



Foreign Rights Guide Nature



Matthes & Seitz Berlin



Matthes & Seitz Berlin is a German independent publishing house founded in 2004 by Andreas Rötzer. It was established in the tradition of Matthes & Seitz Munich, a publishing house founded by Axel Matthes and Claus Seitz in 1977. Matthes & Seitz Berlin publishes about 80 titles per year in fiction and non-fiction.

The **fiction list** includes contemporary authors from Germany, like Frank Witzel (winner of the German Book Prize 2015), Anne Weber (winner of the German Book Prize 2020), Esther Kinsky, Angela Steidele, Philip Schönthaler, and Joshua Groß. Matthes & Seitz Berlin is not only known for **German literature**, but also for the translations of contemporary and classic **French literature** like Antonin Artaud, Emmanuel Carrère, Céline Minard and Éric Vuillard, the winner of the Prix Goncourt 2017. Among the strong list of **Russian literature** you find Warlam Schalamow, Iliazd, Alexander Ilitchewski and Alexander Goldstein.

Non-fiction has always had a central place in Matthes & Seitz's program, especially philosophy, political theory, and art and cultural studies. Translations from the French and English play a large part, as do prominent German authors like Jürgen Goldstein (winner of the Leipzig Book Fair Prize 2016). The series **Fröhliche Wissenschaft** (The Joyful Wisdom), with its short essays, is a prominent stage for presenting audacious new philosophers. Its authors, who include Byung-chul Han and Marcus Steinweg, have been translated into numerous languages.

In 2013 Matthes & Seitz Berlin established a new cornerstone in its program with the series **Naturkunden** (Natural Sciences), which publishes books whose design matches nature's beauty, bringing nature writing, movement, space, ecology, and humanity into focus. In order to stimulate German literary voices writing about nature Matthes & Seitz Berlin donates the „German Prize for Nature Writing“.

In 2020 Matthes & Seitz Berlin has taken over two other publishing houses as imprints: **Friedenauer Presse**, founded in 1963 and specialized in Russian literature, and the academic press **August Verlag**, founded in 2009.

Nature Non-Fiction

Animal Portraits

Plant Portraits



Susanne Wedlich

Slime

 Matthes & Seitz Berlin

An original and revelatory exploration of the hidden world of slime – the substance upon which we and our world depend

Slime is an ambiguous thing. It exists somewhere between a solid and liquid. It inspires revulsion even while it compels our fascination. It is both a vehicle for pathogens and the strongest weapon in our immune system. Most of us know little about it and yet it is the substance on which our world turns. In this ground-breaking and fascinating book, Susanne Wedlich leads us on a scientific journey through the 3-billion year history of slime, from the part it played in the evolution of life on this planet to the way it might feature in the post-human future. Written with authority, wit and eloquence, *Slime* brings this most nebulous and neglected of substances to life.

"The reader never really feels as though they have got hold of the matter of Wedlich's book, rather, they are being provoked into punching through layer after dizzying layer, through theories about the spontaneous generation of life, through the life cycles of carnivorous plants and into the tactics of Japanese balloon-bomb designers in the Second World War, until, dizzy and gasping, they reach the end of Wedlich's extraordinary mystery tour, not with a handle on slime exactly, but with an elemental new vision of what life may be: that which arises when the boundaries of earth, air and water are stirred in sunlight's fire." *The Times*

Hardcover
287 pages
2019
English translation available

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English World Rights
(Granta)
Italian (nottetempo)
Russian (AST)

BBC4 Book of the Week

Susanne Wedlich studied biology and political science in Munich and has worked as a writer in Boston and Singapore. She is currently a freelance science journalist for *Spiegel Online*, *Süddeutsche Zeitung* and *Spektrum der Wissenschaft*. She lives in Munich and speaks fluent English.

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EIN BAKTERIENATLAS



Ludger Weiß

Tiny, Hardy and Profuse: An Atlas of Bacteria

 Matthes & Seitz Berlin

„Animals and plants are coming and going. Bacteria are staying.“ Ludger Weiß

Bacteria: there are more types of bacteria than stars in the galaxy, they are omnipresent and their resistance is legendary. Bacteria can come back to life after a sleep of several millions of years, it can survive unprotected journeys in the space and it feels everywhere at home. Today bacteria are famous for being the cause of infections and epidemics. But without them there would be no cheese, no yoghurt and no beer. Ludger Weiß describes in 50 portraits the discovery, the lives and the meaning of bacteria illustrated by Falk Nordmann's drawings.

"In varied, lively portraits, the author actually succeeds in giving individual species of bacteria something of a personal touch and immersing the unimaginably tiny life forms in an aura of likeability and fascination [...] It is a wild, alien world that opens up here - congenially illustrated by Falk Nordmann. He shows the hairy little plates, ciliated balls and flagellum-covered sticks on full-page colour pictures as real character types. [...] Great!

- Susanne Billig, *Deutschlandfunk Kultur*

Hardcover with numerous illustrations
ca. 280 pages
Complete English translation available

Rights sold to:

English World Rights (Grey-stone)
Italian (Marsilio)
Chinese Complex (Rye Field)

Ludger Weiß, born in Dorsten in 1954, studied chemistry and biology, worked as a researcher in the field of molecular developmental biology and began writing about science in the 1980s.

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www.matthes-seitz-berlin.de/foreign-rights

Resistance · Come back · Galaxy · Infections · Joghurt · Cheese · Beer


DER MÄCHTIGEN

Reisen zu alten Bäumen



Zora del Buono

The Mighty Ones. A Journey to Old Trees

 Matthes & Seitz Berlin

If trees could speak, what would they tell us?

Zora del Buono sets out on the oldest trees of Europe and North-America. She wants to listen to the stories of these unusual living beings. She starts by paying a visit to the Ankerwycke yew tree under which Anne Boleyn met for the first time the one who was to become her husband and executioner, Henry VIII. She admires in Berlin the Big Mary, which used to be the Humboldt brother's playground and Goethe's shade tree until Hermann Göring turned it into a memorial. Zora del Buono get caught in a snow storm while hiking through the swedish upland moor in order to see the oldest tree of the world and its 9,500 years old, a tree so small and thin that it reminded her of a forgotten Christmas tree. She encounters during her travel Native Americans, forest wardens and arborists – and the classmate of a drug addict who burned down a 3,600 years old swamp cypress. With a deep understanding for the human abysses and the secrets of dendrology, Zora del Buono tells the deep rooted stories around the majestic personalities of trees – and carry us along in her fascination for the mute witnesses of mankind.

