

“FESTIVAL NEUE LITERATUR 2015” LINE-UP ANNOUNCED

This February, Adam Haslett and Tiphonie Yanique participate in panels and readings with six authors from Austria, Germany, and Switzerland

New York, January 2015 - Festival Neue Literatur, New York’s only annual German-language literary festival held in English, will take place from **February 19–22, 2015**, at venues throughout New York City. This will be the sixth installment of Festival Neue Literatur, where New York City once again plays host to **six authors from Austria, Germany, and Switzerland**. These authors are rising stars in the German-language world—but their oeuvre still remains to be discovered by U.S. readers.

The 2015 Festival features the following authors: **Marjana Gaponenko** and **Anna Weidenholzer** (Austria), **Navid Kermani** and **Matthias Nawrat** (Germany), **Jonas Lüscher** and **Monique Schwitter** (Switzerland), and **Adam Haslett** and **Tiphonie Yanique** (United States).

The theme of the 2015 festival, which was curated by eminent translator and writer **Tess Lewis**, is **Love and Money**. Half of this year’s featured authors explore the seven types of love as defined by the ancient Greeks, as well as their flip sides and the spaces in between. The books illustrate a wide variety of characters and types of love, from first teenage infatuation to an elderly ornithologist whose first and only love was for birds to a family that encounters emotional struggles within itself. When it comes to taboos, however, money often trumps love. The other half of this year’s featured authors tackle the delicate issue of money with a sharp, satirical eye. These books examine the less visible ways financial crises warp personal lives and the social fabric, and tell the stories of English bankers stranded in a Tunisian resort, a family living in a dystopian Black Forest, and a middle-aged woman who struggles to maintain her dignity after being declared redundant.

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 2015 festival will proudly feature two celebrated American writers, the novelist and short story writer **Adam Haslett**, and Caribbean-born fiction writer, poet and essayist **Tiphonie Yanique**. Former U.S. guests have included Keith Gessen, Francine Prose, Joseph O’Neill, 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 to **Robert Weil**, Editor-in-Chief and Publishing Director at Liveright, a division of W. W. Norton & Company. 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.

The celebrated and widely-translated Vietnamese-American novelist **Monique Truong** will be the Chair of Festival Neue Literatur 2015. “Writers or rather our works begin the conversations about the difficult,

unanswerable subjects of life, and often our works keep the conversations going when everyone else would rather forget. We are the antidote to bread and circuses,” she states. The festival extends an invitation to New York audiences to discover singular voices from across Europe and the United States in readings and discussions in Manhattan and Brooklyn.

Each year, the festival also produces a **reader** featuring excerpts from the authors’ books. The 2015 reader will be 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 2015 EVENT LINE-UP:

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 1–5pm

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 graduate students from the Department of Germanic Languages and the Writing Program.

VENUE: DEUTSCHES HAUS AT COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 12:30–2:30pm

For the Love of Translation

With: Michael Reynolds, Tim Mohr, Michael Wise, Ross Ufberg

Moderator: Sal Robinson

Featured editors and translators will pair off and discuss a memorable literary translation. Their discussion will not only recount the critical decisions of their editing coordination, but will demystify their collaboration process.

VENUE: BOWERY POETRY CLUB

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 6–8pm

Money Changes Everything

With: Anna Weidenholzer, Matthias Nawrat, Jonas Lüscher, Adam Haslett

Moderator: Eric Banks

Is money making the world go round or under? What are the effects of today’s ever more impenetrable financial system on social mobility and the life of the imagination? What, exactly, is trickling down?

VENUE: POWERHOUSE ARENA

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 12–2pm

A Literary Brunch

With: All six German-language authors

Moderator: Tess Lewis

The six German-language authors of Festival Neue Literatur give a sampling from 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, FEBRUARY 22, 6–8pm

Love—It's Complicated

With: Marjana Gaponenko, Navid Kermani, Monique Schwitter, Tiphonie Yanique

Moderator: Eric Jarosinski

The Ancient Greeks defined seven kinds of love, but didn't categorize the many sub-genres, variations, adaptations, and permutations. Let's talk.

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 Germany, the Consulate General of Switzerland, 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 2015 Festival will take place from February 19 to 22, 2015.

www.festivalneueliteratur.org

Festival Neue Literatur 2015 is made possible through generous support from BMW of North America.

FESTIVAL VENUES:

Bowery Poetry Club

309 Bowery

New York, NY 10012

www.boweryartsandscience.org/

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

McNally Jackson Books

52 Prince Street

New York, NY 10012

Phone: 212.274.1160

mcnallyjackson.com

powerHouse Arena

37 Main Street Brooklyn

New York, NY 11201

Phone: 718.666.3049

powerhousearena.com