

Terence Tao | So klug, dass es klingelt *
führer des Comicladens Superdoppeld
her Dinge * Takahiro Sagawa | Noch so
betrüger, den kaum Schuld trifft * Hosse
lespielen * Ruth G. Millikan | Biosem
ula Späth | Musikmaus * Maj-Britt | W
ubt aber an Ufos * Clemens J. Setz | So

ia Mähler | Studentin der Filmwissenschaften und tolle Kamerafrau
* Dietmar Dath | Unfertige Idee * A. H. Louie | Beziehungsexperte *
Entdecker * Natalie Merchant | Amerikanische Sängerin * Oyewusi |
Embryonenexperte * Ruth Barcan Marcus | Logikerin * David Hume
erin * Ananke | Göttin mit Spindel * Maria | Freundin * Cassandra
hend unschuldig und von Michael Moorcock für ein anderes Buch
ir * Whisky und Whiskey | Zwei überwiegend gute Geister

Dietmar Dath

Gentzen

oder.

Foreign Rights Guide
Fall 2021



Matthes & Seitz Berlin

Betrunkene aufräumen

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, Iliadz, 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 Price 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.

Fiction

Dietmar Dath	<i>Gentzen</i>
Anne Weber	<i>Valley of Glories</i>
Alain Damasio	<i>Les Furtifs / La Horde du Contrevent</i>
Emily Segal	<i>Mercury Retrograde</i>
Matthias Senkel	<i>Angles of the World</i>
Helga Kurzchalia	<i>The House of the Child</i>

Non Fiction

Hanna Engelmeier	<i>Comfort</i>
Philipp Schönthaler	<i>The Automation of Writing</i>
Jens Soentgen	<i>Fire</i>
Marie Luise Knott	<i>370 Riverside Drive, 730 Riverside Drive</i>
Klaus Dörre	<i>The Utopia of Socialism</i>
Wolfgang Müller-Funk	<i>Crudelitas</i>
A. Dippel, M. Warnke	<i>Depths of Deception</i>

Series Fröhliche Wissenschaft

Byung-Chul Han	<i>Infocracy</i>
Norbert Bolz	<i>No Power of Morals</i>
Klaus Theweleit	<i>The Invention of the Vowel Alphabet</i>
Daniel Illger	<i>Cosmic Fear</i>
M. Senarclens de Grancy	<i>The Hottest Desire of Mankind</i>
Matthias Wittmann	<i>The Society of the Tentacle</i>
Ulrich van Loyen	<i>The Godfather and his Shadow</i>
Peter Trawny	<i>Hitler, Philosophy and Hatred</i>

Series Naturkunden

Matin Haubenreißer	<i>Minerals</i>
T. Keiling, H. Liedke	<i>Sloths. A Portrait</i>
Verena Auffermann	<i>Hedgehogs. A Portrait</i>

th | Unfertige Idee * A. H. Louie | Bezie
atalie Merchant | Amerikanische Sänge
perte * Ruth Barcan Marcus | Logikerin
: | Göttin mit Spindel * Maria | Freund
dig und von Michael Moorcock für ein
nd Whiskey | Zwei überwiegend gute G

Dietmar Dath

Gentzen



Dietmar Dath

 Matthes & Seitz Berlin

Gentzen or Cleaning Up Drunk. A Calculation Novel

The German logician Gerhard Gentzen was one of the most brilliant in his field. But who remembers him? In this astonishing, stirring novel, Dietmar Dath sets out with Laura and Jan to find someone they no longer remember. The reader enters a thinking space in which not only Gerhard Gentzen appears, but also quite different characters: Dietmar, who has been writing a novel about a famous logician for ten years, but also Frank Schirmacher, who is racking his brains about the Internet, Jeff Bezos, Ruth Garrett Millikan, a crooked aunt, and a mysterious being who will put life on earth in considerable danger. The entire staff of this great novel puts itself at the service of the search for the basis of our life in the present: the seemingly infinite computing power of computers. It makes possible the flight bookings, the distribution of vaccines or relief supplies, the control of nuclear arsenals, or the detailed mappings of a life through likes and comments on social media that would not exist if programs could not check how programs work. The fact that they can has to do, again, with Gerhard Gentzen. Artful and fast-paced, humorous and always surprising, these many narrative strands themselves write a program - If Then GoTo - that lets us experience the chances and possibilities of present-day computing technology and spits out unexpected results: science fiction, that's what.

Novel
604 pages
September 2021
Complete German text
available
English sample available

Rights available

**Nominated for the
German Book Prize
2021**

Dietmar Dath was
born in 1970 and is a
journalist, writer and
translator.

*A fast-paced novel that spans a century and
hurls the reader into the future*

Logician · 20th century · Internet · Jeff Bezos · Computing Power · Mapping · Control



Anne Weber

Valley of Glories

 Matthes & Seitz Berlin

In a small port town on the North Atlantic, Sperber, a middle-aged man, lives a lonely and dreary life. While walking along the quay one morning, a stranger appears out of nowhere, kisses him on the lips without comment, and immediately disappears. This event tears Sperber out of his everyday life, awakens a longing that leaves him no choice but to immediately set out in search of this mysterious woman. Finally, he will find her in Paris. Her name is Lynx, she is missing a finger and she works at the Hôtel-Dieu. He doesn't learn much more about her, but the love that began on the shores of the Atlantic overwhelms him. In an incomparable intensity, the two lovers experience the next days together. But then the unimaginable happens and Sperber is left alone once again. Anne Weber's great book about loss and hope opens the way to a universe to which we have access only thanks to imagination and love.

