

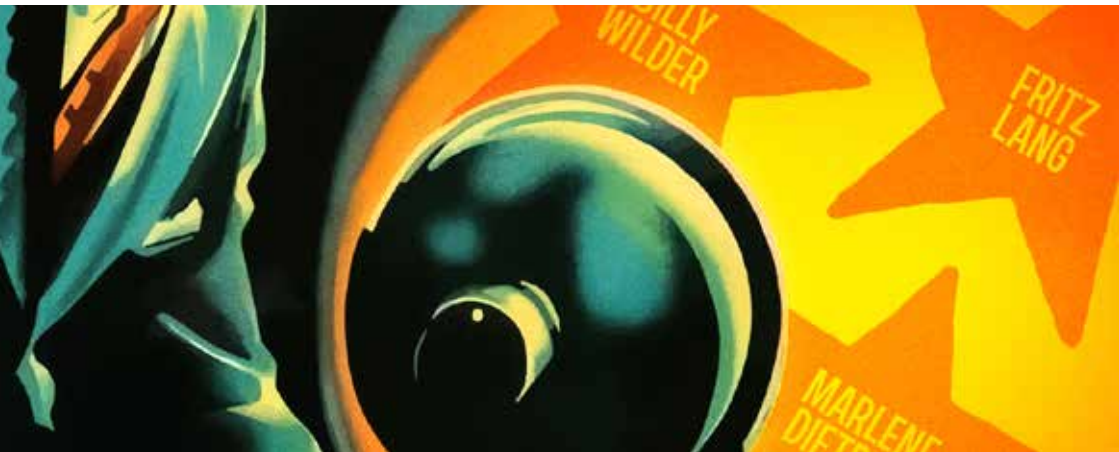


**Foreign Rights Guide**

**Spring 2026**



**Matthes & Seitz Berlin**





## Viktor Jerofejew

### *The New Barbarism. A Novel about the Russian Guilt*

**A ludicrous novel about the world as a political football of powerful men – for anyone who has the courage to look behind the façade.**

In times of a new barbarism, with heads of state and government dividing up the world like mafiosi, Viktor Jerofejew paints a garishly dazzling panorama of human and political abysses, in which truth becomes a game and morality an attitude. While Putin appears as a “ponchik” – an oil-baked doughnut with a hole in the middle, symbolizing a bloated emptiness – the opposition poses as martyrs. At the center is “Russian Guilt”, a female allegory of the country and object of the protagonist’s desire. With her, Jerofejew’s alter ego sets off for “Heavenly Moscow”, a surreal landscape between dream, memory, and farce, where history and the present collide. There, Stalin and Rilke, Tsvetaeva and Merkel meet, and even the great Russian classics – from Pushkin to Tolstoy – appear as witnesses to an endless recurrence of violence. In this alchemical mixture of autobiography, essay, and allegory, the image of a country that is breaking apart under the weight of its own mythological lust emerges – and at the same time draws the reader into the maelstrom of its language. *The New Barbarism* is Jerofejew’s most radical book: satire, poetry, and a tragicomic declaration of love to a Russia that has lost itself.

*“A novel about the nature of the new barbarism that is replacing liberal values in both Russia and America. Europe, too, finds itself at an impasse, and its political forces are unable to change the situation, helpless and lacking in clear ideas.” – Viktor Jerofejew*

 Matthes & Seitz Berlin

Novel  
Hardcover  
ca. 320 pages  
2026  
Russian original available

**Rights sold to:**  
Russian (Vento Digital VD GmbH)  
Finnish (Siltala Publishing)

**Viktor Jerofejew (Viktor Yerofejev)**, born in Moscow in 1947, became known for his novel *The Moscow Beauty*, which was translated into 27 languages. In 1979 he was expelled from the USSR Writers’ Union for his participation in the anthology *Metropol*, which featured texts by various authors that had been banned by the censors. He has lived in exile in Germany since 2022. Recently published by Matthes & Seitz Berlin: *The Great Gopnik* (2023).

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**Russia · Satire · Putin · Dictatorship · Authoritarianism · Moscow · Stalin**



## Yevgenia Belorusets

### *Matches*

 Matthes & Seitz Berlin

#### Theater to read: the fate of Ukraine in three acts

A basement in the Russian-occupied territories of Ukraine. Voices can be heard coming from a radio somewhere, reporting on the political situation, the chances of victory in battle, and patriotic duties. Sasha and Alexandra, both seventeen years old, are hiding here. It is pitch dark. They search for matches among old junk but find none. Under different circumstances, this would be the beginning of a youthful love story, but in Yevgenia Belorusets' first play to be published in German, the state of emergency that has gripped her homeland since Russia's first wave of attacks more than ten years ago prevails.

In three acts, *Matches* tells of the search for a way out, of the human tragedy of a chance encounter with hope in a basement, and of the necessity of always and everywhere stockpiling matches, which cannot save you from being completely engulfed by war.

*"Belorusets's stories work their way under your skin."* – *The Times Literary Supplement* on *Lucky Breaks*

Play  
Hardcover  
ca. 150 pages  
2026  
Russian original available

**Women of Europe Award  
2023**

**Yevgenia Belorusets** is a Ukrainian photographer, artist and writer who lives between Kyiv and Berlin. She is concerned with the intersections of art, media and society, and involved in a number of cultural and political initiatives. Her first book *Lucky Breaks* (2019) has been critically acclaimed and translated in 10 languages. Most recently published by Matthes & Seitz Berlin: *Modern Animal* (2024).

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## Millay Hyatt

### *How Many Days Must I Walk. Being a Guest in Unfamiliar Neighborhoods*



#### The joy of walking and hospitality

Millay Hyatt embarks on a journey into the unknown: she sets off on foot from Berlin heading east to explore the boundaries between capital city and province, strangers and friends, history and the present. Without a smartphone, but with Fontane in her backpack, she lets herself be recommended from door to door – from left-wing housing projects to city-escape shared apartments to retired mayors and cigarette sellers at the Polish market. She stands in front of closed farm shops and the open arms of her hosts, who are rarely confirmed more than a day in advance, each day an improvisation and an experiment. She runs through sun-drenched forests, gets lost in deserted landscapes, is rescued by a forestry worker, spends the night in medieval towers, and marvels at the fractures and beauties of the Brandenburg and West Pomeranian provinces.

