

LING BALZER ETUIV

Foreign Rights Guide
Fall 2022



Matthes & Seitz Berlin

ETUIV

Matthes & Seitz Berlin is a German independent publishing house founded in 2004 by Andreas Rötzer. It was established in the tradition of Matthes & Seitz Munich, a publishing house founded by Axel Matthes and Claus Seitz in 1977. Matthes & Seitz Berlin publishes about 80 titles per year in fiction and non-fiction.

The fiction list includes contemporary authors from Germany, like Frank Witzel (winner of the German Book Prize 2015), Anne Weber (winner of the German Book Prize 2020), Esther Kinsky, Angela Steidele, Philip Schönthaler, and Joshua Groß. Matthes & Seitz Berlin is not only known for German literature, but also for the translations of contemporary and classic French literature like Antonin Artaud, Emmanuel Carrère, Céline Minard and Éric Vuillard, the winner of the Prix Goncourt 2017. Among the strong list of Russian literature you find Warlam Schalamow, Iliadz, Alexander Ilitchevski and Alexander Goldstein.

Non-fiction has always had a central place in Matthes & Seitz's program, especially philosophy, political theory, and art and cultural studies. Translations from the French and English play a large part, as do prominent German authors like Jürgen Goldstein (winner of the Leipzig Book Fair Prize 2016). The series *Fröhliche Wissenschaft* (The Joyful Wisdom), with its short essays, is a prominent stage for presenting audacious new philosophers. Its authors, who include Byung-chul Han and Marcus Steinweg, have been translated into numerous languages.

In 2013 Matthes & Seitz Berlin established a new cornerstone in its program with the series *Naturkunden* (Natural Sciences), which publishes books whose design matches nature's beauty, bringing nature writing, movement, space, ecology, and humanity into focus. In order to stimulate German literary voices writing about nature Matthes & Seitz Berlin donates the „German Prize for Nature Writing“.

In 2020 Matthes & Seitz Berlin has taken over two other publishing houses as imprints: *Friedenauer Presse*, founded in 1963 and specialized in Russian literature, and the academic press *August Verlag*, founded in 2009.

Fiction

Joshua Groß	<i>Prana Extrem</i>
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Emily Segal	<i>Mercury Retrograde</i>
Isabel Fargo Cole	<i>The Gold Coast</i>
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Non Fiction

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Daniel Strassberg	<i>Spectacular Machines</i>

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Urs Mannhart	<i>Lentille</i>
Irina Rastorgueva	<i>Russia Simulacrum</i>
Karin Wenger	<i>Jacob the Prisoner</i>

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Jens Balzer	<i>Ethics of Appropriation</i>
Jürgen Wertheimer	<i>Mixed Creatures</i>
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Manfred Geier	<i>Philosophy of the Races</i>
Jule Govrin	<i>Political Bodies</i>

Series Naturkunden

Bernhard Malkmus	<i>Lynxes</i>
Andreas Ammer	<i>Oysters</i>
Samuel Hamen	<i>Jellyfishes</i>
Andreas Möller	<i>Pikes</i>

Fiction



Joshua Groß

Prana Extrem

 Matthes & Seitz Berlin

Giant dragonflies, Chupa Chups, a stolen meteorite in a psychedelic, increasingly hot Tyrolean summer: Prana Extrem tells of the longing to grasp the world and surrender to it at the same time

On the Bergisel ski jump in the Tyrolean winter sports metropolis of Innsbruck in early summer, the narrator Joshua and his partner Lisa meet sixteen-year-old Michael Stiening, an Austrian ski jumping talent who is preparing for the new season and his attack on the world's best. In the training methods of his older sister Johanna, gravitation, inclusiveness and self-confrontation come together. When Joshua and Lisa move into the holiday flat in the siblings' house, a temporary community is formed, which is unexpectedly joined by Joshua's eccentric but caring grandma Suzet and, for a few weeks, little Tilde. And so, in this hot summer in this almost unreal place near the swamps where aloe vera grows in the Alps, a journey of self-discovery begins for all of them.

Prana Extrem is an attempt to depict the rapidly changing world in a multi-layered way; it is the venture to create space for a different togetherness through love, attention and humour; a book that tells of the success of deep connection, and a place that emerges as a magically sublime counter-space to our reality for the duration of the reading.

Hardcover
ca. 301 pages
2022
English sample available

Joshua Groß, born in 1989 in Grünsberg, studied political science, economics and ethics of text cultures. He has received several awards, most recently the Anna Seghers Prize 2019, the Hölderlin Förderpreis 2021, the Literature Prize of the A and A Kulturstiftung 2021 and a residency scholarship from the Literarisches Colloquium Berlin 2021.

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Ski Jump · World's Best · Community · Aloe Vera · Togetherness · Counter-space



Simoné Goldschmidt-Lechner

Knives, Tongues

In her debut novel, SGL approaches the gaps in her own family biography in a radical, formal and extraordinarily tender way.

Girl feels first-hand how quickly some lives are forgotten and how many generations they remain inscribed in the bodies of those who come after them. She notices it in the glances that pass over her, in her brother who does not speak her mother tongue without an accent, in the books in which she searches in vain for characters who resemble her. But all comparisons must inevitably fail because, apart from a few fragmentary memories, Girl lacks knowledge about her ancestors, who appear neither in official nor in family historiography. From loose threads, fragments of the past and myths, the author's alter ego therefore begins to construct her own family tree with a radicality that is in no way inferior to reality. Its widely ramified, many-leaved branches reach from the Cape Coloured community in South Africa across the Atlantic to present-day Germany and for the first time also give a place to those who have been denied a history and a voice until now. Together with girls, in Simoné Goldschmidt-Lechner's debut novel *Knives, Tongues*, they now loudly pose the question of origins and "home" and what stories it takes to escape oblivion.

