

Beute

MERTEN LAGATZ BÉNÉDICTE SAVOY
PHILIPPA SISSIS

Foreign Rights Guide
Spring 2021



Matthes & Seitz Berlin



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, 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

Nastasja Penzar	<i>Yona</i>
Beatrix Langner	<i>The Curtain</i>
Francis Nenik	<i>Diary of a Helpless Man</i>
Joshua Groß	<i>Escape</i>
Yanara Friedland	<i>Uncountry</i>
Schuldt	<i>To Live and to Die in China</i>
Anne Weber	<i>Annette</i>

Non Fiction

Bénédicte Savoy	<i>Booty</i>
Caroline Wiedemann	<i>Tender and Free</i>
László F. Földényi	<i>The Painter and the Wanderer</i>
Elad Lapidot	<i>Anti-Anti-Semitism</i>
Justus Bender	<i>The Plan</i>
Iris Därmann	<i>Resistances</i>

Series Fröhliche Wissenschaft

Marcus Steinweg	<i>Quantum Philosophy</i>
Hannes Böhringer	<i>Dative Life</i>
Moritz Rudolph	<i>The World Spirit as Salmon</i>
Martin Burckhardt	<i>Going Viral</i>
John T. Hamilton	<i>About Complacency</i>
Nicola Gess	<i>Half Truths</i>

Series Naturkunden

Jan Röhnert	<i>On Walking in Karst</i>
Karin Schneider	<i>Pigeons. A Portrait</i>
Marc Engelhardt	<i>Baobabs. A Portrait</i>



Nastasja Penzar

Yona

 Matthes & Seitz Berlin

What if the last place that might still become home is steeped in corruption, racism and violence, a place where murder has become commonplace? Yona grows up alone with her father in a town in Germany that neither of them ever wanted to belong to. After the mysterious death of Yona's mother, her father fled the Central American country where Yona was born. But he does not want to talk about what happened then. When he too dies, shortly before Yona's high school graduation, he leaves her a scrap of paper with a name: Doña A. And so Yona moves from in search of her origins, Yona moves from one foreign country to the next, to her South American birthplace at the foot of an active volcano. Here, where colonialism is visible on every street corner, although it is said never to have existed, war has inscribed itself on the faces of the people. Yona almost suffocates in the stifling sultriness and a society dominated by fear. Soon she is caught in a brutal maelstrom of gang warfare and corruption. Although she tries to keep her feelings of guilt as well as her family secrets at bay, she eventually finds out what once happened to her mother.

A captivating first novel about violence, corruption, family secrets, about origins and the search for identity.

Novel
220 pages
March 2021
Complete German text
available

Rights available

Nastasja Penzar, born in Berlin in 1990, lived in Zagreb, Frankfurt am Main and Guatemala before she studied Romance languages in Leipzig and São Paulo, then linguistic in Vienna and Berlin. She is currently pursuing a PhD on God and the World in Post-Yugoslavian Literature. She publishes in anthologies and journals and translates poems and plays from Spanish and Serbo-Croatian. Her theater debut *_trokut_* premiered in Vienna in 2016. She lives in Berlin again.

DER VORHANG

Beatrix Langner

The Curtain



 Matthes & Seitz Berlin

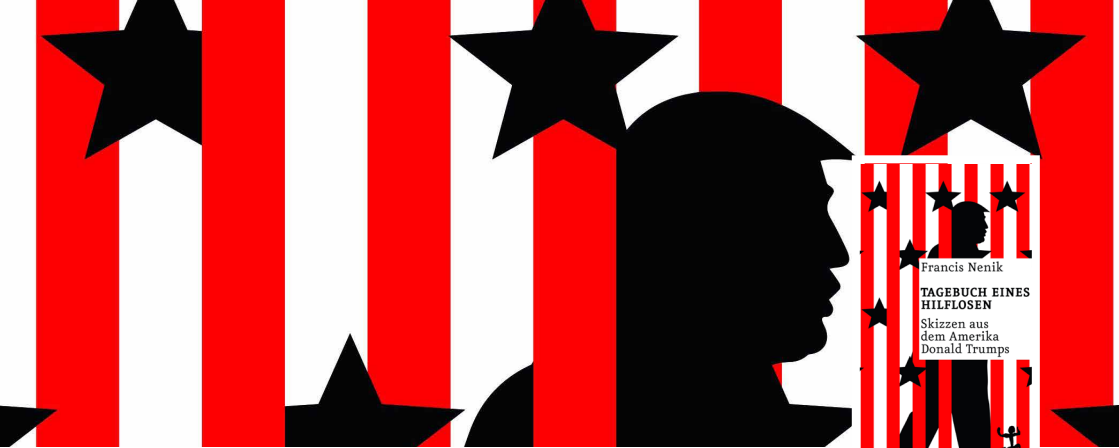
In 1953, a young family escapes from the GDR to the West. The reasons the child can only guess at the reasons for the flight, but soon the early memories of eastern Germany fade: The so-called economic miracle provides the parents with a little prosperity when they open a retail store in a small town in the Rhineland. The former winners of the upswing become losers of the market economy. The social exclusion of the unmarried couple in the Catholic province. And so they decide to flee again: This time back to East Germany. Long after the fall of the Wall, the children return to their old West German homeland. But the attempt to rediscover their own childhood on the other side of the Iron ends up at the edge of a big hole, the Hambach mine, which has swallowed up many ancient villages and an entire forest, and already reaches as far as the town of her childhood. Where can no longer be mined, new landscapes with huge lakes are emerging. And so her journey into the past ends in an imaginary landscape of the future. The age of coal is over, the great Cologne is a port city, the Great Hole is flooded and the Rhenish Bay is covered by a large tropical sea, as it was 30 million years ago.