*How Many Days Must I Walk* is a literary travel essay about hospitality and being a stranger, about city and country, borders and transitions. Millay Hyatt weaves personal experiences with philosophical reflections, history with current conflicts. The result is a multi-layered book about the joy of being welcomed by strangers – and an invitation to embark on an adventure right outside your own front door.

*"Millay Hyatt is a sensitive observer. She captures the unseen, the unfamiliar, the seductively different."* – Tagesspiegel

Literary essay  
Hardcover  
ca. 224 pages  
2026

**Millay Hyatt**, born in 1973 in Dallas/Texas, USA, has a doctorate in philosophy and lives as a freelance author and translator in Berlin. Her essays and stories have been published in various media. In 2020 and 2021 she received scholarships from the Berlin Senate. She is currently performing in Lola Arias' play *Mother Tongue* at the Gorki Theater in Berlin. Previously published by Matthes & Seitz Berlin: *Days on the Night Train* (2024), which will be published in English translation by Haus Publishing.

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**Peter Pannke**

*Paradise Point*

 Matthes & Seitz Berlin

### **Hippie Trail 1973: A trip to Pakistan turns into an existential road trip**

There are journeys that only someone who has left everything behind can take. The young German who sets off on a hitchhiking trip to the East in the early 1970s does not know whether he will ever return to Europe. He drifts aimlessly, listening to storytellers in Persian opium dens and wandering along the Gulf until, on the beach at Paradise Point near Karachi, a fisherman sends him to a Sufi shrine in the Indus Valley.

Together with a Malang – the name is given to dervishes who reject all conventions – he is picked up by a military patrol. His friend is tortured before his eyes, and he himself is sent to Quetta prison after a mock execution. When he is unexpectedly released after three months, he makes his way to Germany as a street musician.

Forty years later, he returns to Pakistan to find the Malang, whose trail he lost in prison. Some things he recognizes, others have changed beyond recognition. The search for Malang comes to nothing, but on the eve of his planned return flight from Karachi to Berlin, he has a surprising encounter on Paradise Point beach, from where he set off on his journey forty years earlier.

*"Peter Pannke is a master storyteller."* – Naveen Kishore, Seagull

Novel  
Hardcover  
ca. 320 pages  
2026

**Peter Pannke**, born in 1946, is an author, musician, and producer. After studying Chinese, Indian, and comparative religious and music studies, he lived in Pakistan and India for many years before settling in Berlin as a radio presenter and festival curator. *Paradise Point* is his first novel.

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*Pakistan · Travel report · Autobiographic · Dervish · Prison · Torture · Sufism · Return*

# KAFFEEKIRSCHEN leuchten



**Nicola Denis**

*Where the Coffee Cherries Shine*



## **A moving story about new beginnings, longing, and memories**

1953, in the German economic wonderland: A young woman from Ludwigshafen stands with her newlywed husband at the railing of the ocean liner that will take them from Hamburg to Colombia. He is expecting his first job as a geologist in the Andean city of Tunja, while she looks forward to her uncertain future as a “temporary emigrant” with equal parts joy and concern – separated from her protective extended family in her religious parents’ home, having sacrificed her music studies and unfamiliar with Colombian culture and history. In Tunja, they are confronted with the often colonial attitudes of the Germans living abroad, who mostly remain silent about the past. While her husband conducts research in the field, the young German woman is busy furnishing her new home and finds connections as a chamber musician. She maintains her “bond with her homeland” in her letters on airmail paper, which express longing and self-assertion: collected in twelve folders. With these documents, fragments of stories, and photo albums, as well as on a trip to Tunja with two of her children, the narrator follows in the footsteps of her parents and grandparents a good seventy years later. A meticulously and sincerely crafted literary dialogue between the generations.

*“The aroma of coffee and chamber music in the Colombian Cordillera: a delicately composed, sensitive literary masterpiece that reflects the German post-war wonderland in the distant Andes.” – Christian Döring, editor at large for Friedenauer Presse*

Novel  
Hardcover  
340 pages  
2026

**Nicola Denis**, born in Celle in 1972, lives in western France as a literary translator and author. She has translated works by Éric Vuillard and Honoré de Balzac for Friedenauer Presse. In 2021, she received the prestigious Prix Lémanique de la traduction, and in 2023, the Eugen Helmlé Translation Prize. *Where the Coffee Cherries Shine* is her second novel.

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**Columbia · Family history · Emigration · Letters · Foreignness · Colonialism · Longing · Women**



## Joachim Bessing

### *Wax and Gold*

 Matthes & Seitz Berlin

#### **A novel like Addis Ababa itself: contradictory, mysterious, inexhaustible**

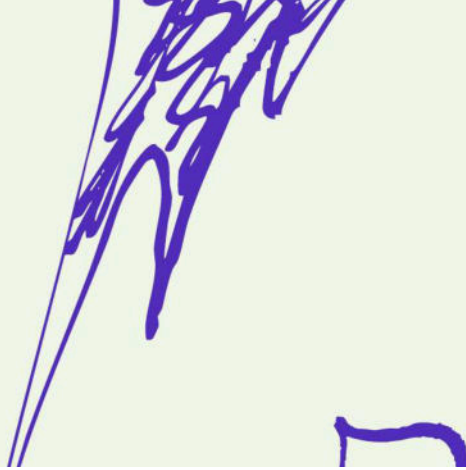
At the beginning of the rainy season, a man arrives in Addis Ababa under the author's name, pays for his three-month visa in cash, and checks into the oldest hotel on the African continent. What he is looking for there and who he really is changes with every encounter. Sometimes he follows the prophecy of his Mayan horoscope, sometimes he wants to be the editor of a magazine about Karl-Heinz Böhm's charitable life's work, sometimes he is a seeker, sometimes he is tormented by lovesickness. But what he finds in the Ethiopian capital proves to be no less inconsistent and contradictory – a city he knows little about, but where, between corrugated iron walls and colonial facades, between the death of the prime minister and heaven-ordained house arrest, a fascinating and irritating umbrella of impressions quickly unfolds, its shadow reaching back into the country's gruesome past.

With subtle irony and a classical tone, Joachim Bessing's new novel draws on myths, coincidences, and encounters to depict a world overshadowed by colonial atrocities. A world in which – as at the Ethiopian weekly market – no clear answers can be found, but in which a hidden voice, made of wax and gold, communicates itself in all things.