An amour fou that costs work, house, wife, child and hair

Novel
260 pages
September 2021
Complete German text
available
Complete French translation
available

Rights sold to: France (Le Seuil)

The writer and translator **Anne Weber** was born in Offenbach in 1964 and has lived in Paris since 1983. She has translated both from German into French (Sibylle Lewitscharoff, Wilhelm Genazino) and vice versa (Pierre Michon, Marguerite Duras). She writes her own books in both German and French. Her works have been awarded the Heimito von Doderer Literature Prize, the 3sat Prize, the Kranichsteiner Literature Prize, and the Johann Heinrich Voß Prize, among others. Anne Weber was awarded the German Book Prize 2020 for her book *Annette, ein Heldinnenepos*.

Kisses · Amour fou · Mysterious · Shores · Lovers · Loss · Imagination

Alain Damasio

The Furtives

 Matthes & Seitz Berlin

Sahar and Lorca lead a happy family life with their daughter Tishka. When Tishka's bed is empty one morning, even though all the windows and doors are firmly closed, everything changes. While Sahar retreats, initially believing it to be a kidnapping, Lorca investigates an urban legend: He suspects that Tishka is with the so-called furtives, beings who supposedly live unrecognized in the blind corners of our perception. When strange symbols appear on the wall of her nursery, it is clear: Tishka is alive, and she is trying to communicate. Together with friends and companions, Sahar and Lorca try to make contact, penetrating a strange world that is always where we are not looking. But the closer they get to their daughter, the greater the public interest in the case, as it soon becomes clear that the furtives have the ability to radically reinterpret supposed necessities. Tishka becomes the most wanted person in the country. Whether she is still a person at all or already something else entirely is not clear.

Alain Damasio shows a capitalism in its final stage, shaped by lobbyism: we are not monitored in order to be oppressed, but so that we can be sold things that make life under surveillance more bearable. Only the furtives show the way out of the compulsion to consume. Their mutability and malleability is reflected in the typography, behind which the text increasingly becomes a riddle.

Alain Damasio's new novel: over 300.000 copies sold in France

"Damasio's work makes him of the greatest writers of speculative fiction."

L'Express


Novel
714 pages
French publication: 2019
Complete French original
text available
Complete German trans-
lation available

Rights sold to:
Italy (Mondadori)
Germany (Matthes & Seitz)
Greece (Polis)

Alain Damasio is a writer, sociologist, co-founder of the video game studio Dontnod and the sound art studio Tarabust. Born in 1969, ESSEC graduate, he has been giving TEDx talks since 2014. With his 3 novels he became a cult author and France most read science fiction writer.

Alain Damasio

The Horde of the Counterwind

 Matthes & Seitz Berlin

Imagine a world shaken by winds whose force surpasses our understanding. Imagine a group of men born to face those winds until their final breaths. Within the deafening noise of the wind, on the Lower Slopes, an elite group of twenty-three children were raised for the sole purpose of facing the ever blowing gusts, climbing up windwards for the rest of their lives. Their goal: to find the mysterious source of the wind in the Upper Reaches. There have been thirty-three attempts in eight hundred years, thirty-three Hordes that have failed. My name is Sov, scribe. I'm here today to talk to you in the name of the thirty-fourth, and most probably the last...

"A striking novel that grips you from the very first page and won't let you go before it comes to a conclusion and even for a long time afterwards.

*Damasio has taken on every kind of challenge and won his bet:
The Horde of Counterwind is a masterpiece."*

Le Monde

*"A real gem, born from the literary pillars of classicism.
This brilliant, disturbing allegorical text is totally mind-boggling."*

Le Figaro

*"In this novel one finds a style of writing,
an ambition, an unfettered freedom that
has been missing from French science-fiction."*

Télérama

Novel
520 pages
First published 2004
French original text
Complete English translation
available

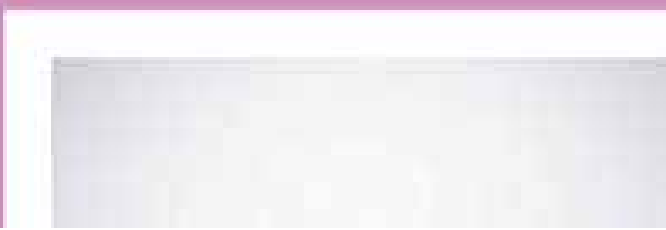
Over 500.000 copies sold

Rights sold to:
Germany (Matthes & Seitz),
Italy (Mondadori)
Bulgaria (Studio of)
Russia (AST)

Born in Lyon in 1969, Alain Damasio gambols at the heights of the imagination since the publication in 2004 of his second novel, *The Horde of Counterwind*, winner of the Grand Prix de l'Imaginaire. In three novels and a collection of short stories, crowned by the literary prizes devoted to sciencefiction, Alain Damasio has found an audience of significant and diverse readers.

RETROGRADE

EMILY SEGAL



Emily Segal

Mercury Retrograde

 Matthes & Seitz Berlin

Autofiction. Emily Segal, artist and trend forecaster in her 20s, tries to tell the future by reading the present. Literature finds commercial form in the shape of eXe, a mysterious and well-funded internet start-up that offers her a job. A conceptual take-over is deployed; gendered power play ensues; queerness incubates; memes converge. Set in New York City, post-Occupy and pre-Trump. First person / mixed media / pulp. Not actually about astrology.