»Clever, witty and multi-educational. Intelligent entertainment at its best!«

Hans Durrer, *BR Diwan*

Harcover with 30 colour photographs by the author
147 pages
2015

Rights sold to:

French (Autrement)
Chinese Simplex (Beijing Publishing)
Italian (Aboca)

Best Nonfiction Book of March 2016 (Süddeutsche Zeitung & Norddeutscher Rundfunk)


Zora del Buono, born 1962, grew up in Bari and Zurich. Since 1987 she lives in Berlin. After studying architecture and working as a construction manager she now works as a writer since 2008. Her book about trees she fulfils herself a long-cherished dream.

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Johann Brandstetter, Josef H. Reichholf

Symbiosis

 Matthes & Seitz Berlin

Symbiosis - nature's thousand years old method to make species cooperate

From birds that relieve buffalos of irritating insects in the African savannah, dogs that are engaged in an inseparable relationship with humans for their whole life, up to plant cells and blue algae that converged and colour the world of fauna green and build the foundation for life on our planet: symbiosis are part of nature's most astonishing phenomena. This book shows and explains the mutual alliances and with large charts it invites to explore the colourful shapes of this fantastic interaction. At the same time it points out how fragile and worth protecting this kind of grown cooperation is, which secures the survival of so many life forms.

"Rarely has this most astonishing coexistence of nature been depicted more vividly and aesthetically appealingly than in this volume, which adds another masterpiece of book design to the wonderful 'Naturkunden' book series. enriches the wonderful book series 'Naturkunden' with another masterpiece of book design."

- Klaus Taschwer, *Der Standard*

Hardcover with numerous illustrations
298 pages
2017
English sample translation available
Complete German text available

Rights sold to:
Korean (Yirang Books)
Chinese Simplex (Beijing Publishing)
Italian (Aboca)

Josef H. Reichholf, born in Aigen am Inn in 1945, is one of the best-known biologists in the German-speaking world. He taught for many years at both Munich universities and was head of department at the Zoological State Collection in Munich. The best-selling author has been awarded numerous prizes, including the Sigmund Freud Prize for scientific prose. For further information: lnghuyen@matthes-seitz-berlin.de
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Blumen

Ein ABC der
Pflanzensprache



Isabel Kranz

Speaking Flowers

 Matthes & Seitz Berlin

Of course flowers can't speak but they do tell stories about their appearance, their discoverer, their healing or toxic features or about how they came into this world. However, they don't deliver this knowledge directly. You have to take a closer look at their names, read between the lines of canonical literature and art. In Isabel Kranz's picture-wordbook the tradition of the *Language of Flowers* lives on: it accredits some blommoms with symbolic power and lays down the rules how flowers should function as secret tokens for love notes. Kranz isn't only focussing on the erotic aspects of flowers. In her illuminating essays she interprets classic novels as well as a reknown Kevin Spacey movie, a sketch by Monty Python, botanical tractates from 1800 or the latest bestselling romantic novels. Historical references reveal the hitherto unknown beauty of botanical description language.

"With *Speaking Flowers*, Berlin literary scholar Isabel Kranz presents a compendium of plant language that is both illustrious and gorgeously illustrated. Her book is not a natural history museum, but a chamber of wonders and echoes." Florain Werner, *Deutschlandradio Kultur*

Hardcover
174 pages
2014
Complete Italian translation available
French sample translation available
Complete German text available

Rights sold to:
Italian (Bompiani)
Chinese Simplex (Beijing Publishing)
Swedish (Ersatz)

Isabel Kranz, born 1977 in Berlin, is a literary scholar. Her research areas are the relation of literature and botany, the theory of the detail and Walter Benjamin.

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Appearance · Toxic · Canon · Symbolic power · Literature · Tokens

Animal Portraits



Cord Riechelmann

Crows

 Matthes & Seitz Berlin

Over 100.000 copies sold

The family of **crows**, scientifically named "corvidae" is a relative young one the history of songbirds. 123 species belong to this family which also counts species like magpies and jays, its closest relatives are popinjays. Contrary to them, crows are to be found everywhere on the planet. The myths which follow them are always as dark as their feathers and are always dealing with evil and death. Even the increasing number of studies on their outstanding intelligence didn't succeed in freeing them from their bad reputation. To the contrary. Alone the fact that crows have a greater capacity to memorizing than humans is interpreted as a sign for their eeriness. Cord Riechelmann tells this incredible story, mixing history and nature, and introduces twenty crows which he himself observed on the five continents.

"Cord Riechelmann tells us so cleverly and elegantly about the crow in this finely illustrated book that you may not learn to love the cawing city dweller, but you will learn to respect him."

Susanne Kippenberger, *Der Tagesspiegel*

Hardcover with numerous illustrations
155 pages
2013
English sample translation available

Rights sold to:

Norwegian (Forlaget Press)
Danish (Vandkunsten)
Chinese Simplex (Beijing Publishing)
Swedish (Ersatz)
Italian (Marsilio)
Spanish World Rights (Adriana Hidalgo Editora)

Cord Riechelmann, born in 1960, studied biology and philosophy at the Free University in Berlin. He worked as a journalist and reporter specializing in cities and their nature for the Berliner Seiten and Frankfurter Allgemeinen Zeitung. He lives as journalist and writer in Berlin.

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Jutta Person

Donkeys

 Matthes & Seitz Berlin

Stubborn, dumb, wayord and horny—the features that are attributed to **donkeys** are not quite flattering. Yet still, almost no animal plays such a prominent role in cultural history. Jutta Person tells the astonishing story of this fascinatin beast of burden and undertakes a characterology of donkeys. She meets donkey breeders and portraits domesticated and wild jackass types. Last but not least she shows us how smart these allegedly dumb animals with pretty eyes are—and how much we can learn from them.

"Everything is in its place here. [...] If one can trust a publishing program so much in terms of seriousness, splendor, taste, intelligence, then I wish one could subscribe in advance and not learn anything about the books beforehand. They would come as surprise packages and the contents would be so amazing every time that you wouldn't believe it." Andreas Maier, *Die Zeit*

Hardcover with numerous illustrations
147 pages
2013
Complete German text available

Rights sold to:

Norwegian (Forlaget Press)
Italian (GoWare srl.)
Chinese Simplex (Beijing Publishing)
Italian (Marsilio)
Spanish World Rights (Adriana Hidalgo Editora)

Jutta Person was born in 1971 and works as a journalist in Berlin. She studied German and Italian Literature and Philosophy in Cologne and Italy. She now writes for the *Süd-deutsche Zeitung*, *Literaturen*, *Die Zeit* and the *Philosophie Magazin*.

