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**FRANKFURTER  
BUCHMESSE**  
Guest of Honour Canada

# **50 Books That Travel 2020**

**Current German Novels, Children's & YA and Non-Fiction Books in English Translation**

This selection of German titles is show-cased at book fairs all over the world on the German collective stands organized by the Frankfurter Buchmesse in 2020.

## Children's & YA

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### A Castle in the Clouds

#### Wolkenschloss

KERSTIN GIER

Translated by Romy Fursland

Fischer FJB, 978-3841440211

Henry Holt and Co. (BYR), 978-1250300195

336 pages, HC

High up in the Swiss mountains there's an old luxurious hotel, steeped in tradition and faded grandeur. Once a year, when the famous New Year's Eve Ball takes place and guests arrive from all around the world, excitement returns to its vast hallways. Seventeen-year-old Sophie is kept busy along with the rest of the staff, making sure everything goes according to plan. But unexpected problems keep arising, and some of the guests are not who they pretend to be. Very soon, Sophie finds herself in the middle of a perilous adventure, at risk of losing not only her job, but also her heart.

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### Do Fish Sleep?

#### Schlafen Fische? Dramatiker erzählen für Kinder

JENS RASCHKE

Translated by Belinda Cooper

mixtvision Verlag, 978-3958540705

Enchanted Lion Books, 978-1592702855

64 pages, HC

Jette's brother Emil, who had been sick since before she could remember, has now died. The feelings that losing him evoke in her are huge and confusing. Most simply, it feels as though a dark raincloud has descended over her family. And then there's the ridiculous fact that nobody seems to know what happens after you die, and yet adults often talk as if they do. Told in the first-person voice of an observant ten-year-old girl, *Do Fish Sleep?* by Jens Raschke is an honest, darkly funny look at loss, memory and the search for answers. Originally performed as a one-girl play, *Do Fish Sleep?* was a huge success at the box office, and received both the 2012 Mülheimer Children's Theatre Prize and the 2014 MDR Children's Radio Play Prize. *Do Fish Sleep?* has been a bestseller in Germany since its publication and has been translated into several languages.

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### My Little Ocean

#### Mein kleines Meer

KATHRIN WIEHLE

Translated by Navid Kerman

Beltz, 978-3407795977

Houghton Mifflin, 978-1328535252

16 pages, Boardbook

The friendly sea creatures Seal, Seagull and Crab introduce readers to their homes in the ocean and on the beach. They show us what plants grow on the ocean floor, what crabs look like, and which are the fish with the funny red dots. Elegantly designed with simple texts, Kathrin Wiehle's gentle, adorable illustrations complement the sustainable format. Printed on thick, 100 per cent recycled board, this eco-friendly series of books encourages young readers to enjoy nature – inside and out!

## Children's & YA

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### Can You Hear the Trees Talking?

Hörst du, wie die Bäume sprechen?  
Eine kleine Entdeckungsreise durch den Wald

PETER WOHLLEBEN  
Translated by Shelley Tanaka  
Oetinger, 978-3789108228  
Greystone Kids, 978-1771644341  
84 pages, HC

Did you know that trees have parents and grandparents with wrinkles? That tree-kids spend hundreds of years at school? That there's such a thing as the forest internet? And that trees make us healthy and strong? Sometimes, even trees get sick, but we can help them heal. Peter Wohlleben established himself as a global advocate for forests and our relationship with trees, with his ground-breaking international bestseller, *The Hidden Life of Trees*. Now, he shares his famous imagination and storytelling style with children, asking surprising questions about trees, with exciting quizzes, photographs and hands-on activities to help even the most reluctant learners find the answers.

# Fiction

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## Malina

### Malina

INGEBORG BACHMANN  
Translated by Philip Boehm  
Suhrkamp Verlag, 978-3518371411  
New Directions, 978-0811228725  
283 pages, SC

In *Malina*, originally published in German in 1971, Ingeborg Bachmann invites the reader into a world stretched to the very limits of language. An unnamed narrator, a writer in Vienna, is torn between two men. Viewed through the tilting prism of obsession, she travels ever further into her own madness, anxiety and genius. *Malina* explores love, "death styles", the roots of fascism, and passion.

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## The Second Rider

### Der zweite Reiter

ALEX BEER  
Translated by Tim Mohr  
Limes Verlag, 978-3734105999  
Europa Editions, 978-1609454722  
320 pages, SC

In Vienna just after the First World War, the grandeur of the Habsburg Empire is a fading memory. Most of the people are hungry. They survive by their wits, living hand-to-mouth in a city rife with crime, prostitution and disfigured beggars. There are shakedowns on every street corner, the black market is the only market and the shortage of essential goods creates countless opportunities for unscrupulous operators. Into this cauldron of vice comes Inspector August Emmerich, a veteran himself, whose ambition leads him to break the rules whenever necessary. His abiding wish is to join the Vienna's major crimes unit. Then a corpse is found in the woods outside the city and immediately labelled a suicide. But Emmerich is convinced it was nothing of the sort and sees a chance to prove his mettle. His investigations point to an insidious, homicidal power hidden in the city.

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## The Dance of Death

### Im Auftrag der Väter

OLIVER BOTTINI  
Translated by Jamie Bulloch  
Fischer Scherz Verlag, 978-3832163136  
MacLehose Press, 978-0857057686  
400 pages, HC

On a wet and misty weekend in October, the Niemann family find a stranger in their garden. He is armed and tries to force his way into the house, but disappears as soon as the police are alerted. That night he returns with an impossible ultimatum... Freiburg detective Louise Boni and her colleagues are under enormous pressure to investigate the case. The trail leads her to a dangerous no-man's land, and to a ruthless criminal who brings with him the trauma of conflict in the Balkans.

