

NYC “FESTIVAL NEUE LITERATUR 2014” LINE-UP ANNOUNCED

Next February, Monique Truong and Keith Gessen participate in panels and readings with six authors from Austria, Germany, and Switzerland

New York, November 2013 - Festival Neue Literatur 2014, New York’s only annual German-language literary festival held in English, will take place from **February 27 to March 2, 2014**, at venues throughout NYC. This will be the fifth installment of Festival Neue Literatur (FNL), where New York City once again plays host to **six authors from Austria, Germany, and Switzerland**. These authors are literary stars in the German-language world—but their oeuvre still remains to be discovered by U.S. readers.

The 2014 FNL-authors were announced at a press preview in midtown Manhattan: **Milena Michiko Flašar** and **Maja Haderlap** (Austria), **Olga Grjasnowa** and **Abbas Khider** (Germany), **Melinda Nadj Abonji** and **Richard Weihe** (Switzerland), with special U.S. guest authors **Monique Truong** and **Keith Gessen**. The festival’s tongue-in-cheek motto, “Discover famous* authors nobody** has heard of (*Austrian, German, and Swiss **in the U.S.),” speaks to this dichotomy and extends an invitation to New York audiences to participate in the three-day festival, which will include readings and discussions in Manhattan and Brooklyn.

The theme of the 2014 festival, which was curated by eminent translator and writer **Tess Lewis**, is **Border Crossings**. While the Festival features writers who identify as Austrian, German, or Swiss, their backgrounds could not be more diverse. “They are exiles, refugees, or immigrants, who live and write between several languages and cultures. With heartbreak and flashes of dark humor, their novels recount the stories of men and women buffeted by shifting world orders, stranded on foreign territory at home and abroad,” says Lewis.

Every winter, the festival pairs the six visiting authors with two U.S. authors, who bring an American perspective and sensibility to these events, creating a dynamic of literary exchange and discourse. The 2014 festival will proudly feature two celebrated American writers, the Vietnamese-American novelist **Monique Truong** and Russian-born novelist, journalist, and co-founder of the literary magazine *n + 1*, **Keith Gessen**. Former U.S. guests have included Chris Adrian, Joseph O’Neill, Francine Prose, and Joshua Ferris, among others.

The **Friedrich Ulfers Prize**, which was awarded for the first time in 2013, will be presented at the festival’s exclusive opening ceremony. 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. Martin Rauchbauer, the director of Deutsches Haus at NYU, announced the 2014 recipient of the prize, **Sara Bershtel**.

Bershtel, who is a publisher at Metropolitan Books, has introduced countless important German-language authors to the American public, in some cases even before they were known in the German-speaking world. Peter Schneider, Hans Magnus Enzensberger, Christoph Hein, as well as Nobel laureate Herta and Paul Amirian Award recipient Herta and Paul Amirian Award recipient Herta Mueller have been made accessible to U.S. readers largely due to her efforts.

Each year, the festival also produces a **reader** featuring excerpts from the authors' books. The 2014 reader is now available for download in an electronic version on the festival website at www.festivalneueliteratur.org.

Admission to all FNL events is free, though RSVPs are required due to limited seating.

FNL 2014 EVENT LINE-UP:

FRIDAY, FEB 28, 2014 | 1PM – 5PM

Encounters Across the Ocean

With: All six German-language authors

Moderator: Tess Lewis

All six novelists from Austria, Germany, and Switzerland will present their latest work in a discussion with Columbia University graduate students from the Department of Germanic Languages and the Creative Writing Program.

VENUE: DEUTSCHES HAUS AT COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

SATURDAY, MAR 1, 2014 | 6PM – 8PM

Memory and Language: Angels or Demons

With: Maja Haderlap, Melinda Nadj Abonji, Milena Michiko Flašar, and Monique Truong

Moderator: Tess Lewis

To what extent does language determine identity and one's understanding of the world? Is the fickleness of memory a burden or a liberation?

VENUE: POWERHOUSE ARENA

SUNDAY, MAR 2, 2014 | 12PM – 2PM

Literary Brunch

With: All six German-language authors

Moderator: Tess Lewis

The six German-language authors of Festival Neue Literatur give a sampling of their work, providing a taste of new writing from Austria, Germany, and Switzerland. Traditional German fare will be served.

VENUE: DEUTSCHES HAUS AT NYU

SUNDAY, MAR 2, 2014 | 6PM – 8PM

Search for Roots: Exile's Revolving Doors

With: Olga Grjasnowa, Abbas Khider, Richard Weihe, and Keith Gessen

Moderator: Tess Lewis

Are we all 'rootless cosmopolitans' now? An ever-increasing population of exiles and refugees travel the world bearing private burdens of trauma and conflict, at home everywhere and nowhere. What is rootedness today?

VENUE: McNALLY JACKSON BOOKS

ABOUT FESTIVAL NEUE LITERATUR:

Festival Neue Literatur (FNL) was established as a collaborative project of New York's leading German-language cultural institutions: the Austrian Cultural Forum, the Consulate General of Switzerland, the Consulate General of Germany, Deutsches Haus at Columbia University, Deutsches Haus at NYU, the German Book Office, Goethe-Institut New York, and Pro Helvetia. All FNL events are free of charge, though RSVPs are required. The 2014 Festival will take place from February 27 to March 2, 2014.

>> festivalneueliteratur.org

Festival Neue Literatur 2014 is made possible through generous support from BMW of North America.

FESTIVAL VENUES:

Deutsches Haus at Columbia University

420 West 116th Street
New York, NY 10027
Phone: 212.854.1858
columbia.edu/cu/german/deutsches-haus

Deutsches Haus at New York University

42 Washington Mews
New York, NY 10003
Phone: 212.998.8660
dhnyu.org

powerHouse Arena

37 Main Street
Brooklyn, NY 11201
Phone: 718.666.3049
powerhousearena.com

McNally Jackson Books

52 Prince Street
New York, NY 10012
Phone: 212.274.1160
mcnallyjackson.com