With a clear profile in international and German fiction, Unseld personifies the kind of publisher who has become a rarity in his generation: one who combines a nose for literary discoveries with savvy business sense.«

FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE ZEITUNG
FRANKFURTER VERLAGSANSTALT

1995 – 2020: 25th YEAR JUBILEE – A GOOD REASON TO CELEBRATE!

The FRANKFURTER VERLAGSANSTALT, headed by Joachim Unseld, publishes the latest contemporary literary voices. Our program has successfully provided an important forum for significant new discoveries since we started in 1995.

Outstanding contemporary writers such as Bodo Kirchhoff and Nino Haratischwili, as well as Julia Wolf, Mareike Fallwickl, Susanne Gregor, Zoë Jenny, Ulla Lenze, Nora Bossong, Marion Poschmann, Minka Pradelski and many more have been published by the Frankfurter Verlaganstalt. In the past years some of our authors, among them Zoë Jenny and Thomas von Steinaceaekr, have been awarded the ZDF AspektE Prize for Best Literary Debut in Germany and three of them, Zoë Jenny (1997), Ulla Lenze (2003) and Sandra Weihls (2015), the Jürgen Ponto Prize for Best German Debut. Julia Wolf was awarded the 3sat Prize 2016, the Nicolas Born Prize for Best Young Author 2017, the Robert Gernhardt Prize 2018 and longlisted for the German Book Prize 2017 for her latest novel Walter Nowak Won’t Get Up. And recently, Karoline Menge was awarded the Ulla Hahn Prize For Best German Debut 2018 for her first novel Waiting For The Snow. Two years in a row two of our authors have been awarded the prestigious Literature Prize of the Association of Arts and Culture of the German Economy: Ulla Lenze (2016) and Nino Haratischwili (2015).

In 2016, our bestselling author Bodo Kirchhoff was awarded the German Book Prize for his outstanding novella Widerfahrnis. His novel Dusk And Turmoil: A Novel Of The Early Years, published in 2018, received a myriad of enthusiastic reviews.

Nino Haratischwili’s brilliant and highly-acclaimed family saga The Eighth Life (For Brilka) has been sold to several countries and has become an international bestseller. Furthermore, the author has been awarded the Anna Séghehrs Literature Prize in 2015, the Bertolt Brecht Literature Prize in 2018 and the Schiller Memorial Prize in 2019. Her latest novel The Cat And The General was shortlisted for the German Book Prize 2018. The English Edition of The Eighth Life (For Brilka), translated by Charlotte Collins and Ruth Martin, published by Scribe, is nominated for the 2020 International Booker Prize.

Authors

German language:
Sven Amtsgberg • Juliane Balďy • J.R. Bechtle • Claire Beyer • Silvio Blatter • Britta Boerder • Nora Bossong • Anne Brannys • Hans Christoph Buch • Ruth Cerha • Mareike Fallwickl • Anna Galkina • Dieter M. Gräf • Susanne Gregor • Günter Hack • Nino Haratischwili • Ernst-Wilhelm Händler • Christa Hein • Zoë Jenny • Stephan Kaluza • Fee Katrin Kanzler • Katharina Köller • Elsa Koester • Tanja Kinkel • Bodo Kirchhoff • Sabine Kray • Helmut Kuhn • Heike Kühn • Thomas Kunst • Ulla Lenze • Demian Lienhard • Gert Loschütz • Marcel Maas • Julia Malik • Thomas Martini • Karoline Menge • Alfred Neven DuMont • Christoph Peters • Marion Poschmann • Minka Pradelski • Julia Rothenburg • Stefan Scheufelen • David Schönher • Roberto Schopflocher • Corinna T. Sievers • Hannah Simon • Stefanie Sourlier • Thomas Strittmatter • Thomas von Steinaceaekr • Sandra Weihs • Julia Wolf • Peter Zingler • Marcia Zuckermann

French language:
Geneviève Brisac • Paule Constant • Laurence Cossé • Pauline Delabroy-Allard • Nicolas Dickner • Marc Dugain • Tristan Garcia • Mathias Menegoz • Véronique Oválo • Yann Quefféléc • Jean-Philippe Toussaint

Spanish / Catalan language:
Juan Bas • Mario Bellatin • Javier Calvo • Vilma Fuentes • Quim Monzó • Sergi Pàmies • Fernando del Paso • Ana Maria del Rio • Isaac Rosa • David Trueba • Pablo Tusset • Angela Vallvey

English and American language:
Margaux Fragoso • Stuart Evers • Dagoberto Gilb • Ted Hughes • Sylvia Plath • Steven Sherill

And:
Lasha Bugadze • Christian Frascella • Anna Kordsaia-Samadashwili • Pavel Lembersky • Guðmundur Öskarsson • Margaret Mazzantini • Menis Koumandareas • Juliana Matanovic • Besnik Mustafaj • Maya Rasker • Goderdzi Tschocheli

Publisher
Joachim Unseld
Frankfurter Verlaganstalt • Arndtstrasse 11 • 60325 Frankfurt am Main • Germany
Tel +49 69 74 30 55 90 • Fax +49 69 74 30 55 91 • literatur@fva.de

WWW.FVA.DE
«The Eighth Life (For Brilka)» is an epochal novel about a family, a powerfully written epos about eight exceptional lives in the vicissitudes of Georgian-Russian War and Revolution.

Georgia in 1900: Stasia, daughter of a chocolate factory’s owner, and her three sisters grow up in the upper echelons of Georgian society. Stasia dreams of a life in Paris and a career in ballet but at 17 marries a White Guard soldier. When Stalin becomes the sole leader of the Soviet Union, the socialist squads enjoy the good life, whilst the country’s impoverished population suffers. Stasia and her children Kitty and Kostja seek shelter in the house of Stasia’s sister Christine in Tbilisi. But when Stalin’s right-hand man Lawreenti Beria takes notice of Christine’s astonishing beauty, it has disastrous consequences.

The Eighth Life is an epic family saga beginning with the Russian Revolution and swirling across a century, encompassing war, loss, love, ghosts, joy, massacres, tragedy – and hot chocolate.