# Fiction

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## Beton Rouge

### Beton Rouge

SIMONE BUCHHOLZ  
Translated by Rachel Ward  
Suhrkamp Verlag, 978-3518467855  
Orenda Books, 978-1912374595  
276 pages, SC

On a warm September morning a man is found unconscious in a cage at the entrance to the offices of one of Germany's biggest magazines. He is soon identified as a manager of the company, and he has been tortured. Three days later, another manager appears in a similar way. Chastity Riley and her new colleague, Ivo Stepanovic, are tasked with uncovering the truth behind the attacks, an investigation that goes far beyond the revenge they first suspect to the dubious past shared by both victims. Travelling to the South of Germany, they step into a hothouse world of boarding schools, where secrets are currency, and monsters are bred ... monsters who will stop at nothing to protect themselves.

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## Tyll. A Novel

### Tyll

DANIEL KEHLMANN  
Translated by Ross Benjamin  
Rowohlt Verlag, 978-3498035679  
Pantheon, 978-1524747466,  
352 pages, HC

Daniel Kehlmann masterfully weaves the fates of many historical figures into this enchanting work of magical realism and adventure. His retelling of the seventeenth-century vagabond performer and trickster, Tyll Ulenspiegel, begins when he's a scrawny boy growing up in a quiet village. When his father, a miller with a secret interest in alchemy and magic, is found out by the church, Tyll is forced to flee with the baker's daughter, Nele. They find safety and companionship with a travelling performer, who teaches Tyll his trade. So begins a journey of discovery and performance for Tyll, as he travels a continent devastated by the Thirty Years' War, encountering a hangman, a fraudulent Jesuit scholar and the exiled King Frederick and Queen Elizabeth of Bohemia, along the way. *Tyll* displays Kehlmann's remarkable narrative gifts and confirms the power of art in the face of the senseless brutality of history.

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## The Prepper Room

### Macht

KAREN DUVE  
Translated by Anthea Bell  
Galiani Verlag, 978-3442472666  
Dedalus Books, 978-1910213728  
331 pages, SC

The year is 2031. There are extreme weather events: storms, floods and intense heat. A rejuvenation pill has been developed, but no one is going to enjoy eternal youth for long: The experts forecast that the world's ecosystems will collapse in five years' time. Women are now in power and trying and save the world from the mess the men have left it in. But there is opposition in the form of the MASCULO movement, which aims to reassert male dominance – by violent means if necessary. Sebastian seems to be one of the good guys. A Greenpeace activist in his youth, he now has an important position in the Democracy Centre. But in his private life he is attempting to restore his male pride: For the last two years he has kept his wife locked up in the cellar. But his attempts to do away with her so he can live with his new love lead to disaster.

# Fiction

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## Shit Is Real

### Shit is Real

AISHA FRANZ

Translated by Nicholas Houde

Reprodukt Verlag, 978-3956400636

Drawn & Quarterly, 978-1770463158

288 pages, HC

After an unexpected breakup, a young woman named Selma wants to start afresh, but she experiences a series of emotional setbacks. Struggling to relate to her friends and accomplish even the simplest tasks like using a modern laundromat, she sinks deeper into depression. She moves into her neighbour's apartment but her growing despair distances her from her eager and sympathetic friend. Aisha Franz is a master of portraying feminine loneliness and confusion while keeping her characters tough and real. Her artwork shifts from sparseness to detailed futurist with ease. Her characters fidget and twirl as they zip through a world both foreign and familiar. Base human desires and functions alternate with dreamlike symbolism to create a tension-filled tale of the nightmare that is modern life.

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## An Instinctive Feeling of Innocence

### Das primäre Gefühl der Schuldlosigkeit

DANA GRIGORCEA

Translated by Alta L. Price

Ullstein Verlag, 978-3548289038

Seagull Books, 978-0857426512

228 pages, HC

Victoria has just moved back from Zurich to her hometown, Bucharest, when the bank where she works is robbed. Put on leave so that she can process the trauma of the robbery, Victoria strolls around town. Each street triggers sudden visions as memories from her childhood under the Ceaușescu regime begin to mix with the radically changed city and the strange world in which she now finds herself. As the walls of reality begin to crumble, Victoria and her former self cross paths with the bank robber and a rich cast of characters, weaving a vivid portrait of Romania and one woman's self-discovery. In her stunning second novel, Swiss-Romanian writer Dana Grigorcea paints a series of extraordinarily colourful pictures. With humour and wit, she describes a world of myriad surprises in which new and old cultures are woven together – a world bursting with character and spirit.

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## City of Jasmine

### Gott ist nicht schüchtern

OLGA GRJASNOWA

Translated by Katy Derbyshire

Aufbau Verlag, 978-3351036652

Oneworld Publications, 978-1786074874

256 pages, HC

Amal, Hammoudi and Youssef are young and ambitious – the face of modern Syria. But when civil war tears through their homeland they are left with a terrible choice: risk death by staying in the country they love, or flee in search of a new life elsewhere? From one of Germany's most talented literary voices comes this intricately woven story of brutality and loss, and of how hope can shine through when the darkness feels overwhelming.

## Fiction

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### The Eighth Life

#### Das achte Leben

NINO HARATISCHWILI

Translated by Charlotte Collins and Ruth Martin

Frankfurter Verlagsanstalt,  
978-3548289274

Scribe, 978-1950354146

944 pages, SC

An epic family saga beginning with the Russian Revolution and swirling across a century, encompassing war, loss, loves requited and unrequited, ghosts, joy, mas-sacres and tragedy. And hot chocolate.

At the start of the twentieth century, on the edge of the Russian empire, a family prospers. It owes its success to a delicious chocolate recipe that is passed down the generations with great solemnity and caution. The caution is justified: This is a recipe for ecstasy that carries a very bitter aftertaste... Having learned the recipe from her Georgian father, Stasia takes it north when she follows her new husband to his posting in St Petersburg – which becomes the centre of the Russian Revolution. Stasia's is only the first in a symphony of grand but all too often doomed romances that swirl from sweet to sour in this epic tale of the red century. Cascading down the years and across Europe, the tale follows generation after generation of this compelling family.

