



**FESTIVAL
NEUE
LITERATUR**
MARCH 23–25, 2018

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**PUBLISHER BARBARA PERLMUTTER TO RECEIVE
2018 FRIEDRICH ULFERS PRIZE AT OPENING CEREMONY OF
9TH ANNUAL FESTIVAL NEUE LITERATUR**

New York, March 21, 2018 – The Friedrich Ulfers Prize will be presented to Barbara Perlmutter at the exclusive opening ceremony of NYC’s Festival Neue Literatur tomorrow. Robert Weil, Editor-in-Chief and Publishing Director for Liveright and former Ulfers Prize winner, will present Perlmutter with the award.

“I’m quite humbled to be chosen for this award. It was such a surprise,” said Perlmutter. “I began work for S. Fischer Verlag in Fall of 1978. What I found was a trove of the most important German-language literature and, beside my work as scout, I helped keep in print S. Fischer’s classics – and find publishers for their young authors.”

Barbara Perlmutter began her career in publishing in New York during the mid-sixties, working at the Joan Daves Literary Agency in New York. Perlmutter offered their German classics and new young German authors to US publishers, for translation into English. From 1978 on, Perlmutter worked as scout and representative for S. Fischer Verlag, handling the oeuvre of many German classics in need of new agreements, new translations, complicated copyright searches, or even first translations altogether. These included the works of Thomas Mann, Franz Werfel, Franz Kafka, Elias Canetti, and contemporary authors, like Judith Hermann, Gerhard Roth, Dieter Kühn and Monika Maron

“To think of her as a mere agent would be a serious misnomer,” said Weil. “Given her nuanced knowledge of German and English literature, Barbara is both scholar and secret academic, bringing an understanding to both languages that is remarkable.”

The Friedrich Ulfers Prize, which is awarded annually by Deutsches Haus at NYU, is endowed with a \$5,000 grant and honors a publisher, writer, critic, translator, or scholar who has championed the advancement of German-language literature in the United States. Previous recipients of the Friedrich Ulfers Prize include Burton Pike, Barbara Epler, Sara Bershtel, and Carol Brown Janeway.

ABOUT FRIEDRICH ULFERS

Friedrich Ulfers is Associate Professor of German at New York University. In the past he also served as Assistant Dean of the College of Arts and Science, the German Department's Director of Undergraduate Studies, Director of the NYU in Berlin Summer Program and Director of Deutsches Haus at NYU. The recipient of NYU's Distinguished Teaching Medal and Great Teacher Award, and two-time winner of the College of Arts and Science's Golden Dozen Award for Excellence in Teaching, Ulfers has taught not only in the German Department but also in NYU's interdisciplinary programs, offering courses that engage a range of interests, including literary theory, continental philosophy, and the relationships between science, literature, and philosophy. Friedrich Ulfers is also affiliated with the European Graduate School in Saas-Fee, Switzerland. He served there as professor of Philosophy, teaching an intensive Summer Seminar on Nietzsche and 20th/21st Century Thought and giving a variety of lectures. From 2006-2009 he was Dean of the Media and Communications Division of the School, and in 2009 he was appointed Professor Emeritus.

ABOUT FESTIVAL NEUE LITERATUR: Festival Neue Literatur (FNL) is a collaborative project of New York's leading German-language cultural institutions: the Austrian Cultural Forum, the German Consulate General New York, the Consulate General of Switzerland, Columbia University School of the Arts, Deutsches Haus at NYU, the Frankfurt Book Fair New York (formerly the German Book Office New York), the Goethe-Institut New York, and Pro Helvetia. All FNL events are free of charge, though RSVPs are required. The 2018 festival will take place from March 22 to 25, 2018. Festival Neue Literatur 2018 is made possible through generous support from the BMW North America, German Federal Foreign Office, and Radeberger Gruppe.