Nino Haratischwili, born in Georgia in 1983, writing in German, is an internationally bestselling and award-winning novelist, playwright and director. «The Eighth Life (For Brilka)» has been awarded the prestigious BDI Literature Prize of the Association of Arts and Culture of the German Economy 2015, the Anna Seghers Prize 2015, the Lessing Prize Stipend 2017, the Bertolt Brecht Prize 2018 and the Schiller Memorial Prize 2019. Her novel »The Cat And The General« was shortlisted for the German Book Prize 2018. The Dutch edition (Atlas contact 2016) was longlisted for the Europese Literatuurprijs 2018. The English translation by Charlotte Collins and Ruth Martin won the PEN Translates award 2016 and is nominated for the 2020 International Booker Prize.
Chechnya, 1995: Nura is seventeen when the outbreak of war shatters her dream of seeking freedom and autonomy, born on the day that Natalia handed her a Rubik’s Cube and left. She’d meant to escape the confines of the village where clans reign and Islamic guards have a watchful eye over everyday life, but the war ends up changing everything.

Moscow, 1995: The young Alexander Orlow fears for his future. A backpack full of books and his mother’s expectations on his shoulders, he leaves behind the love of his life to fight the war at the North Caucasian front.

Berlin 2016: Alexander Orlow has become a multi-billion-dollar oligarch, known as »the General«. He has turned his back on Russia and moved to Germany. His nineteen-year-old daughter is obsessed with her father’s past and when she begins asking questions, the images of war suddenly come rushing back to Alexander. The darkest and most violent of them: the night that left a young Chechnyan woman with nothing but a colorful cube and himself with an unbearable sense of guilt. But the General feels the day of reckoning coming ...

After her celebrated epic novel »The Eighth Life (for Brilka)« Nino Haratischwili has once again turned towards the abyss that lies beneath the rubble left behind by the crumbling of the Soviet Union. »The Cat and the General« is a gripping psychological exploration of crime and punishment. As within a Rubik’s Cube, the protagonist’s fates revolve around a shared axis of love and guilt – a deadly game must come to a head.

Nino Haratischwili, born in Georgia in 1983, writing in German, is an internationally bestselling and award-winning novelist, playwright and director. »The Eighth Life (For Brilka)« has been awarded the prestigious BDI Literature Prize of the Association of Arts and Culture of the German Economy 2015, the Anna Seghers Prize 2015, the Lessing Prize Stipend 2017, the Bertolt Brecht Prize 2018 and the Schiller Prize 2019. The English translation of »The Eighth Life (For Brilka)« by Charlotte Collins and Ruth Martin won the PEN Translates award 2016 and is nominated for the 2020 International Booker Prize. Her novel »The Cat And The General« was shortlisted for the German Book Prize 2018.

Rights sold to:
Catalonia (Navona)
France (Belfond)
Georgia (Intelekti)
Hungary (Európa)
Italy (Marsilio)
Netherlands (Meridiaan)
Poland (Otwarte)
Spain/Latin America (Alfaguara)

Die Katze und der General
Novel. German.
Release: 31th August 2018
Rights held: World Rights

Shortlist German Book Prize 2018 – Jury evaluation:
»Every sentence here attests to the joy of storytelling. From the first page, the reader is right in the middle of this novel of guilt and atonement, feverishly following the general’s plan for revenge. Narrative threads full of questions run below the novel’s thriller-like surface: What effect does the ›toxic past‹ have on the present? Are wars never over? ... everything is told with powerful imagery and sensuousness: Great cinema!«
December 1946: Bärel is the first Jewish child born in the Catholic hospital since the end of the war. His parents, Klara and Leon Bromberger, decide not to look back anymore and to only care for the future. But a fateful encounter throws Klara back into the past. She starts to write her memories down...

«This one makes the impression he has seen the world before«, comments the doctor on the newborn, the hospital’s first Jewish child since the end of the war. The nuns, who were still in need of someone to be the Saviour in the nativity play, sneak him into the crib: «Jesus was also born as a Jew».

Ice flowers were the only flowers Klara and Leon Bromberger had at their wedding in January 1946. It was a celebration without family since Klara and Leon are the only survivors. A golden watch is the last remaining souvenir. Less than a year later, expecting the birth of their son Bärel, they both want to move on and to look forward. But during a walk in a park, Klara is suddenly struck: The short and obviously pregnant woman is Liliput, her former camp commander! Klara can no longer speak or eat. She even stops looking after Bärel. Her husband is desperate. He sees only one way out for Klara: «Start writing, Klara, get it out there. Avert the evil on paper! Chain it with your words!»

Klara dares to look back into the abyss and writes herself back to life. She describes: Her father’s elegant shoe shop, the ghetto Zamość and the hasty farewell, the escape, the strangely flashing eyes of old Piasecki, her work in the casino in Lublin – the cave of the lion. Klara writes about the camp, the hunger, the freezing cold, about Martha’s bell-bright, unforgettable Hail Mary – and about the delicate, ice-cold commander with the child’s voice, they called Liliput.

Minka Pradelski was born in 1947 in the DP camp Zeilsheim (Germany) as a child of Holocaust survivors. After her internationally successful novel »Here Comes Mrs. Kugelman« (FVA 2005) her new book is about a chapter of German history whose contemporary witnesses are dwindling. Pradelski impressively combines the voices of her three protagonists into a moving narrative: Klara’s deeply tragic and touching story, Bromberger’s rough, loving temperament and baby Bärels’ cheeky viewpoint complement each other. Pradelski addresses the in-between her characters find themselves in during the post-war period, as close to death as they are to life. Surrounded by their memories which might light up any second, they struggle for a future.

Minka Pradelski is a German sociologist and documentary filmmaker. She worked as an assistant with Clemens de Boor at the Sigmund Freud Institute on the project »The aftermath of massive traumatization among Jewish survivors of the Nazi era« and as an honorary member of the Steven Spielberg Shoah Foundation. Pradelski lives in Frankfurt am Main.
Three Women. Three Political Upheavals. Three Fates.

Lisa was proud to finally take part at one of the famous Pieds-Noirs couscous dinners. She imagined how all the families who had returned from Tunisia or Algeria would be sitting over couscous on Sundays and talking about the old days. I am a Pied-Noir, she said to herself, although she was not at all sure.

Why is it called Pied-Noir – Blackfoot?, she asked her mother. And her mother said, Ma chérie, it’s called that because we burned our feet in North Africa.

