothek in Wolfenbüttel.

## Backlist Highlights

Rights available

## Georges-Arthur Goldschmidt

### From Post-Exile

88 pages

Georges-Arthur Goldschmidt is known for his memorable Holocaust literature. With an expressive power, he tells the story of a child who has fallen victim to the arbitrary actions and anti-Semitic persecution of the Nazi dictatorship. As the son of a Jewish family that had converted to Protestantism in the 19th century, he was in grave danger in Germany. For this reason, the ten-year-old Georges-Arthur and his older brother Erich were sent to Italy by their parents in 1938. From there, they fled to France in the following year. At a boarding school in Annecy, Goldschmidt continued to be exposed to traumatic violence. Finally, he was hidden by mountain farmers in Savoy until the end of the war, which saved his life.

Goldschmidt's work is deeply marked by a feeling of existential disorientation, of an existence between languages and between countries. In his works, he expresses the suffering of persecution in an exceptional way.

Rights available

## Thomas Brussig

### The Transformed

Novel | 328 pages

Bräsenfelde is a small, insignificant place, buried deep in the provinces. And yet something exciting, something incredible happens here. Fibi and Aram, two boisterous teenagers, turn into raccoons in the car wash at a local petrol station. No one can believe it, it seems like some kind of joke, but it becomes an undeniable reality that has to be dealt with. Reporter teams soon begin to arrive from all over the world. But what will become of Fibi and Aram?

Thomas Brussig creates an exciting novel from a bizarre, ludicrous situation, masterfully commenting on our contemporary society.

## Lukas Bärfuss

### Hagard

Novel | 190 pages

A man has been standing at the entrance of a department store in the closing-time rush when suddenly, on a whim, he begins following a woman. He does not know her, and only sees her from behind. But as though he were looking into a mirror, he says to himself: if she goes that way I will stop following her, but if she goes in the other direction I will continue to play the game for a little longer. It means nothing, no one is going to come to any harm, and the distance between us in the crowd is so large that the woman will not even notice. It is more of a sporting challenge not to get lost in the crowd.

#### Rights sold:

- Arabic: Atlas Publishing House
- Bulgarian: Black Flamingo Publishing Ltd.
- Croatian: Edicije Božičević
- French: Editions Zoé
- Italian: L'Orma Editore
- Persian: Nimaj Publisher
- Russian: Aletheia Publishers
- Slovenian: KUD Sodobnost International
- Spanish: Adriana Hidalgo Editora S.A.

### Malinois

Stories | 128 pages

The vanishing points in Lukas Bärfuss's stories are love and obsession. The objects of desire include a brother-in-law, with whom a man falls in love. Or a mother – although she died long ago, a playwright still longs and grieves for her. However, it is not only people that can be the focus of desire – one of the protagonists buries an Alfa Romeo Giulia in his garden.

Another thread that runs through these narratives, which have emerged over the course of twenty years, is coincidence and the arbitrariness of life, which can suddenly change everything from one moment to the next. In a language that is both sensual and analytical, Lukas Bärfuss tells the story of people who are torn out of their everyday routines. He traces the questions of how we encounter one other and the models on which we base the stories of our passions.

#### Rights available

Rights available

## Kai Weyand

### **The Power of Escape**

Novel | 198 pages

Explores the themes of guilt, responsibility, love and the desire to escape from everyday life.

From the outside, Karl's life seems to be perfectly in order, yet somehow he feels that everything is beginning to slip away from him. His close connection with his wife and son is gradually deteriorating – their conversations seem to be leading nowhere – and even his relationship with his father, who is in need of care, is becoming complicated. Inspired not only by the students at the prison where he teaches, but also by Homer, a very special boy he meets every day on his way to work, he begins to think about his life. And then there is Karoline – although he does not really know her, he thinks about her rather a lot. On a spontaneous whim he writes to her, and is surprised by the in-depth exchange on guilt, responsibility, love and life itself that ensues.

