

Wallstein Verlag

Foreign Rights Catalogue | Spring 2021



Installation: Teresa Práez, Foto: Martin Stiebig



Wallstein Verlag

Geiststraße 11
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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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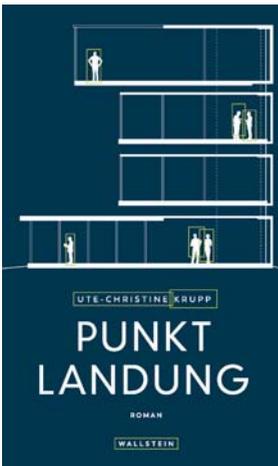
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Terrorism and love in the digital age.

Ute-Christine Krupp **Precision Landing** Novel



Ute-Christine Krupp
Precision Landing
Novel

159 pages

Berlin in 2011: the security services are on high alert; a terrorist attack is anticipated, with the German Reichstag being one of the targets. Paul Jost, part of the convened special commission, is being tasked with the decision whose telephone is going to be tapped, and when. Weighing up the basic right of freedom with the preservation of public safety, he struggles with the burden of his responsibilities. While he is constricting people's liberty at work, in private he is looking for exactly this: freedom, since his marriage has fallen apart. Professionally the digital sphere allows him to follow the tracks of Islamists, while at home it helps him in his search for a new love.

How does it change a person if he works for a national security agency and is responsible for the prevention of terrorist attacks? How does one cope with such a burden? How far can the government go when it comes to the violation of fundamental rights? These are the questions the author addresses in this novel, which is based on actual events.

Ute-Christine Krupp has been living in Berlin since 2001. In the 90s, she was part of the promising young literary scene in Cologne surrounding Marcel Beyer and Norbert Hummelt. She writes novels and short stories.

Teresa Präauer

Happiness is a Bean

and other stories

These stories are love stories, but not only in a traditional sense. They are also love stories about the love for the small things surrounding us on a daily basis. They include actual and fictional recollections: taking snowboard lessons in the Salzburg mountains with Phil Collins, visiting Britney Spears at home or a first trip to London tracing Jimi Hendrix, which recalls childhood memories. Also these are stories about literature, art and the internet. Painters make an appearance, along with writers, poems, TV shows, YouTube tutorials and five tragically intertwined squirrels from Wisconsin.

Teresa Präauer's brilliantly written stories paint a panoramic picture of the present time. Wherever she turns her gaze, images emerge that are as surprising as they are insightful, as witty as they are profound. With curiosity and knowledge, she looks into the world and invites us to entertain wild thoughts.

Teresa Präauer, born in 1979, studied German and fine art. Her novels »Für den Herrscher aus Übersee«, »Johnny und Jean« and »Oh Schimmi« as well as the essay »Tier werden« (»Becoming Animal«, Seagull Book, to be published) are published by Wallstein Verlag. She has received numerous awards and prizes, including the »aspekte«-Prize in 2012 and the Erich Fried Prize in 2017. She lives in Vienna.

These stories paint a panoramic picture of the present time. Colourfully iridescent and sharply contoured, they come together as a kaleidoscopic whole.



Teresa Präauer
Happiness is a Bean
and other stories

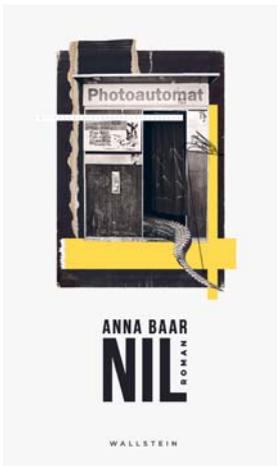
ca. 320 pages

»In the end everything comes true, especially the parts that were made up.«
A novel on the prophetic power of writing.

Anna Baar

Nile

Novel



A storywriter is tasked to bring her serial for a women's magazine to a close with the next issue. Feverishly she sketches a final scenario, but then destroys the notes – not because they weren't good enough, but because she is afraid they will come true.

What if the things she has written turn out to be biographical – not in a backwards sense, like looking back on life in a retrospective, but in the sense of fortune-telling, becoming real along the way? Does the narrator only exist in her story? And if so, is there a way of escaping it?

A highly literary novel about the relationship between reality and fiction, narration and memory – enthrallingly written, with a delicate use of language.