Cigarettes, cognac and books – the last few years in her Parisian apartment, centenarian Lucile prefers to spend her time reading in bed. Single, but not lonely, she allowed one book to drop to the floor each day as a sign, agreed upon with her neighbor, that she’s still alive.

Shortly after Lucile’s death, her daughter Marie also dies. What remains is the apartment on the Avenue de Flandre and the memories of two independent women, scarred by life. Lisa, Marie’s daughter, who lives in Berlin, wants to make a clean break and sell the apartment. The relationship between her mother and grandmother was explosive – Lucile, a Pied-Noir from Tunisia, had to return to France with her two daughters after independence. She was a strong, but self-absorbed woman – something Lisa knew from her own experience, but above all from her mother’s stories.

But, can Lisa really believe her mother’s stories? She had never recovered from the loss of her homeland, stumbling again and again in her attempt to gain a foothold in the new country. Her painful return to France, her first dramatic love in Paris in May 1968, her flight from Lucille’s attacks to Berlin, where Lisa was born years later – Marie told her daughter all of this. In these stories, one person was always responsible for her misfortune: Lucile.

While the protests of the Nuit Debout Movement rage in the streets in 2016, Lisa vacates her Paris apartment and tries to trace the relationship between her mother and grandmother. But the deeper she goes, the greater her doubts that there is any truth to her family.

Elsa Koester portrays three women of strong character whose fates are marked by social upheaval and crisis. The incredible lightness with which she interweaves the perspectives of three generations, the psychological depth, the individuality of the characters and the author’s socially perceptive view make this novel an unforgettable reading experience. Couscous with Cinnamon (WT) is a stirring family novel full of emotional warmth, empathy and a zest for storytelling.

Elsa Koester was born in 1984 in Berlin, the daughter of a French Pied-Noir with Tunisian colonial history and a North German Frisian with US-American emigration history. She studied literature, political science, and sociology and worked as a social media editor in the German Bundestag. As a journalist, she has been writing reports, political essays and portraits since 2015. The newly reignited debate about identity and homeland inspired her novel debut Couscous with Cinnamon (WT), which draws on her experience as a journalist and activist with a diverse cultural background.
The heroine of the novel is a modern woman who wants it all: family as well as a career as a successful opera singer. But all of a sudden, her ex-husband crosses her boundaries. She cracks up, celebrates, drinks, takes drugs, forgets the children in a hotel. A breathless search begins.

As she wakes up, she finds herself on the bed of a hotel room. The curtains float into the room like clouds in the sky. What the hell is she doing here? As if someone had pressed a reset button, all her memories are gone. Only slowly drizzing back into her consciousness. But then reality hits her like a stroke: She is a mum of two small children! She remembers having been at the opera, but what happened after that? One thing is for sure: she needs to find them, quickly.

A breathless search begins: She is running. She is chasing down streets. She has to get a grip on her life again and finally get the leading role in the opera.

The reader follows the heroine on her odyssey, driven by her concern for her children, in which everything is at stake: the well-being of her kids; her concept of her self, the idea that she has to combine being a career woman and mother; her feeling of having to defend herself against the self-sacrifice that everyday life as a single parent demands of her. A homeless person jumps in as a nanny, the ex-husband is replaced by a dog. She has had enough of pleasing everyone, which is why »About to burst« is the fast-paced liberation story of a mother on the verge of a nervous breakdown. It is a novel about the maternal instinct, lust, fear of failure, breakdown and self-assertion.

Julia Malik was born in Berlin. After finishing her acting studies at the »Hochschule für Musik und Theater« in Hamburg, she worked at various theatres, including the »Deutsches Schauspielhaus Hamburg« and the »Thalia Theater Hamburg«, the »Schauspielhaus Hannover« and the »Theatre National du Luxembourg«. Julia Malik is working as an actress in film and TV productions and plays the violin in the Berlin band »Hands up-excitement«. She lives in Berlin.
As he sets out to bring to life the eros of childhood and youth within an autobiographical novel, Bodo Kirchhoff takes us into narrow-minded, penny-pinching post-war Germany. It is these decades of dusk, these decades of turmoil, that will ultimately turn the boy into a writer.

Whose voice is it we hear when someone tells a tale from way back when? From the very same room in a small hotel by the sea, his parents had occupied decades earlier, when they’d still helped themselves to large servings of bliss, the last few of those, in fact, before they’d separated, the writer seeks to explore the emergence of his sexuality. And while he does employ professional distance in the telling of the story of his youth, putting it out there for anyone to claim, this story also remains the very path that took him into writing in the first place.

In »Dusk and Turmoil«, Bodo Kirchhoff, approaches early biographical themes within the framework of a novel, telling his own but also his parent’s stories. The beautiful young actress from Vienna and the dashing one-legged young man from Hannover who is talented but penniless – a match made by the war. Both are determined to escape the plight of these times, each in their own way. The marriage is doomed and the narrator sent off to boarding school at eleven, a dramatic escalation of small events, once again beyond all that is conceivable through language, a dance on an alluring blade of violence.

With this most recent work, Bodo Kirchhoff – who will be seventy on the 6th of July 2018 – continues his grand literary project to consolidate language and sexuality to a point where neither will expose the other as he tells a story of eros throughout childhood and adolescence, a story of what was and what it inspired.

Bodo Kirchhoff, born in 1948, is one of the most important and well-known authors of the contemporary German literature. His novels Desire and Melancholy (2014) and Love in Broad Strokes (2012) were published with Frankfurter Verlagsanstalt and celebrated by readers and critics alike. His novella Widerfahrnis has been awarded the German Book Prize 2016 and the Dutch edition (Lebowski 2017) has been shortlisted for the Europese Literatuurprijs 2018. The Chinese translation of Widerfahrnis was announced as the 21st Century Best Foreign Novel of the Year 2017.
Until recently, Reither ran a small publishing company in the big city, now he lives a solitary life on the edge of the Alps. In the evening, his pondering over a mysterious book is interrupted by the sound of the doorbell. He opens the door and right there and then, the encounter which will take him to Sicily within three days, begins. The hand that takes him there is Leonie Palm’s. Leonie used to own a hat-shop. But now that the world lacks faces that look good with hats on and writers have come to outnumber readers, they both had good reasons to quit. Yet, an even stronger bond between the two is provided by the fact that neither of them is prepared for true love anymore. Upon arrival on the Mediterranean, after three full days in the car, this love does hit them and they are joined by a girl who does not speak a single word. She is just there...