Novel  
Hardcover  
ca. 288 pages  
2026

**Joachim Bessing**, born in 1971, became known for his columns, reports, and numerous books. He lives in Berlin as an author and translator. Previously published by Matthes & Seitz Berlin: *Hamburg. Sex City* (2021).

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**Lola Randl**

*The Living Proof*

 Matthes & Seitz Berlin

**A novel full of humor and reflection on growing older, the beginning of the end, and the joy of living**

*The Living Proof* tells the story of a woman in her mid-40s who feels increasingly alienated – from her surroundings, her family, and herself. Withdrawn to the attic of her house, she looks out over the village she once moved to full of hope. In an attempt to re-understand the world around her and her position in it, she begins a “scientific investigation of the collective conscious and unconscious of the place.”

Accompanied by the conscientious village chronicler, the esoteric pastor, and two outsiders, she embarks on a journey into the depths of the remote spot. The boundaries between observer and observed become blurred. The deeper she delves into the mechanisms of the village, the clearer it becomes that her research is not only about the place, but also about her own nature – and the nature of human beings in general. She herself becomes a “porous spot” through which long-suppressed ghosts push their way to the surface. What begins as a rational analysis becomes increasingly destabilized – because the structures she seeks to unravel take hold of her.

*The Living Proof* is a reflection on social dilemmas and the permeability of boundaries between inside and outside, individual and collective. Do we shape the world, or does it shape us? Or is that even a contradiction?

Novel  
Hardcover  
188 pages  
2026

**Lola Randl**, born in Munich in 1980, works as a screenwriter and director for cinema and television. In addition to television series such as *Landschwärmer* and feature films such as *Von Bienen und Blumen*, she is also the author of highly acclaimed literary works. She has received numerous awards for her novel *Der Große Garten* (2019), which has been translated into Dutch, Spanish and Slovakian, and was nominated for the German Book Prize. Most recently, she was awarded a scholarship from Villa Massimo in Rome, where Randl has been living ever since.

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*Village · Midlife crisis · Alienation · Disillusionment · Observation · Village archive · Departure*

# weiter

albert  
ostermaier



## Albert Ostermaier

### *Love Goes On. A Novel with Pasolini*

#### A passionate literary monument to Pasolini

Fifty years ago, Pier Paolo Pasolini was brutally murdered in Ostia, Rome. The crime was never solved, and there was more speculation about his death than about the incomparable films, books, plays, drawings, pamphlets and prophecies he left behind. For Albert Ostermaier, however, since he himself began writing poetry, Pasolini and his work have stood out like a fixed star above everything else. With his *Novel with Pasolini*, he now pays a passionate tribute to him by drawing on Pasolini's invocation of poetry, the 112 sonnets he left behind, cries for help from someone abandoned by his 'life partner' Ninetto Davoli. Like Pasolini, Ostermaier transcends boundaries – for both of them, everything private is political and everything political is private.

In his empathetic appropriation of Pasolini's sonnets and in the wake of his mysterious murder, Albert Ostermaier pulls out all the linguistic stops and, in a relentless autobiographical self-exploration, learns something about himself that he would never have learned without Pasolini: love goes on.

*"He's the forsaken. He's been forsaken by love, by his sweet reason, a sour shadow now, shading his eyesight. The field of view of the camera between his fingers is fake. The camera, his eye. He shoots one image after another. He wraps up the shadows. And buried among those shadows is a laugh. Each word cries out: Come back, come back to me. I was with you, I was never yours. Come back."*

 Matthes & Seitz Berlin

Novel  
Hardcover  
188 pages  
2025  
English sample available  
Italian sample available

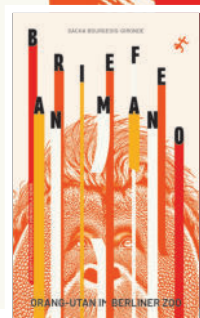
**Welt Literature Prize for his entire literary oeuvre**

**Albert Ostermaier**, born in 1967, lives as a freelance writer in Munich. He is one of the most frequently performed contemporary German playwrights. His plays have been premiered by Karin Beier, Andrea Breth, Kai Voges and Nuran David Callis. His works have been translated into more than 20 languages and have received numerous literary awards, including the Kleist Prize, the Bertolt Brecht Prize and the Ernst Toller Prize. He has also directed and founded internationally renowned literature festivals. For further information: [rights@matthes-seitz-berlin.de](mailto:rights@matthes-seitz-berlin.de) [www.matthes-seitz-berlin.de/foreign-rights](http://www.matthes-seitz-berlin.de/foreign-rights)

*Pasolini · Murder · Italy · Abuse · Catholicism · Homosexuality · Self-exploration · Love*



OLA DENIS



## Sacha Bourgeois-Gironde

### *Letters to Mano. Orangutan at Berlin Zoo*

#### **A surprising novel about a more-than-human love**

Mano, an orangutan at Berlin Zoo, cannot receive letters. But that doesn't stop the narrator of this novel from writing to him – obsessively, tenderly and with increasing urgency. At first, the letters are inquiries about Mano's life, his origins, the question of his name and his genealogy. But from letter to letter, another thought comes to the fore: how can Mano be freed? Or is it actually the narrator who needs to be freed? What begins as a poetic reflection on captivity and otherness becomes a feverish obsession in which the boundaries between empathy and projection, between reason and madness become blurred. The narrator becomes entangled in legal and philosophical considerations, develops plans for liberation and seeks a means of reaching Mano through language. But Mano remains silent.

*Letters to Mano* is a haunting, stirring novel about the power of language, the longing for closeness and the impossibility of communication. Sacha Bourgeois-Gironde subtly explores the abysses of our relationship with animals, with our otherness – and thus, not least, our relationship with ourselves.

 Matthes & Seitz Berlin

Novel  
Hardcover  
124 pages  
2025  
French original available

**Sacha Bourgeois-Gironde** is a philosopher and economist. He teaches as a professor of economics and cognitive science at the University Panthéon-Assas and École normale supérieure. His research focuses on the relationship between human cognitive abilities and the environments and institutions in which they are used. He is the author of numerous books. Most recently published by Matthes & Seitz Berlin: *How the Law Brings Us Closer to Nature* (2023).

