

January 18, 2013

The Fourth Annual Festival Neue Literatur Announces New Authors

Six rising German-language writers and two notable American authors have been selected to participate in the Fourth Annual Festival Neue Literatur.

NEW YORK - Festival Neue Literatur (FNL), New York's preeminent German-language literary festival, will be celebrating its fourth year from February 22 - 24, 2013 across various locations in Brooklyn and Manhattan. This year's festival, under the curatorial direction of Susan Bernofsky and Claudia Steinberg, features six accomplished writers from the contemporary German-language literary scene, including: Tim Krohn (Switzerland), Ulrike Ulrich (Switzerland), Clemens Setz (Austria), Cornelia Travnicek (Austria), Leif Randt (Germany), and Silke Schuermann (Germany).

"It was such a challenge picking authors this year - far too many brilliant, challenging, funny, heartbreaking writers to choose from. As usual, we were on the lookout for young, fresh voices doing something surprising or new in their work," said Susan Bernofsky, FNL curator, author and acclaimed translator.

The slate of German-language authors will be joined by prominent American writers Joshua Cohen and Joshua Ferris in a series of panel discussion throughout the festival weekend. Cohen has written three novels and three short story collections. His most recent novel *Witz*, which explores the life of the last Jewish man on earth, will be his featured work in the festival. Ferris is author of several short stories and two novels, including *Then We Came to the End*. Ferris' *The Unnamed* (2010), a novel about an attorney's mysterious disorder, will be his featured work.

Curators Susan Bernofsky and Claudia Steinberg have devised two signature discussion panels for this year's festival. The first panel entitled "Closed Circuits: Shrunken Dystopias," will tackle the topic of dystopian and utopian communities. Featured panel authors will include: Leif Randt, Silke Scheuermann, Clemens Setz and Joshua Cohen. The second panel "Breaking Away: Contemporary Travelogues" will engage with themes of escape discovery and avoidance. Featured panel authors are: Tim Krohn, Cornelia Travnicek, Ulrike Ulrich, and Joshua Ferris.

"We looked for topics relevant to what we've been seeing not only in American literature these days but also in the sorts of stories we've been hearing on the news and in our circles of friends," said FNL curator and journalist Claudia Steinberg.

This year's festival will also include a new prize awarded by Deutsches Haus at NYU to a leading publisher, writer, critic, translator or scholar who has championed the advancement of German-language literature in the United States. The first recipient of the newly established prize will be awarded during the opening ceremony of this year's FNL on February 21 at the Goethe-Institut New York. A jury composed of representatives of FNL's participating institutions will select the inaugural winner, who will receive \$5,000 donated by Professor Ulfers.

For a full list of FNL events visit: <http://festivalneueliteratur.org/>

About Festival Neue Literatur

Festival Neue Literatur (FNL) is New York's first and only annual German-language literary festival, established in 2009 as a collaborative project of New York's leading German-language cultural institutions: the Austrian Cultural Forum, Consulate General of Switzerland, Consulate General of the Federal Republic of Germany, Deutsches Haus at Columbia University, Deutsches



**FEB
22-24
2013**

Haus at NYU, German Book Office, Goethe-Institut New York, and Pro Helvetia. Each year FNL brings six of the best up-and-coming German-language authors from Austria, Germany and Switzerland to NYC. For New York literary fans it is a rare opportunity to tap into the flourishing German-language literary landscape.

Over the festival weekend, featured authors engage in a series of panels and readings with American guest authors. Past American authors include: Francisco Goldman, Chris Adrian, Rivka Galchen and Francine Prose. Festival Neue Literatur 2013 will feature authors Clemens Setz and Cornelia Travnicek of Austria, Leif Randt and Silke Scheuermann of Germany and Tim Krohn and Ulrike Ulrich of Switzerland, along with American authors Joshua Cohen and Joshua Ferris. FNL 2013 will proceed under the curatorial direction of Susan Bernofsky and Claudia Steinberg.

Learn more about the festival at www.festivalneueliteratur.org. Visit FNL on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/FestivalNeueLiteratur> and on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/FestNeueLit>

FNL Media Contact:

Dustin Cosentino
media@festivalneueliteratur.org
212 439 8700