Anna Baar, born in Zagreb in 1973, childhood and youth in Vienna, as well as Klagenfurt and on the Dalmatian island of Brač. Her debut novel »Die Farbe des Granatapfels« was on top of the ORF bestseller list for three months consecutively. She was awarded the Theodor Körner Prize for her work on »Als ob sie träumend gingen«. Today Anna Baar lives in Klagenfurt and Vienna.

Anna Baar
Nile
Novel

148 pages

Ulrike Kolb

Close Memories

Ulrike Kolb, as writer, was influenced not only by the political events of the 1960s and 70s, but also gradual insights into the National Socialist past, as well as encounters with friends she met in various places in Germany and Israel all left their mark on her. Modern art and literature repeatedly provide her with orientation, help her discovering her own point of view. She has longings and dreams, nevertheless she is troubled by fears and self-doubt. Along with a mother with severe psychotic episodes – a blend of tragedy and comedy.

A literary contemplation on a fascinating life, including Kolb's friendships with authors and other well-known personalities.

Ulrike Kolb, born in 1942, now lives in Berlin after many years as a freelance writer in Frankfurt am Main.

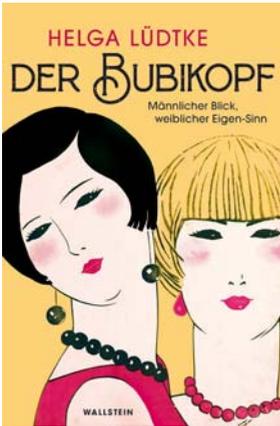
Literary recollections of an eventful life as a writer: on politics and literature, friendship and love, but also the fear of insufficiency.



Ulrike Kolb
Close Memories

222 pages

**The Coupe à la Garçonne:
icon of the modern times
and subject of bitter contro-
versy over female self-de-
termination.**



Helga Lüdtkke
The Bob
Male gaze – female self-
determination

ca 304 pages, ca. 85 illustra-
tions

Helga Lüdtkke

The Bob

Male gaze – female self-determination

It was not only in Berlin that women from all social classes adopted the revolutionary bob-haircut on a massive scale – despite considerable resistance from a patriarchal society. At the centre of the vehement controversy was the »masculinised«, androgynous woman, who called the traditional image of femininity into question. Nevertheless, many women made their own personal, wilful decision. They experienced the bob as a cipher of modernity, a sign of self-determination and emancipation.

Helga Lüdtkke examines the imagery and symbolism of the bob and its political, economical, social, religious and ideological contexts of interpretation – from the perspective of hairdressing, the history of consumerism, body politics, gender history and cultural history. In synthesis, a panopticon of the Weimar years emerges. Its rich illustrations, partly in colour, also follow the methodology of »history as a collage«.

Until 2004, **Helga Lüdtkke** worked as an editor at the Public Library of Frankfurt am Main. From 1974 to 2017 she was a reviewer for the media services of the ekz, and from 2003 to 2007 a lecturer at Stuttgart Media University.

Udo Grashoff

Danger from Within

Treason as part of communist resistance to National Socialism

Treason had disastrous consequences in the Communist Party's resistance to National Socialism. Being a peripheral matter imposed on the party, it was nevertheless deadly serious and not only a matter of life or death for the individual, but also a threat to the existence of the scattered remnants of the Communist Party organisation.

Udo Grashoff carries out the first systematic analysis of the manifestations of treason in the illegally active Communist Party of Germany (KPD) during the »Third Reich«. He examines matters including the communist defections in 1933, the collaboration of KPD intelligence service employees with the Gestapo, the resignation of emigrated communists and the KPD's attitude towards killing informers. The author dissects a broad spectrum of behaviour ranging from unscrupulous betrayal enforced by torture to pretence of betrayal. Numerous stories of weakness, violence, tragedy and perfidy reveal the blind spots in the normative image of the »anti-fascist resistance« that was widely propagated – particularly in the GDR.

Udo Grashoff, born in Halle (Saale) in 1966, studied biochemistry in Halle as well as history and literature in Leipzig. He is author of numerous radio features, and has designed several exhibitions on historical topics. In 2006, he received his doctorate on the topic of Suicide in the GDR from the University of Leipzig, where he also habilitated in 2019. He is currently a lecturer in Leipzig, his research focuses on the history of the GDR and the »Third Reich«.

Communist resistance to National Socialism in practice: fraught with tension and contradictions.



Udo Grashoff
Danger from Within
Treason as part of communist resistance to National Socialism

471 pages

The uprising against the Ottoman Empire and the birth of the Greek nation – told as a tragicomedy.