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***Human-animal relationship · Zoo · Orangutan · Berlin · Animal rights · Liberation · Social criticism***


# RESPEKT

## Eine soziale Krise



**Byung-Chul Han**

*Without Respect. A Social Crisis*

 Matthes & Seitz Berlin

**A radical, clear-sighted and at the same time deeply humanistic essay – a philosophical manifesto against brutalisation and for a new culture of respect.**

In his new essay, Byung-Chul Han dissects the dramatic decline of a central social virtue with analytical acuity and poetic depth: respect. What was once the foundation of coexistence is now threatening to disappear in a society characterised by narcissism, competition and digital disinhibition.

Han unfolds a multi-layered diagnosis of our present: the neoliberal meritocracy produces losers who hate themselves and despise others. The struggle for respect becomes a struggle for status – and thus a cause of division, violence and social disintegration. In social media, respect is replaced by attention, politeness by shaming, community by communities that know no solidarity. Han shows how respect, self-esteem and social bonds are interwoven – and how their loss leads to a daily civil war in miniature that eats away at society from within.

But Byung-Chul Han does not stop at criticism. He outlines a vision for a new politics of friendship, for a respect-based coexistence based on distance, attention and mutual recognition. For him, respect is not a luxury, but a prerequisite for democracy, discourse and a successful life.

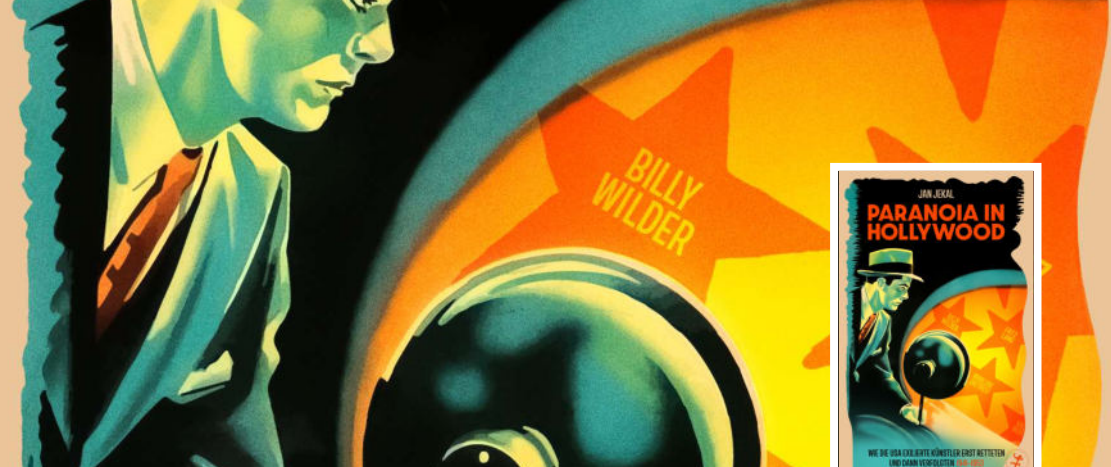
*"Appearances lie outside the realm of good and evil, truth and falsehood. They occupy an aesthetic sphere. Human civilisation owes its existence primarily not to morality, but to appearances. Both tact and politeness are bound to beauty."*

Essay  
Hardcover  
ca. 100 pages  
2026

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**Byung-Chul Han** was born in Seoul, South-Korea. His works have been translated in over 30 languages and are bestsellers in numerous countries. He lives in Berlin.  
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Neoliberalism · Social criticism · Divide · Recognition · Attention · Social media · Authority



## Jan Jekal

### *Paranoia in Hollywood. How the US First Saved and Then Persecuted Exiled Artists. 1941–1953*

**The grand panorama of “German California” shows the glamour and misery of artists and intellectuals in exile in Hollywood.**

Santa Monica, Pacific Palisades, or Beverly Hills – these are the illustrious names of the Californian idyll where they found refuge: filmmakers and actors, writers and intellectuals who had to flee Europe from the Nazis in the 1930s and 1940s. They formed a solidarity-based community of exiles: Bertolt Brecht, Helene Weigel, and Hanns Eisler; Billy Wilder and Vicki Baum; Fritz Lang and William Wyler; Thomas and Heinrich Mann. Anyone who had a name in Berlin, Vienna, or Prague followed the call of Hollywood’s booming film industry. But this romantic “Weimar on the Pacific” is not the whole story: even as they made their military and moral contributions to the Allies at the beginning of the war, the refugees became suspects. Just moments before celebrated as noble opponents of the Nazis, their trash is now being searched by the FBI – the “red menace” and McCarthyism turn free spirits and left-wing liberals into hostile “communists”. The country that was a refuge is transformed into a place of repression and persecution.

Captivating and atmospheric, Jan Jekal uses previously unpublished documents from archives in Los Angeles to trace how the exiles fought back against authoritarian America – with activism, wit, courage, and films that have become classics – but also how some of them despaired of America.

 Matthes & Seitz Berlin

Narrative non-fiction  
Hardcover with illustrations  
400 pages  
2026  
English sample available

**Jan Jekal**, born in Kiel in 1993, is a freelance author and cultural journalist. He studied North American Studies at the Free University of Berlin. His articles on film and music have been published in *DIE ZEIT* and the *Süddeutsche Zeitung*, among others. He also hosts the pop culture podcast *Rolling Stone Weekly*. Jekal lives in Berlin.

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*Hollywood · Thomas Mann · Marlene Dietrich · McCarthy · Mistrust · Communism · Antisemitism*



## Matthias Bormuth

### *On the Eeriness of the World. Thinking with Hannah Arendt*

**On the trail of one of the greatest philosophers of the 20th century – thinking with Hannah Arendt is more necessary than ever**

In his portrait in the history of ideas based on her most important works, Matthias Bormuth brings us closer to Hannah Arendt's thinking as reflected in our present day. He offers a reading guide and, at the same time, a guide to thinking for ourselves. In doing so, he follows the traces of Arendt's life, from her beginnings in German existential philosophy to the political upheaval of 1933, her Zionist activism in exile in Paris, and her confrontation with anti-Semitism through her alter ego *Rahel Varnhagen*, right up to her time in New York. From 1941 onwards, she launched her social philosophy as a public intellectual, which has shaped international debate since *The Origins of Totalitarianism*, and as a critical journalist, she sparked a worldwide controversy about thoughtless action and social responsibility with *Eichmann in Jerusalem*. Her passionate reflections create a "signature of plurality" that begins in the individual and unfolds further in dialogue with others.