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Stubborn · Dumb · Horny · Burden · Breed · Pretty eyes

Ein Portrait von Thomas Macho



Thomas Macho

Pigs

 Matthes & Seitz Berlin

No other animal is more eaten than the pig. And the poor animal is also daily abused in the language - as an expression for unearned luck and for the lack of manners, as an insult for one's contemporaries and capitalists. One refers to the pig as a metaphor for omnivores and as a symbol for religious impurity, sexual lust, an unusual thriftiness and an outrageous stupidity. According to recent studies the pig is also physiologically close to us and the transplantation of pighearts in human chests are to be soon awaited. No wonder that humans try to distance themselves from their favorite animal through this serie of tabus and prejudices. The scientist Thomas Macho follows **the destiny of pigs** starting with the early domestication and going through its later role as livestock number 1. His book is a plea against the longing for cleanliness, a portrait of new and old races and also the proof that pigs are every bit as complex and contradictory as human beings.

Hardcover with numerous illustrations
155 pages
2015

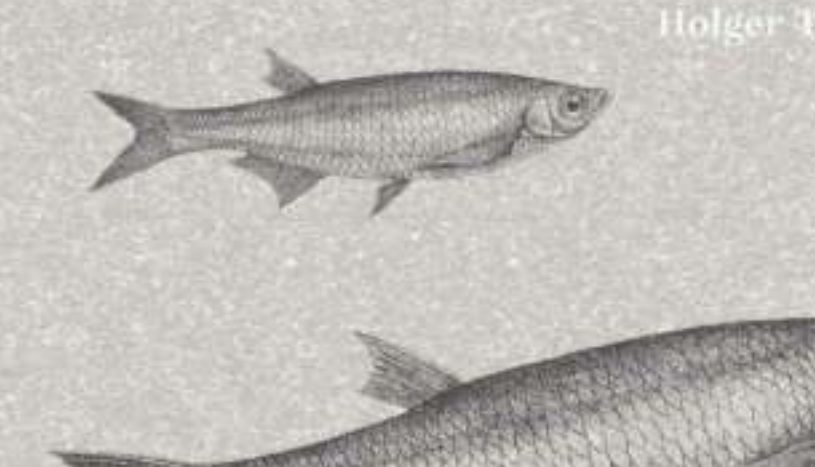
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Spanish World Rights (Adriana Hidalgo Editora)

Thomas Macho was born in 1952 in Vienna (Austria). He is a professor for cultural history at the Humboldt University in Berlin and the author of numerous monographies.

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Abused · Luck · Impurity · Stupidity · Livestock · Omnivores



Holger Teschke

Herrings

 Matthes & Seitz Berlin

As „**Silver of the Sea**” this fish has been traded against gold and fur in medieval times. Not only wealth but whole empires were found on this “King of fishes”. Was herrings absent those empires went down. This fish, which could also cause wars, has been celebrated in paintings and novels, plays and poems – not even modern science could reveal all his secrets. **Holger Teschke**, who has worked as a fisherman and can tell stories about his own experience with catching herrings, tells the natural and cultural history of this shimmering and endangered animal.

“Without the tasty and very healthy herring, the history of Europe would probably have been different. More than 50 different species of this fish, which occurs in large shoals, swim in the world's oceans.”

Roman Neumann, *Bayern*

Hardcover with numerous illustrations
119 pages
2014

Rights sold to:

Chinese Simplex (Beijing Publishing)
Swedish (Ersatz)

Holger Teschke, born in 1958, visited as engineer numerous fisheries on the coast before studying drama in Berlin where he worked as dramatic advisor and writer. Between 2000 and 2010 he traveled in the USA, in Australia and South Asia as a stage director. Since 2010 he teaches the history of theater and dramaturgy. He writes for Theater der Zeit and Deutschland Radio Kultur and lives in Berlin and South Hadley, Massachusetts.


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Ein Portrait von Florian Werner



Florian Werner

Snails

 Matthes & Seitz Berlin

Its shell is admired for its spiral form, its crawling way to move is often turned into ridicule, its slimy body is often seen as repulsive but still consumed with delight, garlic and butter. Our relation to snails is extremely ambivalent. It is high time to take a closer look at this multifaceted animal with all due respect. Florian Werner traces back the cultural history of snails, visits the World Snail Racing Competition in England and an organic snail farm in France and informs himself about the virtuosity of snail sex. In doing so he doesn't only acknowledge the contribution of snails to the history of architecture and films but also their roles in the origin of the monetary system and brass-band music. In our modern world with its aimless and frantic pace, the snail has got what it takes to become an object of longing.

"This book is a homage to tranquillity and slowness and their epitome - the snail."

- Dominika Schriever, *Landlust*


Hardcover with numerous
illustrations
151 pages
2015

Rights sold to:
Dutch (van Oorschot)
Chinese Simplex (Beijing
Publishing)

Florian Werner, born in 1971, has a Ph.D in literature, writes fiction and non-fiction books and works for the radio. His book *The Cow.Life. Work. Effect* (2009) received the Science Book of the Year award by the magazin *Bild der Wissenschaft*. Florian Werner lives with his family in Berlin.

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Shell · Slimy · Garlic · Sex · Pace · Longing




Ein Portrait von Andrea Grill



Andrea Grill

Butterflies

 Matthes & Seitz Berlin

"To be a butterfly means to be spontaneous. Maybe it is what the poet calls carefreeness." Andrea Grill

"Psyche" was the ancient Greek word for butterflies and the insect was still at the time of the Counter-Reformation a symbol for a religious soul. We associate today butterflies with joie de vivre and lightness. And yet we only know a handful of the 170,000 identified species. This knowledgeable animal portrait gives an exhaustive account about the short but fascinating life of the moth - from the enigmatic capillar stage to the sudden eclosion, from the choice of a partner guided by pheromon to egglaying. What does a butterfly feel? What does it think? Does he dream? These questions along with many others are answered by a woman who has to know it. Because this book also tells the story of the metamorphose of a young student in biology who became a butterfly specialist within a single summer in Greece and spend many years in Sardinia to observe meadow browns before starting to keep butterflies in a closet at the university of Amsterdam. A nimbly and instructive cocoon about mothers but also about humans who are wandering in summer meadows with long-handled nets.

"It is exciting to witness the repeatedly taken up life course of the author, her ever more intimate and also intensive scientific researching relationship to the butterfly world. She has done an outstanding job. The booklet is a jewel, testifying deep love for the butterfly world and nature in general, with from it sprouting energetic, persevering research diligence." - Werner Schäfer, *Gegenwart*

Religious soul · Lightness · Moth · Capillar · Eclosion · Greece

Hardcover with numerous illustrations
159 pages
2016
Complete German text available

Rights sold to:
Chinese Simplex (Beijing Publishing)
Swedish (Ersatz)
Italian (Marsilio)

Andrea Grill, born 1975, is a biologist and a writer. She studied biology, Spanish, Italian and linguistic and lived for many years in Sardinia. She got a Ph.D. in 2003 with a thesis on butterflies in Sardinia. Besides her scientific work she is the author of many literary texts and translates from Albanian into German.

