



»» WALLSTEIN

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About Wallstein

Wallstein Publishing was founded in 1986. A major event in the development of the publishing house was the huge success of Ruth Klüger's biography »weiter leben – Eine Jugend« (Still Alive) in 1992. Partly due to its high literary quality, this book is one of the most-read literary works written in German on the subject of the holocaust, and has become a »classic of holocaust literature«.

Wallstein continues to add approximately 220 books per year to its list, with an annual turnover of approximately three million euros.



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A topical novel: A young woman fights back against digital sexual violence.

Thea Mengeler

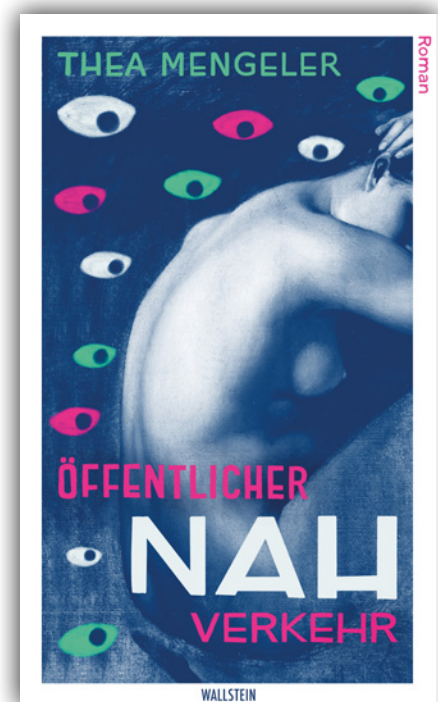
Public Circulation

Novel

A young woman leads a successful life as an influencer – until her ex-partner makes an intimate video of her public, without consent. Her account is subsequently flooded with messages in which she is humiliated and threatened. She goes offline, flees to a foreign city and into the anonymity of public transport. Taking the bus becomes her refuge and serves as a mirror: she observes her fellow passengers, gives them names, makes assumptions about them – and in doing so, repeatedly reflects upon herself.

This novel powerfully explores sexualised and digital violence, hatred and shame. It also examines the cruelties of everyday life: sexist role models, constant harassment and perpetual fear. The protagonist's anger grows – and a voice awakens within her that no longer wishes to remain silent.

Thea Mengeler, born in 1988, studied creative writing and communication design in Hildesheim, Kiel and Istanbul. She was a Styria Artist in Residence and a Writer in Residence at the Museumsquartier in Vienna. She currently lives in Hanover, working as a freelance author and copywriter. In 2024, she published her book »Nach den Fähren« (After the Ferries), which was awarded the »Hotlist Prize«, an annual award for books by independent publishing houses in German-speaking countries. Thea Mengeler also received the Austrian »Rotahorn Literature Prize« for this novel.



Thea Mengeler
Public Circulation
Novel

ca. 232 pages
08/2026



A powerful novel about a woman's life marked by bizarre self-dramatisation, navigating the realms of psychodrama, mystical delusion and the grotesque.

Anna Baar

Blackbirds

Novel

A former psychiatrist – accused of sexually assaulting a patient – finds an old photograph: it shows herself as a young woman accompanied by her sister at a hotel pool in Luxor. Overwhelmed by those memories, the woman decides to disclose the once concealed truth to her lover who disappeared during that trip. Her letters become a kind of life confession. Behind the façade of the girl who has aged prematurely, supposedly from a good family, lie deep abysses: out of loyalty to her mother and joyless sister, she sabotages her own happiness, systematically fails in matters of friendship and love – and in the end even commits a crime in the name of love.

In the legacy of the now missing woman, alongside the letters, there are numerous notes, observation logs, dream journals, and mnemonic aids. They complete the picture of a woman stripped of her dignity by hypocrites and envious people, yet driven by the desire to be recognised.

Ultimately, she fails because of her futile hope for mercy and forgiveness – she falsifies her online profiles, lies to her astrologer – and fills her fridge with outrageously expensive delicacies to make posterity believe she led a life she never actually lived.

Anna Baar, born in Zagreb (formerly Yugoslavia), lives in Klagenfurt and Vienna. Her novels, short stories, narratives, and essays have won numerous awards. Her debut novel »Die Farbe des Granatapfels« (The Colour of the Pomegranate) spent three months on the The Austrian Broadcasting Corporation (ORF) bestseller list and her novel »Nil« was shortlisted for the 2021 »Austrian Book Prize«. In 2022, she received the »Grand Austrian State Prize«, in 2023, she was awarded the »Brothers Grimm Prize of the City of Hanau«.



Anna Baar
Blackbirds
Novel

ca. 200 pages

08/2026



A story of longing and pain, of melancholy and happiness, of expectation and fate.

Ulf Erdmann Ziegler

Man Without Child

Novel

Out of nowhere, the girl enters Ole's life. Until just a moment ago, she had been hiding. There she is, Miki, seventeen, who doesn't go to school and is deeply at odds with herself. It is spring in Berlin, bright and cold. There is the haunted villa, the venerable college, a patch of beach at the Wannsee, a kitchen with a large square window.

Above the villa's entrance, two angels cast in iron hover above the motto ›per aspera ad astra‹. These angels are us, says Dolly. We're protecting you. ›Us‹ means Dolly herself, Ole's wife, and Haruko, Miki's mother. They observe the sudden yet close friendship between the man without a child and the child who deeply misses a father.

