

Menschwerdung



Foreign Rights Guide Fall 2020



Matthes & Seitz Berlin

eines



Eine Autobiografie
der ethnografischen Forschung

Affen

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), Esther Kinsky, Angela Steidele, Philip Schönthaler, and Jakob Nolte. Matthes & Seitz Berlin is not only known for **German literature**, but also for the translations of contemporary and classic **French literature** like Antonin Artaud, Emmanuel Carrère, Céline Minard and Éric Vuillard, the winner of the Prix Goncourt 2017. Among the strong list of **Russian literature** you find Warlam Schalamow, Iliazd, Alexander Ilitchevski 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

Lola Randl	<i>The Crown of Creation</i>
Anne Weber	<i>Epic Annette</i>
Dragica Rajčić Holzner	<i>Love for Love</i>
Anna Prizkau	<i>Almost a New Life</i>
Levin Westermann	<i>Ovibos Moschatus</i>

Non Fiction

Heike Behrend	<i>Incarnation of an Ape</i>
Jürgen Goldstein	<i>Hans Blumenberg. A Philosophical Portrait</i>
Wolfgang Engler	<i>The Open Society and its Limits</i>
A. Klose, B. Steininger	<i>Oil. An Atlas of Petromodernity</i>
Elad Lapidot	<i>Anti-Anti-Semitism</i>
Patrick Eiden-Offe	<i>Reading Hegel's „Logic“. A self-experiment</i>

Series Fröhliche Wissenschaft

Byung-chul Han	<i>The Palliative Society. Pain today</i>
Norbert Bolz	<i>The Avant-garde of Fear</i>
Ekaterina Vassilieva	<i>Fantasy in Power</i>
Jean-Luc Nancy	<i>My God!</i>

Series Naturkunden

Ludger Wess	<i>Tiny, Hard and Profuse. An Atlas of Bacteria</i>
Rüdiger Schaper	<i>Elephants. A Portrait</i>
Katrin Schumacher	<i>Foxes. A Portrait</i>
Wilhelm Bode	<i>Fir Trees. A Portrait</i>
Ute Woltron	<i>Hemp. A Portrait</i>




Lola Randl

The Crown of Creation

Lola Randl still lives in the „Great Garden“, far away from the hustle and bustle of the big city. Here she believes she can escape the neuroses of the city dwellers. When in the spring of 2020 a new virus with crown-like spikes spreads over the entire globe, the question quickly arises, however, of how isolated one really is out here. The narrator is afflicted by fever and cough and is sure: she has the virus. It won't be long now and the whole world seems to be coming apart. No one really knows how to proceed. Every day, new horrible facts are making the news while a completely unknown fear spreads. Everyone should keep their distance from each other, if possible not go outside the door. But does that also apply here in the wilderness? And anyway: How does she tell the others in the village that she has invited a group of city dwellers? While her mother doesn't want to hear anything about the virus, and certainly doesn't want to be kept from gardening, her husband wallows in reports about historical epidemics. She flees to her lover, but he is not much help either. In the middle of all this, Lola Randl tries to understand what it actually is, a virus, how it works. But her research is disturbed by requests from a film production company who want a script for a zombie film. As much as she tries to capture the situation as rationally as possible: Nothing will remain as it is.

Like a global pandemic, life in the village changed. And everyone thought they were safe here. A highly amusing swan song to the world as we know it.

 Matthes & Seitz Berlin

Contact:
Loan Nguyen
l.nguyen@matthes-seitz-berlin.de

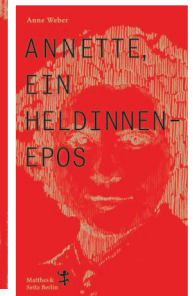
Fiction

216 pages
September 2020
Novel

Rights available

Lola Randl, born in Munich in 1980, works as a screenwriter and Director for cinema and television. Most recently she created the television series *Landschwärmer* (2014) and the feature film *Of bees and flowers* (2019). With her novel *The Great Garden* she was nominated 2019 for the German Book Prize. Randl lives in a small place in the Brandenburg Uckermark.

HELDINNEN – EPOS



Anne Weber

Epic Annette

 Matthes & Seitz Berlin

Contact:
Loan Nguyen
l.nguyen@matthes-seitz-berlin.de

The incredible life of a true hero 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.

Fiction

208 pages
March 2020
Complete French text and
English sample available

Rights sold to:

Éditions du Seuil (France)

Shortlist

German Book Prize 2020

*

**Shortlist Raabe Literature
Prize 2020**

„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

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.