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Ein Portrait von Petra Ahne



Petra Ahne

Wolves

 Matthes & Seitz Berlin

Between original fear and fascination: The wolf is back

The wolf is back in our part and with him and each devoured hen, an old fear comes back: the fear for a pernicious and bloodthirsty predator rushing about in packs, hunting for human kids, consuming grandmothers and descending as a werewolf on innocent villages. Over the years this fear has turned into an obsession which led to an unprecedented and doggedly hunt and to its final extermination. But the wolf stays an object of fascination for our contemporaries with a romantic bent: they have elected him a soulmate for his proverbial but fantasized solitude. Freedom lovers and society sceptics value its true nature which sets him apart from its domesticated cousin, the dog. In her sensitive animal portrait, Petra Ahne follows the historical journeys of the amber eyed hiker, roams through Lusatia following its traces, visits men living with wolves and almost becomes one of them. At the end is the travel worth it: with the comeback of the wolf appears the possibility of a new relation which could free us from the maze of clichés, superstitions and ignorance. A togetherness of men and wolves.

"Petra Ahne has looked the wolf in us in the greenish, fiery eye. The result is not so much a natural history, but a cultural and imaginative history of the suggestive role this predator plays in the imagination. [...] After reading this book, everyone will have one thing in common with the wolf as an artist of survival: the greatest respect." - Harald Eggebrecht, *Süddeutsche Zeitung*

Hardcover with numerous illustrations
144 pages
2016

Rights sold to:
Norwegian (Forlaget Press)
Chinese Simplex (Beijing Publishing)
Swedish (Ersatz)
Norwegian (Forlaget Press)
Norwegian (Forlaget Press)

Petra Ahne, born 1971 in Munich, has studied compared literature, history of art and media studies in Berlin and London. She works as a journalist for the Berliner Zeitung.

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Fear · Predator · Obsession · Hunt · Soulmate · Domestication

Ein Portrait von Eckhard Fuhr



Eckhard Fuhr

Sheep

 Matthes & Seitz Berlin

Only few animals can comfort us in such a profound and calm way as the meek looking, frankly bleating sheep. Painted in bucolic idylls, where it is accompanied by the longing character of the shepherd, as well as the patient carrier of the Gospel, it is also seen as a symbol for fate. Eckhard Fuhr intends to release the sheep from its everlasting role of the victim. Since Dolly, the first ever cloned animal, the Agnus Dei got an eerie brother challenging the order of creation. Fuhr's portrait narrates the cultural history of the centuries-old cohabitation of humankind and sheep, faithfully accompanied by the dog. Thereby, something hidden in the animal and its lifestyle surfaces, from which we can learn – despite of all bleating: a culture of sustainability, which we are supposed to maintain if we want to survive our exploitation of nature.

"This is a tribute to a companion without whom our world would look different: the story of a culture- and meaning-giving being for whose stoic meekness there is less and less room in the present. Fuhr releases the sheep from the humiliation of collective perception [...]." – Fritz Habekuß, *Zeit Wissen*

Hardcover with numerous
illustrations
136 pages
2017

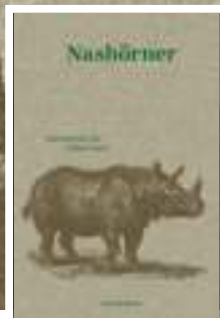
Rights sold to:
Chinese Simplex (Beijing
Publishing)

Eckhard Fuhr, born in 1954, studied history and sociology before working as an editor for Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung. Since 2010, he is stringer at *Die Welt's* culture and society departments. The dedicated huntsman also published a book about wolves.

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Bucolic · Gospel · Dolly · Cohabitation · Sustainability · Meek

Ein Portrait von Lothar Frenz



Lothar Frenz

Rhinos

 Matthes & Seitz Berlin

Plump and carefree in appearance, with a character somewhere between friendly pachyderm and angry monster : rhinos often have a hard time in people's descriptions. Nevertheless, or precisely because of this, they have exerted a colossal fascination for us for thousands of years. In his natural and cultural history of these largest land mammals after the elephants, Lothar Frenz takes a tender and knowledgeable look at the rhinoceros and traces its great appearances from the cave paintings at Chauvet to Dürer's famous woodcut and the horned "Maiden Clara", the star rhino of the 18th century and protagonist of the first Europe-wide advertising campaign. But its attraction was also its undoing: Frenz shows how, not least, greed for the legendary horn threateningly decimated its population. Thus, this portrait is at the same time a requiem for a legendary animal that man still misunderstands as a trophy.

Hardcover with numerous illustrations
128 pages
2017

Rights sold to:
Chinese Simplex (Beijing Publishing)

Lothar Frenz, born in 1964, is a biologist and journalist. Since the 1990s, biodiversity and its conservation have been the focus of his work - whether in nature documentaries for ZDF, Arte and NDR, in GEO or in books.

"We call it a fabulous book, read quickly and learned a lot in the process, with wit and message."

- Sacha Rufer, *umweltnetz-schweiz*

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Pachyderm · Colossal · Horn · Decimation · Legend · Trophy

Ein Porträt von Beatrix Langner



Beatrix Langner

Toads

 Matthes & Seitz Berlin

Admittedly, there are more attractive animals: Their slippery skin and body marked by spots and warts repel us, and their life in the mire, with its aura of rot and stench, involuntarily reminds us of where we all go once. Beatrix Langner shows in her knowledgeable and elegant natural and cultural history of the ponderous hopper that we should encounter the toad less with disgust than with fascination. On her toad walk, she leads us through art and literature, past the dissecting tables of science and into our own backyard, illuminating these dazzling creatures in the intermediate realm of dry and wet, water and land, male and female. The fact that it likes to orchestrate its joyful reproductive lust with trilling and croaking soundscapes should win us over just as much as the fact that, as an amphibian, it is one of the oldest and most steadfast representatives of life on earth. Whether we like it or not, there is a toad in each of us - not only in terms of evolutionary history.

"Anyone who has read this book, which is as illuminating as it is combative, will certainly look at toads with different eyes in the future." - Kai Agthe, *Mitteldeutsche Zeitung*

Hardcover with numerous illustrations
164 pages
2018
Complete German text available

Rights sold to:
Chinese Simplex (Beijing Publishing)

Beatrix Langner, born in 1950, holds a doctorate in German studies, is an author and literary critic, and lives in Berlin. Since 1990, she has written numerous radio features and cultural reports for Deutschlandradio Berlin as well as feature articles and reviews for Süddeutsche Zeitung, Neue Zürcher Zeitung, Deutschlandfunk, etc.