A novel in which everything we know about autobiographical writing is overturned. The incredible and stirring story of two escapes from both parts of Germany.

Novel
192 pages
March 2021
Complete German text
available

Rights available

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. She published a biography of Jean Paul (C. H. Beck), for which she received the Gleim Literature Prize in 2013, and is a member of the PEN Center Germany.



Francis Nenik

*Diary of a helpless man. Sketches from
Donald Trump's America*

 Matthes & Seitz Berlin

On January 20, 2017, the day of Donald Trump's Inauguration, Francis Nenik embarks on a unique writing project. He wants to accompany this bizarre Presidency in his diary. Exactly four years later it will be 1461 entries: one for each day of this term in office.

Nenik is not just about Donald Trump, however. He takes a look at the entire administration to analyze the political changes in the United States and to accurately describe the country's gradual transformation. Again and again, he devotes himself to seemingly offbeat topics, addresses little-known historical events and, for all his criticism of Trump, he does not shy away from examining the political culture on the other side of the spectrum. Through the daily diary entries, a poetology emerges at the same time, that tells the story not from its end, but as it happens. In doing so, Nenik uses the possibilities of the writer, working aphorisms and alliteration and writes literary essays on political decisions. At the same time, he also makes use of scientific and journalistic means and forms, working with official documents, studies and archival material. Nenik thus succeeds in drawing a kaleidoscope of an era. A book that, in retrospect, will help us to understand what happened before our very eyes.

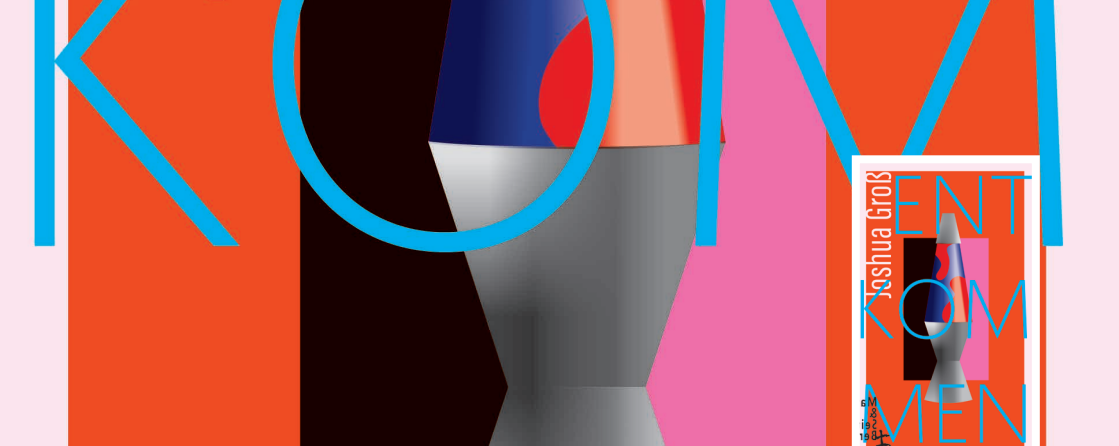
Literature
1100 pages
April 2021
Complete German text
available

Rights available

Francis Nenik, born in 1981, grew up in a small village in Saxony and now lives alternately in Leipzig and his hometown. His debut novel *XO* (ed.cetera) was published in 2012, followed by other novels and narrative nonfiction. Most recently, Spector Books published *Seven Palms*. The Thomas Mann House in Pacific Palisades, and Voland & Quist his *Journey through a Tragicomic Century*.

For four years, Francis Nenik accompanied the presidency of Donald Trump. He is an ingenious seismographer whose feelers reach into the epicenter of power.

