

Press Release:

European Literature Days

Get to Know Literature. Get Together Wachau.

21.–24.11.2019 Krems-Stein an der Donau

How do we conduct our life and how do we aspire to live? The time-honoured question is more relevant than ever in view of the urge for self-optimization and the general atmosphere of overload – and the theme runs like a common thread through the **11th European Literature Days**. From 21 to 24 November 2019, international writers and literature lovers discuss the theme **“What Is a good life?”**. In the opening debate, Robert Menasse and Helene Hegemann address the question **“How good is well-being for the person living an optimal life?”** The literature festival concludes with the award of the **Austrian Book Trade Honorary Award for Tolerance in Thought and Action** to Francesca Melandri.

This year’s European Literature Days renews the invitation to visit the cultural landscape of Wachau and to discuss topical cultural, social and political themes from the perspective of writers. Renowned guests explore the headline theme **“What is a good life?”** from a variety of viewpoints.

At the opening event on Thursday evening in the Klangraum Krems Minoritenkirche, **Robert Menasse** and this year’s guest **Helene Hegemann** debate the issue **“How good is well-being for the person living an optimal life?”** On Friday and Saturday, discussion sessions follow with **Ghayath Almadhoun and Priya Basil** (**“How hospitable are we?”**), **György Dragomán and Iris Wolff** (**“How would life have been different, if...?”**), **Ida Hegazi Høyer and Annelies Verbeke** (**“How do we love in times of disquiet?”**) as well as **Michel Faber and Clemens J. Setz** (**“How ‘extraterrestrial’ is life?”**).

On Saturday, writer Q&A sessions introduce another theme of special interest: **“Are machines ultimately dreamers? Artificial intelligence and literature”** – **Tilman Spengler** will be among the dialogue partners. On Friday and Saturday, **Katja Gasser** and **Rainer Moritz** host evening events accompanied by music and art exhibitions (including **Julia von Lucadou, Teresa Präauer and Helena Janeczek**). The European Literature Days closes on Sunday with the award of the **Austrian Book Trade Honorary Award for Tolerance in Thought and Action** to **Francesca Melandri**.

As in previous years, the literary agenda includes a fringe programme of exhibitions and walking tours, concerts and wine tastings. For the first year, the European Literature Days will be held **for the festival’s duration in the historic town of Krems-Stein an der Donau**. The festival is an integral part of the Kunstmeilen programme in **cooperation with the Kunsthalle Krems and the Karikaturmuseum** and includes **events in the State Gallery of Lower Austria: the newly opened museum in May 2019** reflects Wachau’s important cultural heritage and the literature festival also showcases an **exhibition of the artists Carola Dertnig, Terese Margolles and Adrian Paci**.

Full details of **the agenda will be available from 10 September 2019**. Preview information is available now at: <https://www.literaturhauseuropa.eu/de/europaeische-literaturtage>

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