Novel
214 pages
November 2020
Complete English original text
available

Rights sold to:
English World (Deluge Books)
Germany (Matthes & Seitz)
Netherlands (Lees Magazijn)

"Emily Segal is almost mystically attuned to the cultural logic of our era. She lives its pangs and contradictions intellectually, emotionally and somatically – late capitalism's Simone Weil." Tom McCarthy

"It's a brilliantly written novel of a moment in search of a shimmer, half 'here', half digital, an everywhere post branding work place place where few have dared to live and this writer, explorer, critic, philosopher of nonbusiness has done it deep. Segal's style is widely smart, different than deep (always). I mean her Mercury Retrograde is, it truly is."

Eileen Myles

"A thought-provoking and often extremely funny first novel looking back at the 2010s, which I couldn't put down. I should also say this book offered some very cathartic food-for-thought on the strange ways capital, cultural capital, and the Internet interacted in the 10s, for those of you who are still haunted by trying to make sense of it all."

Emilie Friedlander, VICE

***A New York Times New and
Notable Book 2020***


Emily Segal (b. 1988, New York, NY) is an artist, writer, and trend forecaster based in Los Angeles. She is the co-founder of Nemesi, a think tank and consultancy based in Berlin and Los Angeles, as well as the literary press DELUGE BOOKS. I also founded the trend forecasting group and art collective K-HOLE (2011-2016). Her debut novel *Mercury Retrograde*, has been published by Deluge in 2020.

Matthias Senkel



Matthias Senkel

Angles of the World

 Matthias & Seitz Berlin

Fifteen stories and miniature novels take us on a literary search for traces between the compass lines. The adventures collected in „Angles of the World“ are about explorers and other driven people - but the real protagonists are islands, languages, the weather, and storytelling itself. Matthias Senkel takes us to those remote places in globes and atlases where cartographers used to draw sea monsters and wind blowers.

Every trace of the anthropologist Signe is lost on a remote Atlantic island that has fallen out of time. In Istanbul, a sailor urgently needs to find the ransom for his lover, but keeps ending up in the Bosphorus. On a sub-Antarctic island, linguist Agnieszka researches an endangered language and abruptly gets caught up in a conflict between estranged islanders. At gunpoint, a Chinese Mandarin is asked to explain how he ended up on an atoll in the middle of the Indian Ocean. And on the post-apocalyptic Île de Montréal, a survivor finds himself forced to trade novel fragments for vital goods.

Stories
217 pages
September 2021
Complete German text
available

Rights available

Matthias Senkel, born in Greiz in 1977, now lives in Leipzig. His debut novel *Frühe Vögel* (Aufbau Verlag) was published in 2012 and was awarded the Uwe-Johnson-Förderpreis and the Rauriser Literaturpreis. *Dunkle Zahlen* was nominated for the Leipzig Book Fair Prize and the German Book Prize 2018.

„Matthias Senkel could have a thing or two to say about the smart, highly ambitious up-and-coming scene in German-language literature if he succeeds.“

- Dirk Knipphals, taz



Helga Kurzchalia

The House of the Child



The House of the Child, designed by Hermann Henselmann as a residential and children's department store, was located at the entrance to what was then Stalinallee. Life there is the starting and crystallization point of an episodically narrated novel that begins before June 17, 1953 and ends in 1965. When the communist parents of the narrator return to Germany from English emigration after the end of the war, they soon move with their children into the impressive building on today's Strausberger Platz. Through the girl's eyes, we meet her neighbors Hermann and Irene Henselmann, Robert and Karin Havemann, the writers Alex Wedding, F. C. Weiskopf and Bodo Uhse. They all share a belief in a different Germany. But the girl also gets to know her peers. For example, the boy next door, whose parents were deported to the Soviet Union after the war and whose mother will later flee to the West. Or her school friend Gilda, who grows up in an old apartment building behind Stalinallee as if in another cosmos, and the orphaned Zsuzsa, who was transplanted from Hungary to Berlin after the 1956 uprising and comes to visit the child's house. After a few years, the first tiles fall from the facade onto the street, and clear cracks also appear between the residents. The protagonist experiences the contradiction between her privileged situation and the outside world, between Stalinallee and its side streets, whose reality of life often seems to penetrate with difficulty to the adults around her.

Novel
114 pages
October 2021

Rights available


Helga Kurzchalia, born in Berlin in 1948, studied psychology at the Humboldt University in Berlin and has worked as a psychotherapist for many years.

Non-Fiction



Hanna Engelmeier

Comfort. Four Exercises

 Matthes & Seitz Berlin

That reading is far more than the meaningful grasping of letters is shown by the four exercises that this essay gathers. They bring reading together with writing, listening, praying and enjoying: Franz Xaver Kappus, known to few today, inspired Rilke through his letters to explore the fundamentals of poetry that continue to inspire writers (and readers) today. The audio recording of David Foster Wallace's speech „This Is Water“ and a radio play on Walt Disney's Aristocats attest to a reading that is listening. Eileen Myles finds a role model as a child in reading a Joan of Arc comic, and Adorno indulges in ice cream alongside criticism. In this constriction of critique and enthusiasm, canon and pop, everyday life and aesthetics, personal and theoretical often reveals with each successive chapter exactly what the title promises: four exercises that celebrate text and by-text cleverly, full of wit, yet with seriousness, and add up to a quiet but unconditional reading recommendation for hard times and not-so-hard times.