In his novella »Widerfahrnis«, Bodo Kirchhoff presents the parable of a twofold fall: into love, without being able to fully feel it and into humanenity, without being good enough.

Bodo Kirchhoff, born in 1948, is one of the most important and well-known authors of the contemporary German literature. His last two novels »Desire and Melancholy« (2014) and »Love in Broad Strokes« (2012) were published with Frankfurter Verlagsanstalt and celebrated by readers and critics alike. His novella »Widerfahrnis« has been awarded the German Book Prize 2016 and the Dutch edition (Lebowski 2017) has been shortlisted for the Europese Literatuurprijs 2018. The Chinese translation of »Widerfahrnis« was announced the 21st Century Best Foreign Novel of the Year 2017.
Since his wife passed away nine years ago after a leap from 43 meters height, Hinrich lives alone. He wallows in memories of Irene, the mother of his daughter and a translator for high Italian literature. He remembers the summers in Italy, their journeys to Rome and Pompeji, where they lingered in front of the frescoes of the Villa dei Misteri for hours to understand their meaning. They loved cinema, the melancholy of the black-and-white images, but were also seduced by something light. However, what has really happened nine years ago? And what does the letter with the black edging contain? Only a journey to Warsaw can bring light into the dark.

»Desire and Melancholy« is charged with emotionally subtle suspense, a novel which takes the reader on a quest. Slowly but relentless, the protagonist discovers the truth about his wife’s death. Bodo Kirchhoff’s masterful novel is about aging and longing, describing the desire to stay eternally young and a melancholy that turns out to offer some solace at the end.

Bodo Kirchhoff, born in 1948, is one of the most important and well-known authors of the contemporary German literature. His last two novels »Desire and Melancholy« (2014) and »Love in Broad Strokes« (2012) were published with Frankfurter Verlagsanstalt and celebrated by readers and critics alike. His novella »Widerfahrnis« has been awarded the German Book Prize 2016.
A great narrative panorama about marriage as a life project in an era that glorifies the present moment.

Vila and Renz are a couple who keep up with the times. Both work in television; they have a grown-up daughter, a flat in Frankfurt and a summer house in Italy. So far so good… but they are both plagued by a longing for love. The novel is set in the year when Vila falls in love again with an intensity she has never known before. You only drown once in a lifetime without dying, she thinks. Renz fails to realize what is going on, because he is entangled in a love story of his own. But the main reason he is blind to Vila’s romance is that he sees her lover, who has rented their house in Italy for the winter to write a book about St Francis of Assisi and Sister Clare, as some strange kind of saint.

Bodo Kirchhoff’s novel is a tale of three love stories that open up new horizons, and of a disappointed friendship that limits them. The main characters are Vila and Renz, whose lives are already winding down when, for Vila, everything seems to start again. She allows herself to experience the emotions others back away from. She uses her last reserves of strength to create happiness and intimacy for herself amidst the trivial reality that surrounds her. Vila believes it is better to love in broad strokes than settle for a comfortable but loveless existence. Ultimately, though, Vila realizes that what really makes a marriage is its ability to endure.

Bodo Kirchhoff, born in 1948, is one of the most important and well-known authors of the contemporary German literature. His last two novels »Desire and Melancholy« (2014) and »Love in Broad Strokes« (2012) were published with Frankfurter Verlagsanstalt and celebrated by readers and critics alike. His novella »Widerfahrnis« was awarded the German Book Prize 2016.

Please contact:
Frankfurter Verlagsanstalt / Nadya Hartmann
Tel +49 69 74 30 55 97 • Fax +49 69 74 30 55 91
hartmann@fva.de

WWW.FVA.DE
»An adolescent journey during the year 1989: Susanne Gregor’s supremely readable novel gives readers an exceptional insight into an important chapter of recent European history« New Books in German

Miša, Rita and Slavka have been friends for as long as they can remember. They all live in the same house in the city of Žilina: Miša, the 14-year-old narrator, and her family in the middle, Rita, also 14, in the apartment above, and Slavka in the apartment underneath. They confide their secrets in one another and speak about their first loves. And yet, they could scarcely be more different. Rita is a staunch Youth Pioneer, which makes her parents’ confidential plan to escape to Austria seem all the more scandalous. Rita is outraged: she doesn’t want to end up like Slavka whose father absconded to Sweden 10 years ago. Slavka cares little for politics. Rather, she is interested in the new history teacher, Comrade Baník, and in gymnastics, her real passion. Miša is the most sensitive of the three. Her love is literature, which nobody – least of all her father – can really understand. Miša has the feeling that life will always continue on in the same manner. The opposite is the case: It is 1989 and nothing will ever be as it was. Three friends and their families experience the year before the collapse of the Socialist regime in Slovakia. Opportunism or rebellion; adaption or revolt – the girls on the brink of adulthood and their parents, each face socialism’s decline in their own way.

In precise, elegant language Susanne Gregor insightfully explores the external and internal worlds of the three young friends. By means of small shifts, she allows huge transformations to become tangible and with a steady hand, leads the reader through the seasons of the year 1989. It is »The Last Red Year.«

»Don’t you remember that words can be sharp like knives?«

Maximilian Wenger used to be a big shot. He was a best-selling author and a man of action. Now, he’s standing at the edge of ruin: nobody wants to read his novels, and his wife has traded him in for a fitness instructor. In a small apartment near Salzburg, he hides himself away from the world. Wenger’s eighteen-year-old daughter, Zoe, plans a future according to her own beliefs. She soon realizes, however, that she has reached her own limits –and that becoming an adult is painful. Then, Wenger starts to receive those letters. Though they are addressed to the previous tenant, he opens them and is thrilled: they are brutal and delicate, shocking and inspiring. Who is this mysterious woman that tells of fleeting happiness, injury, and dashed hope? What Wenger doesn’t know, is that Zoey is also reading the letters. She has experienced something that she finds reflected in those furious words. Both father and daughter are being lead toward a crossroads at which something old ends and something new begins.

With intelligence, adroit humor, and great empathy, Mareike Fallwickl writes about the ups and downs of love, friendship, and family; illusory worlds, both digital and analog; abuse of power, and female self-empowerment, unleashing a maelstrom that thrills until the very end.