Miki is back in Tokyo, and Ole writes down his story. That's when the invitation arrives. The first trip to Japan, and the second one. Amidst the cliché of the blossoming cherry tree, Ole discovers an almost secret society of geniuses and eccentrics.

Miki and Ole wander through Tokyo's oldest district, Ginza, watching people, visiting restaurants, and delighting in the fact that a shoe sales assistant mistakes Ole for Miki's father. But that's not their future, if there even is one?

Ulf Erdmann Ziegler, born in 1959, initially studied photography in Dortmund and later on literature and psychology in Berlin. His literary works blend observation with personal experience. His first novel, »Hamburger Hochbahn« (Hamburg's Elevated Railway), explored the profession of architecture. His novel »Nichts Weißes« (Nothing White) was shortlisted for the ›German Book Prize‹ in 2012. In addition to literature, Ziegler writes essays, art criticism and occasional obituaries for German media such as taz, Deutschlandfunk and Monopol.



Ulf Erdmann Ziegler
Man Without Child
Novel

ca. 240 pages

08/2026



With the finest of strokes, Roman Graf depicts five intense, surprising encounters with women facing a decision.

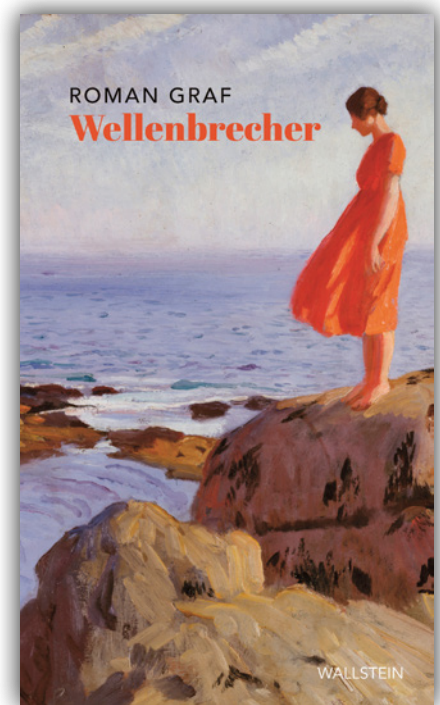
Roman Graf Breakwater

Dorothea, Elsa, Leila, Silvia and Lisbeth: five women and their fates. None of them are at home; they have left, emigrated or they are travelling. Whether on the east coast of England, between Berlin, Tunis and Paris, by a lake in Switzerland or on an adventurous road trip from southern Tunisia to Germany.

Roman Graf has created five female characters with great sensitivity. Through the absent, the planned, the lost and the grown-up child, a tender bond forms between them. Carrying the experience of loss and a longing for fulfilment with them, they wander through life, shaped by encounters and relationships – and in search of a meaning that points beyond the mundane.

»Breakwater« is the first collection of short stories by writer Roman Graf, proving himself a master of the short form.

Roman Graf, born in Winterthur (Switzerland) in 1978, worked in various professions following an apprenticeship as a forester. He studied at the School of Applied Linguistics in Zurich and the German Literature Institute in Leipzig. He was nominated for the ›Swiss Book Prize‹ in 2013 and won the prize for the best German-language debut from the Festival du premier roman in Chambéry (France) as well as other local prizes for German-language literature.



Roman Graf
Breakwater

ca. 144 pages
08/2026



A 100 years jubilee: Franz Kafka's »The Castle« – edited by expert Reiner Stach.

Franz Kafka

The Castle

Novel

»The Castle«, first published in 1926, is Kafka's longest and most character-rich work. The novel depicts the seemingly forgotten world of a village buried under snow. One day a stranger appears: a land surveyor named K. who persistently seeks work and accommodation but fails due to an inaccessible, all-powerful castle authority. With numerous twists as moving as they're grotesque, the archaic setting gradually expands into a panorama of uncanny intensity.

The central question of this annotated edition is how Kafka created this world. The detailed commentary explains the key motifs, concepts and narrative techniques. Even passages from the novel that were deleted long ago are reproduced to their full extent, providing a deep insight into Kafka's creative process. An exceptionally densely woven texture gets revealed, a masterful interplay with different levels of reality, irony, and numerous hidden clues from the narrator. The editor's afterword offers an overview of the novel's genesis and reception history.

Franz Kafka, 1883–1924, is one of the most important German-language writers of the 20th century.

Reiner Stach, born in 1951, studied German language and literature, philosophy and mathematics in Frankfurt am Main. After working as an academic editor for several publishing houses, from the mid-1990s he worked on a three-volume biography of Franz Kafka, which is now recognised internationally as the standard biography. Stach also received several awards for his work. »The Castle« is part of his annotated Kafka-editions, published at Wallstein.



Franz Kafka, edited by Reiner Stach
The Castle
Novel

ca. 608 pages
09/2026



Rahel Sanzara's dark masterpiece about a sex murder, reissued to mark the 100th anniversary.

Rahel Sanzara

The Lost Child

Novel

The tightly knit world of a northern German estate is shattered when Anna B., the four-year-old daughter of the tenant farmer, falls victim to a brutal murder. With great composure and linguistic beauty, Sanzara recounts the devastating consequences this act has for the parents, the farm community and the perpetrator himself, and explores the themes of guilt, grief and responsibility.