Dragica Rajčić Holzner

Love for Love

„If mother were different, I would never have married. Like a dog, torn from its leash, I ran away through the window, clinging to Igor.“ In a raw, wild and strong language, not denying her own origins, the poet and playwright Dragica Rajčić Holzner tells the story of an impossible marriage, in which love is answered with violence to love, and with love to violence. When the first-person narrator sees Igor for the first time, he appears to her as her salvation. And yet right at the beginning there is this unpleasant feeling that wants to be pushed away and ignored again and again. Igor drinks too much, but don't all men do that? He is quick-tempered, but even that is nothing unusual. Years later the married couple moves to the north of the USA. Here the initially diffuse restlessness will prove to be prophetic. The man she clung to in her youth full of hope becomes someone completely different. And again she must flee - this time away from him. More than a hundred years deep, right up to the time of the Spanish flu, she lowers the plumb line of her own and recounts memories to understand the rough time of growing up in rural Yugoslavia in the 1960s, the flight from the family, the falling into early marriage and the late liberation from it. A novel like the life described in it: a glittering pile of broken glass, a captivating force of nature.

Pictorial, urgent, immediate - this is how Dragica Rajčić Holzner tells us from a love that turns to hate, from the attempt of a new Life across many borders, an attempt that must fail, and of what is left at the end.

 Matthes & Seitz Berlin

Contact:
Loan Nguyen
l.nguyen@matthes-seitz-berlin.de

Fiction

167 pages
September 2020
Novel

Rights available

Dragica Rajčić Holzner, 1959 in Split born, grew up in Croatia before she moved to Switzerland. 1988 she returned back to Croatia, worked as journalist and founded the newspaper *Glass Kaštela*. 1991 she fled during the Yugoslavia wars with her family in Switzerland, where they are involved in peace work. Today Holzner lives in Zurich and Innsbruck. She has received many awards, among others with the Adelbert-von-Chamisso-Prize 1994.



Anna Prizkau

Almost a new life

A family comes to Germany. There, the unimaginable and incomprehensible happens - at least for the immigrants' daughter. She, the first-person narrator, grows up in the new country, but the stories about the old country do not let her go. She grows up with the feeling of always being a stranger, of never belonging. Later she becomes a playwright; unsuccessful, unemployed, but full of hope. In these atmospherically fine stories, which together make up a small, dense novel of strangeness and longing, the narrator encounters a new life, a new language, new people: Martha, who may have to kill to possess. Marcel, whom all girls want to kiss. Samiha and Olcay from the Turkish quarter, who have an inexplicable fear of death in front of the elevator in their high-rise building. She meets her mother's boss, who wants more than just a good employee, the sadistic man from the employment office and Frank, the male model who wears his hair up. As a child she is still ashamed of her parents and of the fact that you can tell from her father's „hello“ that he is not German. Later, as a young woman, the language of her old country, spoken at the wrong moment and in front of the wrong people, gives her bruised ribs and a split lip. For in addition to the new, enigmatic friendliness, leaden politeness and warm detachment with which the strange girl, who later becomes a strange woman, is confronted, she also has to take blows again and again - from known mouths and from unknown fists. But she strikes back: not only with her lies, but also with her dreams. In *Fast ein neues Leben* Anna Prizkau tells of the new country that is Germany, of the strangers and the lost, including those who were born here.

Friedenauer Presse



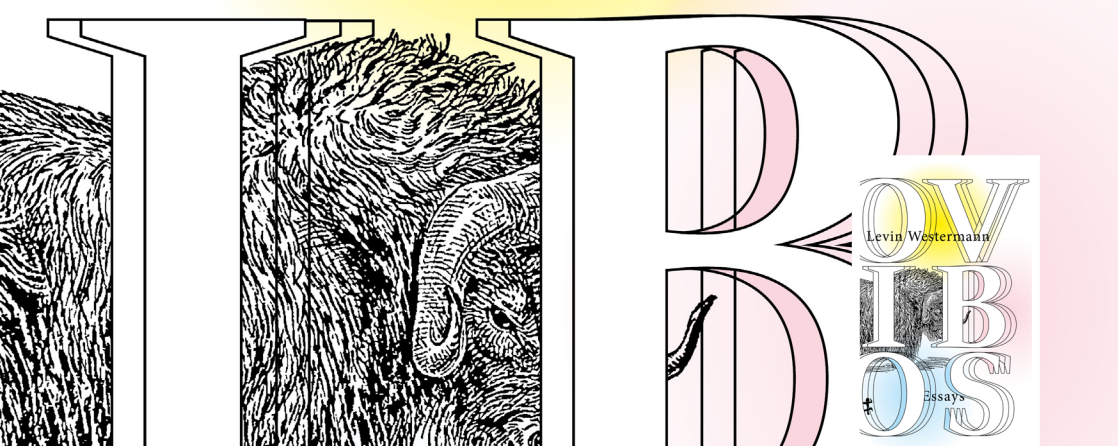
Contact:
Loan Nguyen
l.nguyen@matthes-seitz-berlin.de

Fiction

111 pages
September 2020
Stories


Rights available

Anna Prizkau, born in Moscow in 1986, came to Germany with her family in the 1990s. She studied in Hamburg and Berlin and has been editor of the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Sonntagszeitung* since 2016. Prizkau lives in Berlin.