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### Sand

#### Sand

WOLFGANG HERRNDORF

Translated by Tim Mohr

Rowohlt Verlag, 978-3499258640

New York Review Books Classics (US),  
978-1681372013

464 pages, SC

North Africa, 1972. While the world is reeling from the massacre of Israeli athletes at the Munich Olympics, a series of mysterious events is playing out in the Sahara. Four people are murdered in a hippie commune, a suitcase full of money disappears and a pair of unenthusiastic detectives are assigned to investigate. In the midst of it all, a man with no memory tries to evade his armed pursuers. Who are they? What do they want from him? If he could just recall his own identity he might have a chance of working it out...

This darkly sophisticated literary thriller – the last novel Wolfgang Herrndorf completed before his untimely death in 2013 – is, in the words of Michael Maar, "the greatest, grisliest, funniest and wisest novel of the past decade". Certainly no reader will ever forget it.

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### Ghosts of Berlin

#### Truggestalten

RUDOLPH HERZOG

Translated by Emma Raul

Galiani Verlag, 978-3869711485

Melville House, 978-1612197517

192 pages, SC

In these hair-raising stories by celebrated filmmaker and author, Rudolph Herzog, millennial Berliners discover that their city is still home to many unsettled – and deeply unsettling – ghosts. And the ghosts are not very happy about the newcomers. The molly-coddled daughter of a rich tech executive finds herself slowly tormented by the spirit of a Weimar-era labourer, and a German intelligence officer confronts a troll that's wreaking havoc at the city's unfinished new airport. An undead Nazi sympathizer romances a Greek emigre, while Turkish migrants curse the gentrifiers that have evicted them. Herzog's keen observational eye and acid wit turn modern city stories into deliciously dark satires that ride the knife-edge of suspense and terror.

# Fiction

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## German House

### Deutsches Haus

ANNETTE HESS

Translated by Elisabeth Lauffer  
Ullstein Verlag, 978-3550050244  
HarperVia, 978-978-0062910257  
336 pages, SC

Set against the Frankfurt Auschwitz Trials of 1963, Annette Hess's international bestseller is a harrowing yet ultimately uplifting coming-of-age novel. It tells the story of Eva, a young woman caught between the conflicting expectations of society and her family. Opposing her parents and her fiancé alike, she works as a translator at the trials, where she has a unique opportunity to speak truth to power, as she fights to expose the dark truths of her nation's past.

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## The Storyteller

### Am Ende bleiben die Zedern

PIERRE JARAWAN

Translated by Sinéad Crowe and Rachel McNicholl  
Piper Verlag, 978-3492311991  
World Editions, 978-1642860115  
468 pages, SC

Samir leaves the comfort of his family's adopted home, Germany, for volatile Beirut in an attempt to find his missing father. The only clues Samir has are an old photo and the bedtime stories his father used to tell him. With this moving novel about family secrets, love and friendship, Pierre Jarawan does for Lebanon what Khaled Hosseini did for Afghanistan with *The Kite Runner*. He pulls away the curtain of grim facts and figures as presented by the media and shows us intimately what it means to come from a country torn apart by civil war. With this beautiful and exciting story rich in imagery, Jarawan proves himself to be a masterful storyteller.

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## Anniversaries. From the Life of Gesine Cresspahl

### Jahrestage. Aus dem Leben von Gesine Cresspahl

UWE JOHNSON

Translated by Damion Searls  
Suhrkamp Verlag, 978-3518464557  
New York Review Books Classics (US),  
978-1681372037  
1720 pages, SC

Uwe Johnson started writing this book in 1967. It contains one chapter for each day from August 1967 to August 1968, and recounts the tale of Gesine Cresspahl, a single mother and a German émigré in Manhattan's Upper West Side, and of her ten-year-old daughter, Marie. It is a story of work and school, of friends and lovers and the countless small encounters with neighbours and strangers that make up big-city life. It is an everyday story, but one that juxtaposes tales of the mother's childhood in Nazi Germany with tales of 60s America. Gesine and Marie are among the most memorable and engaging characters in literature. At once monumental and intimate, sweeping and full of incident, stylistically adventurous and endlessly absorbing, *Anniversaries* is quite simply one of the great books of our time.

## Fiction

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### Homeland

#### Mark und Bein

WALTER KEMPOWSKI

Translated by Charlotte Collins  
Albrecht Knaus Verlag, 978-3813519792  
Granta Books, 978-1783783533  
190 pages, SC

It is 1988, the year before the Berlin Wall came down. Jonathan Fabrizius, a journalist living in West Germany, is asked to travel to the contested lands of former East Prussia, where the Nazi legacy lives on in buildings and fortifications, to write about the route of a car rally. It's a plum job, but his interest is piqued by a personal connection. It was here that he was born, among the refugees fleeing the advancing Russians in 1945. *Homeland* is a nuanced work from one of the great modern European storytellers. It tells of a typical German who comes face to face with his painful family history, and it addresses some devastating questions about the complicity of ordinary Germans in the war.

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### A Slap in the Face

#### Ohrfeige

ABBAS KHIDER

Translated by Simon Pare  
btb Verlag, 978-3442714902  
Seagull Books, 978-0857425355  
192 pages, HC

*A Slap in the Face* could not be more timely in this age of mass migration, much of it driven by war and the aftermath of war. It tells the story of Karim, an Iraqi refugee living in Germany whose right to asylum has been revoked in the wake of Saddam Hussein's defeat. But Hussein wasn't the only reason Karim left. As Abbas Khider relates the story, we learn not only about the secret struggles Karim faced in his homeland, but also the battles he has to go through with prejudice, distrust, poverty and bureaucracy as he attempts to make a new life in Germany. When he erupts in frustration at his caseworker and finally forces her to listen to his story, we get an account of a contemporary life upended by politics and violence. It is told with a warmth and humour that, while surprising, does nothing to lessen the outrages Karim describes.