Moved by the uncanniness of the world, Hannah Arendt seeks to understand its totalitarian and technological temptations. She thus encounters her time with a philosophy of freedom that is more relevant than ever, even fifty years after her death. Matthias Bormuth shows, based on her works, that Hannah Arendt is the Socratic thinker of modernity: only those who can be themselves are also capable of encountering the world.

**Heidegger · National Socialism · Anti-Semitism · Eichmann · Karl Jaspers · Philosophy · Totalitarianism**

 Matthes & Seitz Berlin

Non-fiction  
Hardcover  
174 pages  
2025

**Matthias Bormuth** is Professor of Comparative History of Ideas at the University of Oldenburg. There he heads the Karl Jaspers House and the Hannah Arendt Center research unit. He has published numerous books, essays, and editions on Hannah Arendt, Erich Auerbach, Karl Jaspers, Martin Warnke, and Max Weber. He has also published case studies on Ingeborg Bachmann, Uwe Johnson, Franz Kafka, and other modern authors.


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# GEWALT AM DENKEN



**Mark Terkessidis**

*Violence in Thought. When Does Fascism Begin?*

 Matthes & Seitz Berlin

**Is there a threat of a new fascism? A highly topical social analysis of the most pressing issue of our time.**

Fascism is on everyone's lips. However, fascists are always the others: even the most authoritarian governments claim to be fighting fascism. But what exactly is fascism? Where does it begin? With governments that themselves create the insecurity they then combat with authoritarian measures? Or with an omnipresent feeling of threat? Many long for a return to a world where there were clear boundaries and roles. Others call for a world where all danger is averted through correct speech and proper consumption. In the process, egocentricity can hardly be distinguished from genuine concerns, and effect seems more important than truth. Foresight, planning, the future, argumentation, knowledge – those are things of the past. When does fascism begin?

Mark Terkessidis asks about the prerequisites for fascism. He shows how the upheavals of the 1960s got stuck in half-hearted reforms and why the reaction consists of radical nostalgia. He describes a new political continuum in which the endangered community takes center stage – even among the so-called progressive forces.

*"An indispensable compendium for orientation in the present. Violence in Thought develops new concepts at a time when understanding itself has become the target of populist attacks."* – Hito Steyerl

Non-fiction  
Softcover  
142 pages  
2026

**Mark Terkessidis**, born in 1966, is a freelance author who has been studying the New Right in Europe since the 1990s. He has published articles in daily newspapers, radio programs, and numerous books on migration, racism, and memory, and has taught on these topics at universities. His most recent book is *Wessen Erinnerung zählt? Koloniale Vergangenheit und Rassismus heute* (Whose Memory Counts? Colonial Past and Racism Today), published by Hoffmann und Campe.

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**Fascism · Identity politics · Wokeness · New Right · Cultural theory · Cultural criticism · Media criticism**

# DES TEUFEL'S LEIBSPEISE

Die Entstehung der



**Karin Harrasser**

*The Devil's Favorite Food. The Emergence of the  
Entwined Modernity*

**Did Europe devour South America – or was it the other way  
around?**

In a letter of complaint disguised as a chronicle, sent by Felipe Guaman Poma de Ayala to the Spanish king around 1600, the indigenous scholar paints a drastic picture: he depicts the mountain Potosi in present-day Bolivia, from which the Spaniards insatiably mine precious ores, with intestines and an anus – and he empties himself in the middle of the main square in Seville. Four hundred years later, the filmmakers of the Oscar-winning feature film *The Mission* try to do everything right. And yet, one day, the indigenous actors go on strike: they demand the same food as the European actors. Using this and numerous other stories, Karin Harrasser shows that encounters between conquerors and the conquered have always had an impact on the body, can be depicted in vivid images – and continue to have an effect as a metabolism to this day.

*The Devil's Favorite Food* develops a concept of culture that opposes the purity fantasies of right-wing fanatics – as well as the idea that cultural appropriation is a one-way street. Instead, it shows that culture is a process of devouring and being devoured, one that thrives on appropriation and counter-appropriation, one that can be violent, but has also been cleverly countered.

 Matthes & Seitz Berlin

Non-fiction  
Hardcover with illustrations  
360 pages  
2026

**Karin Harrasser** is a cultural scientist who researches the body, technology and science fiction. In recent years, her research has shifted to questions of (cultural) violence as an element of transatlantic relations, which she investigates in Colombia and Bolivia. She has translated Donna Haraway into German and has been involved in various artistic and curatorial projects. She lives in Linz, where she holds a professorship at the University of Arts; Harrasser is also co-director of the International Research Center for Cultural Studies (ifk) in Vienna.

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*Indigenoussness · Latin America · Missionaries · Modernity · Baroque · Film · Anthropophagy*



**Andreas Mayer**

*Freud Against the Grain: A Different History of Psychoanalysis*

**On the repressed references of psychoanalysis, a clarification in six sessions**

In 1899, Sigmund Freud published *The Interpretation of Dreams*. In it, he meticulously records his own dreams and analyzes them using carefully selected biographical details. At the same time, he lays the foundation for an interpretive technique and cultural theory that is now widely accepted worldwide thanks to countless editions and translations. More than a hundred years later, the question arises as to how this classic author can be read against the grain in order to uncover hidden or repressed aspects of the history of psychoanalysis.

In his historical-philological essays, Andreas Mayer exemplifies the formative interrelationships between modern and ancient methods of dream interpretation, as well as the aftermath of Galton's composite photographs on Freud's analysis of dream images. He follows unexpected paths in tracing the famous Gradiva figure and the beginnings of free association in walking, as well as the contested histories of translation, in which the question of the untranslatability of dream logic and linguistic wit is at stake.

 Matthes & Seitz Berlin

Non-fiction  
Hardcover  
ca. 250 pages  
2026

**Andreas Mayer**, born in Vienna in 1970, has been Directeur de recherche at the *Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique* (CNRS) since 2014 and teaches at the *Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales* in Paris. From 2019 to 2020, he was a Fellow at the *Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin*, and since 2021 he has been working at the *Centre Marc Bloch* in Berlin. He has published numerous works on the history of the human sciences and psychoanalysis, which have been translated into several languages, including *The Science of Walking Investigations into Locomotion in the Long Nineteenth Century* (2013).