 Matthes & Seitz Berlin

Hardcover
187 pages
ISBN
English sample available

Simoné Goldschmidt-Lechner (sgl) writes, translates, makes podcasts, deals with (queer) fan cultures on the net, horror from a post-migrant perspective, language in video games and gives workshops on socio-political topics. She was a finalist at the open mike 2020, a scholarship holder at the LCB-Autor:innenwerkstatt and in the stART.up programme of the Clausen-Simon Foundation as well as a participant in the writing lab "Vergangenheit vorhersagen" with Luna Ali at the Schauspielhaus Düsseldorf.

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Emily Segal

Mercury Retrograde

Autofiction. Emily Segal, artist and trend forecaster in her 20s, tries to tell the future by reading the present. Literature finds commercial form in the shape of eXe, a mysterious and well-funded internet start-up that offers her a job. A conceptual take-over is deployed; gendered power play ensues; queerness incubates; memes converge. Set in New York City, post-Occupy and pre-Trump. First person / mixed media / pulp. Not actually about astrology.

"Emily Segal is almost mystically attuned to the cultural logic of our era. She lives its pangs and contradictions intellectually, emotionally and somatically – late capitalism's Simone Weil." Tom McCarthy

"It's a brilliantly written novel of a moment in search of a shimmer, half 'here', half digital, an everywhere post branding work place place where few have dared to live and this writer, explorer, critic, philosopher of nonbusiness has done it deep. Segal's style is widely smart, different than deep (always). I mean her Mercury Retrograde is, it truly is." Eileen Myles

"A thought-provoking and often extremely funny first novel looking back at the 2010s, which I couldn't put down. I should also say this book offered some very cathartic food-for-thought on the strange ways capital, cultural capital, and the Internet interacted in the 10s, for those of you who are still haunted by trying to make sense of it all."

Emilie Friedlander, *VICE*

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Hardcover
221 pages
2022
English original text available

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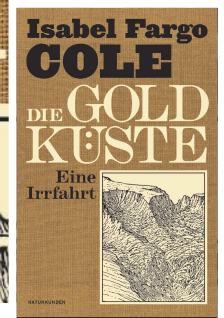
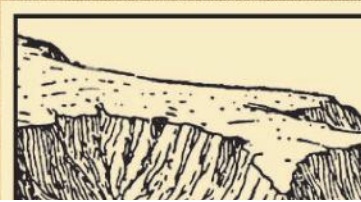
A New York Times New and Notable Book 2020

Emily Segal (b. 1988, New York, NY) is an artist, writer, and trend forecaster based in Los Angeles. She is the co-founder of Nemesis, a think tank and consultancy based in Berlin and Los Angeles, as well as the literary press DELUGE BOOKS. I also founded the trend forecasting group and art collective K-HOLE (2011-2016).

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KÜSTE

Eine Irrfahrt



Isabel Fargo Cole

The Gold Coast. An odyssey

 Matthes & Seitz Berlin

A fascinating journey through prospecting fields and nature reserves, a book about the myth of the American West Coast that promises wealth and freedom.

Hardcover
ca. 280 pages
2022
English sample available

"My great-grandfather Arva Fargo had run off to Alaska to look for gold. He ran off to the Yukon. He ran off to the Klondike. A shard of history, dug out, put back perplexed." More than a hundred years after her ancestor, Isabel Fargo Cole sets off from Germany to Alaska, from there via Seattle towards California, on the trail of Arva Fargo and his feverish search for gold - the curse and blessing of so many biographies of the 'Gilded Age' at the end of the 19th century. The 'shards of history' she finds, not only in the abandoned claims, she assembles into a polyphonic research and travel diary into a foreign, seemingly immeasurable land between East and West, between exploitation and preservation. For the world's largest exclave, though sparsely populated, is occupied by fantasies of pristine wilderness and hidden riches like no other stretch of land. Cole's expedition leads deep into the depths of the American dream, which still attracts and spits out crowds with its powerful promises: adventurous soldiers of fortune, vagabonds and heroes of faded newspaper reports. What she unearths is more valuable than gold: a narrative-essayistic prospecting field full of stories and reflections on a borderland of foreign homelands.

Isabel Fargo Cole, born in 1973 in Galena, Illinois, grew up in New York, studied literature, history and philosophy at the University of Chicago before moving to Berlin in 1995 to study Russian and Modern German Literature at Humboldt University. She lives as an author and translator in Berlin.

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Alaska · Gold · Ancestors · Diary · Wilderness · Land

Queck



Thomas Stangl

Mercury Light

 Matthes & Seitz Berlin

The dissolution of space and time, of history and geography through literature

A Chinese emperor dreaming of total domination over time, nineteenth-century women writers rebelling against the constraints of their reality, a girl in early twentieth-century Simmering, on the edge of the city and on the edge of world history: Thomas Stangl detaches individual moments of individual life histories, his own and other people's family stories as well as distant historical moments from their contexts and assembles them into new constellations. He interweaves gestures, actions and scenes into a fascinating novel that is removed from any temporal order and establishes a narrative space rich in contrasts in which supposedly self-evident things gain new meaning and conventional notions of biography, identity and reality are lost.

Mercury Light is a novel of ogle power about history, the passing of time and the survival of everything that has happened in all our lives. The Chinese emperor believed himself to be the centre of the universe and tried to become immortal by ingesting mercury; he died of mercury poisoning. Not he and not the author is the centre of the world, everyone is. And Thomas Stangl's literature is the place where they live on.

Hardcover
267 pages
2022
English sample available

Thomas Stangl, born in Vienna in 1966, studied philosophy and Spanish in Vienna and initially wrote essays, book reviews and smaller prose pieces for newspapers and literary magazines. Since his first book was published in 2004, he has produced an extensive body of literary work that has won numerous awards. Thomas Stangl lives in Vienna.