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### The Great Homecoming

#### Die große Heimkehr

ANNA KIM

Translated by Jamie Lee Searle  
Suhrkamp Verlag, 978-3518425459  
Portobello Books, 978-1846276552  
384 pages, SC

1959, Seoul. Divided from his family by the violent tumult of the Korean civil war, Yunho arrives in South Korea's capital searching for his oldest friend. He finds him in the arms of a mysterious dancer, Eve Moon; a woman of many names who may be a refugee fleeing the communist North, or an American spy. Beguiled by her beauty, Yunho falls desperately in love. But nothing in Seoul is what it seems. The city is crowded with double agents and soldiers, and wracked by protests and poverty. Meanwhile, across the border in North Korea, Pyongyang grows more prosperous by the day. When a series of betrayals and a brutal crime drive the friends into exile, Yunho finds himself caught in the riptide of history.

## Fiction

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### River

#### Am Fluss

ESTHER KINSKY

Translated by Iain Galbraith

Matthes & Seitz Berlin, 978-3957570567

Fitzcarraldo Editions (UK),

Transit Books (US), 978-1945492174

357 pages, SC

A woman moves to a London suburb near the River Lea, without knowing quite why or for how long. Over a series of long, solitary walks she reminisces about the rivers she has encountered during her life, from the Rhine, the river of her childhood, to the Saint Lawrence River and a stream in Tel Aviv. Filled with poignancy and poetic observation, *River* is an ode to nature, edgelands, and the transience of all things human.

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### QualityLand

#### QualityLand

MARC-UWE KLING

Translated by Amie Searle Romanelli

Ullstein Verlag, 978-3550050237

Grand Central Publishing,

HC: 978-1538732960

SC: 978-1538732984

352 pages, HC, SC

Welcome to QualityLand, in the not-too-distant future, where everything works on automatic, from careers to relationships, and the fool proof algorithms of the biggest company in the world, TheShop, know what you want before you do and conveniently deliver it to your doorstep before you even order it. Peter Jobless is a machine scrapper in QualityCity who can't quite bring himself to destroy the imperfect machines sent his way, and has become the unwitting leader of a band of robotic misfits hidden in his home and workplace. One day, Peter receives a product from TheShop that he absolutely, positively knows he does not want, and which he decides, at great personal cost, to return. The only problem: Doing so means proving that TheShop's perfect algorithm is wrong, calling into question the very foundations of QualityLand itself.

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### The Fatherland Files. A Gereon Rath Mystery

#### Die Akte Vaterland. Gereon Raths vierter Fall

VOLKER KUTSCHER

Translated by Niall Sellar

Kiepenheuer & Witsch, 978-3462046465

Sandstone Press, 978-1912240562

544 pages, SC

It is July 1932 and a drowned man is found in a freight elevator in the legendary palace of entertainment on Potsdamer Platz, far from any standing water. Inspector Gereon Rath's hunt for a mysterious contract killer has stalled, but this new case will take him to a small town on the Polish border and confrontation with the rising Nazi party.

## Fiction

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### All the Land

#### Alles Land

JO LENDLE

Translated by Katy Derbyshire  
Deutsche Verlagsanstalt,  
978-3442745944  
Seagull Books, 978-0857426062  
264 pages, HC

How did Alfred Wegener, son of a minister from Berlin, find himself in the most isolated spot on earth in 1930, attempting to survive an unthinkable cold winter in the middle of Greenland? In *All the Land*, Jo Lendle chronicles Wegener's extraordinary journey, from his childhood in Germany to this, the most unforgiving corner of the planet Wegener's life was anything but ordinary. He grew up surrounded by children at the orphanage his parents ran, and he felt driven by his scientific spirit, not only to find answers to big questions, but also to seek solitude. Though Wegener's life ended in tragedy during his long winter in Greenland, he left us with a scientific legacy: His theory of continental drift was mocked by his peers and only recognized decades after his death. In a tale that is both thrilling and tender, Lendle tells us the story of this great adventurer and the experiences that shaped him.

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### Maybe Esther

#### Vielleicht Esther

KATJA PETROWSKAJA

Translated by Shelley Frisch  
Suhrkamp Verlag, 978-3518465967  
4th Estate (UK), HarperCollins (US),  
978-0062337566  
272 pages, SC

Katja Petrowskaja wanted to create a kind of family tree, charting relatives who had scattered across many countries and continents. The result was this striking and highly original work of narrative nonfiction, an account of her search for meaning in the stories of her ancestors. In a series of short meditations, Petrowskaja delves into family legends and introduces a remarkable cast of characters: Judas Stern, her great-uncle, who shot a German diplomatic attaché in 1932 and was sentenced to death; her grandfather Semyon, who went to ground with a new name during the Bolshevik Revolution in Russia, splitting off that branch of the family for good; her grandmother Rosa, who ran an orphanage in the Urals for Jewish deaf-mute children; her Ukrainian grandfather Vasily, who disappeared during World War II and reappeared without explanation forty-one years later; and her great-grandmother, whose name may have been Esther, who alone remained in Kiev and was killed by the Nazis.

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### The Pine Islands

#### Die Kieferninsel

MARION POSCHMANN

Translated by Jen Calleja  
Suhrkamp Verlag, 978-3518427606  
HC: Serpent's Tail, 978-1788160919  
SC: Coach House Books, 978-1552454015  
HC: 192 pages, SC: 160 pages

When Gilbert Silvester, university lecturer, wakes one day from a dream that his wife has cheated on him, he flees – immediately, irrationally, inexplicably – to Japan. In Tokyo he discovers the travel writings of the great Japanese poet Basho. Suddenly, Gilbert finds a purpose in his directionless crisis: a pilgrimage following in the footsteps of the poet to see the moon rise over the pine islands of Matsushima. On the way he falls in with another pilgrim, Yosa, a young Japanese student, clutching a copy of *The Complete Manual of Suicide*. Together, Gilbert and Yosa travel across Basho's disappearing Japan, one in search of his perfect ending and the other a new beginning. Serene, playful and profound, *The Pine Islands* is a story of the transformations we seek and the ones we find along the way.