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**Iris Därmann**

*Out of the Night. Children's Perspectives*

 Matthes & Seitz Berlin

**Children as witnesses and actors – a history of violence in the 20th century from a child's perspective**

As adults, we cannot know exactly how children experience this world. But in places where childhood has been destroyed – in ghettos, camps or war zones – children display a vital resilience that occasionally leads them out of the darkness of violence. At the beginning of the 20th century, Polish doctor Janusz Korczak founded a children's republic in his orphanage in Warsaw, which was entirely self-governed by the children. He never left the side of the children entrusted to his care, not even when they were deported to the Treblinka camp. In the summer of 1945, Marie Paneth encouraged Jewish children in an English reception camp to paint their experiences. The pictures impressively show their experience of the Shoah. The anarchic kindness of the surviving children from the Theresienstadt ghetto, whom Anna Freud took into her care, also testifies to an unconditional brotherhood and sisterhood without direct kinship. And this experience of the camps would change psychiatric institutions forever: with Fernand Deligny and Maud Mannoni, the anti-psychiatric movement created new institutions and forms of democratic participation for children.

In four case studies, Iris Därmann allows children to appear in their wounded subjectivity and in a mode of radical brotherhood that shatters our infantilising conception of childhood. Their children's perspectives form a critical stimulus for a coming democracy.

Non-fiction  
Hardcover  
240 pages  
2025

**Sigmund Freud Prize for scientific prose 2022**

**Iris Därmann**, born in Witten in 1963, is Professor of Cultural Theory and Cultural Aesthetics at the Humboldt University in Berlin. Her non-fiction books *Underserviceability, A History of Violence and of Political Philosophy* (2020) and *Sadism With and Without Sade* (2023) have been translated into Spanish.

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***Violence · Children · Concentration camp · Art therapy · Cuddle stone · Brother- and sisterhood***



**William T. Vollmann**

*Shalamov or The Laws of Life*

 Matthes & Seitz Berlin

**“If you want to know the laws of life, read Shalamov.” One of the most important American authors reinterprets Varlam Shalamov for our times**

From the genocide of the Herero and Nama to the Holocaust, the terror of the Khmer Rouge and the massacre of Srebrenica: the 20th century is a mass grave in which the most recent dead are piled on top of the previously murdered until they are no longer visible. There are few authors of our time who have seen so much suffering and written about so much inhumanity as William T. Vollmann. This makes his horror at the stories from Kolyma all the more astonishing. In it, Varlam Shalamov asks the question: “Did we exist?” Yes, Vollmann answers in his deeply impressive exploration of the archipelago of Shalamov, the still incomprehensible and probably most important literary chronicler of Stalinist horror. And yet Shalamov wrote more than literature. His stories are also testimonies – testimonies of an experience that Vollmann places in a rich context of extremes in his haunting essay, in the hope of making them somewhat more comprehensible. Testimonies that remind us never to forget the humanity of all those who were broken, blunt, ugly and turned into animals.

*“Regardless of what Shalamov says, he does not merely record the atrocities in his ‘documents’. He hands them over to memory by turning them into stories.”*

Non-fiction  
Hardcover  
ca. 200 pages  
2026  
English original available

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**William T. Vollmann**, born in Los Angeles in 1959, is a journalist and author of numerous books dedicated to the horrors of the world. He received the National Book Award in 2005 for his novel *Europe Central*.

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*History · Gulag · Horror · Kolyma · Sibiria · Stalinism · Testimonies*



**Martin Warnke**

*Large Language Kabbalah. A Brief History of Large Language Models*

 Matthes & Seitz Berlin

**ChatGPT and other large language models – endless hallucinations?**

It is not nerds, but scribes who can explain the field of generative artificial intelligence such as ChatGPT: such “large language models” have their roots in linguistics, literary criticism, and even the interpretation of sacred texts. Martin Warnke pursues this thesis through an archaeology of the origins of LLM – from Zellig S. Harris’ statistical language theory to Walter Benjamin’s philosophy of language to Jewish Kabbalah. In doing so, he shows that mystical text interpretation techniques have similar characteristics and thus also problems as today’s computer systems: It is language structures, not artificial brains, that fascinate and frighten us. The “hallucinations” of AI are not teething problems, but the inevitable consequence of linguistic processes that derive semantics from syntax alone, without reference to the world. Criticism must therefore start with the fundamental question: What are these systems that exist only in language and have no world?

*"[...] the author, a physicist and historian of digital media, explains concisely and compellingly why large language models (LLMs) can produce a lot, but not intelligent behavior."*

– Günter Hack, FAZ

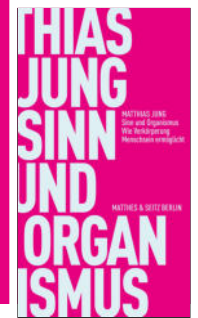
Essay  
Softcover  
152 pages  
2026

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

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# SINN UND ORGANIS- MUS

Wie Verkörperung  
Menschsein ermöglicht



**Matthias Jung**

*Meaning and Organism. How Embodiment Enables Humanity*

**A plea for the dignity of human finitude and against technological utopias of immortality**

What actually makes us human? In his essay, Matthias Jung shows that meaning and significance are not purely products of the mind, but are deeply rooted in our physical existence. He argues against transhumanist dreams of liberation from the mortal organism: only vulnerable, sentient beings can experience what is meaningful. And only when we understand that our minds remain dependent on nature can we recognize the destructive consequences of our way of life. From the original emergence of meaning in physical experience to the digital revolution of our time, Jung pursues the thesis that embodied cognition forms the basis of all meaning. Neither artificial intelligence nor virtual realities can replace the organism as an "indicator of meaning." A world without vulnerability would be a world without relevance – nihilism would be just around the corner.

 Matthes & Seitz Berlin

Essay  
Softcover  
ca. 220 pages  
2026

**Matthias Jung**, born in 1960, studied philosophy and Catholic theology in Frankfurt am Main and taught and studied in Chemnitz, Erfurt, Jena, Bochum, Atlanta, and St. Louis, USA. Since 2010, he has been a professor of philosophy at the University of Koblenz. His work focuses on philosophical anthropology, cognitive science, moral justification, and the philosophy of religion.