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Slippery · Spots · Toad walk · Dissecting tables · Croaking · Amphibian

Ein Portrait von Wilhelm Bode



Wilhelm Bode

Deers

 Matthes & Seitz Berlin

The roaring stag with mighty antlers inspired the fantasies not only of aristocrats, high daughters and romantics, but was also emblazoned as a picture on the walls of many a German petit bourgeois. But it was precisely his antlers as a symbol of the potent ruler that made him at the same time the pitiable object of hunting lust and the tragic figure of the forest. Wilhelm Bode, himself once a passionate hunter from family tradition, describes the eventful natural and cultural history of the deer. He not only tells of his fascination with Bambi, the significance of the deer for Frida Kahlo and Joseph Beuys, and the ups and downs of hunting history. He describes how his encounters with the deer gradually turned him away from trophy hunting and made him a convinced opponent of a reckless hunting practice that does not ask about its consequences for the natural environment. Thus, this excursion through the native cultural landscape is not least an engaged plea to transform the hunt for the proud wild animal into a new relationship of respect for nature.

Hardcover with numerous illustrations
156 pages
2018

Wilhelm Bode, born in 1947 in Westphalia, is a lawyer and a certified forest manager, and was head of the state forest administration and the highest nature conservation authority in Saarland. He has published numerous books and articles on the future of the forest, hunting and forestry, among others in the series *Naturkunden* Portraits on deers and fir trees.

"This sophisticated and attractively designed book can be warmly recommended to anyone interested in native nature, forests and wildlife, and cultural history as an entertaining, enlightening, and educational read." - Hans Dieter Knapp, *Naturschutz-infothek*

For further information:
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Stag · Antlers · Hunt · Bambi · Trophy · Respect



Peter Geimer

Flies

 Matthes & Seitz Berlin

Hardly any living creature is as annoying as the fly; wherever it appears, it disturbs us and at the same time displays a remarkable penetrance. No wonder that since antiquity a veritable literature of condemnation has been established against these defenceless insects, which would love to harm every fly. In his cultural history of the seemingly superfluous insect, Peter Geimer shows its astonishing wealth of facets, from the fascination with its special visual apparatus in film, television and photography history to its appearance in painting and its central role in the study of genes. Given this, the question of why we nevertheless reject the fly with such furore becomes all the more pressing. A suspicion suggests itself: Perhaps we envy its stoic insouciance and secretly suspect that we are probably more indifferent to it than it is to us.

Hardcover with numerous illustrations
140 pages
2018

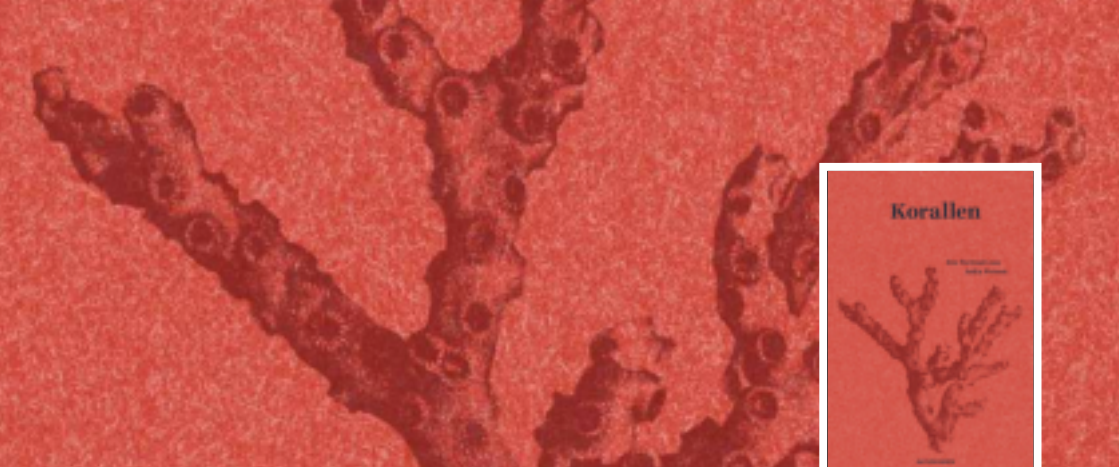
Peter Geimer, born in 1965, is an art historian whose research interests include the history and theory of photography, historical painting and film. After academic posts in Zurich and Bielefeld, he has been Professor of Modern and Contemporary Art History at the Free University of Berlin since 2010.

"Lovingly, the author depicts the unexpectedly rich history of an insect that annoys us above all else."

- Daphne Tokas, *Literary Review*


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Condemnation · Superfluous · Genes · Annoying · Insouciance · Suspect



Jutta Person

Corals

 Matthes & Seitz Berlin

In her dazzling animal portrait, Jutta Person delves deep into the natural and cultural history of these creatures, whose status between stone, plant, or animal has long been unclear. Not for nothing did corals seem to be enigmatic alternate beings that grew in underwater meadows or populated the courtly chambers of wonder as mineral wonders of nature. Jutta Person tells of the appearance of corals in literature and art, shows how they helped as a bony amulet in warding off the evil eye, and travels with us to the Andaman Sea and the Red Sea. An expedition into psychedelic worlds - and into the history and present of fascinating sea creatures, which we should protect all the more urgently in view of coral bleaching and reef death.

Hardcover with numerous illustrations
192 pages
2019

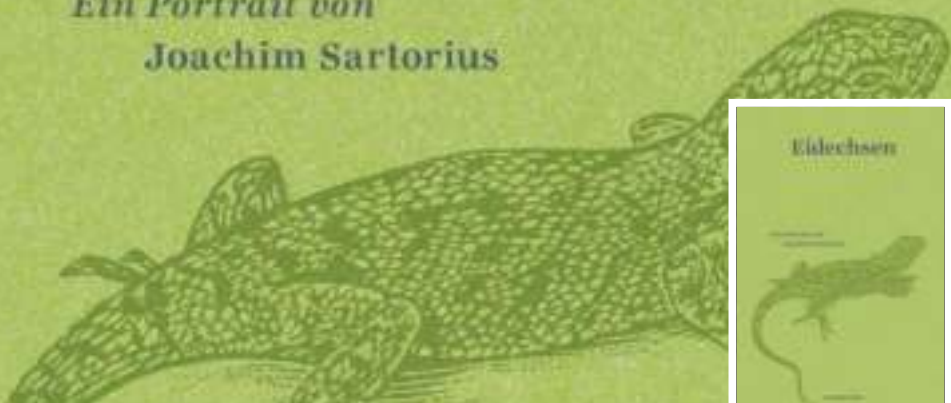
Jutta Person was born in 1971 and works as a journalist in Berlin. She studied German and Italian Literature and Philosophy in Cologne and Italy. She now writes for the *Süddeutsche Zeitung*, *Literaturen*, *Die Zeit* and the *Philosophie Magazin*.