## Fiction

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### Beside Myself

#### Ausser sich

SASCHA MARIANNA SALZMANN  
Translated by Imogen Taylor  
Suhrkamp Verlag, 978-3518427620  
Other Press, 978-1892746443  
336 pages, SC

A brilliant literary debut about belonging, family and love, and about the enigmatic nature of identity. *Beside Myself* is the disturbing and exhilarating story of a family, spanning four generations. At its heart it's a woman's search for her twin brother. When Anton goes missing and the only clue is a postcard sent from Istanbul, Ali leaves her life in Berlin to find him. Without her twin, the sharer of her memories and the mirror of her own self, she feels lost. In a city steeped in political and social upheaval, where you can buy gender-changing drugs on the street, Ali's search for her missing brother – for her own identity – will take her on a journey to connection and belonging.

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### The Hour Between Dog and Wolf

#### Die Stunde zwischen Hund und Wolf

SILKE SCHEUERMANN  
Translated by Lucy Jones  
Schöffling & Co., 978-3596192199  
Seagull Books, 978-0857424730  
184 pages, HC

A young woman returns to her hometown, Frankfurt am Main, after living abroad for some time. Her sister Ines, a painter, beautiful and impetuous, who still lives in Frankfurt, soon appears and asks her for financial help. The returning sister knew this was coming. It's how their relationship always used to work, but this time she's determined to change things. However, many plans often succumb to the surprises of life. Just as the sister is about to drift into an affair with Ines's lover, the two women unexpectedly grow closer. *The Hour Between Dog and Wolf* is a tale of disorientation in a modern, fundamentally rootless society that has become increasingly erratic and self-absorbed. It is a powerful exploration of the difficulties of intimacy and addiction.

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### One Clear, Ice-Cold January Morning at the Beginning of the Twenty-First Century

#### An einem klaren, eiskalten Januarmorgen zu Beginn des 21. Jahrhunderts

ROLAND SCHIMMELPFENNIG  
Translated by Jamie Bulloch  
S. Fischer Verlag, 978-3596034765  
MacLehose Press, 978-0857057013  
240 pages, SC

On an icy motorway eighty kilometres outside Berlin, a fuel tanker jack-knifes and explodes. A lone wolf is glimpsed on the hard shoulder and photographed by Tomasz, a Polish construction worker who is miserable in Germany without his girlfriend. Elisabeth and Micha run away through the snow from their home village, crossing the wolf's tracks on their way to the city. A woman burns her mother's diaries on a Berlin balcony. Elisabeth's father, a famous sculptor, examines the vast skeleton of a whale in his studio and asks what he is doing here, and why? Experiences and encounters flicker past with a raw, visual power, like frames in a black and white film. Those who catch sight of the wolf see their own lives reflected, and find themselves searching for a different path at a cold time. This first novel by Germany's most celebrated contemporary playwright is written in prose of tremendous power and precision.

## Fiction

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### The Sex of the Angels, the Saints in Their Heaven

#### Das Geschlecht der Engel, der Himmel der Heiligen. Ein Brevier

RAOUL SCHROTT

Translated by Karen Leeder  
S. Fischer Verlag, 978-3596168231  
Seagull Books, 978-0857425553  
152 pages, HC

*The Sex of the Angels* is a playful, often ironic take on the breviary. It is in the form of a collection of letters that begins by looking at early Christian cosmology and follows the Biblical mutations of the angel, from Babylon to the present day. As it progresses, Raoul Schrott weaves in accounts ranging from ancient Greek legends of the origin of light to the medieval darkness of the eclipse. But there is more here than meets the eye: The letters are addressed to an unnamed "other" and chart the course of an elusive affair. They are, we come to realize, a declaration of love – or, more accurately, of yearning. But they are also a far-reaching poetic essay which moves between etymological history, anthropological anecdote, philosophy and disquisition on the nature of art. The text is supplemented by sumptuous illustrations by Arnold Mario Dall'O that chart the stories of the saints, and the result is a unique dialogue between literature and art: an extraordinary and rare book about love.

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### Kruso

#### Kruso

LUTZ SEILER

Translated by Tess Lewis  
Suhrkamp Verlag, 978-3518466308  
Scribe US,  
HC: 978-1911344001  
SC: 978-1947534117  
HC: 462 pages, SC: 480 pages

It is 1989 and a young literature student named Ed, fleeing unspeakable tragedy, arrives on the Baltic island of Hiddensee. Long shrouded in myth, the island is a notorious destination for hippies, idealists and those at odds with the East German state. On the island, Ed stumbles upon the Klausner, Hiddensee's most popular restaurant, and ends up washing dishes there, despite his lack of papers. Although he is keen to remain on the side-lines, Ed feels drawn to the charismatic Kruso, unofficial leader of the seasonal workers. Everyone dances to Kruso's tune. He is on a mission – but to what end, and at what cost? Ed finds himself pulled ever deeper into the island's rituals, and in ever greater need of Kruso's acceptance and affection. As the wave of history washes over the German Democratic Republic, the friends' grip on reality loosens and life on the island will never be the same.