A hundred years ago, the novel became one of the greatest literary successes of the Weimar Republic overnight. Until it was banned under the Nazi regime, »The Lost Child« received an intense reception, ranging from admiration to disbelief that a woman could have written such an epic and dark work. The debate culminated in a literary dispute over the question of authorship, in which Sanzara was defended by writers such as Gottfried Benn and Kasimir Edschmid.

The afterword to the annotated edition traces the novel's international success and its connections to the historical source material in »Der Neue Pitaval« (The New Pitaval), a collection of historical crime stories. For the first time, the partly considerably abridged version published in the newspaper »Vossische Zeitung« is also included. This volume also contains a selection of contemporary reviews, including those by Vicki Baum, Erik-Ernst Schwabach, Bernhard von Brentano, Monty Jacobs, Gabriele Reuter, Máximo José Kahn, Osip Mandelstam, Ernst Weiß, Lavinia Mazzucchetti, Carl Zuckmayer and Vita Sackville-West.

Rahel Sanzara, 1894–1936, was an actress and writer. In 1933, the Nazis banned her from publishing. During the Nazi regime, Sanzara lived in Berlin, isolated and seriously diseased, whilst her closest friends, Ernst Weiß and Albert Ehrenstein, emigrated. She missed the publication of her second novel, »Die glückliche Hand« (The Lucky Hand), which was published in 1936 by the Swiss exile publishing house Humanitas and depicts the misfortunes of a nurse's life.

Nicola Behrmann, born in 1973, is an Associate Professor of German studies and general and comparative literature at Rutgers University in New Jersey (USA).



Rahel Sanzara, edited by Nicola Behrmann
The Lost Child
Novel

ca. 416 pages, ca. 10 illustrations
09/2026



An in-depth insight into Kundera's writings, personal recollections by his editor and friend Wolfgang Matz.

Wolfgang Matz

Life, a Novel

Recollections of Milan Kundera

»The Unbearable Lightness of Being« – a global success and, alongside »The Good Soldier Švejk«, is arguably the most famous novel in Czech literature. Nevertheless, Milan Kundera remains one of the great mysteries of world literature: for decades he did not appear in public, did not give readings, did not grant interviews. This refusal to engage with the literary establishment has, of course, only served to fuel all manner of legends. The facts are well known: being one of the protagonists of the Prague Spring, he was banned from publishing following the Russian invasion in 1968, emigrated to Paris with his wife Vera in 1975, and became a French writer there. A hedonist trapped in a deeply politicised world, as he described himself, and anyone who read him solely as a political writer was all too quick to overlook his other side as a novelist of »laughter and forgetting«.

Wolfgang Matz accompanied Kundera for years, as a reader, editor, and friend. From this close perspective, he paints a portrait of the author and the man he was. He recalls their encounters, walks and conversations in the heart of Paris, which, after Prague, became the second city of Kundera's life.

Wolfgang Matz, born in 1955, lived in Poitiers (France) from 1987 to 1995 where he taught at the Institute of German Language and Literature and worked as a literary translator; from 1995 to 2020, he worked as a publishing editor in Munich. As a translator of French prose and poetry, he received different awards e.g. the »Paul Celan Prize«. In 2024, he also received the »Alfred-Kerr-Prize« for literary criticism.



Wolfgang Matz
Life, a Novel
Recollections of Milan Kundera

ca. 142 pages
09/2026



»The Magic Mountain« as an Anthropocene novel: set in the context of World War I, the novel employs narrative as scale critique and conceives of the Anthropocene as deep wartime.

Elisabeth Strowick

Thomas Mann's »The Magic Mountain« – an Anthropocene Novel

Strowick's study analyses Thomas Mann's »The Magic Mountain« in the context of theories of the Anthropocene, in particular scale critique. The novel's preoccupation with questions of scale is evident, though there can be no question of measurability. What scales of narration does »The Magic Mountain« generate, and in what historical context is Mann's literary scale critique situated? The destruction caused by the First World War represents a turning point that shifts the spatio-temporal scales of narration. It's this ›derangement of scale‹ (T. Clark) that »The Magic Mountain« explores: the novel spans depths of time and space in narration beyond the human, shifts the relationship between narrated time and narrative time into the immeasurable, undermines figure-ground-distinctions, and creates (death) zones of narration in which the sanatorium, snow and theatre of war overlap. Where Mann's ›time novel‹ marks the fundamental significance of the First World War in the history of the Anthropocene, it simultaneously conceives the Anthropocene as ›deep wartime‹ (P. Saint-Amour). A reading of a constellation of texts from the interwar period (Freud, Döblin, Jünger) highlights the use of scale critique for conceiving the Anthropocene as deep wartime and its relevance to our present.

Elisabeth Strowick, a professor of German studies at New York University, has taught and conducted research in the USA, Germany and Switzerland. She's a Feodor Lynen Fellow of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation. Her research focuses on German-language literature, culture and philosophy from the 19th century to the present day, literary theory, theories of the performative, psychoanalysis, aesthetics, poetics of knowledge and ecocriticism.



Elisabeth Strowick
Thomas Mann's »The Magic Mountain« – an Anthropocene Novel

ca. 208 pages

09/2026



In the mid-1970s, pop music was gripped by a cold snap that reached its peak around 1980. Band names, lyrics, fashion, artwork, and sound all took on a colder tone, leading to talk of a pop-cultural ice age. What was it all about?