Levin Westermann

Ovibos moschatus

 Matthes & Seitz Berlin

Contact:
Loan Nguyen
l.nguyen@matthes-seitz-berlin.de

The Arctic is the place to which the poet Levin Westermann returns again and again in these essays. It is the home of the musk oxen, who form a circle to protect themselves and their young from attackers, a tactic that is doomed to failure against man; the land of the netsilingmiut (Engl: the netsilikInuit), who, due to the decreasing strength of their amulets, attach more and more of them to their clothing in order to maintain the power of happiness; the place of the torpor, that rigidity that defies the winter by telling stories. It is precisely this power of imagination and the power of language that the texts plead for. „Don't give up,“ they seem to whisper, „keep going, even if the path seems to have a view“. And so they also tell of personal crises, but above all of paths that lead out of the darkness and back into language. With a clear voice and precise images, Westermann expresses an invitation to think and feel with him - beyond the boundary between nature and cultural experience and as an attunement to the special things that hold our world together.

„In the case of Westermann, authorship means being able to make complete changes of mood with each new material and to balance this with one's own linguistic style and poetic concerns.“

Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung

Fiction

202 pages
August 2020
Essays

English sample available
Translation support
available

Rights available

**Clemens Brentano Prize
2020**

*

**Nominated for the
Bachmann Literature Prize
2020**

*

**Selected by Pro Helvetia
in the magazine 12 Swiss
Books**


Levin Westermann,
born in Meerbusch
in 1980, studied at
the Bern University
of the Arts and lives
as a freelance writer
in Biel.

Menschwerdung



Heike Behrend

Incarnation of an ape

 Matthes & Seitz Berlin

Contact:
Loan Nguyen
l.nguyen@matthes-seitz-berlin.de

Heike Behrend studied ethnology in the politically turbulent 1960s; her first field research took her to the Kenyan Tugen Mountains in the late 1970s; in the mid-1980s she set out on the trail of the Holy Spirit movement in northern Uganda. During the AIDS epidemic, she worked through the Catholic Church in western Uganda, and finally, on the Kenyan coast, she researched the local practices of street photographers and photo studios. This autobiography of ethnographic research does not tell a heroic success story, but rather reports on what is usually excluded in traditional ethnographies - the unheroic entanglements and cultural misunderstandings, the conflicts, failures, and situations of failure in foreign countries. This book thus invites a frank look at ethnology as a poetics of social relations. In the unflattering names - „monkey“, „fool“, or „cannibal“ - given to the ethnologist in Africa, she is confronted with foreign experience of foreign countries and must ask herself what truth these names express, what colonial history they tell, and what criticism they make of her person and work. With her report on four ethnographic research projects in Kenya and Uganda over a period of almost fifty years, Heike Behrend also reflects on the specialist history of ethnology and the changes in the power relations between the researchers and the explored, which she experiences first-hand.

An autobiography of ethnographic research. An in-depth and self-critical contribution to the debate about the foreign

Non Fiction
278 pages
October 2020

Rights available

Heike Behrend, born in Stralsund in 1947, studied ethnology and religious studies in Munich, Vienna and Berlin. She worked ethnographically, especially in East Africa, taught at various universities in Germany and abroad and lives in Berlin.

Goldstein Hans Blumenberg

Jürgen
Goldstein
Hans
Blumenberg
Ein philo-
sophisches
Portrait
Matthes
& Seitz
Berlin

Jürgen Goldstein

Hans Blumenberg. A Philosophical Portrait

 Matthes & Seitz Berlin

Contact:
Loan Nguyen
l.nguyen@matthes-seitz-berlin.de

The work of Hans Blumenberg stands like a monolith in the philosophical landscape. While he is increasingly being discovered as one of the most important German-speaking philosophers of the 20th century, his books appear to be immensely fascinating and difficult to read, extremely stimulating and mostly circumstantial as well as extremely style-conscious and often very catchy. Jürgen Goldstein, who himself studied with Blumenberg, draws a philosophical portrait of this author by bringing out his mental physiognomy: Masterfully and vividly, as a proven connoisseur, he follows the lines of thought of this rich body of work, from the earliest academic writings to the classical books, from the essayistic miniatures of the late years to the writings already removed from the estate. The book not only sheds light on what Blumenberg thought, but also on how he did it. In this way, his thought biography not only opens up new perspectives for insiders of the work, but also serves as a handbook for those who have faltered over one of his books. In this way, the scholar who has shied away from access to his person throughout his life is satisfied: for Blumenberg did not want to see through, he wanted to be read.