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### Sweet Indifference of the World

#### Die sanfte Gleichgültigkeit der Welt

PETER STAMM

Translated by Lisa Liesener and Kevin Wiliarty  
Other Press Verlag, 978-1590519790  
S. Fischer Verlag, 978-3103972597  
144 Pages, SC

In this alluring, melancholic novel, a writer haunted by his double blurs the line between past and present, fiction and reality, in his attempt to outrun the unknown. "Please come to Skogskyrkogården tomorrow at 2. I have a story I want to tell you." Lena agrees to Christoph's out-of-the-blue request, though the two have never met. In Stockholm's Woodland Cemetery, he tells her his story, which is also somehow hers. Twenty years before, he loved a woman named Magdalena – an actress like Lena, with her looks, her personality, her past. Their breakup inspired him to write his first novel, about the time they were together, and in its scenes Lena recognizes the uncanny, intimate details of her own relationship with an aspiring writer, Chris. Is it possible that she and Chris are living the same lives as Magdalena and Christoph two decades apart? Are they headed towards the same scripted separation? Or, in the fever of writing, has Christoph lost track of what is real and what is imagined? In this subtle, kaleidoscopic tale, Peter Stamm exposes a fundamental human yearning: to beat life's mysteries by forcing answers on questions that have yet to be fully asked.

## Fiction

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### Seven Nights

#### Sieben Nächte

SIMON STRAUß

Translated by Eva and Lee Bacon  
Aufbau Verlag/Blumenbar,  
978-3351050412  
Rare Bird Books, 978-1644280515  
155 pages, SC

It's night and a young man is sitting writing at a table. He's afraid. Afraid of having to decide – on a woman, a group of friends, an annual holiday destination. He's afraid of becoming numb to emotion. Afraid of growing up. But all that is about to change. An acquaintance makes him a proposition: Each night at seven o'clock, he must commit one of the seven deadly sins. He must be greedy, show pride, give in to lust... he must decide how far he is truly willing to go in his efforts to stave off habit and ennui and save his own life. The most widely reviewed, discussed and recommended German language debut of the last decade, *Seven Nights* earned Simon Strauß praise from the Tagesspiegel newspaper as "one of the greatest talents of his generation" but also one of the most controversial.

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### Elephant

#### Elefant

MARTIN SUTER

Translated by Jamie Bulloch  
Diogenes Verlag, 978-3257069709  
4th Estate (UK), HarperCollins (US),  
978-0008313760  
352 pages, SC

What would you do if you woke up to see a living, breathing, tiny, glowing, pink elephant? If you're anything like Schoch, who lives on the streets of Zürich, down on his luck, you might well think it's time to put away the bottle before your hallucinations get any stranger, and go back to sleep. But what if the tiny pink elephant is still there when you wake up? And it clearly needs someone to take care of it? What if you then discover it's been created through genetic engineering by a group of scientists who just want to use it to get rich and don't care about the elephant's welfare? And that they're in cahoots with a circus and will stop at nothing to get it back? What if this little elephant is about to change your life?

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### You Would Have Missed Me

#### Ich freue mich, dass ich geboren bin

BIRGIT VANDERBEKE

Translated by Jamie Bulloch  
Piper Verlag, 978-3492311120  
Peirene Press, 978-1908670526  
154 pages, SC

A family is torn apart by their dream of a better future in the West. A true story narrated through the eyes of a child. West Germany in the early 60s: A little girl arrives with her parents from East Germany in a camp for displaced people. The girl's father is abusive, the mother ignores her. She is soon to celebrate her seventh birthday and all she wants is a cat. Instead, she receives an illuminated globe. The girl can't hide her disappointment – but then she discovers that the globe offers her a way to escape the misery of the camp.

## Fiction

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### A Man in Love

#### Ein liebender Mann

MARTIN WALSER

Translated by David Dollenmayer  
Rowohlt Verlag, 978-3499253508  
Arcade Publishing, 978-1628728736  
288 pages, HC

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe is so famous his servant auctions off locks of his hair and children and adults recite from his many works by memory. When he was a young poet his first novel, a story of love and romantic fervour ending in suicide, was an international sensation that set off a wave of self-inflicted deaths across Europe. Now seventy-three, sought-after and busy with scientific pursuits and responsibilities to the Grand Duke, he has fallen in love with nineteen-year-old Ulrike von Levetzow. At the spa in Marienbad, they exchange glances, witty words. In the social whirl they find each other. On the promenade, they parade together arm in arm. Time spent away from her is sleepless, and when they kiss it is in the "Goethean" way, from his books: a matter of souls, not mouths or lips. When he proposes, Ulrike and her mother are already preparing to leave. In a storm of emotion, torn between despair and undying hope, he begins an elegy in his coach as he pursues her: *The Marienbad Elegy*, one of his last great works. Martin Walser tells an witty, moving, tender story of impossible love and the mysterious ways of art.

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### The End of Loneliness

#### Vom Ende der Einsamkeit

BENEDICT WELLS

Translated by Charlotte Collins  
Diogenes Verlag, 978-3257244441  
Sceptre, 978-0143134008  
272 pages, SC

Jules Moreau's sheltered childhood is shattered by the sudden death of his parents. At boarding school he and his siblings are forced to live apart causing a lasting rupture to their relationship, and the once vivacious and fearless Jules retreats into himself – until he meets Alva, a kindred soul caught in her own grief. Fifteen years pass and the siblings remain strangers, bound by tragedy and struggling to recover the family they once were. Jules, still adrift, is anchored only by his desires to be a writer and to reunite with Alva. A kaleidoscopic family saga told through the fractured lives of the three Moreau siblings, alongside a faltering, recovering love story, *The End of Loneliness* is a stunning meditation on the power of our memories, of what can be lost and what can never be let go. With inimitable compassion and luminous, affecting prose, Benedict Wells examines what it means to find a way through life, never losing hope of finding someone to go with you.