Lars Schneider

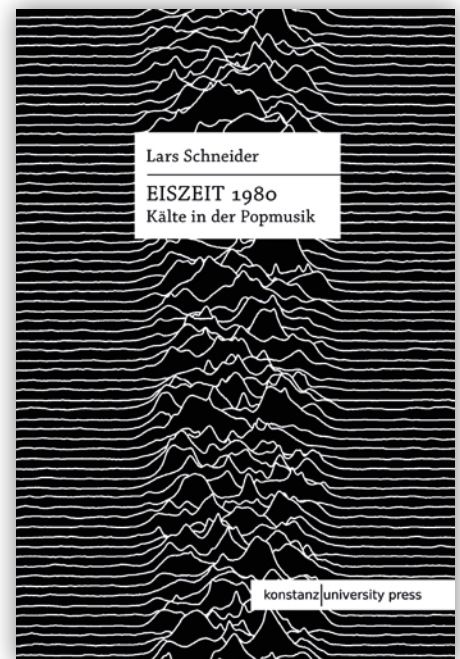
The Ice Age of 1980

Coldness in Pop Music

Amidst the interplay of political (Cold War), economic (oil price shocks) and ecological (resource scarcity) crises, a certain attitude to life began to take shape during the 1970s, one that, much like today's, oscillated between anxiety about the future and hedonism. Yet unlike today, where calls for outrage are the order of the day and tempers are perpetually running high, around 1980 ›coolness‹ was adopted as a cultural technique for emotional detachment. ›Cool‹ was the buzzword of the late 1970s and early 1980s.

Such a cold zeitgeist is articulated not least in popular culture, particularly in multimedia pop music. Drawing on international examples, Lars Schneider identifies various manifestations of this coldness: from emotional and interpersonal coldness to social and political coldness; from apocalyptic coldness to ice-cold irony. Furthermore, his essay demonstrates how David Bowie and Joy Division, Einstürzende Neubauten, Kraftwerk and Ideal, as well as the punk band Geisterfahrer and Icehouse, managed to wrest a forward-looking aesthetic from this coldness: the cold synthetic sounds and minimalist compositions are hallmarks of a new wave that surged with force from the musical underground into the mainstream.

Lars Schneider, musician and professor, lectures in Romanic philology at LMU Munich. His research focuses on the mediality of literature and film, cultural studies, poetics of the Modern Age, city and architecture in literature and film, and new media.



Lars Schneider
The Ice Age of 1980
 Coldness in Pop Music

ca. 125 pages, ca. 75 mostly coloured illustrations

09/2026



The history of humanity can be written as a struggle for memory. The toppling of monuments and iconoclasm serve to defend or destroy social and cultural identities.

Renate Lachmann

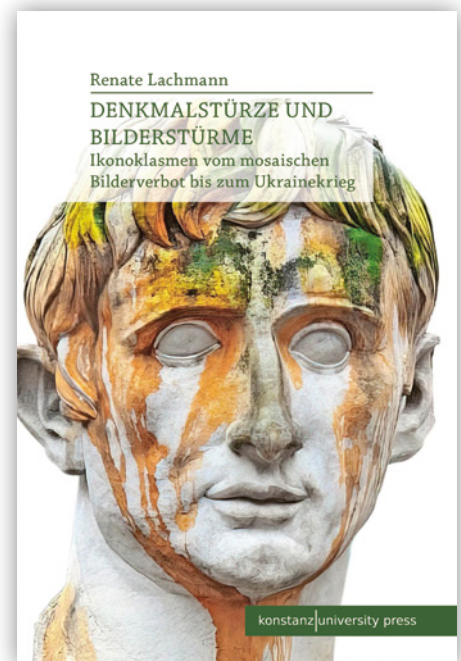
The Toppling of Monuments And Iconoclasm

Iconoclasm From the Mosaic Prohibition of Images to the War in Ukraine

Ever since our landscapes of memory have been shaped by monuments and images, they have also been the subject of conflict. Memories provoke counter-memories. Iconoclastic events are fuelled by ideological controversies and spectacularly staged in the public arena. Their legitimisation and condemnation follow one another in quick succession.

Renate Lachmann traces the history of these conflicts through memory, from the Mosaic prohibition of images, the Byzantine iconoclastic controversy and the iconoclasm of the Reformation to the destruction wrought by the French Revolution. Against this backdrop, during the October Revolution in Russia, the monuments of the Tsarist era and the artefacts of the Orthodox Church were destroyed; following the collapse of the Soviet Union, the relics of the communist era were in turn targeted. Finally, in the 21st century, the wave of protest sweeping in from the USA has targeted the monuments of slave owners and racists. The book concludes with the current events in Ukraine. Since February 24th in 2022, while being under attack the country has been defending itself militarily and asserting its national sovereignty through acts of iconoclasm. Remnants of Tsarist and Soviet imperialism are being removed and traces of a culture perceived as having been imposed are being erased. Here, acts of iconoclasm serve to defend the identity of a country that declared its independence in 1991 and now finds it under threat.

Renate Lachmann, Professor Emerita of Slavic literature and general literary studies at the University of Konstanz, has published works on rhetoric, literary memory, and fantasy literature.