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Yevgenia Belorusets

Lucky Breaks

Powerful, off-beat stories about women living in the shadow of the now-frozen, now-thawing war in Ukraine

Out of the impoverished coal regions of Ukraine known as the Donbass, where Russian secret military intervention coexists with banditry and insurgency, the women of Yevgenia Belorusets's captivating collection of stories emerge from the ruins of a war, still being waged on and off, ever since the 2014 Revolution of Dignity. Through a series of unexpected encounters, we are pulled into the ordinary lives of these anonymous women: a florist, a cosmetologist, card players, readers of horoscopes, the unemployed, and a witch who catches newborns with a mitt. One refugee tries unsuccessfully to leave her broken umbrella behind as if it were a sick relative; a private caregiver in a disputed zone saves her elderly charge from the angel of death; a woman sits down on International Women's Day and can no longer stand up; a soldier decides to marry war. Belorusets threads these tales of ebullient survival with a mix of humor, verisimilitude, the undramatic, and a profound Gogolian irony. She also weaves in twenty-three photographs that, in lyrical and historical counterpoint, form their own remarkable visual narrative.

"Belorusets's stories work their way under your skin. A tender strength and Gogolian wryness emerge from "insignificant, trivial things", like the inability to let go of an umbrella. Their inconclusive endings have a Chekhov-like knack of stepping off the page into a shifted new plane of survival and real, bewildered life." *The Times Literary Supplement*

Ukraine · War · Women · Encounters · Tales · Irony



 Matthes & Seitz Berlin

Hardcover
154 pages
English translation available
Russian original text available

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French (Bourgois)
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Portuguese (Portugal)
(Relógio D'Água Editores)
Turkey (Can Sanat Yayınları)

Yevgenia Belorusets is a Ukrainian photographer who lives between Kyiv and Berlin. *Lucky Breaks* is her first novel.

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Non-Fiction

außerirdische Literatur

Lesen und Schreiben

Philipp
Theisohn

Einführung
in die
außerirdische
Literatur

Lesen und
Schreiben
im All

Philipp Theisohn

Introduction to extraterrestrial literature. Reading and writing in space

**An adventurous guide to the history of extraterrestrial books
- and a compendium of their most significant specimens**

From the supposedly terrestrial Bildungsroman to the logbooks of space cruisers to the galactic encyclopaedia: extraterrestrial literature is a multiform, but above all invasive species. It not only tells stories about space. It comes from outer space. If you really want to understand it, you can't expect a history of motifs or knowledge, but must be prepared for a trip through the dark back alleys and backyards of the Gutenberg Galaxy. On the way it will become apparent: From Kepler to Captain Future, the terrestrial conception of space, even in its most blatant projection of colonialist fantasies, forms a gateway open to space and its inhabitants, all non-human and non-terrestrial alike. The most radical interpretation of extraterrestrial contact is therefore by no means the much-cited invasion from outer space, but the discovery that the human narrative only acquires its real meaning from outside, only from other planets.

"Extraterrestrial literature is an invasive literature. It does not tell of space. It comes from outer space. Its history is the history of a conquest, that is to say of the creeping infiltration of the manageable civilisation of a planet in the middle of the Milky Way. The conditio extraterrestris that speaks to us from the that speaks to us from the books will no longer leave us. and it is useless to try to flee from it into scholarship. into erudition."

 Matthes & Seitz Berlin

Hardcover
496 pages
2022
English sample available

Philipp Theisohn, born in 1974, is Professor of Modern German Literature at the University of Zurich. His research interests include futurology and extraterrestrial literature, among others.

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Species · Space · Trip · Colonialist fantasies · Gateway · Inhabitants

Freiheit



Thomas Wagner *Desertion into Freedom*

 Matthes & Seitz Berlin

How the State Created Its Enemies - Sketches on the Global History of Democracy

Immanuel Kant defined anarchy in 1798 as "law and freedom, without violence". This is at first only a possibility of thought that seems to have little to do with the world we live in. But it is supported by a vote with the feet, which in the history of mankind has remarkably often turned out against life under domination. Thomas Wagner's radical revision of the history of democracy follows these feet along their many paths. Until well into modern times, a large part of humanity also lived in societies without a state because they wanted to escape the grasp of the rulers. Tales of the unbound life of "noble savages" and "Amazons", freebooters or Bedouins, however, also stimulated the political imagination of those all over the world who had to continue living in bondage. The idea of political freedom by no means originated in Europe alone. *Fahnenflucht in die Freiheit* makes this realization the starting point for the urgent decolonization of political thought. It is an invitation to pick up the fascinating trail and follow it further.

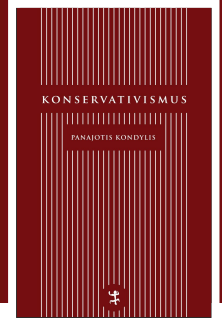
Hardcover
271 pages
2022
English translation available

Thomas Wagner, born in Rheinberg in 1967, is a cultural sociologist and author of numerous books.