Mareike Fallwickl was born in Hallein bei Salzburg in 1983. She currently lives in the Salzburg region where she works as a freelance writer, pens a weekly column for a Salzburg newspaper, and, since 2009, runs her own literature blog. Her debut novel »Dark Green Almost Black,« published by FVA in 2018, was celebrated by readers and nominated for both the Austrian Book Prize and the »Favorite Book of Independent Booksellers« Award.
Moritz, Raffael and Johanna are best friends. But their friendship is toxic and soon reaches a breaking point. Sixteen years later they meet again and get caught in the old web of love, jealousy and dependency – there is no way back, they have to tell each other the truth.

Moritz and Raffael are complete opposites: Raffael is confident with a disarming smile and piercingly blue eyes. Moritz is gentle, he tends to hold back – a mere boomerang in Raffael’s hands. Their friendship goes back to their childhood and even then Raffael always took the lead. Since Moritz and his mother Marie have only recently moved to the secluded village in the mountains, Marie should probably be glad that her son has made a friend but she senses the destructive force that lurks behind Raffael’s steely blue eyes. Then a girl enters the picture. Her name is Johanna, she is the ›new one‹ at school. Moritz is fascinated by this girl who is so unlike all the others. Johanna ends up stretching the emotional cord that binds the two boys to each other, she turns it into a triangle whose sharp edges will end up wounding everyone involved. The friendship falls apart.

Sixteen years later, out of nowhere, Raffael shows up on Moritz’s doorstep. Immediately the past renews its grip on him and he is ready to jeopardize everything he’s built for himself. On top of it all, Johanna also returns and the fatal triangle is once again complete. The moment of truth has finally arrived: For the very last time, they will tear open these old wounds together.

Mareike Fallwickl’s literary debut is a compelling, suspenseful novel of love, broken friendship and betrayal. Readers will delight in losing themselves in this pacy work of literary fiction about dark and light sides of friendship, desire, parenthood, and love.« New Books in German, °43 spring 2018

Mareike Fallwickl’s debut is a compelling, suspenseful novel of love, broken friendship and betrayal. Readers will delight in losing themselves in this pacy work of literary fiction about dark and light sides of friendship, desire, parenthood, and love.« New Books in German, °43 spring 2018

Mareike Fallwickl, born in Hallein near Salzburg in 1983, is working as a freelance writer and editor, and has a weekly column in an Austrian newspaper. Since 2009, she hosts the literary blog. Mareike Fallwickl is living in Salzburg. In 2018, her novel »Dark Green Almost Black« was nominated for the Hotlist Prize – The Best Book of Independent Publishers, longlisted for the Austrian Book Prize and shortlisted for the prize called Favorite Book Of Independent Book Stores.

Please contact:
Frankfurter Verlagsanstalt / Nadya Hartmann
Tel +49 69 74 30 55 97 • Fax +49 69 74 30 55 91
hartmann@fva.de

WWW.FVA.DE

DARK GREEN ALMOST BLACK
by MAREIKE FALLWICKL

Rights sold to:
The Netherlands
(Nieuw Amsterdam)

English sample available

Dunkelgrün fast schwarz
Novel. German.
Release: March 2018
Rights held: World Rights
That’s a whole bunch of dead people one might think, but I disagree. In the valley I come from, that’s perfectly normal.

Except for the high bridge, there is nothing special about the little town Alba lives in. The bridge is 25 meters high, on a windless day the fall lasts 2.08 seconds and statistically the street underneath is the most dangerous in all of Switzerland: The school-year is far from over and her class is already down by three students. Meanwhile in Zurich, students are protesting, they are fighting for cultural freedom, against housing shortage and drugs on the streets. »Deflate the state!«, that’s their war-cry. The world seems to be upside down and Alba is caught right in the midst of it all while dealing with her very own problems. One of them: Jack. Shortly after Alba’s ›accident‹, the two of them become a couple. For the moment, Alba is happy, but no one knows better than Alba that there must be a snag – especially when it comes to happiness.

Demian Lienhard’s story of the highs and lows in his protagonist’s life is strikingly original, full of intelligent humor and subtle tragedy. The reader follows his refreshingly rebellious and likeable narrator through the blistering 1980’s and 1990’s which were informed by growing social problems and an insurgent youth movement. The narrative voice itself is the glowing core of this novel, a sparkling mix of Smells Like Teen Spirit, La Boum and an irresistible warmth, black humor and wittiness – you’ll be ready to follow her wherever she goes, even if it’s a trip to hell.

Demian Lienhard was born in 1987 in Baden/Switzerland. He has completed his Ph.D in classical archaeology and works as a research fellow at the Goethe University in Frankfurt on the Main. He has received numerous stipends and has won awards and competitions with his unpublished works. In 2016, he participated in the »24. open mike« in Berlin and in 2018, he ranked second in the »Prenzlauer Berg writing contest«. »I am the girl my mother warned me about« is his début novel.

〉Time is a great healer.« But I knew: That’s a lie. Time doesn’t heal anything. Going by. That’s all she’s capable of. And she’s not even very good at that.

I A M  T H E  G I R L  M Y M O T H E R  W A R N E D  M E A B O U T

B Y  D E M I A N  L I E N H A R D

Nominated for the Klaus-Michael Kühne Prize of the Harbour Front Festival

Ich bin die, vor der mich meine Mutter gewarnt hat
Novel. German.
Release: March 2019
Rights held: World Rights
Just a moment ago, she’d desperately wanted him to leave, but now she’s overcome by a strange feeling. As if she’d only just noticed that she is in fact lonely. Loneliness is one of the few feelings that are stronger than anger.

From one moment to the next, he’s there. On the couch, surrounded by smoke. Like a Fata Morgana. Valerie had not expected him to be here, but it is him: Robert. He is twenty-three, she is nineteen, she’s the pale type, he’s darker – no one ever thought they were brother and sister. Half-siblings, that’s what they were. And now he’s here, just like he’d never up and left. But now he’s returned, just like her mother’s illness and he’s promising to stay.

There are no easy answers to the difficult questions they are now facing together: how to deal with a moment of departure that is approaching so excruciatingly slowly? How to deal with anger that has nowhere to go? Valerie and Robert are looking to each other for support. They hope that by getting closer to each other, they will also get closer to themselves and the inconceivable events that are taking place around them. Their intimacy has many faces: it is gentle and painful, wild and comforting – and dangerous.