"In this way, a small but versatile compendium has been created. Written in an elegant conversational tone and with a fine sense of humor, moreover illustrated with beautiful, historical illustrations- the ideal reading for a mental leap into marine depths." - Eva Gaeding, *MDR Kultur*

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Stone · Plant · Animal · Underwater · Wonders · Reef death

Ein Portrait von Joachim Sartorius



Joachim Sartorius

Lizards

 Matthes & Seitz Berlin

The smaller the lizard, the greater its hope of becoming a crocodile.

Joachim Sartorius fell for the world's most vigilant animal as a child in Tunis; for him, the lizard became a cipher for the south. Under the spell of their fixed, unblinking gaze, their tongues, their razor-sharp egg teeth, their clawed toes and their iridescent coloring, he is touched by the breath of a primeval world inhabited by dinosaurs and dragons. By telling of the glorious diversity of lizards as natural beings and symbolic creatures, he ignites a veritable lizard fever for the impenetrably alien creature with the cold blood. With his passionate plea for protected zones for the reptiles, he ultimately guides the lizard onto Noah's Ark, where it once found no place.

"With 'Lizards' Joachim Sartorius has succeeded in writing a book about these so fascinating animals that is as inspiring as it is entertaining." - Dirk Kruse, *Bayerischer Rundfunk*

Hardcover with numerous illustrations
136 pages
2019
Complete German text available


Joachim Sartorius, born in Fürth in 1946, grew up in Tunis and now lives in Berlin and Syracuse after long stays in New York, Istanbul and Nicosia. He has published eight volumes of poetry that repeatedly deal with the Levant and its cultures. In 2019 Sartorius received the August Graf von Platen Literature Prize.

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Bernhard Kegel

Beetles

 Matthes & Seitz Berlin

The story of the immense variety of forms of beetles and their biological as well as symbolic power.

A head, a chest, an abdomen – as concise as this list of body parts reads, as varied is what emerges from it: with their brightly colored and often iridescent carapaces, beetles display a wealth of forms that is unique in the entire animal kingdom. There are so many beetle species that not all are known to this day. After all, 380,000 have been described and given names so far. And every year a few hundred more are added. Bernhard Kegel, who has worked as a beetle researcher for a long time, draws a varied portrait of an insect that is often unjustly overlooked, reviled as a vermin, or even fought against, and whose history is closely linked to ours: From the pill borer, whose veneration is attested to by ancient Egyptian scarabs and who may have been the godfather of the invention of the wheel, to the supposed model for a momentous and often interpreted transformation in Franz Kafka's story and, last but not least, the insect mortality of the present. Bernhard Kegel's volume shows why we can by no means do without these armored bearers of nature.

Hardcover with numerous illustrations
143 pages
2019
Complete German text available

Bernhard Kegel, born in Berlin in 1953, holds a doctorate in biology and is a writer. Since the 1990s, he has published numerous novels and nonfiction books on biological topics.

"At the end of the entertaining and informative, as expected fabulously illustrated volume, Kegel acts as a bug whisperer. And translates: 'You want to contact us? Not interested! Just leave us alone, please! Let us live our short lives and be who we are.' That's perfectly fine." *Frankfurter Rundschau*

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Katrin Schumacher

Foxes

 Matthes & Seitz Berlin

Between chicken coop scare and neck warmer: about the life, death and survival of our favourite sly dog

The fox, a symbol of the cunning and devious contemporary since ancient fables, has become a popular figure in the animal kingdom in recent decades. But what is it about this charming scoundrel that makes its fleeting appearance trigger both attraction and uncertainty, whereas in the past we used to chase it relentlessly with a shotgun? In her personal portrait of the animal, Katrin Schumacher sets off on a natural and cultural-historical foray through chicken coops, children's books and fur tanneries to finally trace the Far Eastern obsession with foxes in Japan, where the little predators beguile people as deities and erotic demons. And in our latitudes, too, we can look forward to a more intense coexistence: Knowing full well that in this country the fox's fur is no longer constantly pulled over his ears, he leaves his hidden, labyrinthine dens and heads for the cities to get under our skin himself among the rubbish bins and park undergrowth.

Hardcover with numerous illustrations
ca. 159 pages
2020

Katrin Schumacher, born in Lemgo in 1974, is a literary scholar and journalist. She has lived in Bamberg, Antwerp, Hamburg and currently lives in Halle (Saale).

"From all this, one can learn not only a lot about a wild animal, but also about people and their respective projections, preferences and fantasies." *Berliner Zeitung*

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Rüdiger Schaper

Elephants. A Portrait

 Matthes & Seitz Berlin

Lovingly and with astonishing insights, Rüdiger Schaper portrays the largest land mammal in the world, which is also one of the gentlest.

Elephant history is human history - and vice versa. For humans, the heaviest land mammal is everything at once: status symbol and meat reservoir, tool of war and workhorse, raw material resource and entertainer, trophy and dream image, monster and mascot. With their gentle, but also irritable nature, their mighty mass on columnar, yet silent legs and their centimeter-thick to paperthin skin, elephants unite the contradictions of life within themselves. In his portrait, which is as tender as it is illuminating, Rüdiger Schaper follows the twisting and turning paths of real and imaginary proboscideans through cultural and natural history, floats in Thailand, rocking on an elephant in the air and leaves - the animals displayed as sensations - no doubt that it is we who can learn from the elephants, and not the other way around. „There is something tremendously liberating about dealing with elephants: It throws you powerfully back on yourself.“

“Anyone who picks up the book cannot put it down until he or she has read through it, looked at all the carefully printed reproductions of elephant paintings from several centuries, read and internalized the pictorial texts, which are as sobering as they are poignant.” *Hermannstädter Zeitung*

Hardcover with numerous illustrations
ca. 151 pages
Complete German text available

Rüdiger Schaper, born in Worms in 1959, moved to the Tagesspiegel in 1999 after years of working as a cultural correspondent for the Süddeutsche Zeitung. In 2005 he took over the management of the Feuilleton. In addition to numerous articles with a focus on the performing arts and the 2014 edition of Spektakel. Eine Geschichte des Theaters von Schlingensief bis Aischylos, he published biographies on Harald Juhnke, Konstantin Simonides, Karl May and most recently Alexander von Humboldt. He lives with his family in Berlin.