A radical revision of the history of democracy and a plea for political imagination

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l.nguyen@matthes-seitz-berlin.de
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PANAJOTIS KONDYLLIS



Panajotis Kondylis *Conservatism*

 Matthes & Seitz Berlin

The long overdue rediscovery of a classic of the history of political thought and ideas

In this interpretation, long out of print and still novel and startling, philosopher and historian of ideas Panajotis Kondylis turns against the notion of conservatism as a reaction to the French Revolution. In brilliant lines of thought that take him from Bonald and Burke to Carlyle and Chateaubriand to Fénelon, de Maistre, and Schlegel, he demonstrates that conservatism as a social and political force had existed since the Middle Ages, when the nobility and its system of estates fought emerging egalitarian interpretations of the law. But Kondylis goes a step further and shows how conservatism adapted to the particular reality of the modern sovereign state, which was inconceivable without it, and analyzes it as a political force that recurs in surprising forms. He succeeds, for example, in showing how the central themes of the socialist critique of capitalism emerged in the ideological sphere of counterrevolution and circulated idealized images of a pre-capitalist reality up to the present day. Conservatism is the necessary contribution to better understand the political and cultural debates of our time.

Non-Fiction
Hardcover
ca. 500 pages
2022
English sample available

Panajotis Kondylis, born in Olympia in 1943, lived as a philosopher in Athens, where he died in 1998. He studied philosophy in Heidelberg, where he received his doctorate under Dieter Henrich. He translated Marx, Cassirer, Carl Schmitt and Machiavelli, among others, into Greek and worked on the concept and premises of the Enlightenment, philosophical polemics and the unquestioned presuppositions of European world views.

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Der Anfang einer neuen Welt



Birgit Schneider

The Beginning of a New World

 Matthes & Seitz Berlin

To muster the courage to think a changing world, we need the culture, the narratives and the thinking from many points of view. This is the only way to get to action.

Hardcover
ca. 200 pages
2022
English sample translation

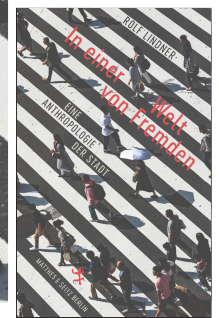
The consequences of global warming are closing in on us. They can now also be felt in Germany. They are confirmed by ever new measurement records. The change in the climate reveals a destabilized world that we no longer recognize as our own. When talking about climate change, many therefore get caught in a downward spiral, at the end of which they run out of words. That language is lacking seems contradictory at first, because for a few years now there have been few topics that have been talked about so much. But words alone do not reach our imagination, we cannot process the knowledge. It is too frightening and hopeless. Birgit Schneider tries to find answers to the question of how people in temperate latitudes imagine climate change, which imaginations and stories guide them. She highlights changes of perspective, contradictions and also unusual ways of looking at things, which are able to broaden our limited imagination. For in order to overcome the gap between knowledge and action, it makes a big difference how we tell ourselves about climate change.

Birgit Schneider, born in 1972, teaches as Professor of Cultures of Knowledge and Media Environments at the University of Potsdam. The image and media scholar's current research focuses on images and modes of perception of climate and atmosphere, critical cartography, images of ecology and questions of natural aesthetics.

How we tell ourselves about climate change without falling silent

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Global warming · Destabilized World · Downward Spiral · Imagination · Latitudes



Rolf Lindner

In a World of Strangers. An Anthropology of the City

On Possibilities, Myths and Lights of the Big City: Berlin, Urbanity in the Focal Mirror

When you think of Berlin, you think of the big city as a space of diverse possibilities. It is a place of encounters with originals and types that defy anonymity. The history of this metropolis on the Spree began with its explosive growth towards the end of the 19th century, when countless people from the East Elbe areas flocked to the city, also to escape the watchful gaze of the strict village social order. Berlin revealed to them the pleasures of the big city, which still exist today in the numerous opportunities for amusement, and its peculiar beauty, contributed not least by the emerging city lighting and illuminated advertising, which turned the inner cities into brightly lit stages. New forms of community developed in which like-minded people and elective relatives found each other: Artists' associations, esoteric-occultist circles, intellectual circles or queer communities. And to this day, the big city produces its own myths, which are expressed in songs and poems, stories and novels, pictures and films and overlay the perception of the city. Rolf Lindner traces the urban in the city, penetrates to the roots of the phrase "going to the city", narrates the "scene" as a genuinely urban form of communalisation and invites us to experience anew the large and small cities in which we live.

 Matthes & Seitz Berlin

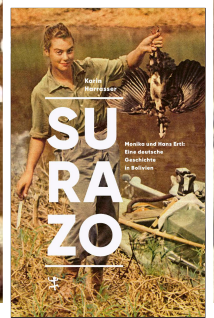
Hardcover
290 pages
2022
English sample translation

Rolf Lindner, born in 1945 and raised in the Ruhr region, taught as a professor at the Institute for European Ethnology at the Humboldt University in Berlin, with a focus on cultural studies of cities.

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Monika und Hans Ertl:
Eine deutsche
Geschichte
in Bolivien



Karin Harrasser

Surazo

 Matthes & Seitz Berlin

A story so unique and at the same time exemplary that it reveals contemporary history as it is written: in scenes and flashbacks, montages and motifs.

Narrative Non-Fiction
Hardcover
270 pages
2022
English sample available

On May 12, 1973, Monika Ertl is shot dead by security forces in the street in La Paz during a firefight. At the time of her death, she was in her mid-thirties and a member of the Bolivian guerrillas ELN. Her father, Hans Ertl, learns of his daughter's death on his cattle farm La Dolorida in the Bolivian rainforest. The cameraman of Leni Riefenstahl and Rommel's preferred front photographer had emigrated there in the 1950s. In his environment: right-wing nationalist dictators and SS-Obersturmführer, German missionaries and Jewish emigrants, indigenous people and apparent magicians who manage to remain invisible in full view. Following in their footsteps, this research traces the lines of transatlantic extensions of Nazi careers, traces the involvement of the next generation in the international networks of the Sixty-Eighters, and branches out to the Tyrolean Alps and Linz. Surazo, the name of the cold tropical wind, should be the title of Hans Ertl's last film; Surazo, instead, is a deep drilling that tells, as if in passing, of historiography in an entangled world; Surazo, that is the search for answers to questions that we still have to ask ourselves.