In his new novel, Kai Weyand creates idiosyncratic figures with a sparing use of words and a keen sense for comical and bizarre situations. He tells of friendship, relationships and the power that thoughts and decisions can have on our lives.

Rights available

### **Applause for Bronikowski**

Novel | 188 pages

For Kai Weyand it's a matter of life and death. Very funny.

Nies is over thirty now, but sometimes he still seems far away from becoming an adult. He prefers spending his time throwing eggs and tomatoes against buildings to working in a bank like his brothers. He is an observer, a player who makes up his own mind about everything. It is more by luck than judgement that he suddenly finds himself with a job: at a funeral parlour. The confrontation with death proves demanding, especially as a sense of responsibility has not been one of his outstanding characteristics up until now.



## Emanuel Maeß

Rights available

### Junctures of Light

Novel | 254 pages

Ever since he saw her dancing on the beach at a Dionysian Neptune Festival, Angelika's admirer has been in a state of turmoil. Not only does the encounter have a consciousness-expanding effect on his perception, he is also seized by a grave and all-embracing desire for truth, beauty and self-knowledge. His search leads him from Urspring on the river Werra, a provincial idyll deeply rooted in the past under the shadow of the Iron Curtain, to seats of knowledge and world cities of wisdom. Gods, spirits and demons speak out when the postmodern world of study leaves crucial questions unanswered. Are they too late? All that remains in the end is love, the leap and the junctures of light.

Emanuel Maeß has written an eloquent novel, the playful lightness and depth of which is unparalleled in recent literature.

## Steffen Mensching

Rights available

### Schermann's Eyes

Novel | 820 pages

A novel set in the Gulag, with German and Austrian protagonists as well as a retrospective view of Vienna in the 1920s. A novel that leads us to the heart of the 20th century.

Just a short while previously, Rafael Schermann had been a colourful figure in the Viennese coffeehouse scene and now this dazzling figure finds himself desolate and fatally ill, imprisoned in the Artek camp at the end of the world. This person who can predict the future on the basis of handwriting immediately attracts a great deal of interest – whether it be from the camp commander or from his fellow prisoners. And then Schermann claims he cannot speak Russian, and demands a translator. Steffen Mensching places the young German communist Otto Haferkorn at his side. The mismatched pair fights for survival under brutal, absurd conditions in the murderous cogwheel of the twentieth century.

Rights available

## Steven Bloom

### **Mendel Kabakov and the Year of the Monkey**

Novel | 208 pages

The story of a Jewish family in New York, touching on the great themes of love, death and rebellion.

It is 1968, the Year of the Monkey according to the Chinese calendar. Mendel Kabakov, a Jewish professor of American history living in New York, mourns the loss of his recently deceased wife Sonia, with whom he lived for almost 50 years. In his memory, he retraces his love for Sonia, and looks back on his own life. The novel not only recounts the story of this love, but also of the personal and family crises experienced by Mendel Kabakov's children and grandchildren.

In a light-footed and tender tone, Steven Bloom speaks of the great themes of love and family, set against the revolutionary political and social events of the last century.

**»Mendel Kabakov and the Year of the Monkey« is available in the form of an unedited original manuscript in English.**

Rights available

## Günter Kunert

### **The Second Woman**

Novel | 204 pages

Günter Kunert recently rediscovered a manuscript that he wrote almost forty-five years ago – a novel so bold, explosive and »politically impossible« that Kunert, who was still living in the GDR at the time, did not even show it to a publisher. The male protagonist is looking for a gift for his wife's fortieth birthday; the choice in the shops is every bit as discouraging as his own lack of imagination. In the end, he exchanges East German Marks for West German currency so that he can go and buy something at the Intershop, where he makes some thoughtless remarks. A tragicomedy unfolds about Montaigne, misunderstandings and the absurdity of the Stasi.

## Susanne Fritz

Rights available

### They left us War and Silence

268 pages

A highly personal book about the fate of the author's mother and her own family. A search for traces of the past, a German-Polish historiography and a narrative, all at the same time.