Literature · Politics · USA · Power · Diary · Kaleidoscope · Era



Joshua Groß

Escape

 Matthes & Seitz Berlin

Linguistically aware and serious, full of humor, and with the polished precision Joshua Groß creates a literary hall of mirrors. Nuremberg, Electroluchs, or Bergamo are the very real starting points kaleidoscopic worlds and stories that take astonishing twists and turns: The wrestler Alchemist Teaz disappears, but continues to send meaningful messages, the enigmatic Professor Kemander discovers her fascination with an ancient tree, and even Jellyfish P from Flexen in Miami writes himself into these stories with his Twitterfeed. Stories. Rappers A\$AP Rocky and Lil Wayne make appearances, Werner Herzog and Maggie Nelson are interviewed, Donna Haraway and Marcus Steinweg offer advice and comfort. Thinking with them is Joshua, who is at once author, narrator, and character, notes and invents. This is how narratives and essays that, in an irrepressible delight in the present, produce their of reality: against self-sacrifice, against hypocrisy, and for an unconditional writing - driven by humor and profundity, to the point of dissolution.

Literature
272 pages
April 2021
Complete German text
available

Rights available


Joshua Groß, born in 1989 in Grünsberg, studied political science, economics and ethics of text cultures. In 2018 he was invited to the Days of German-Language Literature in Klagenfurt, and in 2019 he received the Anna Seghers Prize. Most recently, his novel Flexen in Miami was published by Matthes & Seitz Berlin.

*Free and playful, prancingly poetic and full of idiosyncratic power:
Joshua Groß is present in a disturbing way and sets out on the path to a
deep, to a true narrative.*



Yanara Friedland

Uncountry. A Mythology

 Matthes & Seitz Berlin

In her delicately interwoven poetic narratives about displacement and flight, Yanara Friedland expands the historical space into a wide field of associations. By brilliantly blending fact and fantasy, she creates a region not bound by the laws of space and time, which quite a few figures roam. Friedland explores this uncountryside in the four books „Ashes“, „Breath“, „Hunger“ and „Future“, in order to interweave individual memory and experience with historical facts and cultural-historical reflection - and with Jewish intellectual history - in ever new patterns of movement. Here the nameless, deserter soldier throws his helmet into the ditch, here the biblical Esther crosses the path, here Abraham wrangles with the son sacrifice and here the pregnant mother of the author moves into the Bendlerblock. The result is a landscape of searching for traces and imagination, of dreams and longings, created with words, which more and more overlays every visible place.

*Dreamlike stories of creation and memory,
a fascinating midrash by a new literary voice*

Literature
222 pages
March 2021
Complete English original
text available

Rights sold to:
**English World (Noemi
Press)**

Yanara Friedland, born in Berlin in 1983, is a writer, translator, and lecturer living in the American Northwest. Her essays and prose texts deal with migration narratives, autofictions, and border crossers. *Uncountry. A Mythology* is her first book and won the 2015 Noemi Press Fiction Award.

Schuldt



Schuldt


To Live and to Die in China. 111 fables after 111 characters

The concise stories are as quick and sudden as a kiss or a sneeze. Next to each picture page with a red character stands the fable to it. Thus Schuldt unfolds lightning careers, people on the brink, daredevils who save themselves, observed with wit, recorded in pitiless laconism. A long overdue exercise in exorcisms. In New York from the vocabulary in Liu's dictionary into strange adventures, the texts, as perplexing as they create a continuum of transformations rich in transformations, an atlas of of unheard-of Chinese beauty. The fables follow the Chinese preference for the similarities of shape and appearance, from one idea to the next, to crazy ideas and nasty surprises.

A glossary guides the reader through the maze from the roots three thousand years ago to the years ago to the present day characters.

*„Schuldt gives us the words, tied up in handy dynamite packets,
so that they can blow us up.“*

Elfriede Jelinek

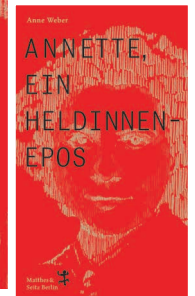
 Matthes & Seitz Berlin

Literature
278 pages
March 2021
Complete English original
text available

Rights available

Schuldt, born in Hamburg in 1941, is an author of unusual books. With his International exhibition of nothing in 1960, he attracted attention as far away as Japan. His books are not alike, each one a completely different invention. He made a name for himself as a performer since the 1960s, linguist, lexicologist, realizer of textual sculptures and linguistic-musical compositions, he combines abstract composition with realism. Schuldt lives in Hamburg and New York.

HELDINNEN- EPOS



Anne Weber

Epic Annette

 Matthes & Seitz Berlin

The incredible life of a true heroine of the 20th century

What a life! Born in 1923 in Brittany, member of the communist youth organisation and of the résistance during the Second World War, Annette de Beaumanoir 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 government before fleeing again to Switzerland this time where she works as a neurologist. The 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.