Julia Rothenburg’s novel about letting a loved one go is told in a straightforward, untamed, sincere and moving manner. She shows grief as an emotion that is both vivid as well as deeply contradictory, endowing her characters with an inner world that is disarming in its intensity. Julia Rothenburg’s literary talent is remarkable. Thanks to her empathy, her instinct for nuance, her razor-sharp diction, »light/dark« is an extraordinary and beguiling reading experience.

Julia Rothenburg, born in 1990 in Berlin has studied sociology and political science. She received a stipend from the writer’s workshop of the Jürgen-Ponto-Foundation and received the Retzhof Award for young literature for her book »Koslik is ill« which was later published with the Frankfurter Verlagsanstalt and is currently made into an audiobook for German national radio. The author lives in Berlin and works at »Ocelot, not just another bookstore«. »light/dark« will be published in the spring of 2019 with Frankfurter Verlagsanstalt.
Waiting for the Snow
by Karoline Menge

»Karoline Menge tells the story of a broken family from the perspective of the sixteen-year-old girl Pauli. At the same time, it is also the story of the disappearance of a place and its inhabitants. Elements of the horror film move the plot forward. The novel impresses with its fluent metaphors and explores existential themes like the loneliness of the individual and the threat to the civilization and nature, ultimately the entire world.« Jury statement of the Ulla Hahn Prize 2018

Ever since their mother left, one afternoon in January, the sixteen-year-old Pauli and her adopted sister Karine have had to fend for themselves. Being the elder of the two, Pauli has tried to uphold a daily routine. But the supply of preserves their mother made before she disappeared is dwindling and though it’s only November, the horizon already appears rather menacing. After the last of their fellow villagers have left and as the landscape glows with sinister pale green moonlight, that Pauli begins to feel irresistibly drawn to the hills on the horizon. It’s the unknown behind those hills that seems to swallow everyone, first their father and later even Powel the tall boy with the peculiar face, the only person Pauli has confided in. In search of an explanation, Pauli’s thoughts wander back into the past. Dark stories come to light, her fear of loneliness, the life of an outsider, a vague threat that seems to be coming from within as much as from without. Finally, Pauli realizes that she’ll have to take action, and quickly, before the snow begins to fall.

»Waiting for the snow« is a straightforward début novel. Karoline Menge’s precise language creates a dense atmosphere, calm and captivating, nothing short of hypnotic. Skillfully, she employs archaic fairytale motives and weaves them into a modern story that lures the reader deeper and deeper into its uncanny fictional world. With a courageous heroine at its center who overcomes her darkest fears, »Waiting for the snow« tells the tale of a family whose members bring disaster upon each other.

Karoline Menge was born in 1986 in Berlin, then studied literary writing in Hildesheim. Her short stories have been published in a number of anthologies, she was voted second in the Würth prize for literature and in 2015 she received a grant from the state of Lower Saxony. In addition to her work as a novelist, Karoline Menge also writes screenplays. She currently lives in Berlin. »Waiting For The Snow« was awarded the Ulla Hahn Prize for Literary Debut 2018.

Please contact:
Frankfurter Verlagsanstalt / Nadya Hartmann
Tel +49 69 74 30 55 97 • Fax +49 69 74 30 55 91
hartmann@fva.de

WWW.FVA.DE
Every day, the retired entrepreneur Walter Nowak swims his laps in the outdoor pool. An encounter on a particularly hot morning throws him off kilter and the consequences are fatal: Walter finds himself stretched out on his bathroom floor, unable to move, his head throbbing. He thinks of Yvonne, but she has taken off for a conference. Walter is on his own. »From now on it’s downwards, ever downwards« he thinks. And it seems to be true. He continues to lose control over the situation. He finds himself buried underneath thought fragments and images from the past: there is that Christmas Eve with Gisela, her pork roast, her tears; the look on the face of his son Felix when he learns about the separation; memories from his own childhood as the son of an American GI born out of wedlock and finally, the diagnosis his urologist has just revealed to him. While all the images get more and more blurry, his thoughts begin to move in circles that grow smaller and smaller – nearing a hidden core, the beginning or the end … When the summer storm finally begins to thunder, his son Felix suddenly appears in front of his door.

Julia Wolf turns her protagonist inside out with great narrative authority: Walter Nowak, an aging man, a child of the post-war era, finds himself at a crossroads. His stream of consciousness takes the reader on a fascinating journey into the human psyche and showcases Julia Wolf’s virtuous command of language.

Julia Wolf, born in 1980 in Groß-Gerau, Germany, now lives in Berlin and Leipzig. For her debut novel »All Is Now« she was awarded the Kunstpreis Literatur, a prize funded by the Brandenburg Lotto GmbH, and she also received numerous grants. At Ingeborg Bachmann Competition 2016, she read an excerpt from her novel »Walter Nowak Won’t Get Up« and received the prestigious 3sat Prize in the process. In 2017 she has been awarded the Nicolas Born Prize for Best Young Author and selected for the Longlist of the German Book Prize 2017. For her current novel project »Old Girls« she was awarded the notable Robert Gernhardt Prize 2018.
Samuel Kohanim, the head of one of the oldest Jewish families in the region of Osche in Western Prussia, is used to a more than average share of sorrow. His wife Mindel, harsh and taciturn, bore him seven daughters. Each of ›seven biblical plagues‹, as they are known in the village, tests his patience: Selma gets everyone meschugge with her religious quirk; Martha constantly makes up new ludicrous lies; Fanny proves particularly hard to marry off; Elly is a wild child ... – and finally Franziska who is ravishingly beautiful, proud, stubborn and »delivers catastrophes at the flick of a switch«. Yet, there is no heir – their only son dies just after his birth on March 10th.

At the end of the First World War the family seeks refuge in Berlin. While Martha marries into the upper class of the city, with her husband converting to Christianity, Franziska gets into a relationship with the Jewish collier Willy Rubin who is just as charismatic as he is unreliable. Together they move into the working class ›Red Wedding‹. And then there is the protestant Oda, a friend of the family who also ends up in Berlin. Throughout the difficult 1930s, Oda's fate becomes completely intertwined with that of the Kohanims, whose family tree is putting out various new shoots: Jewish, National Socialist, as well as communist.