Her mother was fourteen years old when she was arrested and taken to the Polish labour camp Potulice in 1945. The reason: at the age of 9, in a region that had been invaded by Hitler, she had signed a form to say that she identified herself as a German citizen. Without making premature judgement, Susanne Fritz tells a moving story of the fate of her mother and the entire family over several generations. She asks questions concerning humanity and betrayal, identity and language, always making reference to historical documents. In this way, she spotlights not only her own family history, but on the relationship between Germany and Poland during the course of two World Wars, describing all the historical upheavals involved and their effect on each individual. Susanne Fritz opens up a profound dialogue with the past – she does so because she wishes to understand how it secretly influences her own existence.

## Maja Haderlap

Rights sold:

### Angel of Oblivion

Novel | 288 pages

The story of a young girl and a family, that at the same time relates to the story of a nation. It goes back to the memories of a childhood in the mountains at Kärnten. In a highly sensuous way, the author recalls the scents of summer, her grandmother's cooking, her parents' fights and the idiosyncrasies of the neighbours. It tells of a girl growing up and her attempts to understand her family and the people around her.

Although the war is over, it is still omnipresent in the minds of the Slovenian minority to which the family belongs and has more influence on people's behavior than she would have ever guessed.

- Arabic: Dar Al-Muna
- Croatian: Disput d.o.o.
- Czech: HAVRAN s.r.o.  
Publishing House
- Dutch: Uitgeverij Cossee
- English: Archipelago Books
- French: Éditions Métailié
- Italian: Keller Editore
- Slovenian: Litera Verlag
- Spanish: Editorial Periférica

**Rights sold:**

- English: Seagull Books

## Teresa Präauer

### **Becoming Animal**

100 pages

In »Becoming an Animal«, Teresa Präauer observes stages of transition and metamorphosis. Her text allows anyone or anything that has hair to make an appearance: in places that are overgrown with textured surfaces, fur, fake fur or grass. She has assembled a collection of shaggy figures for this purpose, from medieval drawings of mythical creatures – half real, half fantasy – to hairpieces from the Alps, Toni Erdmann wearing wigs and costumed furies from subculture. The author explores all these artificial and artistic phenomena in concrete pictorial observations and philosophical considerations.

In Teresa Präauer's work, animalisation is a procedure described in terms of art, culture, film and fashion, but she also applies it to the writing and reading of literature itself. As we write, we exhaust the possibilities of speech, reaching its human limits. As we read, we are transformed, according to the warning and the promise this narrative-essayistic text holds.

**Rights sold:**

- Arabic: Kalima Foundation
- Turkish: Kalem Agency

### **For the Emperor from Overseas**

Novel | 138 pages

A female aviator glides along in a bean-shaped aircraft, accompanied by birds flying in a formation.

The grandfather is immediately able to explain this to his small grandchildren by pointing his middle and index fingers upwards in the shape of a V for victory, for the formation the birds fly in! And with the same level of enthusiasm he shows them how to fly, teaching them to study the birds closely so as to learn their flying tricks. The grandfather is a real expert, himself having been an aviator until he crashed one day and met a rather mysterious Japanese lady whose aircraft he was then obliged to repair. The children hang on his every word, and the stories become more and more fantastic. That is, if the grandfather does not suddenly turn grumpy and give his listeners a telling-off, along with their grandmother, who bears no comparison to the Japanese lady. Or does she...?

## Gregor Sander

### What Would Have Been

Novel | 236 pages

The story begins today, in a run-down luxury hotel in Budapest. Astrid has been given this short trip as a forty-fourth birthday present from her new boyfriend, Paul. He thought it would be good for them to spend a few days away from the pressures of her children and his work. Another reason for planning the trip was that Paul wanted to look into Astrid's past. However, he ends up seeing more than he had wished for. For this story also begins twenty-five years earlier at a wild artists' party in East Germany, when Astrid fell head over heels in love with Julius. She has never really forgotten this Julius. And suddenly, everything is as it never was.