Karin Harrasser is a cultural scientist who researches the body, technology and science fiction. She has translated Donna Haraway into German and has been involved in various artistic and curatorial projects. She lives in Linz, where she holds a professorship at the Kunstuniversität Linz; Harrasser is also co-director of the International Research Center for Cultural Studies (ifk) in Vienna.

Film rights sold to Independent Artists Production

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Bolivia · Guerilla · Nazi · Family · Emigrants · Rebellion

Eine Affektgeschichte der Technik



Daniel Strassberg *Spectacular Machines*

 Matthes & Seitz Berlin

If there is a way we can understand the machine, it is through this unheard-of access: via the affect it triggers in us

The Icarus legend already tells of man's desire to be like God and his fear of being punished for doing so. This irresolvable contradiction of longing and fear determines the Western man-machine relationship to this day - heart-stirring wonder and frightening monster, inscrutable magic and coldly calculated mechanics: What is it that we have created? While the theatrical machines that brought life to the stage as mechanical songbirds, descending deities, or artificial wind produced comforting shivers in the audience, the mechanical loom and other useful machines seemed to make themselves subservient to man. The machine inspired medieval monks, who reinvented time with the clock, and met with the disapproval of the popes, who could not tolerate a time independent of God.

Machines captivate our attention and are capable of changing everything: how we work, how we think, how we love. Tracing the human search for the machine that will make him equal to God, this book itself becomes a cabinet of curiosities in which one can lose oneself without ever falling out of context.

"It is a book that I devoured. Daniel Strassberg describes with what strong emotions and arousals, i.e. affects, we humans have reacted to machines over centuries and why we do so. It's a book [...] that gives deep insights into the long-standing relationship between man and machine." - Vera Linß, *Deutschlandfunk Kultur*

Non-Fiction
Hardcover
442 pages
2022
English sample translation
available

Daniel Strassberg, born in 1954 in St. Gallen, lives as a psychiatrist, psychoanalyst and philosopher in Zurich, where he taught, among other things, philosophy of technology at the ETH and works on the border areas of psychoanalysis and philosophy.

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Eine Gebrauch anweisung



Oxana Timofeeva

Home. An instruction manual

 Matthes & Seitz Berlin

The Saint Petersburg philosopher on the possibility of home in authoritarian states

How can one succeed in loving a homeland that is geographically located in a state like Putin's Russia, and what room for manoeuvre does the individual have when the country of one's homeland successively turns into a tyrant state and finally does not shy away from war? Oxana Timofeeva tells of her three homes in the Soviet Union: where she was born, where her family came from, the very different living conditions in Siberia and Kazakhstan, her first childhood memories in the Kazakh steppes and her school days near the Arctic Circle. Finally, she deals with different concepts of home. She starts with the distinction between small and large homeland taught in Soviet school lessons, deals with the problem of homeland and exile in dictatorial times, rejects the philosophical longing for origins and finally comes to the conclusion: one's own relationship to homeland does not have to be passive, one has a choice. The homeland does not have to result from the past and certainly does not have to be left to a totalitarian regime: it can be reinvented - if one succeeds in bringing it out of the past into the future. There are ways to love it, even if it is by practicing resistance.

Softcover
123 pages
2022
English original text available

Oxana Timofeeva, born in Siberia in 1978, is a professor at the Centre for Philosophy "Stasis" at the European University in Saint Petersburg as well as an author and member of the artist collective Chto delat.

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Russia · Homeland · Tyrant · Siberia · Kazakh steppes · Exile

Aus dem Leben einer Ku



Urs Mannhart

Lentille. From the life of a cow

 Matthes & Seitz Berlin

An account of the complex web of relationships between humans and more-than-humans that shows how enriching it is to spend time near a ruminating cow.

Softcover
151 pages
2022
English sample available

Lentille, a young cow at home on a small farm in western Switzerland, is about to give birth to her first calf. She is lying in the straw, away from the other cows in the herd, and everything is developing happily - until complications suddenly arise. Summoning all their strength, the farmer Michaël and the vet try to show the calf the way into the world, but when the stillborn finally lies in the straw next to Lentille, the question suddenly arises to what extent animals have a personality. Does Lentille feel this pain? How will she deal with it? Vivid and close to the animal, this essay creates an impressive portrait of a cow and the herd of eight of which she is a part. Lentille's example shows how trusting and caring, but also defensible these animals can be, what it takes to determine the well-being of a cow - and what follows from this if we also grant farm animals a personality.

Urs Mannhart, born in 1975, lives as a writer, reporter and organic farmer in La Chaux-de-Fonds.

Urs Mannhart is a writer and farmer in the Jura. He milks cows, builds fences and asks himself: How would I be if I were on the other side? And who would be happier?

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Cow · Strength · Personality · Pain · Herd · Well-being

Russland- simulakrum



Irina Rastorgueva

The Russia Simulacrum

 Matthes & Seitz Berlin

Russia as a mirror cabinet of the political: a revealing book about the reality between repressive politics and unbending opposition.

In this essay, written with great intensity, playwright and essayist Irina Rastorgueva tells facts and stories about the impossible, yet very much alive, current Russian opposition. She names and describes the parliamentary repressive apparatus, fabricated cases and trials, political satire, Internet trolls, and guerrilla warfare. She thus puts the absurd, Kafkaesque and dystopian Russian reality into the glare of reflection and takes a look behind the endless production of facades, signs and labels: Behind it, there is desperate emptiness. The Duma passes unnecessary laws, non-existent enemies are invented, a pseudo-opposition sits in parliament, the real opposition is in prison on false charges, and the police themselves ceaselessly produce terrorists. "Nothing in Putin's Russia is real," no matter what you touch. Here, elections are just a simulation, and protests just a pretext for repression. And Russia's past is even more unknown than its future.