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*Transhumanism · Body · Meaning · Existential philosophy · Physicality · Cognition · Man vs. machine*

# ZUKUNFT DES LESENS



**Christoph Engemann**

*The Future of Reading*

 Matthes & Seitz Berlin

## Reading after reading: Toward an age of post-literacy

Reading is in crisis, writing is being automated by generative AI: literacy is in a state of flux. Publishers, educational institutions, the press and other institutions of written culture find themselves on the defensive. Their fixation on literacy overlooks the fact that AI has enabled platforms to renegotiate the relationship between orality and literacy. On platforms, the spoken and written word are recombined with far-reaching cultural, political and social consequences: where AI can process verbal utterances and texts in equal measure, oral formats are beginning to dominate over literary ones. As a result, reading runs the risk of becoming a cultural technique of the few.

In *The Future of Reading*, Christoph Engemann shows how the new platform orality of podcasts, online video and TikTok is not only changing reading, but how their AI-supported monopolization is also calling the openness of language into question.

*"Engemann rejects the crisis talk and points to the transformative potential associated with a shift from the written to the spoken word."* – Andreas Gold, FAZ

Essay  
Softcover  
158 pages  
2025

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**Christoph Engemann**, born in Paderborn in 1972, is a media scientist and, after working in Bremen, Stanford, Austin, Weimar and Hangzhou, conducts research at the DFG Collaborative Research Center "Virtual Lifeworlds" at Ruhr University Bochum. His research focuses on artificial intelligence, media of statehood, graphs & graph assumptions, genealogy of the transaction, rurality and barns.

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**Book culture · Literacy · Education · Orality · Reading habits · Cultural crisis · Democratic crisis**



## Julian Nida-Rümelin

### *The Epochal Change. On the Way to a New World Order*

 Matthes & Seitz Berlin

**If Europe wants to have a future, it must find a visionary new path shaped by old values.**

Essay  
Softcover  
102 pages  
2025

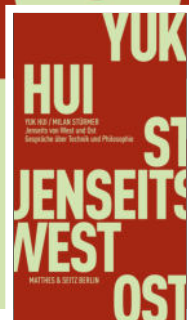
For many years now, the erosion of the previous liberal, rule-based and value-oriented international order has been evident, and since Donald Trump's re-election at the latest, it has been gathering pace rapidly. There is talk of a pre-war period, and Europe appears at a loss. The frantic attempts to regain Germany's ability to act through massive rearmament mask the lack of a European strategy. Europe is in danger of being crushed between the major world powers. International politics has always been shaped by visions, values and national identities: while a public titanic struggle between liberals, neo-conservatives, realists and libertarians is taking place in the USA, Russia and China, the two other major players in international politics, are developing new concepts of international politics aimed at breaking the dominance of the West. Julian Nida-Rümelin's essay contributes to intellectual clarity in times of great confusion, outlines the vision of a multipolar but cooperative world order, and advocates a return to an ethically based realpolitik of peacekeeping.

**Julian Nida-Rümelin** is a philosopher and political theorist. He was director of the Geschwister Scholl Institute for Political Science in Munich and professor of philosophy at the universities of Tübingen, Göttingen, Munich and Berlin, as well as visiting professor in the USA, Italy and China. His research focuses on decision theory, ethics and political philosophy. He was head of the interdisciplinary working group on international justice at the Bavarian Academy of Sciences and Humanities and is the founding rector of the Humanist University of Applied Sciences in Berlin.

*"A book that analyzes the major trends in global geopolitics – and urgently recommends that Europe adopt a more realistic approach to politics." – Marc Reichwein, Die WELT*

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# JENSEITS



**Yuk Hui, Milan Stürmer**

*Beyond West and East. Discussion about Technology and Philosophy*

**From technodiversity via the imagination of futures to the epistemology of capitalism**

"The world is the limit and possibility of philosophy. Philosophy that tries to escape the world loses itself in rapture, but if philosophy only remains in the world, then it is a prisoner of this world." This outlines the field of tension in the thinking of Hong Kong philosopher Yuk Hui, which he expands on in the dense conversations with Milan Stürmer published here for the first time. In them, he explores the question of the pluralisation of the concept of technology, which for him is a fundamental question of philosophy in general, reflects on the possibility of science today and develops an epistemology of the unknown. In doing so, he transcends all boundaries between rational, irrational and non-rational. Yuk Hui's thinking is a departure into new worlds, and so his philosophy is always about imagining other futures. With his concept of technodiversity, he imagines a new form of coexistence and an ecology that includes technology.

 Matthes & Seitz Berlin

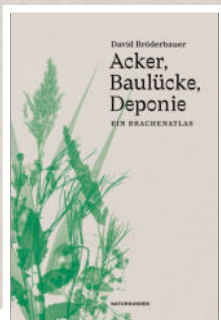
Essay  
Softcover  
124 pages  
2025

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**Yuk Hui**, philosopher from Hong Kong, is currently Professor of Philosophy at Erasmus University Rotterdam and Professor at the City University of Hong Kong. He is the author of several books on philosophy and technology, which have been translated into numerous languages.

**Milan Stürmer** teaches at Leuphana University Lüneburg at the Institute for Culture and Aesthetics of Digital Media.

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**David Bröderbauer**

*Farmland, Vacant Lot, Landfill Site. An Atlas of Fallow Land*

**Unexploited, vital, and rich in species – a pocket atlas of the nearest wilderness, including portraits of striking plant inhabitants**

In the search for untouched nature, we often overlook what has been created by human hands: fallow land is the postscript to any cultivation and, at the same time, the beginning of wilderness. Broom, silver rain, or creeping bent grass, which the untrained eye perceives only as weeds, green it with stubborn growth. Their emergence, however, is inextricably linked to the settlement of humans; it was the separation of cultivated land from wilderness that gave rise to fallow land. Where our dead rest today, it frames the graves; where our waste piles up in mountains, fallow land overgrows the slopes; and even in the no-man's-land between national borders, it thrives carefree: Where humans can only pass with difficulty or in secret, it bears witness to the diversity of carefree life.