„A real joy to read from the beginning to the end.“

Die Süddeutsche Zeitung

*

„Surely one of the best books of the year.“

Der Tagesspiegel

*

„Maybe the future of our present lies in the epic poem of Anne Weber.“

Die taz

Literature

208 pages

March 2020

Complete French text and
English sample available

Rights sold to:

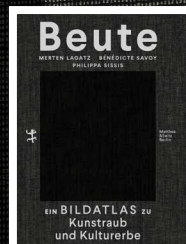
France (Le Seuil)
Italy (Mondadori)
Spanish World (Alianza)
Portugal (Dom Quixote)
Croatia (Sandorf)
Denmark (Grif)
Arabic World (Al Karma)
English World (Indigo Press)
Netherland (Orlando)
Bulgaria (Black Flamingo)
Greece (Hestia)
Brazil (in negotiation)

**Winner of the
German Book Prize 2020**

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.

Epic · 20th century · Righteous · Women · Activism · Resistance · Jews · Algeria

Non-Fiction



Bénédicte Savoy

Booty. A Illustrated Atlas on Art Theft and Cultural Heritage

At the center of this magnificent pictorial atlas is the iconography of „booty takings“ and „misappropriations,“ „confiscations,“ „forced gifts,“ or simply: looted goods. World history is told here not only about objects in the context of their creation or presentation, but in the mirror of the changeable ownership, relationships in which they found themselves and the claims of ownership made to them. These relationships inscribed in the objects are still marked today by claims to power and superiority. And: world history cannot be told without colonialism, European modernity cannot be and European modernity cannot be told without racism. This amazing atlas reveals this history and shows that throughout the ages, representations of such misappropriations have also documented injustice. The images are skillfully staged, and always with the intention of portraying one's own collecting activity as a proof of one's own superiority. In their synopsis, which spans a wide historical arc - from the Neo-Assyrian and Roman-ancient reliefs to caricatures and paintings from the Napoleonic era, to photographs documenting colonialism and to contemporary art - reveals a system which this volume courageously brings to the forefront of our consciousness. Not only to look back, but also to give back. Property has always come through theft. And collecting has rarely been innocent.

 Matthes & Seitz Berlin

Non-Fiction
400 pages with numerous
illustrations
March 2021
Complete German text
available

Rights available

Bénédicte Savoy
teaches art history at
the Technische Uni-
versität Berlin and at
the Collège de France
in Paris. Her research
interests are art and
cultural transfer in
Europe, museum
history, and art theft
and looted art.


*World history told anew in pictures: of the changeable
life of the objects between acquisition, theft and restitution.*

Booty · Art · Theft · Images · Property · Colonialism · Museum



Carolin Wiedemann

Tender and Free

 Matthes & Seitz Berlin

There is hardly a topic that can mobilize as much hatred as gender policy. The resentment ranges from mockery of the gender asterisk to the manifestos of right-wing extremist terrorists. Carolin Wiedemann shows in her penetrating analysis that the anti-feminist discourse is a central element of the political shift to the right - and has sympathizers on the political left. Against this, no individualized refusal and no neoliberal punching through will help, but only collective queerfeminist practice. The author introduces new (anti-patriarchal) modes of relationship and behaviors such as co-parenting and post-romanticism, with which a tender already being tried out in many places, which will also liberate those who are still under pressure to prove their masculinity. A radical analysis of the violence of today's patriarchal domination, an incitement to rebellious and tender togetherness, and a source of courage for all those who have long been dealing with sexist gender relations, fight against them and yet so often cannot escape them in everyday life.

Essay
218 pages
March 2021
Complete German text
available

Rights available

Carolin Wiedemann, born in Munich in 1983, writes about questions of criticism and emancipation for the Frankfurter Allgemeine Sonntagszeitung, analyse & kritik, Spiegel and Missy Magazine, among others. She studied journalism and sociology in Hamburg and Paris and subsequently wrote a doctoral dissertation on new forms of subversion under digital conditions.

„An impressive and urgent analysis of the connection between antifeminism and violence today-and a handout on what to do about both.“

Klaus Theweleit

Földényi er Maler



László F. Földényi *The Painter and the Wanderer*

 Matthes & Seitz Berlin

In his new book, László F. Földényi, on the basis of an analysis of the painting *The Wanderer over the Sea of Fog* by Caspar David Friedrich, asks what the figure in the painting actually sees.

Friedrich tried to paint what cannot be perceived by „natural“ vision. Within painting, the exploration of the invisible has shaken the confidence of painting in the certainty of natural vision.

For Földényi, Friedrich's painting is an example of a critique of seeing itself. On the other hand, he recognizes in it an anticipation of all those technical innovations that have radically expanded the sphere of vision.

It stands programmatically for the turn of the times, in which the longing for nature gives voice to the decidedly modern topos of the unconscious.

Standing on the rock, the hiker sees not only clouds, fog and mist, but images that set the hidden layers of consciousness in constant motion: Thus he looks into the sea of fog and dreams of the cinema.