Gregor Sander interweaves past and present, telling tales of German life histories that almost make your head spin. He succeeds in creating delicate images that are full of surprises: Love, friendship, escape, betrayal. Nothing is how it seems at first glance. Or at second, or even third.

#### Rights sold:

- Arabic: Abu Dhabi Tourism & Culture Authority
- Belarusian: Lohvinau House of Literature
- Czech: Větrné mlýny
- French: Quidam éditeur

## Matthias Zschokke

### The Strict Ladies of the Rosa Salva

414 pages

There are a considerable number of books about Venice. But no one has ever written one like this before! It brings the magnetism of the town to life in such a passionate, observant and laconic way that it overwhelms you.

Zschokke's infectious curiosity protects him from idealisation – it is directed towards the whole world, wishing to fully grasp everything it is possible to know. In this way a shimmering kaleidoscope emerges, a study of the big picture and the smallest of quirks, from theatrical rumblings and the literary scene to the real things of everyday existence. A marvellous thing, this book.

#### Rights sold:

- French: Editions Zoé

**Rights sold:**

· English: Reaktion Books

## Stefana Sabin

### **The Blink of an Eye**

A Cultural History of Spectacles | 96 pages, 34 illustrations

Glasses as a cultural and stylistic object.

From the green emerald through which Emperor Nero watched gladiator fights, to Benjamin Franklin's homemade glasses for reading as well as distance vision, or Marilyn Monroe's cat glasses, which heralded a fashionable change. From the nobleman Titirel in the story of the Holy Grail to Emma Bovary and Harry Potter – this book tells of historical figures and figures from painting and literature, all of whom wore glasses.

The printing press, mechanisation, automation and digitisation were harbingers of profound and lasting changes that have transformed social, cultural and economic conditions in such a way that we commonly refer to them as revolutions. But there are also quieter revolutions: for example, when an apparently banal object fundamentally changes people's living and working conditions. One such object is a pair of spectacles. It could be said that modernity begins with a paradigm shift in medical philosophy, transforming visual impairment from a disease treated with pomades and tinctures into an impairment that can be corrected by means of technical instruments.

## Florian Schubert

Rights available

### Anti-Semitism in Football

Tradition and Taboo Breaking | 488 pages

Football is played by millions of people in Germany, and watched by even more fans in the stadium or on screen. It is a cultural event – but according to the author Florian Schubert, it is at the same time an area where discrimination, especially anti-Semitism, still exists.

Florian Schubert investigates the form and contexts in which anti-Semitism has appeared in football since the 1980s in West and East Germany, and how it is evaluated within the area of football. He analyses the function of anti-Semitic behaviour among fans, players and club officials – from the national team and the German Football Association to regional clubs. The final question is whether the stadium occupies a special position with regard to discriminatory behaviour, or whether it can be seen as fuel for social phenomena.

## Mareike Vennen

Awarded the »Opus Primum« 2018, the Volkswagen Foundation's sponsorship prize for the best newcomer publication of the year.

### The Aquarium

Practices, techniques and media in the production of knowledge (1840-1910) | 423 pages

Rights available

The invention of the aquarium around 1850 made it possible to observe, explore and experience the underwater world in a completely new way. Mareike Vennen traces the early history of the aquarium as a medium.

She follows human and non-human actors: hobbyists, scientists, glass plates, pumps, dripping missives, water snails and mud all make an appearance as protagonists. A series of micro-historic case histories shows which media were used to capture and pass on knowledge and ideas about life under water. The aquarium thus emerges as part of a history of ecological knowledge; its reconstruction shows how knowledge systems became dynamic in the 19th century, and how the boundaries between fields of knowledge and disciplines shifted.