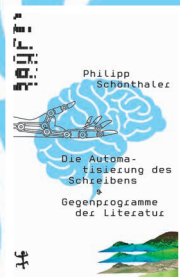
„The need to seek comfort in writing may be ancient. The subtle wisdom in this book is as sobering as it is uplifting, as surprising as it is magnificent. In short, it's to die for!“

Judith Schalansky

Essay
200 pages
September 2021
Complete German text
available

Rights available

Hanna Engelmeier, born in Münster in 1983, works as a research assistant at the Institute for Advanced Study in the Humanities in Essen. She received her doctorate with a thesis on the history of German anthropology at the time of the early Darwin reception. Since 2014, she has been a writer for the magazine Merkur, where her column on „Physical Training“ has been running since the beginning of this year.



Philipp Schönthaler

*The Automation of Writing
and Literature Counterprograms*

Experiments with computer-generated texts initially cause astonishment, only to lead to reassured dismissal: Good novels, it is said, are not (yet) written by computers. But against the backdrop of the triumphant advance of artificial intelligence, the history of the mechanization of writing comes into focus. In this large-scale study, Philipp Schönthaler reconstructs how writing and programming relate to each other. His surprising walk through the history of literature opens up a fascinating space of depth for the current discussion, which makes alarmisms as well as promises of salvation questionable. At the beginning of the 20th century, the European avant-gardes translated the modes of production of the Industrial Revolution into new writing techniques, thus laying the foundation for a literature from the spirit of the computer. But computers and cybernetics were already splitting the field of the neo-avant-gardes. Simultaneously with the first texts produced on computing devices, they develop ways of writing a non-programmable literature. They make it clear that writing and programming are linked to different self-determinations and modes of world development. In view of automation as a global principle, „The Automation of Writing“ shows literature as a counter-draft to a reality that can be modeled algorithmically and to which there are seemingly no limits. Literary writing can only meet this challenge, however, if it accepts the omnipresence of the digital.

Writing or programming? The story of a changeable relationship and a passionate plea for the skills of literature

jt Matthes & Seitz Berlin

Essay
600 pages
October 2021
Complete German text
available

Rights available

Philipp Schönthaler, born in Stuttgart in 1976, received the Clemens Brentano Prize in 2012 for his narrative debut *Nach oben ist das Leben offen*. He lives in Berlin.



Jens Soentgen

Pact with the Fire

Philosophy of a world-changing covenant

The fires that have been ravaging entire regions in Australia, California or Brandenburg summer after summer for some years now are devastating. Even greater, however, are the everyday fires that burn in technical facilities on the outskirts or in the middle of modern metropolises, especially in Asia, America and Europe: in power plants, in blast furnaces, in cement works, in industrial plants and, last but not least, in the approximately 1.4 billion combustion engines that are used to move people and goods around the world. All these fires would have to be reduced to less than half in this decade, and in twenty, at the latest in thirty years, none of them should be burning any longer if climate change is to remain controllable. Whether and how this is possible is not only a scientific and technical question, but also a philosophical one. For fire is not just any tool, it is rather the universal technology par excellence with which people not only create their artificial environments, but also operate them: People make fire, and fire also makes people. What role does fire play in nature? What has made fire so attractive to humans that they remain loyal to it to this day? And how could the Big Burn that characterizes our age be reduced to save at least part of nature from the destruction wrought by fire-using humans?

The Promethean Pact, the power of negation, and man as an environment-changing being - and fire as the unifying prism through which the dangers of our present can be better illuminated.

 Matthes & Seitz Berlin

Essay
180 pages
October 2021
Complete German text
available

Rights available

Jens Soentgen, born in Bensberg in 1967, is a chemist and philosopher. Since 2002, he has been scientific director of the Environmental Science Center at the University of Augsburg and also adjunct professor of philosophy at the Memorial University of Newfoundland in St. John's, Canada. His scientific and popular works are available in many languages and have received several awards.

Ravaging · Burn · Controllable · Technology · Nature · Loyal · Age

Rivers



Marie Luise Knott

 Matthes & Seitz Berlin

370 Riverside Drive, 730 Riverside Drive
Hannah Arendt und Ralph Ellison

Few essays by Hannah Arendt are as controversial as her 1959 critique of the legally forced integration of black students. While Arendt dismissed the objections of her liberal friends at the time, she - the theorist of freedom - wrote to the African-American writer Ralph Ellison in 1965 that she had read his replication of her remarks at the time, had not yet considered the „naked violence“ and had only now understood his „ideal of sacrifice.“ What sacrifice was this about? About what blindnesses? And what does this episode tell us about the time and about Hannah Arendt's work? Marie Luise Knott unfolds an impressive mosaic of thoughts, images and reflections on the background of Arendt's letters and thus opens a view into the abyss of the history of the past century. The distance and closeness of African American and Jewish experiences can be experienced through the example of these two public figures who were worlds apart, even though they lived just a number's turn away on the same street. Both could look from their windows onto the same river, which just around the corner flows into the sea over which both blacks and Jews once entered the country, albeit under contrasting conditions.

Essay
140 pages
September 2021
Complete German text
available

Rights available

Marie Luise Knott is a journalist, translator, and author living in Berlin. In 1995 she founded the German edition of *Le Monde diplomatique* and has been its editor-in-chief for the past eleven years. She has written numerous works on art and literature, as well as several important studies of Hannah Arendt.