Renate Lachmann
The Toppling of Monuments And Iconoclasm
 Iconoclasm From the Mosaic Prohibition of Images to the War in Ukraine

ca. 275 pages, ca. 75 mostly coloured illustrations

09/2026



Viewing cultural translation as a micro-practice of reciprocal cultural appropriation offers the opportunity to re-examine the relationship between cultural and global history in the early modern period.

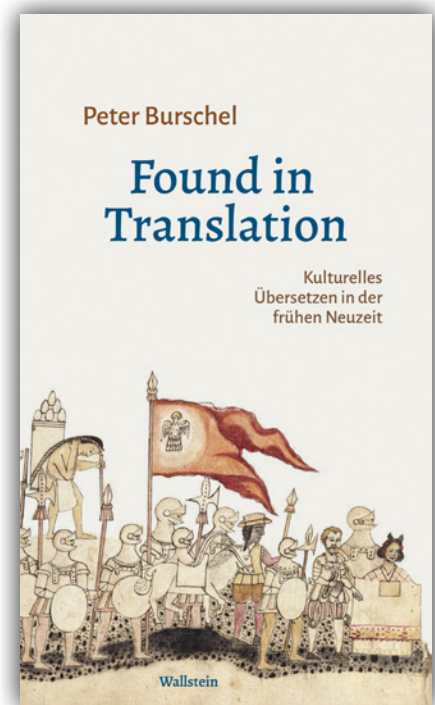
Peter Burschel

Found in Translation

Cultural Translation During the Early Modern Period

The book defines cultural translation as an act of mediation that entails more than a mere transfer between texts and languages. Rather, cultural translation is understood here as a reciprocal – albeit often asymmetrical – process of mediation that encompasses people and their affiliations as well as performative and ritual practices, but which may also include emotional, material and aesthetic representations. From this perspective, cultural translation is always also cultural ›borrowing‹ and thus not merely a practice of cultural mediation but also one of cultural creation: »Found in Translation«. The focus lies on the translators themselves, who, in the early modern global era, mediated between different linguistic worlds, systems of meaning, patterns of interpretation, and conceptions of order, thereby becoming ›cultural brokers‹. Three ›cases‹ will receive particular attention: one about the diplomat and scholar Al-Hasan bin Muhammad bin Ahmad al-Wazzan al-Fasi, one about the mystic and missionary Marie de l'Incarnation, and finally the case of the jurist and early Enlightenment thinker Christian Gottlieb Priber.

Peter Burschel, director of the Herzog August Library in Wolfenbüttel since 2016, holds the Chair of Cultural History of the Middle Ages and Early Modern Period at the University of Göttingen. His research interests focus on the history of purity, of racism as well as historical anthropology.



Peter Burschel
Found in Translation
 Cultural Translation During the Early Modern Period

ca. 128 pages, ca. 20 illustrations, partly in colour

11/2026



Nora Eckert shows how the fight for legal and social recognition led by trans* people is inscribed in German social history.

Nora Eckert

The Long Road to Self-Determination

A Trans* History of FRG/GDR

Although gender matters are of central social importance, research into trans* topics remains underrepresented. Nora Eckert conceives of her book as a history of the trans* movement and emancipation in Germany from 1945 to the present day. The author thus fills a significant gap in German social history.

Throughout history, social processes have unfolded in which narratives play an essential role and which, in the case of trans*, are finally to be given their due. The author describes how private networks gradually gave rise to self-help structures, which evolved into the trans* community as we know it today. This growth in structures was accompanied by a process of politicisation. This consisted – and continues to consist – of the demand for full legal and social recognition of trans* people. Nora Eckert regards the embedding of trans* rights within the human rights discourse as a decisive step, one that has also been reflected in constitutional case law since 1978 with regard to trans* issues and their implications for legislation. In 2024, a Self-Determination Act came into force, based on the principle of gender autonomy. In the face of right-wing populism, however, gender self-determination remains both a cause for defence and a prerequisite for an inclusive society.

Nora Eckert, born in 1954, lives and works as a journalist in Berlin. She is a writer for queer.de and – as a trans* activist – advocates for the interests of the trans* community. From 2022 to 2025, she served as a board member of the Bundesverband Trans* e. V. and, in this capacity, works for the TransInterQueer association and the Schwules Museum Berlin.



Nora Eckert
The Long Road to Self-Determination
 A Trans* History of FRG/GDR

ca. 200 pages, ca. 10 illustrations, partly in colour

09/2026



Jehona Kicaj

ë

Novel | 176 pages

A quiet yet eloquently powerful book on the loss of home through war, about pain, and being deprived of language.

The unusual title ›ë‹ stands for a letter that has an important function in the Albanian language, although it’s usually unpronounced. As the child of refugees from Kosovo, the narrator is searching for a language, and a voice. Growing up in Germany, she goes to kindergarten, school, and university, looking for understanding, but encountering incomprehension and ignorance.

She experienced the Kosovo War of the 1990s from a safe distance, but war and death also reach the diaspora – they are just experienced differently.

The novel ›ë‹ tells about the Kosovo War and recalls the suffering of families who lost their homeland, whose murdered relatives were buried anonymously and are still missing or unidentified as of today. Jehona Kicaj brings a past to life that cannot fade because it is permanently embedded in every fibre of the body.

Shortlisted for the ›German Book Prize‹ 2025 – 30.000 copies sold – Recommended by ›New Books in German‹.