*From the cinema in late Romanticism - the grand master
essayist on what Caspar David Friedrich's Wanderer in the Sea of Fog
glimpses.*

Essay
120 pages
May 2021
Complete Hungarian
original text and German
translation available

Rights available

**Leipzig Book Prize for
European Understanding
2020**

László F. Földényi, born in Debrecen (Hungary) in 1952, is an art theorist, literary scholar and essayist. He is one of the most important Hungarian intellectuals and is professor Professor of Art Theory at the Academy of at the Academy of Theater and Film, Budapest. He is the editor of the collected works of Heinrich von Kleist in Hungarian and, among other things, the winner of the Friedrich Gundolf Prize winner. Since 2009 he has been a member of the German Academy for Language and Poetry.

Anti- Anti- Semitism



Elad Lapidot

Jews Out of the Question.

A Critique of Anti-Anti-Semitism

 **Matthes & Seitz Berlin**

A provocative study of opposition to anti-Semitism in contemporary political philosophy.

In post-Holocaust philosophy, anti-Semitism has come to be seen as a paradigmatic political and ideological evil. *Jews Out of the Question* examines the role that opposition to anti-Semitism has played in shaping contemporary political philosophy. Elad Lapidot argues that post-Holocaust philosophy identifies the fundamental, epistemological evil of anti-Semitic thought not in thinking against Jews, but in thinking of Jews. In other words, what philosophy denounces as anti-Semitic is the figure of “the Jew” in thought. Lapidot reveals how, paradoxically, opposition to anti-Semitism has generated a rejection of Jewish thought in post-Holocaust philosophy. Through critical readings of political philosophers such as Adorno, Horkheimer, Sartre, Arendt, Badiou, and Nancy, the book contends that by rejecting Jewish thought, the opposition to anti-Semitism comes dangerously close to anti-Semitism itself, and at work in this rejection, is a problematic understanding of the relations between politics and thought—a troubling political epistemology. Lapidot’s critique of this political epistemology is the book’s ultimate aim.

Non-Fiction
340 pages
March 2021
Complete English original
text available

Rights sold to:
SUNY Press (English
World)

Elad Lapidot is Assistant Professor of Philosophy at the University of Bern in Switzerland. He is coeditor (with Micha Brumlik) of *Heidegger and Jewish Thought: Difficult Others*.


„The book is not only an urgent call to critically engage with one of the most established sites of consensus of our time but also reveals the enormous shortcomings of that consensus, even among its most stellar and respected representatives.”

Gil Anidjar



Justus Bender

The Plan

 Matthes & Seitz Berlin

The unanimous tenor of reporting and politics is that right-wing terrorism is irrational and mindless. It is often assumed that these are acts committed by lone perpetrators of insanity. This erroneous conclusion, based on the delusion of the motives to the delusion of the deed, is vehemently opposed in this book. An adequate response to the right-wing terrorist violence can only react appropriately if it is aware of the rationality and calculation of its opponents.

The Plan is an indispensable vademecum in which six influential figures, widely known in the extreme right-wing scene after the defeat of National Socialism. From the „Werewolf“ of the last days of the war in 1944/45 to the fictional Turner diaries of 1978 to the „Blücher Plan“ of 2000, to which the NSU also seems to refer in its letter of confession.

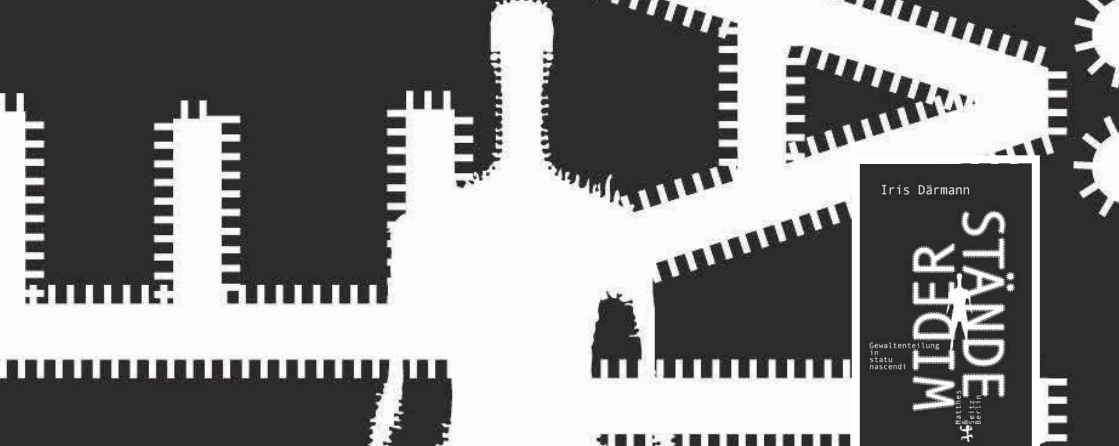
The reconstruction of their strategic considerations and reciprocal references, the contours of the leaderless and virtually arbitrary victims, but by no means without intentions, become visible, which have created the right-wing terrorism as a plan.