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Heavy · Entertainer · Trophy · Monster · Skin · Thailand

Ein Portrait von Karin Schneider



Karin Schneider

Pigeons

 Matthes & Seitz Berlin

"Where there is a city, there are city pigeons. And where there are urban pigeons, there is resistance." Fahim Amir

The pigeon is not only the oldest, but also the most controversial pet of mankind: revered as a bringer of salvation and symbol of the Holy Spirit, fought against as a facade polluter, bred to be a champion in long-distance flight and poisoned as an alleged plague. It takes the homing skills of military-trained carrier pigeons not to lose one's bearings in this thicket of contradictions - or the know-how of the pair of pigeons that selflessly sorted the good lentils into the little pot and the bad ones into the little jar for Cinderella. In fact, it is probably the crop milk with which both pigeon and dove feed their offspring that allows the feral descendants of domesticated pigeons to breed in the draughty recesses of high-rise buildings and, with their astonishing mass, visibility and pecking manner, to answer the old question "Who owns the city?" cooing loudly. Karin Schneider follows the swoop of the celestial messenger of peace, whose offspring, branded as rats of the air, rummage through the rubbish of the metropolises, with astuteness and empathy for the urban outsiders.

Hardcover with illustrations
160 pages
2021

Karin Schneider, born in Wuppertal in 1962, studied religious studies and ethnology. In addition to her freelance work as an editor, she is concerned with phenomena of urban nature and the interactions between human and non-human cultures. She lives and works in Berlin.

"This text convincingly combines great love with facts. And the illustrations make the volume a feast for the eyes."

- Ralf Stiftel, *Westfälischer Anzeiger*

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Holy Spirit · Plague · Carrier · Dove · Mass · Messenger

Ein Portrait von Verena Auffermann



Verena Auffermann

Hedgehogs

 Matthes & Seitz Berlin

"The fox knows many things, but the hedgehog knows one great thing." Archilochos

Who does not know them, the smacking-puffing sounds in the foliage – and the as wondrous as defensible ball that causes them? And who doesn't know the desire to do the same as the hedgehog and, if need be, to pull thousands of spikes over his head like a hood? The hedgehog is a shy but convincing hero who outwits hares, inspired Greek philosophy and has been trundling around this planet with short legs for millions of years.

Verena Auffermann follows the trail of the two-faced, sometimes aggressive maverick with fluffy belly and prickly back: from the cave paintings in Lascaux to Tolstoy, Dostoevsky and the Mecki hairstyle to Japanese hedgehog crawl cafés – and discovers the vulnerable spot of little Achill – it is the increasingly warmer winters and the increasingly dry earth that threaten the survival of the prickly animal, which is as popular as it is shy.

"Starting from the hedgehog's constitution, [Verena Auffermann] takes us on a quasi-holistic hedgehog exploration, on which even people who have already made hedgehog acquaintances learn a lot."

– Sandra Hoffmann, SWR 2

Hardcover with numerous illustrations
127 pages
2021
German pdf available

Verena Auffermann, born in Höxter, became known after an apprenticeship in bookselling and the study of art history, in addition to her work as a lecturer and editor, primarily as a critic for DIE ZEIT and Süd-deutsche Zeitung, among others.

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Shy · Maverick · Crawl · Vulnerable · Prickly · Survival



Tobias Keiling, Heidi Liedke

Sloths. A Portrait

 Matthes & Seitz Berlin

An amazing cultural history of the animal that holds up a mirror to our society

Everything about this animal seems to be a statement: it spends most of its life hanging in trees, can hardly be spotted in the foliage with its fur inhabited by greenish algae, and carries out everything necessary for life so slowly that it has always provoked crass rejection in humans. It is lazy, claims its name in several European languages, "ugly," judges Hegel, "deficient" Buffon. Like hardly any other animal of the so-called New World, it confuses categories and seems to be constantly smiling about it - with a thoroughly human-like face. Only the present finds in the sloth the symbol for a decelerated life and for criticism of capitalism.

Tobias Keiling and Heidi Łucja Liedke follow the furious influence of the sluggish animal on European moral philosophy, natural and cultural history - from the time of the first mentions in the 16th century to the megatherium fashion of the 19th century to ramifications reaching far into the present, from which the sloth looks at us supposedly sleepily: It is up to us to look closely.

Hardcover with numerous illustrations
143 pages
2021
German pdf available

Tobias Keiling, born in Düsseldorf in 1983, studied philosophy, sociology and law in Freiburg, Basel and Paris. Heidi Łucja Liedke, born in 1987, studied English, American studies, psychology, and literary theory in Freiburg and New Haven, and received her PhD in Freiburg in 2016 after research stays in Oxford and London.

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Samuel Hamen

Jellyfishes

 Matthes & Seitz Berlin

Jellyfish, the amazing "lungs of the seas" the most enigmatic yet beguiling creatures of the animal kingdom, in a luminous, richly illustrated portrait

From the direct tides to the nearshore continental shelf zone, from the surface of the open sea down to its deepest, hardly explored areas, they make not only the water glow with their tremendously irritable, "like brain matter turned into skins" bodies: Jellyfish. Since time immemorial, medusae have eluded any kind of definition. They twist and turn like organized water in the waves flowing around them and make the imagination spark. But whether as a disruptive factor or symbol of the digital and immersive, as a creative idea of Art Deco, as a spineless horror, alien of the sea, queer heraldic animal, or alarmist emblem of a radical change in which even scientists sometimes reach their limits - jellyfish, as Samuel Hamen shows in this dazzling portrait, do not twitch with eyelashes but with tentacles that, depending on the species, can cause severe burns even on fleeting contact. Whoever nevertheless dares to follow their hovering movements is revealed an insight into the earliest history of the earth as well as into all conceivable futures.

Essay
Hardcover with numerous illustrations
144 pages
2022
English sample translation available

Samuel Hamen, born in Luxembourg City in 1988, is a writer, literary critic for Deutschlandfunk and ZEIT Online, among others, and president of the Luxembourg writers' association A:LL. Most recently, he was awarded the Luxembourg Book Prize 2020 and an annual fellowship from the Kunststiftung Baden-Württemberg.