„Goldstein's ‚Philosophical Portrait‘ is an excellent introduction to Blumenberg's work, which succeeds in the impossible: stopping an incessant movement, as it were, without taking away its vitality.“

Der Spiegel

Non Fiction

624 pages
July 2020

Rights available

Jürgen Goldstein, born in 1962, teaches as a professor of philosophy at the University of Koblenz-Landau. Significantly inspired by Hans Blumenberg, his studies are dedicated to the genesis and profile of modernity. His books deal with the formation of modern subjectivity and rationality, 20th century political philosophy and the history of the perception of nature. For his book *Georg Forster. Between Freedom and the Force of Nature*, he received the Gleim Literature Prize in 2015 and the Leipzig Book Fair Prize in 2016 in the category non-fiction / essayistic.

• Geselltschaf • und ihre • Grenzen



Wolfgang Engler

The Open Society and its Limits

In 1990 the „open society“ in Europe won a terrific victory with the fall of the Eastern Bloc. The vision of society conceived by the philosopher Karl R. Popper now seemed to become reality everywhere. Its advantages were obvious and groundbreaking in view of the experience of dictatorship and economic decline. Today, only 30 years later, the liberal, democratic, market-based society has lost much of its glamour and appeal, its institutions seem hollow, authoritarian tendencies are gaining ground everywhere. Using Popper's tool, Wolfgang Engler reconstructs the social conditions and historical developments that led to the crisis of Popper's model. The upheavals in Eastern and Central Europe in 1989/90 postponed this change of perspective. The newly won freedoms were celebrated and their limits were wordlessly concealed. This meant a misjudgment of the real power relations as well as the problems and shortcomings of open societies - which, as in the Corona Pandemic, are closing more and more often. It is necessary to dissolve these blockades of thought analytically - with Karl R. Popper, against Popper, beyond Popper.

*A relentless analysis of the current loss
of reputation of our open society*

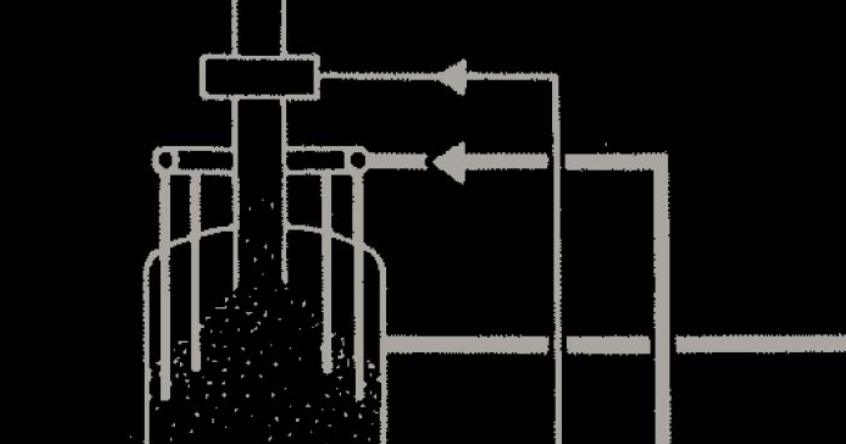
 Matthes & Seitz Berlin

Contact:
Loan Nguyen
l.nguyen@matthes-seitz-berlin.de

Non Fiction
180 pages
November 2020

Rights available

Wolfgang Engler, born 1952 in Dresden, studied philosophy at the HU Berlin and works as a freelance journalist. From 1992 to 2005, he taught cultural sociology and aesthetics at the Ernst Busch Academy of Dramatic Arts in Berlin, where he also served as rector from 2005 to 2017. An expanded and updated new edition of his 1999 work *Die Ostdeutschen. Kunde von einem verlorenen Land*, for which he was awarded the prize „For outstanding achievements in the field of the public effectiveness of the subject“ by the German Sociological Association in 2019.



Alexander Klose, Benjamin Steininger

Oil. An Atlas of Petromodernity

Only when we have understood what we have been dealing with for 150 years in our engines, laboratories, bodies and dreams, can we free ourselves from this magical and fatal substance. The creation of petroleum takes ages, but its use knows only the moment: whether as fuel or plastic bag, as lipstick or balloon. Oil is omnipresent and yet invisible. It is a prehistoric natural substance and hypermodern plastic. It is a warmonger, a bringer of prosperity and even food. This richly illustrated atlas invites you to take a walk through geography, industry and historical processes and unearths amazing stories in practices, forms of knowledge and visual worlds: from the first oil tanker „Zoroaster“ from 1878, which today is located in the foundation of an oil rig in the Caspian Sea, from fossil plankton, which almost decorated the latest Norwegian banknotes, from the impoverished Austrian nobleman who sought his fortune in Argentina as an oil worker and became a character in a novel, from „Science-fashioned Molecules“ as the heroes of US industrial films. After all, crude oil is much more than the sum of its molecules.