Marcia Zuckermann has created an amazing Jewish family saga that refrains from going into epic territory. It is catchy, exciting, rich in plot and surprising up to the very last page, claiming its place in the tradition of Jewish storytelling. The line between tragedy and comedy is blurred as its protagonists survive and outwit the bitter blows of fate with unconditional irony towards themselves and that liberatingly sly humor.

Marcia Zuckermann, was born in 1947 in East Berlin. Her Jewish father survived the Holocaust despite being interned as a political prisoner in the concentration camp Buchenwald, while her protestant mother was a communist, active in the resistance. Nevertheless, in 1958, the family had to flee from East Berlin since they were considered dissidents there. Today, Marcia Zuckermann lives and works in Berlin as a freelance journalist and writer.
There are many GIs stationed in the Wetterau region, between 1958 and 1960 even Elvis Presley. American soldiers and German ›Fräuleins‹ roam the streets hand in hand; many children are born out of wedlock these days and less generous observers call the ›Fräuleins‹ ›Ami-Liebchen‹ or ›GI-mistresses‹. Yet, the everyday routine of the people in Randstetten, a small town in this region, remains largely untouched by the wild 60s, flower power and beat music.

In the summer of 1969 all that seems to change abruptly when Frank Z’s car breaks down in the small town. The hippie from Laurel Canyon rents a room in the local Green Tree Inn since his car cannot be repaired until the replacement parts arrive. The musician from California arrives in that sleepy town like a bolt of lightening, with his long dark hair and his washed out jeans he is immediately the talk of the town on this Saturday. Things are going to change, everything is going to change, Ev is certain of that. Ev is the seventeen year-old daughter of the house, her mother Rosie is running the Green Tree Inn. The girl falls in love with Frank Z. but she will not be the only one whose life is touched by the musician. While not everyone seems to be thrilled about it, the process of change is set into motion.

Britta Boerdner has great intuition when it comes to the mood and the mental state of her protagonists; she skillfully captures the atmosphere of the time and brings it to life through language. »The Day That Frank Z. Came to the ›Green Tree Inn‹« is a riveting story and Britta Boerdner’s insightful way of telling it demonstrates the great talent of this extraordinary novelist.

Britta Boerdner was born in Fulda. After training as a bookseller, she majored in American studies, German studies and historical ethnology in Frankfurト on the Main. Her debut novel »What Remains Hidden« was published in 2012 by FVA. In 2015 she received a grant from the Hessian Council for Literature which brought her to the Emilia Romagna (Bologna). Based on a sample from her novel »The Day That Frank Z. Came to the ›Green Tree Inn‹« she was invited to be a writer in residence on the island of Sylt. She lives in Frankfurt on the Main.

Please contact:
Frankfurter Verlagsanstalt / Nadya Hartmann
Tel +49 69 74 30 55 97 • Fax +49 69 74 30 55 91
hartmann@fva.de
WWW.FVA.DE
Margarete, 45, is a plastic surgeon with her own practice in Zurich. Day in and day out, she is confronted with the manifestations of ongoing physical deterioration. Even she is not spared from it, a fact that she is ready to face up to. Why do men desire her nevertheless? Maybe that is because she masters the art of seduction with the same precision she applies while performing liposuction or knee lift surgery. At a conference in Berlin she meets Heinrich, a preeminent plastic surgeon. And she decides: It is he whom she will love. Between the two, a lover’s game ensues. It promises to call back into life what had already seemed lost. Yet when the two embark on a mountain hike, the game spirals out of control.

In her fourth novel, Corinna T. Sievers turns her protagonists inside out: Margarete, the fascinating, provocative heroine of her story is fragile and ambitious, tender and determined. In this abysmal love story, Corinna Sievers ventures into open-heart surgery. And the reader knows: not everyone will make it out alive.

Corinna T. Sievers was born on the German island Fehmarn and spent her childhood at the Baltic sea. Later she studied politics, medicine and dental medicine in Hamburg, Frankfurt on the Main and Kiel. Today she lives in Zurich where she works as an orthodontist. Her first novel »Samenklau« (»The Stolen Seed«) has been published in 2010 by Frankfurter Verlagsanstalt.
THE LIMITLESS AND

BY SANDRA WEIHS

Das grenzenlose Und
Novel. German.
Release: August 2015
Rights held: World Rights

Jürgen Ponto Prize for Best Debut 2015
»An astonishing debut (...): a thrilling, nightmarishly realistic, tough story about young people in contemporary society, written in very forthright language – it’s a novel about death and, above all, about life.« Jury statement

New Books in German
»An extraordinary debut (and) a truly universal novel: Marie, wrestling with her negative thoughts, could be a teenager anywhere in the world. (...) It is a testament to Weihs’s skill as a writer that when the novel reaches its tragic and deeply emotional conclusion, we are left feeling strangely positive and hopeful.«

18-year-old Marie is deeply disappointed by life. She feels not belonging to the world. She loathes the evenings with her housemates, and can’t stand the advice that Sarah, the well-meaning medical attendant, tries to offer. Psychiatric hospital was even worse: she never wants to go there again, and this is the only reason she accepts the deal offered to her by her therapist, Willi. He promises to keep her out of medical institutions if she gives her word that she will attend every single one of her therapy sessions with him. Above all, she also has to promise that she won’t contemplate suicide for at least one year. On one of her visits to Willi’s office Marie meets Emanuel. Despite her conviction that people her own age are idiots, and the concern that Emanuel may be even more damaged than she is, she agrees to go on a date. They become involved and Marie mentions her desire to end her life. They make an outrageous agreement – but the results are quite different from what either of them expect ...

Sandra Weihs, born in Klagenfurt in 1983, lives in Upper Austria and Vienna. She studied social work, and works with deprived children, adolescents and families. Her debut novel, »Das grenzenlose Und« (»The Limitless And«), was awarded the 2015 literary prize of the Jürgen Ponto Foundation.

