Dealing with his father’s death, Frank Witzel evokes memories of his childhood when television was still an essential part of early evenings. A childhood full of disciplinary measures such as grounding, record and tv bans, parents who unwittingly passed on to their kids the dread of a self-endured separation as a constant threat. A childhood in which a Sunday is clearly structured, the apron dress is part of the housewife’s essentials and the fairy tale »Peterchens Mondfahrt / Little Peter’s Journey to the Moon«, thought up by adults, is a horror scenario just like Mainz carnival. How much individual and collective experience are mutually dependent? Witzel doesn’t find the answers when he looks at the staged photos from the family album »Our Child« but when he picks up the discarded shots by asking himself if these aren’t the ones which tell what really happened. In constant doubt about the truth of his own memories Frank Witzel once more turns out to be an approachable and highly gifted narrator, who succeeds in capturing the state of post war society in the newly established Federal Republic of Germany through a personal angle.

A moving farewell to the Federal Republic by the winner of the German Book Prize
At the invitation of the Rhoxus Foundation, the narrator Joshua comes to Miami where he has to stay at a very smart apartment: drones deliver money and space food, the room temperature adjusts itself automatically, the fridge is the only conversational partner. The computer game »Cloud Control« offers the only change, it feeds itself in real time from the gamers' data. At a NBA match Joshua meets the marine biologist Claire. They travel to Nassau after a few weeks and she reveals her pregnancy without telling him whether he is the child's father or not. „Flexen in Miami“ is a love story questioning how do we know that we exist and how we can face each other: as humans or avatars, in life as well as in the cloud. In his long-awaited novel Joshua Groß talks about various notches, traps, glitches and uncertainties in the reality which we call our present.
The incredible life of a true hero of the 20th century

Anne Weber
Epic Annette

What a life! Born in 1923 in Brittany, member of the communist youth organisation and of the résistance during the Second World War, Anenette de saved two Jewish kids and received from Yad Vashem the distinction of the „Righteous Among the Nations“. Because of her participation in the Algerian war, she was sentenced to 10 years in prison. She broke free after an incredible escape, was part of the Ben Bella gouvernement before fleeing again to Switzerland this time where she works as a neurologist. Thie epic life of Anne Beaumanoir is brilliantly told by the French-German author Anne Weber and gives the reader the reassurance that true heroes still exist.

Anne Weber, born in 1964 in Germany, lives in Paris. She always writes her books in two both languages, German and French, and has translated numerous French authors into German.
Paul Scraton

*On the Edge. Walking the Berlin Outskirts*

„Whose idea was this anyway, this circumambulatory exploration of the edge of Berlin that I was starting on by the frozen expanse of Lake Tegel? It was an idea born in the warmth of a Kreuzberg bar, surrounded by the fug of cigarette smoke and under the influence of one too many beers. My friend and I agreed that it should be a continuous circuit, with each walk starting from where the last one left off. It felt neater that way. Not that he was going to do it with me. We toasted the rough plan and left the details for later. It was in the dead days between Christmas and New Year, when Berlin feels abandoned before everyone returns for the high-explosive revelry of Silvester, that I bought the map. I laid it out on the kitchen table and began to trace a rough route. Ten walks. Ten weeks. It seemed straightforward enough. The only question was when to start. Should I wait for spring? But I had the map now, I didn't really want to wait, and – although I have never been one for New Year’s resolutions – it seemed like a good project with which to kick-start the year.“

*A singular look on a city
which invents itself every day*
Money is ruling the world and this world is threatening to collapse sociologically and ecologically. Why is money deciding the pace of our lives? Where does its power dwell that even the most powerful governments stand to attention before it and that we cannot conceive a world without it?

In his brilliant account on how money came to the world, Eske Bockelmann shows defying today's beliefs that this special medium of exchange has imposed itself not until the late Middle Age, even though markets and coins existed before. With an unconventional look on the history and the ethnology of the economy, Bockelmann brings out the specificities of the community before the existence of money and their social cohesion. He also casts a light on how the market economy has been established in the free cities of the Middle Age to the explosion of the first financial bubble. With this derivation of money the eternal mystery has been solved: what is money in the first place and how is it connected to worth and capital, speculation and crisis, state and society.

This brilliant investigation is revolutionary, way beyond Marx: Because in gaining access to a new and deeper understanding of the constraints and omnipotence, it opens a perspective on a future world in which money could become a thing of the past.

**A revolutionary analysis of the origins and influence of a super power**
The modern age claims that it has successfully overcome revenge and has replaced it through the power of the law. Since the Enlightenment, revenge is seen not only as opposite number of the law, but rather as the dark side of the modern age.