Essay
Softcover
274 pages
2022
English sample translation
available

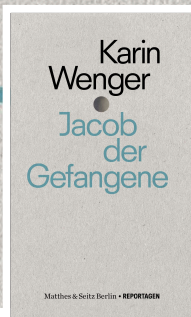
Irina Rastorgueva, born in Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk in 1983, worked as a cultural journalist for several Russian magazines and radio stations. She is the author of numerous scientific articles on the theory and history of literature and journalism of the 20th century.

"And as depressing as what Rastorgueva tells is: Because she has a sense for the grotesque, she has succeeded in writing a funny book at the same time." *Der Spiegel*

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Opposition · Russia · Repression · Dystopia · Terrorism · Simulation

der Gefangener



Karin Wenger

Jacob The Prisoner

 Matthes & Seitz Berlin

The story of a chance encounter and years of research in the shallows of the corrupt Tihar prison world in New Delhi, of one who fell deep and reinvented himself, and of one who was there to tell us about it.

Essay
Softcover
156 pages
2022
English sample translation
available

For a long time, Jacob is the beacon of hope for his family. Born in Kerala, he grew up in Dubai, studied and had a career as a successful businessman in the USA. He loves the feeling of success, raucous parties and the high of ecstasy. Then comes the turning point: Jacob and a friend are arrested by the police for drug possession, they are released on bail and Jacob flees to Dubai, where he builds a new existence. But when he flies to Mumbai in 2008 to visit his ailing mother, he is arrested at the airport on an international arrest warrant and taken to Tihar Prison, one of the largest detention centers in Asia. There begins his endless journey through the corrupt and ramshackle Indian justice system, and it is there that Karin Wenger meets him in 2011 while doing research. From then on, she accompanies the prisoner for more than ten years. The notes, correspondence and interviews that emerge from these encounters are an impressive testimony to everyday life in Indian prisons and tell of a man who fell deep and then rose again and reinvented himself.

Karin Wenger, born in Zurich in 1979, is a correspondent and world traveler. Since 2016, she has headed the Southeast Asia office of Swiss Radio SRF in Bangkok. She has received several awards for her work as a journalist, including the Zurich Journalism Prize.

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Detention · Tihar Prison · Mumbai · Corruption · Justice · Testimony



Jens Balzer

Ethics of Appropriation

 Matthes & Seitz Berlin

An irritant topic of the present, where it is worth not making things too easy for oneself

The talk of cultural appropriation is omnipresent. It calls into question, especially for a progressive political position, the legitimacy of cultural production that makes use of the stocks of other, "foreign" traditions. While many criticise this as a form of theft from marginalised groups, others reject the accusation: it expresses a notion of identity that has points of contact with the völkisch right. In fact, as Jens Balzer shows, all culture is based on appropriation. The question is therefore not whether appropriation is justified, but how to appropriate properly. Drawing on the emergence of hip hop and the astonishing popularity of the desire to be "Indian" in post-war Germany, Balzer sketches out an ethics of appropriation. In it, he opposes a bad appropriation, because it naturalises and determines, with a good appropriation that consciously employs its own madeness. Based on the thinking of the Creole Édouard Glissant and Paul Gilroy's "Black Atlantic" as well as Judith Butler's Queer Theory, such an ethics of appropriation also becomes the basis of an enlightened relationship to one's own identity.

Softcover
87 pages
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English sample translation

Jens Balzer, born in 1969, lives in Berlin and is a feature writer for DIE ZEIT.

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JÜRGEN WERTHEIMER

Mischwesen

Tiere, Menschen, Emotionen



Jürgen Wertheimer

Mixed creatures. Animals, humans, emotions

 Matthes & Seitz Berlin

The birth of culture from the spirit of mixing

To go hunting with the strength of a lion and the head of a man or to be able to dive down into the depths with the tail of a fish – who hasn't dreamt of this from time to time? But even when we get serious about our feelings, animals quickly come into play. One takes a matter 'animalistically seriously' or 'suffers animalistically', is an 'intelligence beast', behaves like a wolf in sheep's clothing or falls upon the world like locusts. Not to mention the ominous black cats. Somewhere in the no-man's land of our emotions, there seems to be an imaginary but highly intense contact zone between humans and animals.

Jürgen Wertheimer explores these unknown territories and traverses cultural history in search of the sources of art. He states: Without the confrontation with animals, we would never have been placed in the necessity to unfold our creative potential. In the mysterious intermediate realm of man and animal lie the centre of our being and the origins of our culture.

Softcover
ca. 152 pages
2022
English sample available

Jürgen Wertheimer, 1947 in München geboren, ist Professor für Internationale Literaturen an der Universität Tübingen. Seit 2017 leitet er das »Projekt Cassandra« zur Früherkennung von Krisen durch Literaturauswertung und ist Autor zahlreicher Bücher zur europäischen Kulturgeschichte.

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UNRULE

FLORIAN MÜHLFRIED Unrulerschaft und Gegenherrschaft



Florian Mühlfried

Unrule and counterrule

 Matthes & Seitz Berlin

How does mistrust become commitment? Rethinking alternative forms of rule

Distrust of power has become suspect in the age of Corona. Where shamans demonstrate next to Reich citizens, lateral thinking becomes a nightmare. In the process, the political potential of mistrust is quickly lost sight of. As internalised counter-rule, it contributes significantly to democratic control. And as a practice of unruliness, it counteracts the hardening of rule. While counter-rule is part of the repertoire of liberalism, unrule is a non-ideological form of anarchism. Based on case material from the Caucasus, ways of transforming distrust into political engagement are outlined. In this committed essay, Florian Mühlfried expands horizons of thought and invites us to rethink political forms beyond the current orders. It is about alternatives to the political order, without taking the order of the others as a guideline, but understanding the effective powers of alternative practices. In this way, it also counteracts the monopolisation of the "alternative" to the current political order by right-wing nationalist parties.