Rights available

## Felix Lüttge

### Following the Traces of the Whale

Geographies of life in the 19<sup>th</sup> century | 279 pages, 40 illustrations

Whales are literally impossible to grasp – when the new biological sciences began to explain »life« in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, whales remained a problem. However, whalers traversed the oceans of the world in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, on a mission to track them down. Cartographers followed in the wake of the whalers, discovering the Northwest Passage and the Pacific Ocean, while natural historians and zoologists accompanied them into the habitats of the whales.

Felix Lüttge tells the story of the whalers who followed the whales, and of the scientists who followed the whalers respectively. It is a media and science history of the whale as well as the oceans that were crossed and surveyed in its pursuit. Lüttge describes the complex exchange processes involved as the whalers and scientists gathered economic, oceanographic, zoological and geographical knowledge.

Rights available

## Habbo Knoch

### Grand Hotels

Luxurious Locations and the Changes in Society in New York, London and Berlin around 1900 | 495 pages

Whether it is seen as a »marvellous thing« or a »form of homeless existence«: from the beginning of ultra-modernity around 1880 to after the First World War, the grand hotel had a central significance for the social life of the European and American elite. It was a meeting place for men of power and social climbers, business people and travellers, literary figures and posers.

Associated with the luxurious life of the grand hotels, Habbo Knoch describes a wide panorama of metropolitan sociability around 1900, between belief in progress and cultural criticism. The author clearly shows how, in the grand hotel as a symbol of modernity, traditional social order was dismissed in favour of temporary societies.



## Kim Ritter | Heinz-Jürgen Voß

Rights available

### Being Bi

Bisexuality, between Invisibility and Chic | 63 pages

At the beginning of the 20th century, Magnus Hirschfeld developed his central idea of sexual intermediaries, the fundamental insight that all human beings are intersexual variants.

So if humans are fundamentally bisexual beings, why do we so rarely encounter the subject? On the one hand, bisexual people are hardly visible as such in everyday life and community debates; on the other, celebrities seem quite willing to acknowledge their bisexuality. Where does this strange contradiction between invisibility and chic originate?

Heinz-Jürgen Voß presents theoretical approaches to questions of gender and sexual development and deals with human sexuality from the perspective of cultural and sexual science. From a sociological perspective, on the basis of biographical interviews, Kim Ritter talks about the experiences of bisexual people, which vary between recognition and contempt.

## Aleida Assmann

Rights sold:

### Forms of Forgetting

224 pages

- Italian: Società editrice il Mulino
- Serbian: Biblioteka XX Vek
- Russian: Redakciya zhurnala Novoe Literaturnoe Obozrenie/ New literary Observer

Amidst our prevailing concern with the topic of remembrance today, we appear to have forgotten how to forget. Although in fact it is forgetting, not remembering, that is the fundamental mode of human and social life. Generally, remembering implies an exception, making an effort, rebelling against time and the normal course of events. Remembering, on the other hand, is the unlikely exception, subject to certain conditions. However, remembering and forgetting are not mutually exclusive concepts: in order to remember something, many other things must be forgotten, both on an individual and on a collective level.

Aleida Assmann examines collective forms of forgetting in social, political and cultural contexts – culminating in the question of the impossibility of forgetting on the internet.

**Rights available**

## Walther von Seydlitz

### To Stalingrad

Letters from the front and from captivity 1939–1955 |  
428 pages, 20 illustrations

*Edited by Torsten Diedrich and Jens Ebert on behalf of the Centre for Military History and Social Sciences of the Bundeswehr*

Published here for the first time: the private documents of one of the most prominent generals.

Walther von Seydlitz was plagued by doubts concerning offensive Nazi military policies even before the encirclement of the German forces. He turned vehemently against Hitler's command to stand and fight. As a prisoner of war, he cooperated with the Red Army with the aim of eliminating Hitler's regime of terror. For this, he was sentenced to death in absentia by the Reichsgericht. After 1945, Seydlitz ended his cooperation with the Red Army, upon which the Soviet Union also sentenced him to death as a war criminal; he was subsequently pardoned and given a 25-year prison sentence. In 1955 he finally returned to the Federal Republic of Germany, where he was socially ostracised due to his »betrayal«.