*A startling fragment from the prequel
to Black Lives Matter.*



Klaus Dörre

The Utopia of Socialism
Compass for a Sustainability Revolution

A society can only be sustainable if it breaks the compulsion for ever new land grabs that is inherent in capitalist ownership as a structural principle. A society that overcomes this expansive principle in a democratic way must be a socialist one, Dörre argues in this fundamental book.

In order to regain radiance, however, socialism must move away from its dogmatically ossified claim and once again become an attractive utopia. The content of this utopia can no longer be the liberation of the productive forces from the fetters of inhibiting production relations. The socialism of the 21st century, which reflects and thinks along with its own history and its manifold failures, stands for the search for an emergency brake that brings the train speeding toward an abyss to a halt. But there is still time to set the course in such a way that other ways out of the epochal economic-ecological pincer crisis become possible. At the center of Dörre's conception of society is a fundamentally changed relationship between society and nature, which incorporates feminist, ecological and also indigenous currents of thought critical of capitalism.

*A compass for the next society, dedicated to the currents critical of
capitalism in the global climate movements*

 Matthes & Seitz Berlin

Essay
260 pages
September 2021
Complete German text
available
English sample available
Rights available


Klaus Dörre, born in Volkmarsen-Külte in 1957, has been professor of sociology of labor, industry and economics in Jena since 2005. He is a founding member of the Institute for Solidarity in Modernity, a member of the scientific advisory board of Attac, and co-editor of the „Berliner Journal für Soziologie,“ among other publications. Together with Stephan Lessenich and Hartmut Rosa, he founded the collegial research group Post Growth Societies. In 2021, Klaus Dörre received the Thuringian Research Award.



Wolfgang Müller-Funk

Crudelitas

Twelve Chapters of a Discourse History of Cruelty

 Matthes & Seitz Berlin

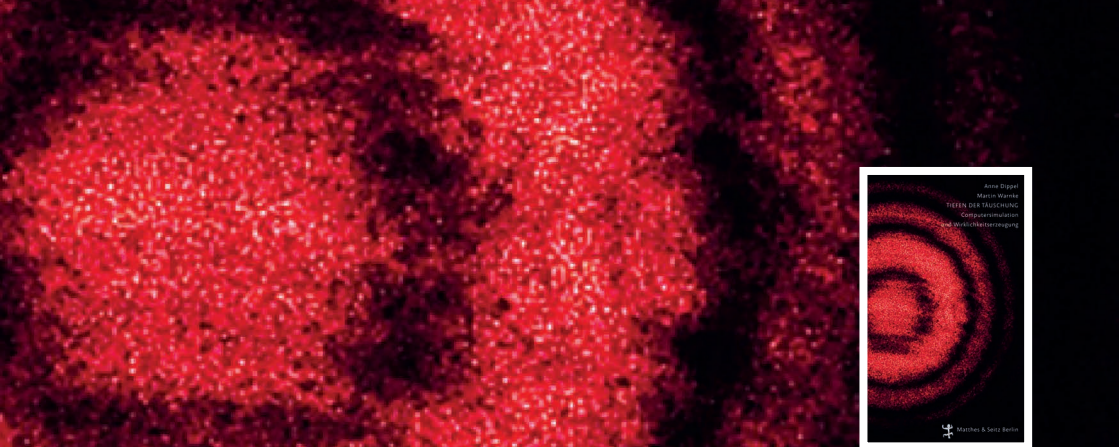
The human „is also the cruel animal“. This radical thesis is the starting point of a discourse history of cruelty. By defining cruelty as part of the process of civilization, Wolfgang Müller-Funk succeeds in providing a shattering view of an aspect of human evolution that common descriptions conceal: The experimentation with possibilities and the latitude and forms of representation conditioned by the language of words point to entirely artificial forms of violence that are neither accidental nor necessary. The uncanny appeal of cruelty here also lies in its dubious promise of unhindered self-assertion. In twelve concise chapters-on Robert Musil and Ernst Jünger, Seneca and Friedrich Nietzsche, Elias Canetti and the Marquis de Sade, Jean Améry and Mario Vargas Llosa, Sigmund Freud and Maurice Merleau-Ponty, Ismail Kadare and Arthur Koestler-Müller-Funk's study gives the lie to Gottfried Benn's statement that liberal man cannot look violence in the eye. His history of cruelty, informed by literature, points a philosophical way to resist its temptations.

Essay
336 pages
October 2021
Complete German text
available

Rights available

Wolfgang Müller-Funk was Professor of cultural studies in Birmingham and Vienna and, among other things, Fellow at the New School for Social Research in New York and at the IWM in Vienna.

*On the terrifying ingenuity of cruelty - and what it teaches us about
human beings*



Anne Dippel and Martin Warnke

Depths of Deception

Computer simulation and reality generation

What is the epistemological status of a computer simulation? Is it theory or experiment - or does it not rather form a no man's land in between, which also offers a place for deception and fraud? On the basis of empirical field research, Dippel and Warnke take a look at one of the most shocking phenomena of digitalization: the erosion of modern, fact-based truth production. Computer simulation produces something of its own through the analysis of large data sets and the recreation of elementary processes, whereby precision of world description and fundamental deception lie close together. „Depths of Deception“ is an ethnography of the famous quantum physics double-slit experiment and the proposal of an Operational Realism. As an epistemological perspective, the latter recognizes that computer simulations have long been an indispensable basis of our lives, and precisely through them determine what is to be considered real. Last but not least, Dippel and Warnke therefore raise the question of the ethical consequences of algorithmic world design.