Richard Schuberth

Lord Byron's Last Journey

A history of the Greek war of Independence



Richard Schuberth
Lord Byron's Last Journey
A history of the Greek war of Independence

ca. 448 pages, ca. 19 illustrations

The Greek War of Independence (1821-29): a rebellion in which nothing was the way it appeared to be. It drew in thousands of Philhellenes from all corners of Europe: visionaries, fools, impostors, crooks, idealists – among them the poet Lord Byron. Once there, their illusions were shattered by the situation on-site: the »struggle for freedom« was led by gangs of bandits, warlords and owners of large estates; the Muslim and Jewish populations were murdered or expelled in the first months of the war, while the Ottomans did nothing but administer their eroding empire and the British creditors acted as self-serving speculators.

Richard Schuberth tells the story of the war in sharp contrast to national constructions – as an epic tragicomedy, which above all caused unimaginable suffering for the general public. His study shows the various facets of this war and its protagonists, construing this conflict as the »umbilical hernia of modernity«, during which many of the topoi and ideologies of our time made an appearance: media propaganda, orientalism or nationalism.

Richard Schuberth, born in Ybbs (Danube) in 1968, studied cultural anthropology, philosophy, psychology and history in Vienna. He has written novels, comedies, essays, aphorisms, poetry, songs, screenplays and non-fiction books.

Anja Laukötter

Sex, the right way!

Body politics and emotional education in 20th century cinema

From the beginning of the 20th century, a global media society originated through cinema. Especially sex education films circulated, thereby crossing national borders. They provided information on sexually transmitted diseases, from syphilis to AIDS, and aimed to shape people's attitudes and behaviour in order to safeguard physical health, drawing on medical science, education science as well as (experimental) psychology.

In spite of a changing emotional culture in the 20th century, emotions have always been attributed a great importance. During World War I, for example, fear was supposed to discourage soldiers from having unprotected sex with prostitutes. In the cinemas of the Weimar era, the population was mobilised against »false shame«. And during the time of National Socialism, the emphasis in cinema was on unconditional trust. The GDR or the FRG focussed on »positive emotions« to promote the formation of the »socialist personality« and the self-guidance of the young generation. With the emergence of AIDS, emotions were merged with conveyed knowledge.

Anja Laukötter, born in 1972, works a research assistant at the centre »History of Emotions« at the Max Planck Institute for Human Development in Berlin and is co-director of the international ERC research group »The healthy self as body capital« (Advanced Grant).

Winner of the Otto Hintze Prize, awarded by the Claudia and Michael Borgolte Foundation.

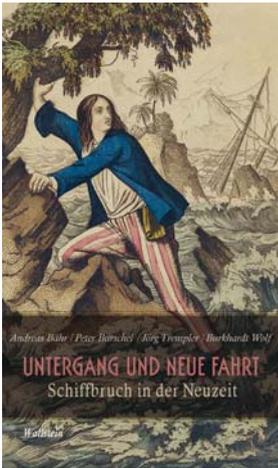
How did moving images influence people's attitudes and behaviour in our global media-oriented society?



Anja Laukötter
Sex, the right way!
Body politics and emotional education in 20th century cinema

ca. 544 pages, ca. 130 illustrations

Shipwreck as an end as well as a new beginning in the European modern era, researched from the perspectives of history, literary and visual studies.



Andreas Bähr, Peter Burschel, Jörg Trempler and Burkhardt Wolf
Sinking and new speed
Shipwreck in Modern Age

186 pages, 17 illustrations

Andreas Bähr, Peter Burschel, Jörg Trempler and Burkhardt Wolf

Sinking and new speed

Shipwreck in Modern Age

Someone who is shipwrecked loses a lot, if not everything: ship, cargo, and often life. Hopes are shattered, plans and life scripts are becoming invalid. However, shipwreck can also imply the possibility of gain – for the survivors or outside observers. This perspective, to which little attention has been paid until now, is the main focus of this book.

The authors examine the European modern era, where shipwrecking gained greatest meaning in seafaring, literature and art, as well as in a metaphorical sense. Where utopian societal ideas start with wreckage, where distress at sea is understood as the end of one's old life as well the starting point of a new one and the aestheticisation of shipwrecking evokes a feeling of sublimeness, where disaster is a moment of critical social diagnosis that results in new maritime regulations and nautical safety technology, accidents at sea do not only signify the end of successful voyaging, but in some ways its beginning.