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### Hooligan

#### Hool

PHILIPP WINKLER

Translated by Bradley Schmidt  
Aufbau Verlag, 978-3351036454  
Arcade Publishing, 978-1628728675  
304 pages, HC

We've all got two families: The one we're born with and the one we choose ourselves. Heiko hasn't finished school. His father is an alcoholic, his mother has left them. He's not one of society's winners, but he has his chosen family, the pack of soccer hooligans he's grown up with. After rising gradually through the ranks, he's now recognized in the stands of his home team and beyond the stadium walls where, after the game, he and his gang represent their city in brutal organized brawls with hooligans from other localities. Philipp Winkler's widely acclaimed novel is an intimate, devastating portrait of working-class, post-industrial urban life on the fringes, and a universal story about masculinity in the twenty-first century. Narrated with lyrical authenticity by Heiko himself, it captures the desperation and violence that permeate his world, along with the yearning for brotherhood.

# Fiction

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## The Club

### Der Club

TAKIS WÜRGER

Translated by Charlotte Collins

Kein & Aber, 978-3036959726

Grove Press (US), 978-0802128966

256 pages, HC

After an idyllic childhood among the rolling hills and forests of North Germany, fate leads Hans into the guardianship of his eccentric English aunt, Alex. A professor of art history at Cambridge, Alex will make sure his application to St John's College is accepted, but in return Hans must help her investigate a secretive Cambridge institution known as the Pitt Club. The club has existed for centuries, its long legacy of tradition, privilege, and decadence largely unquestioned. Hans is drawn into a glamorous world of debauchery and macho solidarity. And when he falls in love with fellow student Charlotte the stakes of his deception are raised. For there are dark secrets in the club's history, as well as in its present – and Hans soon finds himself in the inner sanctum of a dangerous institution. A provocative and timely novel from a highly regarded young writer, *The Club* is an invitation into a world behind closed doors, one of long-held secrets, hallowed history and toxic behaviour.

## Non-Fiction

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### The Pianist from Syria. A memoir

Und die Vögel werden  
singen.  
Ich, der Pianist aus den  
Trümmern

AEHAM AHMAD  
Translated by Emanuel Bergmann  
S. Fischer Verlag, 978-3103973174  
Scribe, 978-1501173493  
288 pages, HC

This true account of a pianist's escape to Germany from wartorn Syria offers a deeply personal perspective on the most devastating refugee crisis of this century. Aeham Ahmad, a second-generation Palestinian refugee, was born to a blind violinist and carpenter who taught him from an early age to love music and play the piano. After being forced to flee the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, Aeham's family had built a new life in Syria, in Yarmouk camp, home to more than 160,000 Palestinian refugees. Before they could return to their homeland, another fight overran their asylum. Their only haven was in music and in each other. Forced to leave his family behind, Aeham sought a safe place for them to call home and build a better life, taking solace in the indestructible bond between fathers and sons to keep moving forward. Heart-wrenching yet ultimately full of hope, and told in a raw and poignant voice, *The Pianist from Syria* is a gripping portrait of one man's search for a peaceful life for his family and of a country being torn apart as the world watches in horror.

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### Scatterbrain

Irren ist nützlich!  
Warum die Schwächen  
des Gehirns unsere  
Stärken sind

HENNING BECK  
Translated by Henning Beck  
Goldmann, 978-3442159581  
Greystone Books, 978-1771644013  
352 pages, HC

In *Scatterbrain*, we learn why perfectionism is pointless. Boredom awakens the muse, distractions spark creativity and misjudging time creates valuable memories. These are just some of the benefits of our faulty minds – the faults themselves being secret weapons that prove our superiority to computers and artificial intelligence. The hilarious asides and brain-boosting advice from award-winning neuroscientist Henning Beck make for delightful reading throughout, as we take on board the most cutting-edge neuroscience our brains will (maybe never) remember.

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### Winterlust. Finding Beauty in the Fiercest Season

Als die Winter noch Winter  
waren.  
Geschichte einer Jahreszeit

BERND BRUNNER  
Translated by Mary Catherine Lawlo  
Galiani Verlag, 978-3869711294  
Greystone Books, 978-1771643528  
280 pages, HC

In *Winterlust*, a farmer painstakingly photographs five thousand snowflakes, each one dramatically different from the next. Indigenous peoples thrive on frozen terrain where famous explorers perish. Icicles reach deep underwater, then explode. Rooms warmed by crackling fires fill with scents of cinnamon, cloves and pine. Skis carve into powdery slopes and iceboats traverse glacial lakes. This lovingly illustrated meditation on winter intertwines the spectacular with the everyday, expertly capturing the essence of this beloved yet dangerous season – all the more precious in an era of climate change.

## Non-Fiction

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### The Mood of the World

#### Das Gefühl der Welt. Über die Macht von Stimmungen

HEINZ BUDE

Translated by Simon Garnett  
Hanser Verlag, 978-3446250659

Polity Press,

HC: 978-1509519934, SC: 978-1509519941

120 pages, HC, SC

In many western societies today, optimism has given way to a deep unease and sense of foreboding. After the financial crisis, many people feel worse off and the future seems bleak. The mood has changed – that’s clear. But what is „the mood“? How can feelings be shared by many people, and how do these shared feelings shape the course of events? Sociologist Heinz Bude offers a highly original analysis of this vital but neglected topic. Moods, he argues, are ways of being in the world. Moods shape how we experience the world, but they are not purely private. On the contrary, they give basic colour to our collective existence and experience. They are crucial in determining our political outlook and preferences, our attitudes and identities, and they provide much of the energy for forms of collective action, including social movements that seem to appear suddenly from nowhere. With the growing significance of the politics of discontent, Bude’s insightful analysis of the power of collective moods could not be more relevant. His book will appeal to anyone who wants to understand how our societies are changing in these profoundly uncertain times.