Rights sold

- Albanian: PEMA
- Swedish: Lindelöws



Selene Mariani

Seeing Clouds Through the Skylight

Novel | 192 pages

How do I want to live? What do I need to lead a fulfilled life, and is a fulfilled life even achievable given the crises in the world?

Leading up to her thirtieth birthday, the narrator questions her life choices. While working in a café, she has been dreaming of finally writing a novel for years. Instead, she observes and describes the people she encounters at work. She imagines how different her life could be if she had a luxurious apartment with a skylight like her friend Janu has. And she witnesses women her age one by one slipping into lifestyles that seem almost alarmingly conservative to her. When her sister's marriage falls apart, she comes to stay with her, accompanied by a child. Over night the narrator's life changes.

Mariani's novel deals with the tension between what one longs for and what seems possible – the search for a way of life that actually feels truthful and aligned. And narrator quietly realizes that taking care of others can take many forms. A touching and multi-layered narrative on growing up female in our time.

Rights available



Verena Gotthardt

The Most Recent Past

Stories | 141 pages

Lyrical condensed, the stories in this volume explore memory, time, and transience. In poetic language and fragmentary form, they close in on the moments when the world slows down: an empty square, a sky cracking open, the silence between two people. Pausing, watching, tentatively thinking – when looking at photographs, exploring family histories, or when the protagonist decides one morning that he no longer wants to get up.

The characters rarely speak aloud, often only in their thoughts: inner monologues that lead like thin threads through changing landscapes – cities, fields, trains, the sea. At the centre, there is the question of how the past is reflected in the present, what traces we leave behind in a world constantly changing. Again and again, the motif of drawing into the sky returns – as a gesture of holding on, of remembering, of resisting disappearance.

The stories alternate between poetry and prose, dream and reality, speech and silence. The prose feels cautious, observant, almost whispering. This book is a literary search for clues: words for the inexpressible, images for the fleeting, forms for what remains.

Rights available



Thea Mengeler **After the Ferries**

Novel | 175 pages

On a formerly popular vacation island, the tourist ferries suddenly stop coming – and with them the visitors. Life comes to a halt; most of the residents leave the island, only a few hold out. Hoping for the ferries to return, isolated from each other, they carry on with their lives.

Things only change when a girl called Ada suddenly, inexplicably appears at a hotel and grows close to the janitor. Her questions about his past and that of the island lead to an upheaval that cannot be stopped even when Ada vanishes as abruptly as she appeared. Coming to terms with their past, the islanders begin questioning whether a return of the ferries is something to wish for after all.

Thea Mengeler's novel tells of (over)tourism and reclamation. In concise, yet sensitive language, she describes the island and its inhabitants, whose life choices are put to the test.

Rights available



Teresa Präauer **Cooking in the Wrong Century**

Novel | 198 pages

Being a hostess actually means: having grown up.

The novel about a dinner invitation. Full of recipes for a successful life as well as an unsuccessful evening, which always starts anew: clever, funny, cheerful; accompanied by the at times subliminal, then openly articulated aggressions of the people involved. In conversations, hosts and guests discuss issues big and small, from ›foodporn‹ and cooking to shopping and lifestyle.

Increasingly, the evening turns comical, tragic, erotic, with the not-so-hospitable hostess repeatedly feeling transported to the wrong century. Along the way, the history of goods, food, and cooking is recounted anecdotally.

Rights sold

- Danish: Klara W.
- Dutch: Meridiaan
- English: Pushkin Press
- French: Flammarion
- Italian: Marsilio



Wilhelm Bartsch **Meckel's Transections**

Novel | 419 pages

The Meckel family is considered ›the Bachs of medical history‹. Johann Friedrich Meckel the Younger (1781–1833) is the main character of this novel, which his half-brother Albrecht August narrates. Anatomists by trade, they take part in the Wars of Liberation but have to flee to Naples after becoming tangled up in a murder plot. There they come close to solving many mysteries.

Through adventurous twists and turns, Albrecht and Friedrich encounter such illustrious contemporaries as the militia commander Ludwig von Lützow, Friedrich Ludwig Jahn, the ›father of gymnastics‹, poet-turned-soldier Theodor Körner, and his soulmate, the ›Joan of Arc of Potsdam‹, Eleonore Prochaska. Other characters include author E. T. A. Hoffmann, the ›Einstein of the 19th century‹, Georges Cuvier, and Napoleon Bonaparte. The narrator's most faithful companion, however, proves to be his unquenchably thirsty horse, Jean Paul.

Combining virtuosity with mischief, Wilhelm Bartsch blends a grotesque crime story with elements of Gothic romance into a magnificent epic.

Rights available



Anselm Oelze **Upstairs**

Novel | 275 pages

When Tess moves into a beautiful apartment in the centre of Leipzig with her girlfriend Moyra, their dreams come true. They finally share a home, and with the support of Moyra's parents, Tess can even open her own tailor shop on the building's ground floor. There, their neighbour Rolf used to sell beverages, until he had to shut down due to competition and rising rent.

For more than thirty years, the elderly Rolf and his wife Heike have lived in an apartment on the top floor. When their lease is terminated, Tess and Moyra offer to help. But the more Heike and Rolf get worked up about the ›broken system‹ and ›corrupt elites‹, sensing conspiracies everywhere, the more resolutely Moyra distances herself from them. Tess, on the other hand, has conflicting loyalties. Ultimately, everyone must decide what they want to save: their own beliefs or their relationships with the people they love.