*„Oil is a useless segregation of the earth.
By its nature, it is a sticky liquid that stinks and
cannot be used in any way.“*

Academy of Sciences, Saint Petersburg, 1806

 Matthes & Seitz Berlin

Contact:
Loan Nguyen
l.nguyen@matthes-seitz-berlin.de

Non Fiction

324 pages with illustrations
November 2020

Rights available

Alexander Klose, born in 1969, is a freelance cultural scientist, publicist and curator. He develops projects on the borderlines between science, art and society and researches modern infrastructures and the logistical reorganization of the world.

Benjamin Steininger, born in 1974, is a cultural and media scientist and curator, and a science historian at the Max Planck Institute. He researches the role of fossil raw materials and the chemical-industrial technology of catalysis in the Anthropocene.

In 2016 they jointly founded the research collective „The Beauty of Oil“ to investigate the complexities and contradictions of the Petromodern era.

Anti- Anti- Semitism



Elad Lapidot
Anti-
Anti-
Semitism
Eine philosophische
Kritik

Elad Lapidot

Jews Out of the Question.

A Critique of Anti-Anti-Semitism

 Matthes & Seitz Berlin

Contact:

Loan Nguyen

l.nguyen@matthes-seitz-berlin.de

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)

„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

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*.

LOGIK

HEGELS

Ein Selbstv

LESEN

Patrick Eiden-Offe

HEGELS

LOGIK
Ein Selbstversuch
LESEN



Matthes
& Seitz
Berlin

Patrick Eiden-Offe

Reading Hegel's 'Logic'. A self-experiment

The science of logic, according to Brecht „one of the greatest humorous works of world literature,“ is the dark heart of Hegel's system. While Hegel has for some time now returned to the intellectual debate of the present with his philosophy of law or even phenomenology, his logic remains an unread major work in the history of philosophy. Thus this colossal work, which is difficult to penetrate, still awaits an opening re-reading beyond the professional world. Patrick Eiden-Offe has subjected himself to the retreat of studying logic for one hour every morning, consistently from beginning to end. He has had surprising and touching experiences with and in the book, experiences that are lost in the mere appropriation through secondary literature. In the process, he has discovered a Hegel whose radical thinking urges him to develop his own, hermetic language, which at best can only be compared to Hölderlin's; a Hegel who wants to „get to the bottom of the matter“ and then can only record how it „perishes“. And a Hegel whose philosophy bears traits of an abysmal humor. The reading of logic becomes a self-experiment, as does the writing about it. In the end, *The Science of Logic* itself appears as an essay, which, as a book of consolation for the modern soul, is absolutely topical for our days.

*Re-reading Hegel's logic:
„one of the greatest humorous works of world literature“*

 Matthes & Seitz Berlin

Contact:

Loan Nguyen

l.nguyen@matthes-seitz-berlin.de

Non Fiction

180 pages

November 2020

Rights available

Patrick Eiden-Offe,

born 1971, is a literary and cultural scientist.

In 2008 he received his doctorate at the University of Konstanz with a thesis on Reich fantasies in the poetic and political work of Hermann Broch. His areas of expertise are the intertwining of literature, economics and politics, Robert Walser, the relationship between literature and ethnology, and romanticism. Since 2017 he has been researching the theory formation of the young Georg Lukács at the Center for Literary and Cultural Research (ZfL) in Berlin.

PALLIA

BYUNG-CHUL HAN



Byung-chul Han

The Palliative Society. Pain today

 Matthes & Seitz Berlin

Contact:
Loan Nguyen
l.nguyen@matthes-seitz-berlin.de

Today's world is dominated by algophobia, the fear of pain. Each painful state has to be avoided. Even painful love stories are suspicious. The tolerance to pain is decreasing rapidly. This Algophobia leads to a permanent anaesthesia.

Like in his essay *The Burn-out Society*, Byung-chul Han analyses an essential change of paradigms of our society. Even psychology is following this trend and moving away from the negative psychology as psychology of suffering to a positive psychology, which has to do with well-being, happiness and optimism. Han's new essay shows how this algophobia is translated into our society. Very little room is left to conflicts and controversies that could lead to painful confrontations. Algophobia has also an effect on politics. The constraint of conformity and the pressure of consensus are increasing. A post-democratic society is spreading. It is the palliative society.

The essay covers the actual results of the American drug crisis and the Corona pandemic that shows how this palliative society proves to be also a society of survival.