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### A German Officer in Occupied Paris. The War Journals, 1941–1945

#### Strahlungen I Strahlungen II

ERNST JÜNGER

Translated by Thomas Hansen  
dtv, 978-3423109840, 978-3423109857

Columbia University Press,

978-0231127400

496 pages, HC

Ernst Jünger was one of the most important – and most controversial – twentieth-century German writers. Decorated for bravery in World War I and author of *Storm of Steel*, the acclaimed memoir of the Western Front, he depicted the horrors of war frankly, even as he extolled its glories. As a Wehrmacht captain during World War II, Jünger kept a detailed journal in occupied Paris and continued writing on the Eastern Front and in Germany, until the defeat came – writings that are of major historical and literary significance. Jünger’s Paris journals document his Francophile excitement, romantic affairs, and fascination with botany and entomology, alongside mystical and religious ruminations and trenchant observations on the occupation and the politics of collaboration. While working as a mail censor, he led the privileged life of an officer, encountering artists such as Céline, Cocteau, Braque, and Picasso. His notes from the Caucasus depict the chaos after Stalingrad and atrocities on the Eastern Front. On returning to Paris, Jünger observed the French resistance and was close to the German military conspirators who plotted to assassinate Hitler in 1944. After fleeing France he re-joined his family as Germany’s capitulation approached. Both a participant and a commentator; close to the horrors of history but often distancing himself from them, Jünger turned his life and experiences into a work of art. These wartime journals, with their insights into the upheavals of the twentieth century, appear in English for the first time.

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### Along the Trenches. A Journey through Eastern Europe to Isfahan

#### Entlang den Gräben. Eine Reise durch das östliche Europa bis nach Isfahan

NAVID KERMANI

Translated by Navid Kermani  
C.H. Beck Verlag, 978-3406714023

Polity Books,

HC: 978-1509535569, SC: 978-1509535576

HC: 400 pages, SC: 256 pages

Between Germany and Russia is a region strewn with monuments to the horrors of war, genocide and disaster – the bloodlands where the murderous regimes of Hitler and Stalin unleashed the violence that scarred the twentieth century and shaped so much of the world we know today. In September 2016 the German-Iranian writer Navid Kermani set out to discover this land and to travel along the trenches that are now re-emerging in Europe, from his home in Cologne through Eastern Germany to the Baltics, and from there south to the Caucasus and to Isfahan in Iran, the home of his parents. This beautifully written travel diary, enlivened by conversations with the people Kermani meets along the way, brings to life the tragic history of these troubled lands and shows how that history leaves its traces in the present. It will be of great interest to anyone concerned with current affairs and with the events that have shaped and continue to shape the world we live in today.

## Non-Fiction

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### **The Zookeepers' War. An Incredible True Story from the Cold War**

### **Der Zoo der Anderen. Als die Stasi ihr Herz für Brillenbären entdeckte & Helmut Schmidt mit Pandas nachrüstete**

J.W. MOHNHAUPT  
Translated by Shelley Frisch  
Hanser Verlag, 978-3446255043  
Simon & Schuster, 978-1501188497  
272 pages, HC

A quirky piece of Cold War history unlike anything you've heard before, *The Zookeepers' War* is an epic tale of desperate rivalries, human follies and an animal-mad city, where zoos became a focus of politics by other means. Berlin's two zoos quickly became symbols of the divided city's two halves. So it was not very surprising when the head zookeepers on either side started an animal arms race, stockpiling pandas and hippos rather than nuclear warheads. Soon, state funds were being quietly diverted to give new animals lavish welcomes worthy of visiting dignitaries. West German presidential candidates talked about zoo policy on the campaign trail. And politicians on both sides of the Wall became convinced that, if their zoo was proved to be inferior, that would mean their country's whole ideology was too.

### **I Have No Regrets. Diaries, 1955–1963**

### **Ich bedaure nichts. Tagebücher 1955–1963**

BRIGITTE REIMANN  
Translated by Lucy Jones  
Aufbau Verlag, 978-3746615363  
Seagull Books, 978-0857426680  
432 pages, HC

Frank and refreshing, Brigitte Reimann's collected diaries provide a candid account of life in socialist Germany. With an upbeat tempo and amusing tone, *I Have No Regrets* contains detailed accounts of the author's love affairs, daily life, writing and reflections. Like the heroines of her stories, Reimann was impetuous and outspoken, addressing issues and sensibilities otherwise repressed in the German Democratic Republic. She followed the state's call for artists to leave their ivory towers and engage with the people, moving to the new town of Hoyerswerda to work part-time at a nearby industrial plant and run writing classes for the workers. Her diaries and letters provide a fascinating parallel to her fictional writing. By turns shocking, passionate, unflinching and bitter – but above all life-affirming – they offer an unparalleled insight into what life was like during the first decades of the GDR.

### **A World on Edge**

### **Kometenjahre 1918. Die Welt im Aufbruch**

DANIEL SCHÖNPFLUG  
Translated by Jefferson Chase  
S. Fischer Verlag, 978-3100024398  
Picador (UK), Metropolitan Books (US),  
978-1627797627  
320 pages, HC

The story of the aftermath of World War I, a transformative time when a new world seemed possible, told from the viewpoint of people, famous and ordinary, who lived through the turmoil. Sculptor Käthe Kollwitz, whose son died in the war, is translating sorrow and loss into art. Captain Harry Truman is running a men's haberdashery in Kansas City, hardly expecting he will soon go bankrupt and then become president of the United States. Moina Michael is about to invent the remembrance poppy, a symbol of sacrifice that will stand for generations to come. Meanwhile Virginia Woolf is questioning whether that sacrifice was worth it, and George Grosz is so revolted by the violence on the streets of Berlin that he decides everything is meaningless. Daniel Schönplug deftly describes this watershed time as it was experienced on the ground: open-ended, unfathomable, its outcome unclear. Combining a multitude of acutely observed details, he depicts a world suspended between enthusiasm and disappointment, one in which the window of opportunity opened suddenly, only to close again quickly.

## Planning and Organisation

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buchmesse.de

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