In this ambitious cultural history, Fabian Bernhardt gives a new interpretation of this story of progress which has never been put into question. Batman makes an appearance next to Achilles, Marcel Mauss next to Emmanuel Kant. In his philosophical reflection with touches of cultural anthropology and a fine sense for the imaginary of the masses, he shows that a theoretical blackout has accompanied by the revenge made illegitimate. The regulated revenge that is used in so-called primitive societies is not just misjudged on a regular basis but also the part which plays with our desire for retaliation, In revenge it is not only the dark side of justice that appears but it also gives space for the repressed energies and emotions that the modern society tries to ignore.

Outcasted, repressed but always flaring up: 
Why revenge is still a burning need in our enlightened society

Fabian Bernhardt was born in 1981 in Saudia Arabia and grew up in Germany. In 2018 he got a PhD in philosophy which he has been teaching since then at the Free University of Berlin.
Chinese Buddhism shows many different facets and shades. Even though a lot of the things that were defining it once are now part of a remote past, its spiritual and social influences are reaching far beyond China. Despite resolute attempts, even the Tang emperors or the Chinese communism were not capable of destroying it. Its teachings have left its marks on Chinese culture, its philosophy and its people as much as its temples and pagodas have done it on the Chinese landscapes.

From the mythological rulers (Fuxi, Nuwa and Shennong) of the beginning of the Chinese tradition to the founder of the Tao teaching, Laozi, the ethical teaching of Confucius, through the millennium of the dynasties of emperors with their turbulent history, Hans-Günter Wagner depicts the development of Buddhism until contemporary China.

At the same time it is the story of a religion which has its roots in India but thanks to numerous translations and multiples schools deeply influenced China. On the basis of this assimilation and adaptation of Buddhism, a multifaceted picture of the Chinese culture and society is revealed which is still trying to find its way between tradition and reform.

_The first extensive handbook on Buddhism._
_**A key to understand China.**_
Even though it is today hard to conceive since Berlin has taken such a central place in Europe, but Hamburg was in the 90s the pop-cultural centre of Germany. This is where the most important publishing houses and advertising agencies were. The music industry even more. And under this corporate culture, a subculture born out of the heritage of Hafenstraße, Punk and Roter Flora in Saint Pauli was making a name for itself: the Hamburg School. Radical feminist speeches, gender trouble, riot girls and the constant worry to meet this angry crowd that aroused two years after the fall of the Berlin wall: everything that Germany as a whole is facing today. In Hamburg in the early 90s everything has already been extensively discussed and already experienced.

The photos by Christian Werner, which are contributing to this visual essay, are showing both sides of the city: the Hanse once libertarian and now bourgeois and the hard core of the scene. It is the humus of what has been one of the most important cultural trends of the 20th century.

Hamburg under the reading glass: a look back at the spectacular 90s’s, insight into the filthy scenes, shrewdness in word and picture
In reaction against the political division of the society and the return of conservative tendencies, the theatre has also been seized by a wave of politization: historical key events are being staged, authentic witnesses and experts of the everyday life are being put on stage and space for marginalized identities and groups is been made. But in turning into the theatre of everyday political topics, the theatre declares obsolete its own artistic transformation of the world.

In this concise essay, Jakob Hayner gives his interpretation of this evolution as a deep intellectual and artistic crisis and asks for a recollection of what makes theatre different than other cultural phenomenon. Only when the political questions could be asked in the language of the art can the potential of drama be saved. Because it resides not the melting together with reality but in growing out of it. The renewal of theatre is at stake.

Jakob Hayner is born in 1988 and lives in Berlin. He is a journalist for Theater der Zeit.
Yassin Al-Haj Saleh

*Freedom: Home, Prison, Exile and the World*

With his personal experience in Syrian jails in the 80s and the following years of exile, Yassin Al-Haj Saleh examines with a captivating clarity all the aspects of a man's freedom. He demonstrates with what danger and hardships the longing for freedom is tied to, like a radical change in the way of thinking and the external reality and he refers to freedom as a movement where the decisive step brings you to unknown spaces to be discovered. Because freedom leads to war or to culture, freedom is the key to world where human dignity prevails. This free meditation on freedom is a personal story written down with abstract concepts. It is a story of adventure and dangers written down to be rewritten again.

Yassin Al-Haj Saleh was born in 1961. He is a Syrian writer and political dissident. He writes on political, social and cultural subjects relating to Syria and the Arab world.
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 memory capacity than humans is interpreted as a sign for their eeriness.
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 Weß describes in 50 portraits the discovery, the lives and the meaning of bacterias illustrated by Falk Nordmann’s drawings.

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

Ludger Weß

Ludger Weß is a researcher in the field of molecular biology and has been writing popular science books since the 1980’s.
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