Essay
80 pages
March 2021
Complete German text
available

Rights available

Justus Bender, born in Bonn in 1981, is a journalist in the politics department of the Frankfurter Allgemeine Sonntagszeitung. Since 2013, he has reported in the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, focusing on the development of the AfD. 2017 saw the publication of his much-discussed book *Was will die AfD?*.

Hanau, Halle, Kassel, Christchurch or Utøya - Delusional intentions and rational action are not mutually exclusive. Justus Bender's essay provides a frightening insight into the strategies strategies of modern right-wing terrorism.



Iris Därmann

Resistances. History and Theory

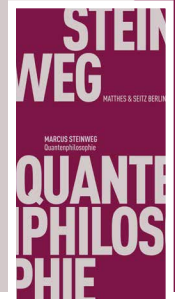
 Matthes & Seitz Berlin

Under conditions of extreme violence, resistance seems almost inconceivable. And yet, time and again, people have wanted, sought and done the impossible. Often in the form of passive resistance, which cannot be measured in terms of success, but only by the fact that it has happened. In the armed uprising and victorious revolution, it remains invisible. Drawing on the pioneering work of early African American Studies and Jewish Holocaust research avant la lettre, Iris Därmann's essay proves the pitfall of common concepts of resistance - and at the same time makes a different history and theory of resistance readable. All too often relegated by political philosophy to the space of the pre-political, it bears witness to forms of political articulation in spaces of violence. In its attention to polyphony and uncertain borderlines, resistance shows its uncertain borderlines, all its risky inventive power, which irritates and interrupts the organized course of absolute violence.

Essay
200 pages
April 2021
Complete German text
available

Rights available

Iris Därmann, born in Witten in 1963, is Professor of Cultural Theory and Cultural Aesthetics at the Humboldt University in Berlin. Her publications include *Strange Moons of Reason. The Ethnological Provocation of Philosophy and Figures of the Political*.



Marcus Steinweg

Quantum Philosophy

 Matthes & Seitz Berlin

Quantum philosophy is not a physics book. It is about text quanta or energy packets, from which Steinweg composes his thinking. The thinking from here to there, it is restless, but it does not renounce conciseness and consistency. In discussion with Kierkegaard, Kafka, Beckett, Duras, Blanchot, Canetti and Hegel, Sontag, Weil, Nietzsche, Benjamin, Heidegger, Lacan, Barthes, Blumenberg, Clément Rosset, Kant, and Pessoa Steinweg's aphorisms, short texts, or notes represent repeated attempts to take into account the inconsistency of all realities and deal with the attempt to find a modicum of positivity in art, literature, and philosophy. Even when they face up to the futility of final they gain from it a kind of ontological serenity; the happiness of responding to the formless with form, with language, which is said to be a reflex of the all-pervading emptiness, in order to almost escape it.

Essay
205 pages
April 2021
Complete German text
available

Rights available

Marcus Steinweg, born in Koblenz in 1971, is a philosopher living in Berlin and professor of art and theory at the Kunstakademie Karlsruhe. He has been working with the artists Thomas Hirschhorn and Rosemarie Trockel since the 1990s, creating independent philosophical conceptual diagrams. Many of his texts and lectures move at the interface between art and philosophy. His most recent publications at Matthes & Seitz Berlin are *Proflexionen* and *Metaphysics of emptiness*.



Hannes Böhringer

Dative Life

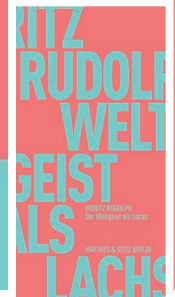
 Matthes & Seitz Berlin

Where is hold, where is attitude? What to hold on to? To one of the prevailing views, to the contradiction to the school opinions of philosophy, to one's own wavering judgment? Hannes Böhringer sticks to the rationality of language. For it is generous and bountiful. It grants freedom and gives support. It gives the subject, who has made himself the object, the direct object, the dative. The dative is existential. The ego no longer has to stiffen in its subjectivity, nor does it and does not lose itself in objectivity. The I finds itself indirectly in the dative: something has happened to it, encountered it, befallen it, occurred to it. „Language encloses me. I cannot escape it. But it leaves me free. I am inside and released outside into what is happening, into life. The given becomes an event. Outside is fresh air. The closer I get to the language, the closer it comes to me it comes to me, the more objects become events.“ The narrowness of everyday life opens up, we see the world around us more clearly when we learn to see it through Hannes Böhringer's eyes.