In twelve stages, David Bröderbauer roams the wasteland – from Vienna's Nordbahnhofviertel to the Zollverein coal mine in North Rhine-Westphalia, from Lake Neusiedl in Burgenland to a military training area and the desert landscape of Mars. His *Atlas of Fallow Land* is an invitation to explore this seemingly insignificant space, to appreciate its niche existence and to discover its resistant beauty.

 Matthes & Seitz Berlin

Non-fiction  
Hardcover with illustrations  
ca. 220 pages  
2026

**David Bröderbauer**, born in Zwettl, Austria, in 1981, is a writer and biologist. He works at the Botanical Garden of the University of Vienna, where he focuses primarily on science communication.

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***Fallow land · Nature observation · Cultural landscape · Agriculture · Resilience · Pavement crack***



## Bernhard Malkmus

*Flight Lines. Of Avian and Human Homing Instincts*

**"Bernhard Malkmus is a special writer: a lynx-eyed analyst of text and image, a subtle ecological ethicist and a very fine maker of sentences." – Robert Macfarlane**

The English North East is a landscape that reflects the systemic changes to the biosphere caused by 250 years of technological and social revolutions: the richest coal deposits in Britain were mined here until recently, the world's largest shipyards were located here around 1900, and huge chemical agglomerates are still changing the earth's metabolism. Fringed by the mysterious North Sea coast to the east and bleak moorland mountains to the west, this Anglo-Scottish borderland is also an important breeding ground for numerous bird species. Bernhard Malkmus refers to the areas where these flying artists are at home as well as the calligraphy they draw in the air as the "skylines" of seabirds. But for some time now, this bird paradise has been ravaged by the bird flu, which has been bred in industrial animal husbandry and spread by migratory birds all over the world. As Malkmus finds more and more carcasses on his forays, he begins to create a literary monument to the animals.

*Skylines* is a delightful combination of travel diary and essay, in which natural and cultural history are interwoven: a song to the sea, a hymn to the grace and resilience of seabirds, a meditation on home and migration, a search for words of mourning in the face of species extinction around us.

 Matthes & Seitz Berlin

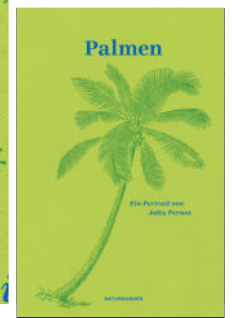
Non-fiction  
Hardcover with illustrations  
246 pages  
2025  
English abstract and sample available

**Shortlisted for the W. G. Sebald Literature Prize**

**Bernhard Malkmus**, born in Aschaffenburg in 1973, grew up in the Spessart and near Lisbon, and teaches German and Environmental Humanities at the University of Oxford. Before that, he lived among humans and seabirds on the North Sea coast outside Newcastle upon Tyne. For the Naturkunden series he has previously written *Lynxes*. A portrait and edited a newly revised translation of Peter Matthiessen's *The Snow Leopard*.

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*England · Industrialisation · Avian influenza · Climate change · Nature essay · Climate grief*



## Jutta Person

### *Palm Trees. A Portrait*

 Matthes & Seitz Berlin

**“What trees! Coconut palms, 50 to 60 feet tall! ... I feel that I will be very happy here ...” – Alexander von Humboldt**

They usually grow where you are not, but would like to be. Sometimes, however, they are right under your nose – in front yards, pedestrian zones, greenhouses, or botanical gardens – where they inevitably raise the question: How did this fascinating plant become a plant of universal longing? In the beginning, one thing is certain, there was the date palm. With its cultivation, people settled down, using its palm fronds to cover roofs and worship gods. Since then, palm trees have cast their shadow over both dreams of the south and utopian visions of a better world: Goethe chose an Italian fan palm as his fetish, coconut guru August Engelhardt founded his palm tree religion in German New Guinea, while products such as Palmolene began to lubricate Western prosperity. Palms were and are not only plants of longing, but also colonial plants, and in monocultural plantations they threaten the very dream of a paradisiacal nature for which they stand with enchanting, iconic elegance.

Jutta Person explores the wide-ranging relationship between humans and palm trees, from the desire to drop out of society to a fetish for dwarf palms, from tropical melancholy to greenhouse plants: this portrait celebrates the palm tree in all its sun-drenched and shady facets.

Non-fiction  
Hardcover with numerous illustrations  
ca. 152 pages  
2026

**Jutta Person** was born in 1971 and works as a journalist in Berlin. She studied German, Italian, and philosophy in Cologne and Italy. She writes for the *Süddeutsche Zeitung*, *Literaturen*, *Die Zeit*, and *Philosophie Magazin*. She is the author of two other portraits in the *Naturkunden* series: *Donkeys* (2013) and *Coralis* (2019).

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*South Sea · Coconut · Palm fronds · Cultivation · Nature writing · Colonialism · Longing*



**Björn Kern**

*Enlightened Amazement*

 Matthes & Seitz Berlin

**“We will need a kind of wonder that restores the soul to our measured, dissected world.”**

All it takes is a comment from his neighbor, who recounts how, when she was a child, the Oder River in front of her house was still full of freshwater pearl mussels, and Björn Kern's curiosity is piqued. He is determined to find this rare freshwater creature, which has a wondrous life cycle: while its early form lives in the gills of brown trout for several months, the adult mussel can live for well over a hundred years and form pearls – but only if it has been injured beforehand. During his search, Björn Kern develops an inner connection with the species, which is over 250 million years old, leading him back into the water again and again, and a desire for authenticity in an overexploited world: How does one marvel in an enlightened way? How can the constant desire for expansion be cured? And how can we stimulate our zest for life in ways other than through excessive consumption, which can never satisfy our sensual needs?

*Enlightened Amazement* is about the eye-opening gift of an experience that feeds on not finding, a physical, sensual abundance that holds a more vibrant form of wealth for us all.

Essay  
Softcover  
ca. 120 pages  
2026

**Björn Kern**, born in 1978 in the Black Forest, studied in Tübingen, Passau, and Aix-en-Provence, as well as at the German Literature Institute in Leipzig. His most recent publications include the novel *Solikante Solo* and the nature writing essay *Im Freien* (Outdoors), both published by S. Fischer.

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*River pearl mussel · Oder · Discovery · Nature & science · Anthropocene · Climate change*

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