Exactly 10 years after his world bestseller The Burn-out Society translated into over 30 languages, Han provides us with a new analysis of our modern societies

Non Fiction
80 pages
July 2019
Essay

Rights sold to:
English World (Polity)
Spanish World (Herder)
Portugal (Religio d'Água)
Brazil (Vozes)
Korea (Gimm-Young)
Italy (Einaudi)
France (PUF)
Greece (Opera)
Catalan (Herder)

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



Norbert Bolz

The Avant-garde of Fear

Concern for the environment, panic before the climate catastrophe and mobilization against it have become the new common sense of the 21st century. But where assessments and appropriate modes of reaction are no longer a matter of discussion, the political action soon leaves its rational basis and turns its attention to emotional states of excitement that are otherwise hardly to be found in the disenchanted world. In his philosophical-mass-psychological study, Norbert Bolz analyzes the transformation of ecological problem consciousness into a collective religion of fear, which has replaced the fear of the Lord with the fear of man and his actions. The resulting protest movement of our days is not only characterized by a fatal hostility to risk and technology, it also celebrates a long forgotten cult of childlike superiority in terms of truth and morality. Against this background, the question arises once again: Will 'German Angst' become an export hit or will we learn from the rest of the world?

Will 'German Fear' become an export hit or will we learn serenity from the rest of the world?

 Matthes & Seitz Berlin

Contact:
Loan Nguyen
l.nguyen@matthes-seitz-berlin.de

Non Fiction

160 pages
October 2020
Essay

Rights available

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



Ekaterina Vassilieva

Fantasy in power. Literary and political authorship in contemporary Russia

It is not censorship that characterizes present-day Russia, but a new type of authoritarian power relationship. Politics has made use of the teachings of postmodernism and designs its own omnipresence as a post-ideological Gesamtkunstwerk so comprehensively that it can make oppositional aspirations its own. This literarization and poetization of the political has taken place insidiously, and the analysis of recent political developments in Russian statehood must now be carried out by means of aesthetics. Ekaterina Vassilieva examines conservative authors as well as those who take an emancipatory and critical position. They all agree that they intervene in the political by aesthetic means and achieve a social impact through their works. Hope shimmers in poetry - the genre that, committed to a critical tradition and in a constant movement of innovation, shows that a polyphonic, emancipatory speech is possible.

 Matthes & Seitz Berlin

Contact:
Loan Nguyen
l.nguyen@matthes-seitz-berlin.de

Non Fiction

180 pages
December 2020
Essay

Rights available

Ekaterina Vassilieva, born 1974 in St. Petersburg (then Leningrad), studied literature in Cologne and received her doctorate in 2013 on Slavic literature of the postmodern era. Today, she lives in Berlin as a writer and university lecturer. Her novel *Kamertoný Grej*, published in 2012, as well as her novel *Son Germafródita*, published in 2015, were both on the longlist for the Russian Prize. The former was also named best debut by the literary magazine *Neva*, and nominated for the book award The National Bestseller.



Jean-Luc Nancy

My God!

„My God!“: Without being particularly conspicuous, this exclamation is found in the common vocabulary of believers, as well as of agnostics and atheists. But what does this habitual addressing of a highest power, to which the fewest submit in everyday life, bring with it? To whom do you address yourself when you cry out „My God!“ Do we think of God at all in this? Do we think of anyone at all? In his fine meditation inspired by Meister Eckhart, Jean-Luc Nancy circles around the addressee and calling relationship between man and the highest being, in which man always makes himself the possibility of God and thus detaches himself from him in equal measure. Thus „My God“ loses all its characteristics of a being, concept or being and becomes something unnameable, which in astonishment or shudder, in admiration or oppression, is nevertheless repeatedly targeted. God may be dead, but in this invocation a break in thought is retained, in which our most intimate and poorest truth still finds a place.

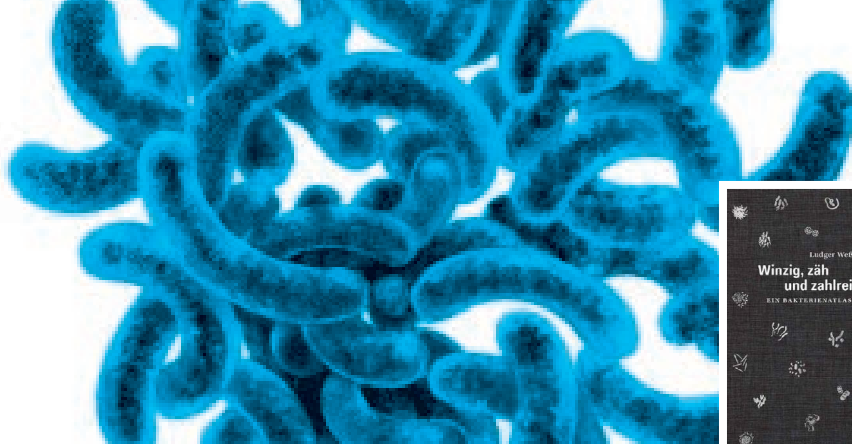
 Matthes & Seitz Berlin

Contact:
Loan Nguyen
l.nguyen@matthes-seitz-berlin.de

Non Fiction
80 pages
November 2020
Essay


Rights available
French original text
available

Jean-Luc Nancy, born 1940 near Bordeaux, is one of the most famous contemporary French philosophers and a representative of deconstruction. In his numerous texts, he deals mainly with German philosophy and literature and was strongly influenced in his work by Martin Heidegger, Georges Bataille and Jacques Derrida. Together with Philippe Lacoue-Labarthe he taught at the Marc Bloch University in Strasbourg.