In his new novel, Anselm Oelze not only tells the story of a house and its residents. He also addresses the divisions in society, asking how living together can succeed against all odds.

Rights available



Ofer Waldman **Fought-Over Land**

Observations | 152 pages

Observations, memories, and stories from a country scarred by war.

Children stand in a circle, two girls running around them, fighter jets thundering past on the horizon. The game is called ›Black Sheep‹. The times are times of war, when language fails, stutters.

You start over. With a mother whose son wanted to be Peter, from ›Peter and the Wolf‹ but was murdered on October 7th. Or with an English teacher from Gaza, who can see the silent question of time in the faces of his pupils. With a journey to Jerusalem to say goodbye to one's dying father.

The intimate back-and-forth between conversations and personal remnants becomes a look at a family history, from Chernowitz to Vienna to Jerusalem. ›Fought-Over Land‹ is an essayistic mosaic, spanning past and present, and sometimes the surreal. Searching for language, knowledge, and the power of perception in a land beyond recognition.

Rights available



Ofer Waldman **Singular Collective**

Stories | 152 pages

It's unimaginable: the rush, the fear, the heartbeat, the breath, the emotion, the heat. ›Singular Collective‹ dives into a world beyond the glamour usually associated with classical music. A world beneath the thin cover of tailcoats and bow ties, where the orchestra resembles a vast plain, a stationless place. Where it smells of tin and oil, wood and sweat.

Fantasies, observations, aphorisms appear from the thin gap between the solitude of the practice room and the anonymity of the orchestra rows. The violinist only pretending to play, celebrating her silent art. The rejected trombonist who fears for a new director. The overwhelmed cellist hanging on to his instrument like a castaway to a plank. The illusions of a dress rehearsal.

In ›Singular Collective‹, characters and scenes come from the orchestral world and are read as commentaries on life.

Rights available



Frank Schäfer **Black Sabbath**

The Invention of Heavy Metal | 160 pages

Working in a Birmingham steel mill, guitarist Tony Iommi loses two fingertips. To reduce the pain when playing, he tunes his guitar lower, which not only influences the sound of his band Black Sabbath but also creates a new style. With heavy riffs, dystopian lyrics, and a ›devilish‹ image, they establish heavy metal.

In this band biography, music journalist and critic Frank Schäfer tells the band's eventful story for the first time, from its founding in 1968 to the death of Ozzy Osbourne in July 2025, paying tribute to their influential and tradition-forming musical work.

Rights available



Hendrik Otremba **Can**

Essays on Work and Aesthetics | 120 pages

Hendrik Otremba, writer and musician, takes an insightful look at the work of legendary band Can and talks to its founding member Irmin Schmidt.

The band Can – although loosely associated with the term ›Krautrock‹ – is hard to pin down. Between 1968 and 1979, they released albums now regarded as modern classics. Somewhere between pop and avantgarde, they also composed film music and held sprawling live performances.

Today, the band enjoys legendary status in international circles. Auteur filmmakers such as Roland Klick and Wim Wenders benefited from the group's talent for composition. In his book, Hendrik Otremba follows the band and its protagonists, illuminating their work and aesthetics in eight essays as emphatic as they are knowledgeable. Otremba was fortunate to meet three members of Can: Damo Suzuki (1950–2024) and Holger Czukay (1938–2017), as well as founding member Irmin Schmidt (*1937), the latter of which he interviewed in detail.

Rights available



Jörn Glasenapp **Beyoncé and Taylor Swift**

Run the World | 116 pages, 7 illustrations

Beyoncé is the first Black artist to receive a Grammy Award for Best Contemporary Country Album. Taylor Swift causes the internet to crash with her engagement photos. In this entertaining and insightful double feature, Jörn Glasenapp shows that these two seemingly different superstars have more in common than one might think.

For decades, Beyoncé and Taylor Swift have embodied the increasingly dominant position of female artists in pop music. Their tours and album releases are considered major cultural events, their fan bases promote tolerance and equality.

What makes these two megastars so special? What do they have in common and how are they different from each other? Considering feminist discourse and the Black empowerment movement, the book provides fascinating insights into 21st-century pop culture.

Rights available



Nicolas Pethes **Springsteen**

A Lifetime Conversation | 216 pages, 7 illustrations

As a rock star, Bruce Springsteen has managed to build a special and heartfelt relationship with his fans. How does he do it?

In his study, media scholar Nicolas Pethes finds that this is not only due to precisely designed, musically diverse albums. Moreover, Springsteen finds his artistic message in close contact with the audience. Physically intense concerts combine rock'n'roll tradition with emphatic anthems; personal stories go hand-in-hand with unapologetic political stances.

Choosing Springsteen's 2023 tour as a point of departure, Pethes explores the singer's ›lifetime conversation‹ with the audience through fan testimonies, highlighting that communication between performer and recipient is not an illusion. It is, instead, based on profound emotions and practices, which Nicolas Pethes compiles in entertaining and informative fashion.

Rights sold

- English: Bloomsbury



Valentin Groebner

More Radical, More Intense?

The Middle Ages of the Counterculture | 57 pages

The Middle Ages are not just an era but a signifier for an affective regime, for strong, contagious feelings – not only in the 19th century, the heyday of passion for monks, knights, heretics, and their supposedly ›authentic‹ ways of life.