Andreas Bähr, born in 1968, is a professor of modern European cultural history at the European University Viadrina Frankfurt (Oder).

Peter Burschel is the director of the Herzog August Library Wolfenbüttel and a professor of medieval and early modern cultural history at the University of Göttingen.

Jörg Trempler, born in 1970, is a professor of art history and visual studies at the University of Passau.

Burkhardt Wolf is a professor of modern German literature at the Institute for German Studies, University of Vienna. His research interests include the poetics of political representations and social technologies, archival practices, literary anthropology and the history of affect, the discourse history of danger and risk, and the cultural and literary history of the sea and seafaring.

Heike Paul

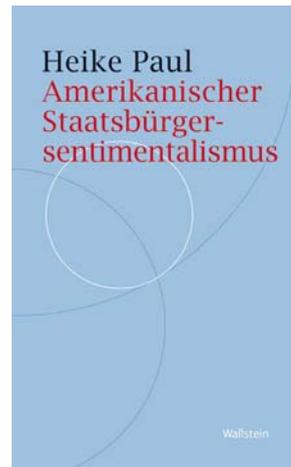
American Civic Sentimentalism

On the state of US political culture

The sentimental aspect of American political culture may be subject to economic fluctuations, but since the founding of the United States it has been a well-established pattern used for generating public sentiment and a sense of community. The increased occurrence of sentimentalism in US history has always been a symptom of political crises, as well as concomitant crises of political communication. Yet civic sentimentalism has worked for American state leaders and protest movements alike. Donald Trump's presidency represents a striking departure from the conventions of civic sentimentalism. Trump has proven consistently that gestures of empathy, compassion and grief are alien to him. Nonetheless, numerous examples show that Americans continue to strive for sentimentalism in their civic engagement, showing public expressions of grief, compassion and concern. However, it has become obvious not only since the last election campaign that compassion and affective identification are no longer enough to bridge the profound social polarisation in the country.

Heike Paul, born in 1968, is a professor of American studies, especially North American literature and cultural studies, at the University of Erlangen-Nuremberg. Her research interests in the field of American studies with a cultural hermeneutic orientation include cultural patterns of community formation in the USA. She was awarded the Leibniz Prize in 2018.

Between nationalism and patriotism, unity and division. What does American civic sentimentalism mean for social and national cohesion in the US?



Heike Paul
American Civic Sentimentalism
On the state of US political culture

ca. 144 pages, ca. 12 illustrations

The significant impact of Southeast European stakeholders and conflicts on modern international law.



Adamantios Theodor Skordos
Southeast Europe and Modern International Law
A trans-territorial and global history of the 19th and 20th century

ca. 528 pages

Adamantios Theodor Skordos

Southeast Europe and Modern International Law

A trans-territorial and global history of the 19th and 20th century

Since the 19th century, Southeast Europe as a historical sub-region of Eastern Europe has been strongly contested on both an internal and external level. Here, Adamantios Skordos addresses the significance of Southeast Europe for the development of international law in the 19th and 20th century. On the one hand, his interdisciplinary study focuses on the participation of Southeast European international lawyers, diplomats and politicians in transnational networks and international legalisation processes. On the other, he highlights the important role played by Southeast European conflicts in the strategies and discourses of internationally influential protagonists outside of the region.

The author analyses in-depth studies by well-known experts of international law from the 19th and early 20th century, such as Henry Wheaton, Johan Caspar Bluntschli, Franz von Liszt, Lassa Oppenheim, Fëdor Fëdorovic Martens, Antoine Rougier and John Westlake. He also explores the decisions made by international organisations such as the League of Nations and the United Nations as well as the jurisprudence of international courts such as the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia.

Adamantios Theodor Skordos, born in 1978, is a lecturer in European studies at the University of Leipzig and a research consultant at the Leibniz Institute for the History and Culture of Eastern Europe (GWZO). Laureate of the Research Academy Leipzig and the Southeast Europe Association.