*A long overdue investigation into the relationship between simulation
and reality*

 Matthes & Seitz Berlin

Essay
336 pages
October 2021
Complete German text
available

Rights available

Martin Warnke, born in 1955, holds a doctorate in theoretical physics and is Professor of Computer Science and Digital Media at Leuphana University Lüneburg. There, he is director of the DFG Collaborative Research Group Media Cultures of Computer Simulation.

Anne Dippel, born in 1978, is a cultural anthropologist and historian. She is currently a substitute professor at the Department of Folklore (Empirical Cultural Studies and Cultural History) at Friedrich Schiller University Jena.

HAN

BYUNG-CHUL HAN

Infokratie

Digitalisierung und die Krise der Demokratie



Byung-chul Han

Infokratie. Digitization and the Crisis of Democracy



Matthes & Seitz Berlin

Digitization is advancing inexorably. We are dazed by the communication and information frenzy. At the same time, we feel powerless in the face of the tsunami of information that is unleashing deformative, destructive forces. Digitization is now also taking hold of the political sphere and causing massive distortions in the democratic process. Election campaigns as information wars are being waged with every conceivable technical and psychological means. Social bots, the automated fake accounts in social media, spread fake news, agitation and hatred and influence the formation of political opinion. Troll armies intervene in election campaigns by targeting disinformation. Conspiracy theories and propaganda dominate political debate. Digital psychometrics and psychopolitics are used to try to influence electoral behavior by circumventing conscious decision-making.

Byung-Chul Han's new essay describes today's crisis of democracy by tracing it back to the digital structural transformation of the public sphere. Han gives the crisis a name: Infocracy and locates it in the information regime as a new form of rule.

Essay
100 pages
July 2021
Complete German text
available

Rights sold to:
English World (Polity)
Italy (Einaudi)
Spanish World (Taurus)
France (PUF)
Korea (Gimm-Young)
Brazil (Vozes)

Byung-Chul Han
was born in Seoul,
South-Korea. He
is a professor for
cultural studies at
the University of Arts
in Berlin (UDK).

*„The most widely read living German philosopher
of our present time is Korean.“*
el País



Norbert Bolz

*No power of morals!
Politics beyond good and evil*

 Matthes & Seitz Berlin

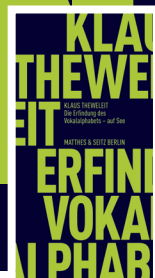
Is politics moral? Not at all, says Norbert Bolz. It may be ideological, a battlefield of conflicting interests - but good and bad are not facts here, but at best a matter of negotiation. In his new essay, the pugnacious philosopher and media scholar therefore calls for the emancipation of politics from morality, thus placing himself in the tradition of the *raison d'état* from Machiavelli to Max Weber. Bolz criticizes the rhetoric of protest movements and NGOs, whose weapon is the emotionalization and moralization of political issues and whose contempt is for *realpolitik*. The politicization of all areas of life and the accompanying moralization of all politics leads to the de-differentiation of our social relations. Looking at the (theoretical) history of our Western democracies from Aristotle to Machiavelli and Hobbes to Rousseau and Schmitt, Bolz traces the development of the relationship between politics and morality. The author thus ties in with his essay „The Avant-garde of Fear“ and provides a theoretical superstructure for his considerations there.

Essay
160 pages
Semptember 2021
Complete German text
available


Rights available

Norbert Bolz, born in 1953 in Ludwigshafen on the Rhine, is a media and communication theorist and freelance publicist. Until his retirement in 2018 he taught as a media scientist at the FU Berlin. His publication topics revolve around the transformation of modern societies and the increasing uncertainty of postmodern societies.

ERFINDE VOKAL ALPHABET



Klaus Theweleit

 Matthes & Seitz Berlin

The Invention of the Vowel Alphabet - At Sea

Who invented it, the vowel alphabet? Did it come south from the Danubian culture, did the Phoenicians bring it with them on their trade routes, or does it have its roots in the Semitic languages of the Near East? Was it even Homer who created it single-handedly when he wrote the Illiad and the Odyssey? What is clear is that around 800 B.C. the vowel alphabet became established, starting from the eastern Mediterranean. In many cultural theories, literacy and democratization are closely linked: The massive reduction of the necessary signs with an enormous expansion of what can be expressed with them represents a turning point in history. Precisely and aggressively at the same time, Klaus Theweleit picks up the threads. The vowel alphabet, according to his speculative reconstruction, is an invention of Greek traders and pirates who could no longer steer towards a fixed home port. On stormy seas, the vowel simply carries better. Memorized in the verse form of hexameter, epics became the central means of communicating belonging. „The Invention of the Vowel Alphabet - at Sea“ is a fast-paced journey to the origins of European culture.

Essay
280 pages
October 2021
Complete German text
available

Rights available

Klaus Theweleit, born in East Prussia in 1942, studied German and English. Today he lives as a freelance writer with teaching assignments in Germany, the USA, Switzerland and Austria. Between 1998 and 2008, Theweleit was professor of art and theory at the State Academy of Fine Arts in Karlsruhe. He became known for his monumental work *Männerphantasien* (1977/78), a new edition of which was published by Matthes & Seitz Berlin in 2019. Rudolf Augstein called it „perhaps the most exciting German-language publication of this year“ in *Der Spiegel* after its initial publication.