Essay
105 pages
April 2021
Complete German text
available

Rights available

Hannes Böhringer, born in 1948 in the Rhineland, was a professor of philosophy, most recently at the Kunsthochschule in Braunschweig. He has published on art, architecture, design and film. His publications include *In Search of Simplicity*. *A Poetics*, *Hard Bank*. *Art Philosophy Architecture and Emergency Solution*. *Culture and Christianity*.



Moritz Rudolph

The World Spirit as Salmon

 Matthes & Seitz Berlin

In his highly original and provocative essay in the philosophy of history, Moritz Rudolph explains our present-future history in a whole new way by targeting it through the lens of dialectics. „Fearlessly and breakneckly speculative,“ he illuminates Fukuyama’s „end of history,“ unhinges it with Horkheimer, and puts it into perspective and turns it upside down with the help of a new interpretation of kenosis. Is it possible that the world spirit, with a brief stopover in Silicon Valley only comes to itself in China in order to suddenly appear to us as artificial intelligence? He would thus teach Hegel himself to be afraid: If history is that which can only be written by humans, then the end of history may be near.

Essay
100 pages
April 2021
Complete German text
available

Rights available

Moritz Rudolph, born in Gotha in 1989, studied politics, history and philosophy. He lives in Leipzig, is working on his dissertation on international politics in older critical theory, and writes for Merkur and Agave magazine, among others. The World Spirit as Salmon is his first book.



Martin Burckhardt

Going Viral

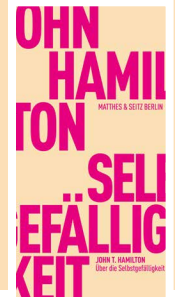
 Matthes & Seitz Berlin

Martin Burckhardt's essay *Going Viral!* follows on from the programmatic attempt he wrote together with Dirk Höfer to interpret Boole's $x = xn$ as the driving force behind the new order of things. If *Everything and Nothing* was a meditation on symbolic virality, Burckhardt now goes a step further and postulates a pandemic-induced end of the postmodern postmodern phantasm, right into the abyss of history. If Wittgenstein once said „The world is what the fall is,“ the fall can be interpreted as a collision with the reality principle. Or more precisely: as the realization that the traditional language and social games are no longer able to carry the day. As a stowaway of the global commodity chains and travel movements, the pandemic is proving to be the evil twin of the network society, which, with its call of „*Going Viral!*“ has fundamentally changed industrial societies, and which is now emerging from its underground. As a behemoth? Or not: as an alien portrait of ourselves?

Essay
120 pages
May 2021
Complete German text
available

Rights available

Martin Burckhardt, born in Fulda in 1957, is an author and cultural theorist and lecturer. He has written various books on the genealogy of the machine in the philosophy of technology. Most recently, Matthes & Seitz Berlin published *Philosophy of the Machine*. He lives and works in Berlin.



John T. Hamilton

About Complacency

 Matthes & Seitz Berlin

Today, the complacent are attacked as society's sleepwalkers and often blamed for sloppy misjudgments and insufficient action. But wouldn't a successful attack on complacency be a lost cause? By definition, one must never become complacent in the fight against complacency. For the complacent, life has become a level field on which to proceed without fear of stumbling or falling - a flattened realm in which everything is clearly and intelligibly arranged along the horizon. It is gratifying to arrive at a definitive, unambiguous meaning without stumbling over a passage. However, every word contains dynamic vectors, including those that emerge from other languages, epochs, and cultures and merge into others, moving from one semantic field to another.

Essay
183 pages
March 2021
Complete German text
available

Rights available

John T. Hamilton, born in the Bronx in 1963, is a professor of German and comparative literature at Harvard University. His extensive work focuses on classics from antiquity to the present.