Utopian visions of regaining a more authentic alternative way of life in the 1970s and 1980s also enthusiastically referred to medieval models. They saw them as precursors, ‘traditions’ and ‘roots’ of the movements and subcultures that made headlines throughout Europe at the time with their violent appearances.

References to a rebellious, wild Middle Ages came with new forms of political affect and evocations of ›purity‹. What connects the radical poverty movements of the High and Late Middle Ages with militant activists – and how have medievalists responded to the challenge of appropriation?

Rights available



Valentin Groebner

Fully Booked

Travelling for Pleasure | 136 pages

Travelling for pleasure is the great personal reward, the time-out, the adventure, the escape from all constraints and obligations. It is also tied to the fear of missing out.

Five years after the pandemic, more people than ever are travelling for pleasure, and everybody is talking about overtourism. Is travel a trap, and self-deceit the reward?

Following his highly acclaimed essay ›Ferienmüde‹ (›Holiday Fatigue‹), Valentin Groebner embarks on another journey, from beaches with camper vans to wellness resorts on tropical islands. Where does the tourist anxiety of missing out on genuine beauty come from? What do you see when you finally arrive at the spot where all those enticing social media pictures were taken?

In any case, the future of travel will be full of tourists, all plagued by the anxious dread of missing out. However, there is enough authentic experience for everyone. You just have to be willing to embrace it – and let yourself be surprised.

Rights available



Riccardo Nicolosi Putin's War Rhetoric

191 pages, 7 illustrations

Vladimir Putin rhetorically prepared and escalated the war against Ukraine. The web of justifications may seem disturbing but it ties in with the expectations of a broad national and international audience. The Russian President is not a charismatic or eloquent politician. But Putin's words are the origin of all political communication strategies in present day Russia.

Riccardo Nicolosi dissects this violent rhetoric. Putin parodies Western reasonings for military intervention, presenting Russia as the eternal victim of others' hegemonic aspirations. He stirs resentment and mystifies the Second World War. He models the aggression against Ukraine as an anti-colonial shift in the geopolitical order. And he elevates war as the only option for Russia to continue existing.

Words thus have the power to legitimise the use of force, as much as they have the power to make war appear to be the solution to all problems.

Rights sold

- English: University of Wisconsin Press
- Italian: Bollati Boringhieri Editore
- Russian: Freedom Letters



Peter Burschel The Invention of Purity

A Different History of the Early Modern Period | 62 pages, 7 illustrations

Ideas of purity serve to transform ambiguity into clarity, thereby homogenising, stabilising, and, above all, harmonising interpretations of the self and the world.

Elaborating on this thesis, Peter Burschel investigates the place of purity in early modern Europe. He concludes that, in the post-medieval period, purity emerged as a cultural code. It guided fundamental processes of social and religious discipline in the 16th and 17th centuries, thereby tying the era together in historical and anthropological terms: establishing order, creating symbols, guiding action, and exerting a lasting influence.

Rights available



Franz Kafka Stories

Vol. 1 | ed. by Reiner Stach | 392 pages

The stories written by Kafka during his first intensive creative phase, from 1912 onwards, are among the most popular of his works worldwide: »The Judgement«, »The Metamorphosis«, »In the Penal Colony«.

Central motifs of these stories include the dark origins of power and its abuse; the overlapping of horror, absurdity, and comedy, which we now recognise as a distinct feature of Kafka's writing.

The detailed commentary investigates the essential themes, style, and narrative techniques, as well as significant changes made by Kafka to the manuscript. The edition reveals a densely woven texture, a virtuoso play with different levels of reality, with irony and hidden references.

Rights sold

- Chinese: Lucida Books



Franz Kafka The Trial

Novel | ed. by Reiner Stach | 397 pages

After a century of sprawling interpretations, the fate of enigmatic protagonist Josef K. continues to captivate readers. His entanglement in an eerie and inscrutable bureaucracy makes it impossible for him to find his bearings and does not allow for simple analysis. Nevertheless, or perhaps precisely for this reason, reading Kafka's »The Trial« is a pleasure which sometimes feels like an intense dream.

Newly edited and annotated by Kafka-biographer Reiner Stach, this volume focuses on one question: How did Kafka do it? The answer lies in the author's masterful creation of atmosphere, layering contradicting perceptions and realities. In addition, the editor's afterword provides an overview of the genesis, transmission, and impact of »The Trial«.

Rights sold

- Chinese: Lucida Books
- French: L'Orma
- Italian: L'Orma



Renate Müller-Buck

»... Trembling With Colourful Bliss«

Nietzsche in Venice | 199 pages, 34 illustrations

Between 1880 and 1887, Friedrich Nietzsche visited Venice a total of five times. It was the only city he loved, a ›consecrated place‹ for him, and as the site of ›100 deep solitudes‹, an ›image for the people of the future‹. He was welcomed and cared for by Heinrich Köselitz, a musician and Nietzsche's former student.

Based on Nietzsche's letters as well as reports and memories of friends and companions, Renate Müller-Buck conveys a picture of the philosopher's everyday life in Venice, demonstrating the significance the lagoon city held in his thinking.

We accompany Nietzsche through the shady alleyways, follow him to the Calle Nova, where Köselitz spent entire mornings playing him music in his room, and we browse through his Venice readings with him: Lord Byron, George Sand, Stendhal.

Rights available

- Italian: Palingenia