Ludger Weiß

*Tiny, Hardy and Profuse:
An Atlas of Bacteria*

 Matthes & Seitz Berlin

Contact:
Loan Nguyen
l.nguyen@matthes-seitz-berlin.de

Bacteria: there are more types of bacteria than stars in the galaxy, they are omnipresent and their resistance is legendary. Bacteria can come back to life after a sleep of several millions of years, it can survive unprotected journeys in the space and it feels everywhere at home. Today bacteria are famous for being the cause of infections and epidemics. But without them there would be no cheese, no yoghurt and no beer.

Ludger Weiß describes in 50 portraits the discovery, the lives and the meaning of bacteria illustrated by Falk Nordmann's drawings.

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

Ludger Weiß

Non Fiction
280 pages
with 50 illustrations by
Falk Nordmann
March 2020

**Published in the series
Naturkunden edited by
Judith Schalansky**

English sample available

Rights sold to:
Greystone (English World)
Marsilio (Italy)

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



Rüdiger Schaper

Elephants. A Portrait

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

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



Matthes & Seitz Berlin

Contact:

Loan Nguyen

l.nguyen@matthes-seitz-berlin.de

Non Fiction

160 pages

with illustrations

October 2020

**Published in the series
Naturkunden edited by
Judith Schalansky**

Rights available

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



Ein Portrait von **Katrin Schumacher**



Katrin Schumacher

Foxes. A Portrait

The fox, since ancient fables a symbol of the cunning and devious contemporary, has become a popular figure in the animal kingdom in recent decades. But what is it about this charming rascal that his fleeting appearance causes both attraction and insecurity at the same time, whereas we used to chase him relentlessly with a shotgun? In her personal animal portrait, Katrin Schumacher sets out on a natural and cultural-historical foray through chicken coops, children's books and fur tanneries to finally track down the Far Eastern fox obsession in Japan, where the little robbers bewitch people as deities and erotic demons. And also in our latitudes, we can prepare ourselves for a more intensive coexistence: Knowing that in this country the fox is no longer constantly being pulled over his ears, he leaves his hidden, labyrinthine dens and heads for the cities to get us between garbage cans and park bushes.

*Between chicken house fright and neck
warmer: about the life, death and survival
of our dearest rascal.*

 Matthes & Seitz Berlin

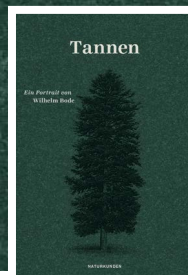
Contact:
Loan Nguyen
l.nguyen@matthes-seitz-berlin.de

Non Fiction
160 pages
with illustrations
March 2020

Published in the series
Naturkunden edited by
Judith Schalansky

Rights available

Katrin Schumacher,
born in 1974 in Lemgo,
is a literary scholar and
journalist. She lived
in Bamberg, Antwerp,
Hamburg, and is current-
ly based in Halle (Saale).



Wilhelm Bode

Fir Trees. A Portrait

Everybody knows the evergreen conifer, but it is not uncommon that what we freely sing of as a ‚fir tree‘ is merely a spruce, which stood in the Christmas parlors as a common tree of the forest and as a pseudo-fir. The solemnly decorated Christmas tree, which reminds us of the light of the world, is a German invention that spread over the world 200 years ago. The fact that old fir trees form highly individual crowns full of character makes them appear as powerful messengers from the early days of our plant world. Wilhelm Bode traces the momentous displacement of the fir trees from our mixed mountain forests: Elevated to a world tree in the Romantic period and displaced by spruce in industrial forestry, the fir tree has become a tree of hope today, because it bears dry summers well in its natural multigenerational home in a mixed deciduous forest. Thus it is not least an admonition to forestry to manage the forest as a living ecosystem, namely as a continuum of space and time, without clear-cutting.

Can you distinguish a fir from a spruce? Wilhelm Bode tells a surprising cultural history of the supposedly most famous tree.