Nicola Gess

Half Truths

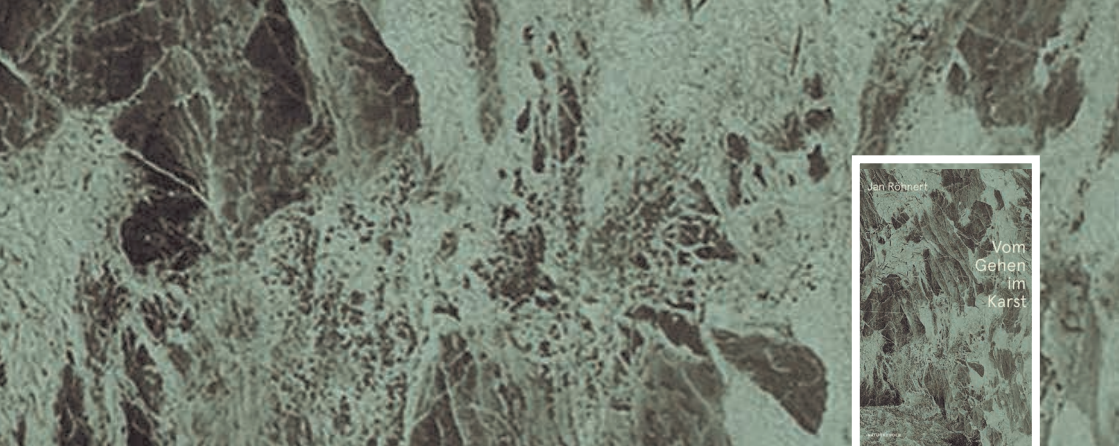
 Matthes & Seitz Berlin

Half-truths are among the most conspicuous and effective instruments of so-called post-factual political discourse - a discourse that vacillates between relativism and cynicism and for which the transformation of facts into mere opinions is just as typical as the quest for attention and the demonstration of authoritarian setting power. Whether fake news, conspiracy theories or populist propaganda: they all cannot do without half-truths and their manipulation of reality. In her book, Nicola Gess puts the half-truth in conversation with the concept of ideology and formulates a theory of the half-truth as a narrative microform that does not function according to the binary code true/false, but rather credible/incredible. Using the example of the fallen journalist Claas Relotius, the conspiracy theorist Ken Jebsen, and the writer Uwe Tellkamp, she examines how a rhetoric of half-truths and why it can be better countered with a „fiction check“ than with a „truth check“.

Essay
157 pages
March 2021
Complete German text
available

Rights available

Nicola Gess is Professor of Modern German and General Literary Studies at the University of Basel. She is head of the Swiss National Science Foundation-funded research project „Half-Truths. Truth, Fiction, and Conspiracy in the „Postfactual Age““ and co-leader of the Sinergia Research Group „The Power of Wonder;“ also funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation.



Jan Röhnert

On Walking in the Karst

 Matthes & Seitz Berlin

While his classmates meet in the small town, Jan Röhnert spends his childhood afternoons in his own quarry, making his way through the elderberry bushes and explores the air-raid shelter his great-grandfather had into the sandstone. This rock, which was once filled with water, is now only caves, depressions and pits. And even as an adult he does not let go of it: in France, in Italy, again and again, almost manically, in the southern Harz and in the Thuringian countryside. Jan Röhnert sets out to explore this mysterious stone formation step by step. He meticulously records his paths as local lore, whose magic flashes in the naming. As a reader trained in literature he practices a close reading of the landscape, which he inventories eloquently in a poetic list of a landscape in transition. But how to explain the fascination that emanates from this rock, which is more edge than center? how can one speak of the karst, which is actually characterized gaps, holes and voids? Jan Röhnert finds answers in literature: with Rilke, Handke, and Julien Gracq, he questions this landscape of his heart, meets people who are just as fascinated by it as he is, and creates an ode to the most impassable of all landscapes.

Nature Writing
200 pages
April 2021
Complete German text
available

Rights available

Jan Röhnert, born in Gera in 1976, is a literary scholar, essayist, translator, author of travel prose, and lyricist, who has been awarded, among others, the Poetry Debut Prize of the LCB, a Harald-Gerlach scholarship, the Wolfgang-Weyrauch-Förderpreis, and the Poetry Prize of the RAI South Tyrol. He teaches at the TU Braunschweig and lives in Leipzig.

On walking in a landscape that knows no paths



Karin Schneider

Pigeons. A Portrait

 Matthes & Seitz Berlin

The pigeon is not only the oldest, but also the most controversial domestic animal revered as a bringer of salvation and symbol of the Holy Spirit, fought against as a facade pollutant, bred to be a champion in long-distance flight and and poisoned as an alleged plague. One needs already the military trained carrier pigeons, in order not to lose the orientation in this thicket of contradictions - or also the know-how of the pair of pigeons that selflessly put the good lentils into the pot and the bad ones into the jar. In fact, it is probably the crop milk, with which both pigeon and dove supply their offspring, which allows the feral descendants of domesticated pigeons to survive in the drafty recesses of high-rise buildings and, with their astonishing mass, visibility and pecking manner. „Who owns the city?“ cooing loudly. Karin Schneider follows the swoop of the celestial messenger of peace, whose descendants are branded as rats of the air, rummage through the garbage of the metropolises, with acumen and empathy for the urban outsiders.

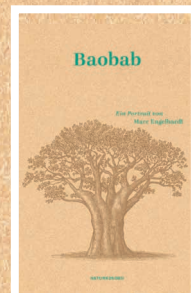
Nature Writing
160 pages with illustrations
April 2021
Complete German text
available

Rights available

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.


„Where there is city, there are city pigeons. And where there are urban pigeons, there is resistance.“

Fahim Amir



Marc Engelhardt

Baobabs. A Portrait

 Matthes & Seitz Berlin

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.

Nature Writing
160 pages with illustrations
April 2021
Complete German text
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Rights 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.

„Africa is where the baobabs are.“
Emil Holub

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