Daniel Illger

Cosmic Fear

 Matthes & Seitz Berlin

When I am dead, I am no longer there. The thought, as cruel as it is exciting, triggers a vertigo, because it touches on the impossibility of grasping one's own death. Daniel Illger recognizes in this vertigo the concern of a „weird fiction“, as whose most important author H. P. Lovecraft is considered. Illger identifies cosmic anxiety as an aesthetic experience that draws from the dissolution of the fundamental coordinates of our existence the greatest horror, but also an exhilarating sense of liberation. Cosmic anxiety shapes the phantasm of ego dissolution as an incessant plunging into unfathomable depths. In it Illger recognizes the fear of our time. Its horror is based on the one hand on the scientifically plausibilized diagnosis that the universe is a meaningless and soulless place, but on the other hand on the abyss of transcendence itself. In relation to the crisis diagnoses of the present, the project of an art that stands under the sign of cosmic fear can then be understood as an attempt to locate the ego in the tension between fear of and pleasure in its own dissolution.

Essay
240 pages
October 2021
Complete German text
available

Rights available

Daniel Illger, born in Bergisch Gladbach in 1977, is a writer and film scholar. The first volume of his fantasy trilogy „Skargat“ was awarded the Seraph Prize for best debut in 2016. In 2019, his study „Green Suns. Poetics and Politics of Fantasy on the Medium of Video Games“.



Moritz Senarclens de Grancy

The Hottest Desire of Mankind

 Matthes & Seitz Berlin

„The question of what we can expect from the future is essentially determined by what we believe we have lost,“ writes Moritz Senarclens de Grancy in his educational essay, referring to a hitherto unnoticed early thesis of Freud’s: the „hottest desire of mankind,“ according to the inventor of psychoanalysis, is to be allowed to do something twice. Behind this is an ambivalent figure who, on the one hand, is intent on approaching a past image by means of repetitions and, at the same time, breaking with it in order to finally become free for the future. In an ingenious twist, Senarclens de Grancy sees the origin of longing in precisely that primordial event behind which there is no turning back: in the expulsion of Adam and Eve from paradise. The desire for the eternal return of the past and our expulsion from paradise form a witty and entertaining web, in which our everyday life is not neglected.

Essay
100 pages
October 2021
Complete German text
available

Rights available

Moritz Senarclens de Grancy, born in Hannover in 1972, is a psychoanalyst in private practice in Berlin. He studied law, art history, and cultural studies and received his doctorate from Humboldt University in Berlin on the role of metaphor in Freud. Since 1999, he has written cultural and professional reviews for print, online, and radio.



Matthias Wittmann

The Society of the Tentacle



Matthes & Seitz Berlin

The skeleton-less octopus is a virtuoso of ambiguity, sand in the gears of an administration that tolerates no ambiguity. Its outlandishness makes the octopus unpredictable as a ceaseless deviation - even from itself. In this extraordinary essay, the figure of the tentacle serves both to analyze and criticize the existing and to counter-design a not-yet. In the unfolding dialogue between the octopus figures in zoology and mythology, media and cultural theory, phenomenology and political philosophy, as well as film, literature, and art history, surprising turns occur, from whose grasp the octopus repeatedly escapes in order to play out forms of epistemic disobedience that ultimately arrive at a new social contract based on the recognition of defenselessness and vulnerability. Matthias Wittmann illuminates blind spots of our society and establishes with the octopus a figure of our crisis-ridden present as well as a figure of the disruption of human orders of knowledge.

Essay
250 pages
October 2021
Complete German text
available

Rights available

Matthias Wittmann, born in Vienna in 1976, is a media theorist, writer and curator as well as a literary and film critic. He received his PhD in media studies in 2013 on the topic *MnemoCine. The Construction of Memory in the Experience of Film*. 2009-2019 he researched and taught at the Seminar for Media Studies at the University of Basel, focusing on film, screenology, medial mnemographies, and transcultural image research (esp. cinema of Iran). In 2021 he was a visiting professor at the University of Vienna (theater, film, and media studies).

ULRICH VAN LOYEN


Der Pate und sein Schatten

Die Literatur der Mafia



Ulrich van Loyen

The Godfather and his Shadow. The literature of the mafia

 Matthes & Seitz Berlin

Widely known is the anecdote that the mafia actors from Hollywood films influenced their real-life models to hold their guns at an angle and not straight. And the success of Roberto Saviano's books on the Gomorrah and the Children's Clans attests to a bourgeois interest in the structure and stories of organized crime that extends far beyond Italy. But how much mafia does literature tell, and how much literature is in the mafia? This reflection, grounded in ethnological fieldwork and literary theory, reads the works of brigand literature, tells of the godfathers who write their own stories in verse. Mafia culture is a collective term that deals with an association outside the state and away from the wealthy, a revolutionary force based on conservative values: Family, love, honor and revenge where it is just due. It is the possibility of overcoming one's own circumstances, at least in the imagination, and becoming part of a history whose continuation is closely linked to the literature about them.

Essay
198 pages
October 2021
Complete German text
available

Rights available


Ulrich van Loyen, born 1978 in Dresden, studied Theology and Literary Studies in Munich and Rome and wrote his dissertation about Franz Baermann Steiner. Since 2014 he is a fellow at the Research Lab „Transformations of Life“ at the University of Cologne.