Softcover
ca. 140 pages
2022
English sample available

Florian Mühlfried, born in 1970, is Professor of Social Anthropology at Ilia State University in Georgia. His research interest has been the Caucasus region since his studies. His essay *Mistrust. On the Value of an Unvalue* was nominated for the 2019 Tractatus Prize of the Philosophicum Lech. Mühlfried lives and works in Tbilisi and Vienna.

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Manfred Geier

Philosophy of the Races

 Matthes & Seitz Berlin

Racism and Enlightenment - A Basic Investigation

Was Immanuel Kant, key figure of the European Enlightenment, a racist? Are the great Kantian values - scientific objectivity, moral autonomy, rational religiosity, freedom and pacifist cosmopolitanism - only masks behind which a Eurocentrically reduced worldview is concealed, which appears with a global claim to power? Manfred Geier does not want to absolve Kant and his work of this accusation across the board. Rather, he attempts to place Kant's racist statements in their historical context and traces what was at stake in the debates of the time, what we can learn from them today, what needs to be criticized and what needs to be defended.

Essay
Softcover
117 pages
2022
English sample translation
available

Manfred Geier, born in Troppau in 1943, received his doctorate with a thesis on Noam Chomsky's linguistic theory. His work focuses on philosopher biographies and cultural-political currents. Manfred Geier lives as a freelance nonfiction author in Hamburg.

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JULE GOVRIN Politische Körper Von Sorge und Solidarität



Jule Govrin *Political Bodies*

 Matthes & Seitz Berlin

Vulnerability of bodies as a horizon for policies of common good and global solidarity: Innovative political perspective through a universalism from below

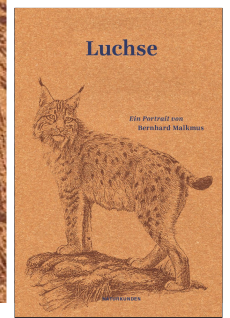
In our everyday lives, we suppress the vulnerability of our bodies wherever we can. But the pandemic has painfully reminded us of this fact: If even breathing in and out becomes a danger, every interaction appears threatening. At the same time, it becomes visible and even more tangible how much we depend on encounters and contact. Thus an ambivalence emerges that becomes the philosophical starting point for Jule Govrin's reflections on the body and politics: Being vulnerable unites all bodies, in our corporeality thus a moment of radical sameness appears. Yet the present and history are governed by mechanisms that aim to make bodies unequal. Govrin's stirring essay draws attention to how political images and economic practices shape bodies. At the same time, this view opens up prospects for a universalism from below, as is emerging in current feminist protest movements. Starting from the recognition that our bodies are vulnerable and interdependent, caring for them becomes the linchpin of global solidarity.

Essay
Softcover
261 pages
2022
English sample translation

Jule Govrin is a political philosopher researching at the intersection of feminist philosophy, political theory, social philosophy, and aesthetics. She also works at the academic magazine *Geschichte der Gegenwart* and is active as a journalist.

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Nature



Bernhard Malkmus

Lynxes. A portrait

The watchful predatory cat that is not seen, but sees all the more: The lynx, an animal of our time

Even if you hardly ever get to see it, it can happen in more and more forest regions to be observed by a lynx yourself. The lynx prefers to remain hidden, in the thicket of nature, in the depths of cultural-historical archives. Like bears and wolves, they do not populate art and literature. But the lynx always appears when European civilisation is confronted with its self-contradictions - in moments of crisis and threshold periods such as the Renaissance or the Enlightenment. So it is probably no coincidence that the lynx, which had been all but extinct in Central Europe since the mid-19th century, is just now returning to our forests and perceptions, during a man-made species extinction of unimagined proportions.

In his portrait of the lynx as a keen observer of such upheavals, Bernhard Malkmus traces a fascinating alternative history of our culture. Using documents from antiquity to the present, from Galileo, Goya and Lévi-Strauss, the lynx comes alive as a shrewd connoisseur of man, inviting us to reflect on the connection between the destruction of nature and instrumental reason in the age of the Anthropocene. Its reintroduction poses us the long-repressed question of the extent to which we need to reintroduce ourselves to the wild in order to prove ourselves as citizens of the biosphere.

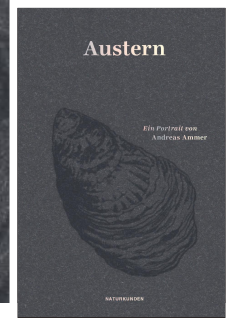
 Matthes & Seitz Berlin

Hardcover with numerous illustrations
ca. 160 pages
2022
English sample available

Bernd Malkmus, born in Aschaffenburg in 1973, is an essayist, poet and translator. His studies were followed by research at the Rachel Carson Center for Environment and Society in Munich. Since January 2018, he has been Professor of German Studies at the University of Newcastle (England). He has published numerous writings on the picturesque novel and ecological themes.