His letters from the front and captivity between 1939 and 1955 give a unique insight into the course of the Second World War, described with a mixture of private conviction, independent analysis and military insight.

**Rights sold:**

- Hungarian: Corvina Kiadó
- Russian: AIRO

## Hans Mommsen

### The Nazi Regime and the Extermination of Judaism in Europe

235 pages

Hans Mommsen, one of the leading contemporary German historians, gives a compact overall interpretation of the complex events leading up to the unleashing of the holocaust. He begins by sketching the hostility against Jews in the Weimar Republic and the role of anti-Semitism during the rise of the Nazi party. He describes how the Nazi regime radicalized the persecution of the Jews, resulting in their complete disenfranchisement.

## Wolfgang Emmerich

Rights available

### Close Strangers

Paul Celan and the Germans | 400 pages

Paul Celan, born in Czernowitz in 1920 as a German-speaking Jew, wished to be a poet from an early age. However, after the murder of his parents in the Holocaust, he developed an ambivalent relationship to the German language. He often travelled to the Federal Republic from his home in Paris for readings or private visits. However, this Germany, where National Socialism was still virulent, remained alien to him, and deeply disturbed him again and again. His friendships with German authors (most of them former Wehrmacht soldiers) failed. In the so-called »Goll affair«, he felt that the accusation of plagiarism made against him was character assassination, which for him amounted to a delayed act of murder. His relationship with Germany and his mother tongue, a language spoken by murderers, proved irreparable.

Emmerich traces Celan's difficult relationship with the »close stranger Germany« on the basis of the author's literary oeuvre and his extensive published correspondence.

## Michael Hagner

Rights available

### The Matter of the Book

280 pages

Michael Hagner combines his analysis of the digital cultural critique of the printed book with a thorough examination of Open Access. In this way, he investigates the very phenomenon that bears some of the responsibility for the contemporary crisis of the book: the excessive supply of scientific literature.

An intelligent analysis of contemporary forms of book publication.

**Rights sold:**

- French: SAS Editions Payot et Rivages
- Italian: Adelphi Edizioni S. p.A.
- Spanish: Quaderns Crema, S. A.
- Dutch: Singel Uitgeverijen / De Arbeiderspers

## Joseph Roth and Stefan Zweig

### »A Friendship with me is a Perishable Thing«

Correspondence 1927 – 1938 | 624 pages

*Edited by Madeleine Rietra and Rainer Joachim Siegel. With an epilogue by Heinz Lunzer*

Joseph Roth (1894–1939) and Stefan Zweig (1881–1942) are still two of the most widely read narrators in German literature. The correspondence tells the story of a friendship that is broken apart by the political circumstances – and the story of two lives destroyed by exile. »We exiles don't live long« Zweig comments when Roth dies in Paris in 1939. In 1942, Zweig commits suicide in Petropolis, Brazil.

**Rights sold:**

- Swedish: Union of Armenian Associations in Sweden
- Ukrainian: Teza Publishers

## Armin T. Wegner

### The Expulsion of the Armenian People into the Desert

215 pages, 103 illustrations

*Edited by Andreas Meier. With an essay by Wolfgang Gust*

As a first-aid attendant in the First World War, Armin T. Wegner witnessed the stream of Armenian refugees driven into the Syrian Desert by the Turks. Between the years of 1915 and 1917, up to 1.5 million Armenians died there.

Immediately after the war ended, Wegner recapitulated his experiences as an eye witness in a presentation, which he held several times from October 1919 onwards. Here he showed 100 slides he had made in spite of the Turkish ban and – as he said in his lecture – »hid under his truss and smuggled across the border«

Although many of these photographs have greatly influenced the iconography of the genocide, up until now Wegner's eye witness report has remained unpublished.