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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

FESTIVAL NEUE LITERATUR POSTPONES ANNUAL FESTIVAL CONTINUES TO PROMOTE GERMAN-LANGUAGE WRITERS

New York, April 8, 2020 – Each spring, the annual Festival Neue Literatur spotlights German-language and American fiction together in a weekend of panels, readings, and events. In light of the latest development regarding COVID-19, the organizers of the Festival Literatur 2020 regret to announce that the Festival Neue Literatur 2020 has been postponed until next year. While we are deeply saddened by this turn of events, it is our utmost priority to ensure a safe and healthy environment for our community, which at this time calls for us to minimize gatherings.

The theme chosen for the the 2020 festival was “Turn and Face the Strange,” curated by award-winning translators Alta L. Price and Tess Lewis. The German-language writers who were to be featured this year are **Anna Baar, Isabel Fargo Cole, Judith Keller, Benjamin Quaderer, Sasha Marianna Salzmann, and Ivna Žic.**

Each year, the festival compiles English-language excerpts of the featured German-language works, often marking the first appearance of these texts in English. Though the events for this year will be cancelled, the translations of these authors work still will be available on the festival website at www.festivalneueliteratur.org. The books featured this year explore the strangeness, uncanniness, and eeriness that sometimes lurks just beneath the surface of daily life and can break out full force in times of change—whether large or small, internal or external, real or imagined, spatial or temporal. We start with out-of-body experiences, the loneliness of a con-man in a tiny country, a lost twin, time travel in and out of complicated pasts and no less complicated presents, poisonous bees, a miracle or two, deer-headed intruders, along with a series of far-fetched women—and then things get really strange.

More on the featured authors:

- **Anna Baar** (Austria) was born in Zagreb, Yugoslavia, and spent her youth in Austria and on the Dalmatian island of Brač. An excerpt of her first novel, *Die Farbe des Granatapfels* (“The Color of the Pomegranate”), was shortlisted for the 2015 Bachmann Prize and was awarded the Rotahorn Literature Prize. Her second novel, *Als ob sie träumend gingen* (“As if they were Walking in a Dream”), won the 2017 Theodor Körner Prize.

- **Isabel Fargo Cole** (Germany) grew up in New York City, received a BA from the University of Chicago in 1995, and has lived in Berlin ever since as a writer and translator. Her translation of Wolfgang Hilbig's *Old Rendering Plant* received the 2018 Kurt & Helen Wolff Prize. Her debut novel *Die grüne Grenze* was nominated for the 2017 Klaus Michael Kühne Prize and the Prize of the Leipzig Book Fair. Her second novel, *Das Gift der Biene*, was selected for the 2019 LiteraTour Nord.
- **Judith Keller** (Switzerland) studied in Zurich, Biel, Leipzig, Berlin, and Bogotá. She has served as editor of the literary magazine *Edit*, and in 2014 received the New German Fiction Award for her short story *Wo ist das letzte Haus?*, translated by Katy Derbyshire and published by Readux Books as *The Last House*. Her award-winning book *Die Fragwürdigen* ("The Questionable Ones"), published in 2017, has also been adapted for theater and featured as a radio play.
- **Benjamin Quaderer** (Liechtenstein) studied creative writing in Hildesheim and Vienna. He has served as co-editor of the literary journal *BELLA triste* and artistic director of PROSANOVA 2014—Festival for Young Literature. *Für immer die Alpen* ("The Alps Forever") is his first novel, an excerpt of which was awarded second place in Germany's Open Mike 2016 competition and won the author a scholarship from the Senate of Berlin.
- **Sasha Marianna Salzmann** (Germany) was born in Volgograd and grew up in Moscow. In 1995 they emigrated with their family to Germany and studied literature, theater, and media in Hildesheim. They have been awarded multiple accolades for their plays, and their novel *Ausser Sich*—translated by Imogen Taylor and published this February by Other Press as *Beside Myself*—was shortlisted for the German Book Prize in 2017. Salzmann now teaches creative writing in Germany, Turkey, Moldova, Spain, Italy, and the U.S.
- **Ivna Žic** (Switzerland) was born in Zagreb, Yugoslavia, grew up in Zurich, and studied theater and scriptwriting in Giessen, Hamburg, and Graz. In addition to writing, for the past decade she has directed plays at the Maxim Gorki Theater in Berlin, the Schauspielhaus in Vienna, the Theater St. Gallen, and other stages throughout Europe. Her 2019 debut novel, *Die Nachkommende* ("Those who come After"), was nominated for the Austrian Book Prize as well as the Swiss Book Prize.

Festival Neue Literatur is the first and only festival to spotlight German-language and American fiction together. It was established in 2009 as a collaborative project of New York's leading German-language cultural institutions: Austrian Cultural Forum New York, Consulate General of Switzerland, German Consulate General New York, Deutsches Haus at NYU, German Book Office/ Frankfurt Book Fair New York Inc., Goethe-Institut New York, and Pro Helvetia.

This year's Friedrich Ulfers Prize, which was supposed to be awarded to Jill Schoolman, publisher of Archipelago Books, during the opening night of Festival Neue Literatur in April, will be postponed as well. The prize 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 Susan Bernofsky, Barbara Perlmutter, Barbara Epler, Burton Pike, Robert Weil, Sara Bershtel, and the late Carol Brown Janeway.

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, and the Goethe-Institut New York. All FNL events are free of charge, though RSVPs are required due to limited seating. Festival Neue Literatur 2019 is made possible through the generous support of the German Federal Foreign Office, Swiss Arts Council Pro Helvetia, the German Academic Exchange (DAAD), Esterhazy Winery, and Radeberger Gruppe, as well as festival media sponsors A Public Space, Publishing Perspectives, STILL Magazine, The Virtual Memories Show, and Words Without Borders.