Peter Trawny

Hitler, Philosophy and Hatred.

Notes on the discourse on identity politics

 Matthes & Seitz Berlin

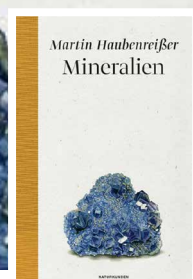
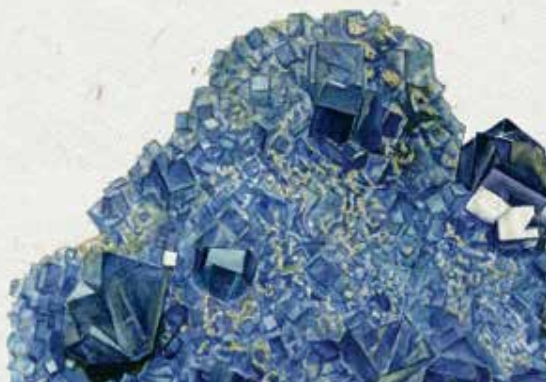
To believe that European discourse can keep National Socialism at a distance, like an object, is at best a naïve hypothesis, but at worst a political mistake. One then pretends that National Socialism had no contact with the rest of Europe, with other philosophers, with other political and religious languages, Jacques Derrida points out in a conversation with Didier Eribon. And yet, from World War II to the present, philosophers have ignored the most important self-representations of National Socialism. Adolf Hitler's *Mein Kampf* is still considered a book unworthy of philosophical discussion. This attitude sheds light on philosophy itself. Does it possibly find too much of itself in „*Mein Kampf*“? And what is it exactly that she finds there? Trawny's reading of Hitler's book does not avoid the possibility of a continuity between philosophy and National Socialism. It is an encounter with a hatred that threatens us simply because it once seized power and dominated the life of society. There is no reason to think that the hatred has passed away.

Essay
112 pages
October 2021
Complete German text
available

Rights available

Peter Trawny is a German philosopher born in 1964 in the Ruhr area. He is a professor at the university of Wuppertal, Vienna and Shanghai. He is the co-editor of the complete works of Martin Heidegger and founded the Martin Heidegger Institute in 2012. His work mainly focuses on political philosophy, ethics, art and media philosophy, all to understand globalization and cosmopolitanism.

A philosophical Reading of Hitler's Mein Kampf



Martin Haubenreißer

Minerals

 Matthes & Seitz Berlin

Not only since the baroque natural history cabinets have the millions of years old minerals been regarded as wonders of nature, whose crystallized geometry reveals an almost magically beautiful order of inorganic matter that has always captivated art and science. The passionate collector Martin Haubenreißer has been painting mineral specimens for three decades - true to scale and composed into impressive picture panels, in the detailed tradition of natural history illustration: the coral-red crocoite, the blue-milky agate, the shiny golden cubes of pyrite, the roundish masses of bottle-green malachite or the columns of transparent tourmaline, but above all the multicolored and multiform fluorites from mainly Saxon mines. Precisely because his true-to-life watercolors do not idealize the pieces, but show flaws as well as the labels belonging to the specimens and revealing their provenance, Haubenreißer's illustrations make the individuality and the historicity of each individual mineral specimen tangible. His masterful and sensitive plates, published here for the first time in book form, magnificently visualize the creative and aesthetic power of unimaginably slow geological processes that produced each individual element, each chemical compound. At a moment when mankind has almost exhausted the deposits and sealed most of the pits, the minerals are testimony to a superior temporality reaching back to the beginnings of the planet.

Magnificent agates and sparkling fluorites: colorful kaleidoscopes from the earth's interior

Picture Book
450 pages
October 2021


Rights available

Martin Haubenreißer, born in Bielefeld in 1938, worked in the now extinct craft of chemigraphy, where he could apply his talent for drawing. He has been a mineral collector since 1977 and began drawing minerals from his own collection in 1995. His drawings, which now number over 600, have already been exhibited at the Natural History Museum in Leipzig, at the Munich Mineral Days and at the Chair Tree Museum in Rabenau.



Tobias Keiling & Heidi Liedke

Sloths. A Portrait

 Matthes & Seitz Berlin

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 Lucia 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.

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

Non-fiction
160 pages with numerous
illustrations
October 2021
Complete German text
available

Rights available

Tobias Keiling, born in Düsseldorf in 1983, studied philosophy, sociology and law in Freiburg, Basel and Paris. Doctorate in philosophy, research stays in Boston and Oxford. Research assistant at the Institute of Philosophy at the University of Bonn.

Heidi Lucia 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. She is a research assistant in English Studies at the University of Koblenz-Landau.

Slow · Smiles · Sluggish · Sloths · Spotted · Symbol



Verena Auffermann

Hedgehogs. A Portrait

 Matthes & Seitz Berlin

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.

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

Non-fiction
160 pages with numerous illustrations
October 2021
Complete German text available

Rights 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 Süddeutsche Zeitung, among others. She is also active as a juror, moderator and lecturer. Numerous publications followed, most recently in 2009, a literary anthology entitled 100 Women Writers in Portraits. Von Atwood bis Sappho, von Adichie bis Zeh will be published in an expanded new edition by Piper in the fall of 2021. In 2016, Verena Auffermann published a pictorial biography of Henry James.

Hedgehogs · Spikes · Hero · Trail · Fluffy · Prickly

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