Sigmund Freud

Disbelief at the Acropolis

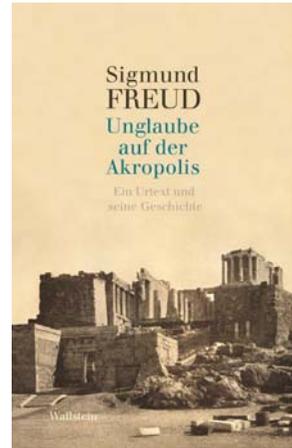
An original text and its history

In January 1936, Sigmund Freud finished an essay for a volume that was planned to commemorate Romain Rolland's 70th birthday. The essay was published a year later in »Almanach der Psychoanalyse«. There is a second, expanded version of this text, which is published here for the first time under the title »Disbelief at the Acropolis«. It describes Freud's memories of travelling to the Acropolis in Athens with his brother Alexander in the late summer of 1904, and the feelings of inexplicable alienation he experienced as he stood in the midst of the ruins he admired so much. Now, at the end of his journey, he couldn't quite believe that he was actually at the Acropolis – being the child of a father, who by means of honest work, had never made it this far, unlike his sons, who had set off for Greece from Trieste.

Sigmund Freud (1856-1939), a cultural theorist, religious critic and founder of psychoanalysis, is one of the most influential thinkers of the 20th century.

Alexandre Métraux, born in 1945, studied and did his doctorate in Basel, and is a member of the Archives Henni Poincaré at the Université de Lorraine (Nancy campus). His research interests include the history of science, the history of scientific media and instruments, and theories of collecting and collections.

From his literary estate,
published for the first
time: the original text of an
important essay by Sigmund
Freud.



Sigmund Freud
Disbelief at the Acropolis
An original text and its history

Edited and with an introduction
and epilogue by Alexan-
dre Métraux

120 pages, 7 illustrations

Backlist Highlights

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.

Rights available

Ambra Durante

BLACK BOX BLUES

Graphic Novel | 80 pages

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. 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 graphic novel 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.

Rights sold:

- Czech: TORST Publishing House
- Italian: Keller Editore

Rights sold:

• Italian: Casa Editrice Giuntina

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.

Rights available

Leander Fischer

The Trout

Novel | 782 pages

Siegi Heehrmann, being a graduate from a prestigious Austrian art school, has ended up in a provincial Upper Austrian backwater working as a teacher 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. 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. With ease and rhythm he lets the various levels of text flow into one another.

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.

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 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.

Rights available

Rights available

Lukas Bärfuss

Crown of Creation

Essays | 174 pages

In his columns dating from 2019 and 2020, Lukas Bärfuss subjects history to his scrutiny in real time, so to speak. One minute Bärfuss 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. 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. He unites the political and the poetic in the tradition of Heinrich Heine.

Rights available

Steffen Mensching

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 and lets this mismatched pair fight for survival under brutal, absurd conditions in the murderous cogwheel of the twentieth century.

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 vivid 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.

For the Emperor from Overseas

Novel | 138 pages

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

Rights sold:

- English: Seagull Books

Rights sold:

- Arabic: Kalima Foundation
- Turkish: Kalem Agency

Rights sold:

- Russian: Ivan Limbakh Publishers

Ralph Dutli

Gold of Dreams

Cultural history of a divine and demonized metal | 283 pages

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 cultural history-series to the most contradictory of metals.

Rights available

Susanne Fritz

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.

Stefana Sabin

The Blink of an Eye

A Cultural History of Spectacles | 96 pages, 34 illustrations

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 Tituel 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.

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· English: Reaktion Books

Monika Hinterberger

Traces of Happiness

Women readers throughout history | 259 pages, 10 illustrations

Monika Hinterberger goes on a historical expedition, following traces of female readers back to antiquity. 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.

Rights available

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Achim Landwehr

On this Side of History

On an alternative concept of historiography | 380 pages

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.

Rights sold:

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

Aleida Assmann

Forms of Forgetting

224 pages

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.

Daniela Rütter

Rights available

The »Nutritional Value Case«

An economic crime novel from the time of World War II | 228 pages, 13 illustrations

German food manufacturers and World War II – a historical review of the »Gesellschaft für Nährwerterhaltung«. The purpose of »Gesellschaft für Nährwerterhaltung«, 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.

Based on vast historical sources, Daniela Rütter tells the fascinating story of the society and its various actors. 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«.

Florian Schubert

Rights available

Anti-Semitism in Football

Tradition and Taboo Breaking | 488 pages, 13 illustrations

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.

Rights available

Mareike Vennen

The Aquarium

Practices, techniques and media in the production of knowledge (1840-1910) | 423 pages, 72 illustrations

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

Kim Ritter | Heinz-Jürgen Voß

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 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.