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Ein Portrait von Andreas Ammer



Andreas Ammer *Oysters. A Portrait*

 Matthes & Seitz Berlin

The oyster, master of gender fluidity: from cheap street food to aphrodisiac

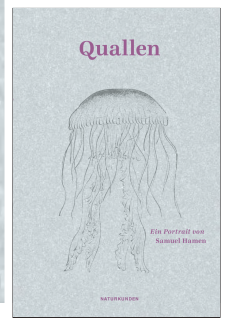
As soon as the solid muscle of the animal, which is still alive when eaten, is cut, the living mollusk inside is revealed: it has a heart but no brain, but a stomach, intestine and anus. Perhaps this is why the oyster is at the center of erotic fantasies, as the epitome of creatureness. As such, it found its way into painting in the 16th century and was finally popularized in the 19th century: Before the oyster became a delicacy, it was cheap street food, a poor man's food. And long before queer theory sought to liquefy the question of gender, this inconspicuous sea dweller was already a master of gender fluidity: depending on the weather, oysters change their gender several times in their lifetime. Andreas Ammer follows in the footsteps of this fascinating animal to fish markets, harbor restaurants and ships, ultimately always returning to this one moment: the Oyster Conversion Experience, the life-changing encounter with this invisible sea creature, whose taste of ocean he yearns for again and again. And to the question of how to tell a story about an animal that has lived far longer than humans, but hides between two shells for the vast majority of the time.

Hardcover with numerous illustrations
168 pages
2022
English sample available

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Andreas Ammer, born in Munich in 1960, is a television producer, university lecturer and opera director, but above all the author of numerous award-winning radio plays in collaboration with musicians such as FM Einheit, Ulrike Haage, The Notwist, Acid Pauli and Driftmaschine.

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Samuel Hamen

Jellyfishes

 Matthes & Seitz Berlin

Jellyfish, the amazing "lungs of the seas" the most enigmatic yet beguiling creatures of the animal kingdom, in a luminous, richly illustrated portrait

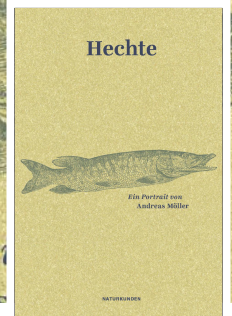
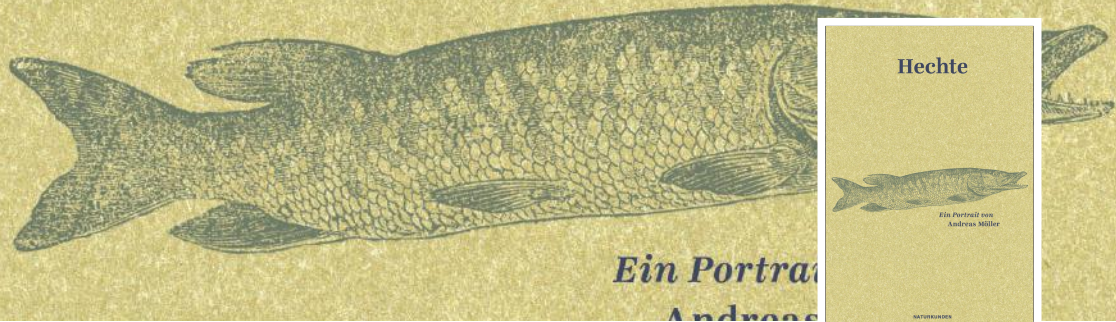
From the direct tides to the nearshore continental shelf zone, from the surface of the open sea down to its deepest, hardly explored areas, they make not only the water glow with their tremendously irritable, "like brain matter turned into skins" bodies: Jellyfish. Since time immemorial, medusae have eluded any kind of definition. They twist and turn like organized water in the waves flowing around them and make the imagination spark. But whether as a disruptive factor or symbol of the digital and immersive, as a creative idea of Art Deco, as a spineless horror, alien of the sea, queer heraldic animal, or alarmist emblem of a radical change in which even scientists sometimes reach their limits - jellyfish, as Samuel Hamen shows in this dazzling portrait, do not twitch with eyelashes but with tentacles that, depending on the species, can cause severe burns even on fleeting contact. Whoever nevertheless dares to follow their hovering movements is revealed an insight into the earliest history of the earth as well as into all conceivable futures.

Essay
Hardcover with numerous illustrations
143 pages
2022
English sample translation available

Samuel Hamen, born in Luxembourg City in 1988, is a writer, literary critic for Deutschlandfunk and ZEIT Online, among others, and president of the Luxembourg writers' association A:LL. Most recently, he was awarded the Luxembourg Book Prize 2020 and an annual fellowship from the Kunststiftung Baden-Württemberg.

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Open sea · Twists · Waves · Alien · Tentacles · Burns



Andreas Möller

Pikes

The fish of the hour: Hardly affected by climate change, the pike is proving to be an astonishingly robust species that has always held a great fascination for humans

It has been called the "water devil" and the "embodiment of evil and mischief". The allusions to the largest and most dangerous predatory fish of our latitudes are as manifold as they are deceptive. Henry David Thoreau paid tribute to it, as did Vladimir Putin, who poses with pike as an expression of strength and virility. But the pike is also a symbol of a lively, popular sense of humor: when there's a draught like pike soup, you'd better close your windows and doors, and a great pike is a peppy guy who gets to his destination with chutzpah. Andreas Möller traces the reasons for this ambivalence in his ravishing portrait. He shows the pike as the great loner of our waters, which consistently refuses industrial exploitation like no other edible fish. Pike catches are always individual and chance catches that cannot be calculated. Pike is a gripping and poetic portrait, richly peppered with cultural-historical observations on fishing, on everyday photography or on the preparation of pike heads. But it is also a plea for the concrete and vivid experience of nature and the reverent feeling of natural beauty.

 Matthes & Seitz Berlin

Essay
Hardcover with numerous illustrations
159 pages
2022
English sample translation available

Andreas Möller, born in Rostock in 1974, was a journalist at Deutschlandfunk Kultur, headed the political consultancy of the German Academy of Science and Engineering (acatech) and is now head of communications at the mechanical engineering company Trumpf.

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Predatory fish · Virility · Humor · Deception · Soup · Loner

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