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Open sea · Twists · Waves · Alien · Tentacles · Burns



Andreas Möller

Pikes

 Matthes & Seitz Berlin

The fish of the hour: Hardly affected by climate change, the pike is proving to be an astonishingly robust species that has always held a great fascination for humans

It has been called the "water devil" and the "embodiment of evil and mischief". The allusions to the largest and most dangerous predatory fish of our latitudes are as manifold as they are deceptive. Henry David Thoreau paid tribute to it, as did Vladimir Putin, who poses with pike as an expression of strength and virility. But the pike is also a symbol of a lively, popular sense of humor: when there's a draught like pike soup, you'd better close your windows and doors, and a great pike is a peppy guy who gets to his destination with chutzpah. Andreas Möller traces the reasons for this ambivalence in his ravishing portrait. He shows the pike as the great loner of our waters, which consistently refuses industrial exploitation like no other edible fish. Pike catches are always individual and chance catches that cannot be calculated. Pike is a gripping and poetic portrait, richly peppered with cultural-historical observations on fishing, on everyday photography or on the preparation of pike heads. But it is also a plea for the concrete and vivid experience of nature and the reverent feeling of natural beauty.

Essay
Hardcover with numerous illustrations
160 pages
2022
English sample translation available

Andreas Möller, born in Rostock in 1974, was a journalist at Deutschlandfunk Kultur, headed the political consultancy of the German Academy of Science and Engineering (acatech) and is now head of communications at the mechanical engineering company Trumpf.

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Predatory fish · Virility · Humor · Deception · Soup · Loner

Plant Portraits



Miek Zwamborn

Seaweed. A Portrait

 Matthes & Seitz Berlin

A beautifully illustrated ode to the most sensuous family of water plants.

Seaweed is so familiar, and yet we know so little about it. Even its names—pepper dulse, sea lettuce, bladderwrack—are mystifying.

In this exquisitely illustrated portrait, poet and artist Miek Zwamborn shares discoveries of seaweed's history, culture, and science. We encounter its medicinal and gastronomic properties and long history of human use, from the Neolithic people of the Orkney islands to sushi artisans in modern Japan. We find seaweed troubling Columbus on his voyages across the Atlantic and intriguing Humboldt in the Sargasso Sea. We follow its inspiration for artists from Hokusai to Matisse, its collection by Victorians as pressed specimens in books, its adoption into fashion and dance, and its potential for combating climate change, as a sustainable food source and a means of reducing methane emissions in cattle.

And, of course, we learn how to eat seaweed, through a fabulous series of recipes based around these "truffles of the seas."

"But it's mostly because of Miek Zwamborn's own enthusiasm for the world of algae. Every alga, every poem, every picture she treats with such attention that you start to love algae yourself while reading." - Nico Bleutge, *SZ*

Hardcover with numerous illustrations
168 pages
2019
Complete English translation available
Complete Dutch original text available

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Italian (nottetempo)

Miek Zwamborn is a visual artist, author, and translator. After studying fine arts in Amsterdam, she worked as a lock keeper for fifteen years. She works and lives on the Isle of Mull, Scotland.

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Ein Portrait von Susanne Stephan



Susanne Stephan

Cloves. A Portrait

 Matthes & Seitz Berlin

Botanically speaking, it is a starvation artist: it thrives best on sunny, airy slopes and needs very little water. But its existence in cultural history is as diverse in meaning as the range of its varieties: sometimes the carnation is a symbol of wealth, then of transition and mourning, sometimes the bearer of an intention to marry, then of frivolous interest. In white blossom, it was the distinguishing mark of the anti-Semites; the worker wore its polyester replica at GDR jubilee celebrations. Grown in pots and beds, exchanged, cultivated in the most diverse colours and forms by aristocrats and citizens, researching scholars and gardening amateurs, painted and drawn, often described, admired, but always also reviled because of their supposed artificiality and their docility to every new fashion. Susanne Stephan's rich portrait of this amazing flower is about nothing less than the laws of beauty and the question of the relationship between artificiality and naturalness.

"In a retrospective, Susanne Stephan dedicates herself in an insightful, instructive and exciting way to a plant that made the hearts of many florists in Europe beat faster for over 200 years."

– *Garden Practice*

Hardcover with numerous
illustrations
160 pages
2018

Rights sold to:
Chinese Simplex (Beijing
Publishing)

Susanne Stephan, born in Aachen in 1963, studied German, history and Romance languages and literature in Tübingen and Paris, among other places; after working as an editor, she now works as a freelance author, writing poetry, short prose and essays.

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Ludwig Fischer

Nettles. A Portrait

 Matthes & Seitz Berlin

This is a mesmerizing natural and cultural history of a mostly despised and avoided plant, that takes us on a journey through fairytales and unknown historical documents, literary texts, ambitious projects and many interesting facts. Why was Jeanne d'Arc forced to wear a nettle garment? Why are nettles to be found in the interior of nowadays cars? Why do nettles increase the harvest of fruit trees? 2000 years ago nettles were considered aphrodisiacs. One could write a whole cook book about this strange plant, of which the most modern would be a nettle smoothie. Stinging nettles can be a painful experience but have had a huge comeback after being almost forgotten for centuries. This beautifully illustrated book helps us to reconsider them for what they are: One of the most fascinating and useful plants we know.

"When I had read through this book 'Nettles' from beginning to end with fervour, I felt sorry afterwards for every nettle I had weeded in my life."

- Annemarie Stoltenberg, *NDR Kultur*

Hardcover with numerous illustrations
168 pages
2017

Rights sold to:
Chinese Simplex (Beijing Publishing)

Ludwig Fischer, born in 1939 in Leipzig, was a professor for literature and medias at the university of Hamburg. He is a theoretician of nature and landscape, a writer, a gardener and a herbs expert.

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Despised plant · Fairytales · Harvest · Aphrodisiacs · Smoothies · Pain



Marc Engelhardt

Baobabs. A Portrait

 Matthes & Seitz Berlin

"Africa is where the baobabs are." Emil Holub

The baobab is an African miracle: The huge, misshapen tree, which looks as if it has grown with its roots toward the sky, offers not only food for the people south of the Sahara, but also an almost immeasurable storehouse of water and wisdom. Because it thrives even in heat and in spite of drought, it is not infrequently the center of settlements and legends. Marc Engelhardt follows the myth-enshrouded baobabs across the African continent and meets people who are as addicted to the bottle-shaped giants as he is himself : a conservationist who is who tirelessly grows baobab cuttings on Madagascar, a Senegalese inventor who uses the baobab to fight hunger in the Sahel, and a healer in Malawi who believes she can use the tree to cure diseases. After all, these often centuries-old, wondrous trees seem to have their own laws of nature.

Hardcover with numerous illustrations
ca. 143 pages
2021
Complete German text available

Marc Engelhardt, born in Cologne in 1971, studied geography, biology, law and philosophy. He is the author and editor of numerous books, including with the correspondent network Weltreporter. For his book *World Community on the Brink*, he was awarded the Prix Nicolas Bouvier.

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