Please contact:
Frankfurter Verlagsanstalt / Nadya Hartmann
Tel +49 69 74 30 55 97 • Fax +49 69 74 30 55 91
hartmann@fva.de

WWW.FVA.DE
Holle is an artist from Berlin. She takes pictures of cities and empty spaces to capture their hidden energy. She spends several months in Istanbul, an achingly beautiful city she tries to understand in a new way, leaving behind her dividing terms like occident and orient. But then the encounter with Christoph Wanka causes her to sway. Although Wanka represents everything Holle is opposed to in her life and art, this silky and successful businessman fascinates her. When Wanka offers to finance her next project in Mumbai, Holle, in an endless trial of strength, has to question her whole life script and concept of art. Back in Istanbul, she would love nothing better than to get lost in the labyrinthine body of the city. When the Gezi Park demonstrations begin and the whole city is in turmoil, it seems the perfect opportunity ...

»The Endless City« tells the story of two women in two adventurous cities, Istanbul and Mumbai, and their search for an existence in accordance with their values. An eclectic and outstanding novel about art, power and the fragile construction of identity.

Ulla Lenze, born in Mönchengladbach in 1973, studied music and philosophy in Cologne. In 2003 her debut novel »Schwester und Bruder« was awarded the Ernst Willner Prize at the Klagenfurt Bachmann Competition, the Jürgen Ponto Prize for best debut novel, and Cologne’s Rolf Dieter Brinkmann Scholarship. She lived as a writer-in-residence in Mumbai, Venice and Istanbul, travels have taken her to Libya, Syria and Iran. Her novel »The Small Remains of Death« was published by Frankfurter Verlagsanstalt in 2012.
A youth spent in late 1980s Soviet Union, a story of love and disappointment, of farewell and departure. Anna Galkina’s perspective on the harsh realities of life in Russia is so unrelenting and fearless that it goes straight to the heart.

Tamara, the matronly director of a library who is revitalized by her relationship with the sickly Wiktor; Sergej with his faux leather sandals whose barn is a popular hangout for the youth; and the three “sluts”: Lena with her mustache, Dina whose father is in jail and Oksana who is an expert when it comes to abortions.

Nastja has been observing them ever since she was a little girl. She lives with her mother and grandmother in a small town not far from Moscow that is long past its prime. Meat and dairy products are just as hard to come by as a private telephone line or running water. The residents dwell in small wooden shacks, surrounded by buckets and canning jars, they drink bitter beer and moonshine, they curse and delight, they love and hit each other. At first, the narrator Nastja seems to be above it all, but then she is sucked right into the pop-up panorama of the Russian province. She lives through stories full of poetry and violence, tragedy and humor, episodes with unknown outcomes – until she falls in love with the young soldier Dima and it seems as though her life is about to take an unexpected turn.

»The Cold Light of Distant Stars« is an unusual and vibrant debut, an outstanding novel of rare charm. Anna Galkina’s voice is both adamant and lighthearted and she tells the tales of her protagonists with such great warmth and humor that they continue to resonate for a long time.

Anna Galkina, born and raised in Moscow, came to Germany with her parents in 1996. After receiving a degree in computer science she has been working as a software test engineer, a painter and a photographer. Galkina lives in Bonn and writes in German. »The Cold Light of Distant Stars« is her first novel, her second novel »The New Life« has been published by FVA.
»It’s not about trying to prove anything. It’s about finally following my inner voice. It’s about my life.«

A hot July day in 1890. Theo van Gogh is hurrying to Auvers, a small town outside Paris, in consternation. His brother Vincent has tried to kill himself, and is now languishing in a pitiable state in the attic of the Ravoux guesthouse. That night Vincent dies, leaving Theo in despair. All their efforts to establish Vincent on the Paris art market during his life-time have failed.

More than a century later, the body of a former German businessman is found in van Gogh’s death chamber. Ten years ago, Arthur Heller abandoned his career to go to Paris and become a writer, but never published a single book. An unsuccessful author who decided to end his life where van Gogh ended his? When Heller’s niece Sabine Bucher arrives in Auvers, she soon realizes that all is not quite as it seems. She becomes increasingly caught up in Heller’s fate, until finally she discovers the truth – about her uncle’s death, but also about herself.

J.R. Bechtle’s first novel takes the artist’s tragic life and connects it to the thrilling investigation of a crime. The story of Vincent van Gogh and the efforts of his brother and sister-in-law Johanna to secure his posthumous reputation are intertwined with that of the dropout Arthur Heller, who wrote about the thorny subject of German-Jewish relations while, in real life, coming into confrontation with Islam. The two stories interlock, each posing the same, eternal question: What is the right way to live?

J.R. Bechtle, born in 1943, grew up in the Rhineland and studied in Munich, where he qualified as a lawyer. He now lives as a freelance writer in San Francisco. Hotel van Gogh has been his debut, followed by 1965 – Rue de Grenelle (2015 FVA) – in spring 2018 FVA will publish his third novel Burgkinder.
“A highly concentrated character sketch of a contemporary witness and a suspenseful crime novel!“ *Frankfurter Rundschau*

Nora Bossong  
*Webers Protokoll*  
*(Weber’s Record)*

March 2009, 284 pages

Konrad Weber is the deputy head of the German Consulate in Milan, which, seeming a peaceful place in 1943, protects him from the daily routine of the Nazi dictatorship. After his superior retires he has a much younger and inexperienced henchman plonked in front of him. Palmer finds out about some discrepancies in the books of account Weber is responsible for. Wendler, an acquaintance of his, provides a way out of Webers more than difficult situation — certainly not in an act of charity. He proposes a risky deal...

Nora Bossong’s debut novel *Hereabout* (FVA, 2006) was praised “one of the best in the last years“. In her second book *Weber’s Record* a young narrator reconstructs Weber’s past with the help of an old diplomat: an exciting novel, artistically synchronizing various time levels — a book about a German diplomat under Hitler, and in Post-War Germany, where everybody’s trying to forget about the past.

“*The most talented writer of her generation!* Comparably young authors pale into insignificance beside the historical precision and the stylistic intuition of Nora Bossong.” *Neue Zürcher Zeitung*

“Composed with the suspense of a crime novel, the objective of philosophical concerns, with historical precision and psychological flair.” *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*

“Nora Bossong has created a fascinating labyrinth, a thrilling story rich in echoes and meanderings, a morally irritating novel about a questionable hero.” *Deutschlandradio*

*Nora Bossong* lives in Berlin. Her research took the young writer to Rome, Milan and Zurich where she came into contact with the highly official but secretive world of diplomats and state secretaries. At the beginning of the year she got a scholarship for the German House in New York. Nora Bossong is twenty seven years old.