 Matthes & Seitz Berlin

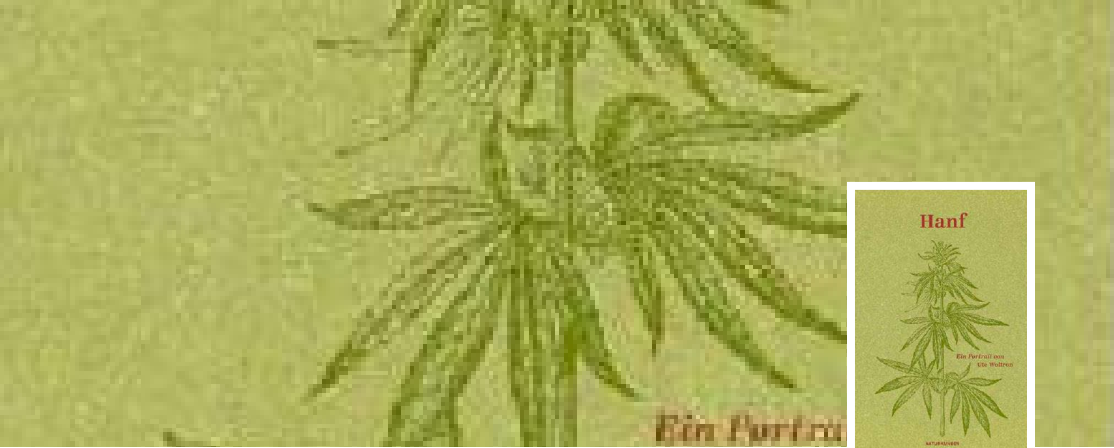
Contact:
Loan Nguyen
l.nguyen@matthes-seitz-berlin.de

Non Fiction
160 pages
with illustrations
December 2020

**Published in the series
Naturkunden edited by
Judith Schalansky**

Rights available

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



Ute Woltron

Hemp. A Portrait

When a hemp plant unexpectedly grows in her garden, Ute Woltron lets her go. Only when the doctor recommends that she fight her migraine with cannabis does she begin to take a closer look at the plant that divides humanity: into despisers who criminalize its use and admirers who praise its many and varied effects. In her blunt plant portrait, Ute Woltron opens doors to secret gardens, to greenhouses in cellars or closets and abducts us into the subculture of a secret science. She finds cannabis in old Chinese herbal books, the writings of Walter Benjamin and the music of Louis Armstrong, follows its scent into the living room of her Japanese neighbor and traces its path from remedy to criminalized drug. Woltron portrays people who, for various reasons, do not want to live without hemp, and pleads for a rethinking of the way we deal with the plant and its products, which range from resistant ropes and textiles to the most durable paper ever produced.

„This is not a drug. This is a leaf.“

Arnold Schwarzenegger

 Matthes & Seitz Berlin

Contact:
Loan Nguyen
l.nguyen@matthes-seitz-berlin.de

Non Fiction
160 pages
with illustrations
August 2020

**Published in the series
Naturkunden edited by
Judith Schalansky**

Rights available

Ute Woltron, born 1966 in Neunkirchen, studied architecture in Vienna and works as a journalist on the topics of business, architecture and travel. Her publications include *Menschen sind auch nur Gärtner: Freche Gartengeschichten* (2009) and *99 Genüsse, die man nicht kaufen kann - Selbstgemachte Köstlichkeiten aus Natur & Garten* (2011).

For foreign rights inquiries, please contact:

Ms. Loan Nguyen
l.nguyen[at]matthes-seitz-berlin.de

Matthes & Seitz Berlin
Göhrenerstr. 7
10437 Berlin | Germany
+49 (0)30 64319982

China

Flieder Verlag
Ms. Lei Ren
lr[at]cnpiec.de

Hungary

Balla & Co. Literary Agents
Ms. Catharine Balla
c.balla[at]ballalit.hu

Italy

Berla & Griffini Rights Agency
Mrs. Barbara Griffini
griffini[at]bgagency.it

Israel

The Deborah Harris Agency
Ms. Geula Geurts
geula[at]hedeborahharrisagency.com

Japan

Uni Agency, Inc.
Ms. Eriko Takeuchi
eriko.takeuchi[at]japanuni.co.jp

Netherlands

Internationaal Literatuur Bureau B.V.
Mrs. Linda Kohn
lkohn[at]planet.nl

Poland

Dr. Aleksandra Markiewicz
Literarische Agentur
aleksandra_markiewicz[at]space.pl

Scandinavia

schöne agentur
Ms. Anna Richter
anna.richter[at]schoene-agentur.com

Spain, Portugal, Latin America

A.C.E.R. Agencia Literaria
Mrs. Laure Merle d'Aubigné
lma[at]acerliteraria.com
www.acerliteraria.com

Turkey

AnatoliaLit Ajans
Fiction: Ms. Amy Spangler
amy[at]anatolialit.com
Nonfiction: Ms. Deniz Koc
deniz[at]anatolialit.com



Matthes & Seitz Berlin