

Press Release:

European Literature Days

Get to Know Literature. Get Together in Wachau.

“What is a good life?”

21.–24.11.2019 Krems-Stein an der Donau

Start of the 11th European Literature Days from 21.11.–24.11.2019 // Opening event with Robert Menasse in the Minoritenkirche in Krems // Francesca Melandri presents a reading, joins in conversation and receives the Austrian Book Trade Honorary Award for Tolerance in Thought and Action // Readings and writer Q&A debates include Helene Hegemann, Ghayath Almadhoun, Zoë Beck, György Dragomán, Marente de Moor, Rory MacLean, Teresa Präauer, Clemens J. Setz and Enis Maci.

This is the first year that the European Literature Days are held for the duration in the historic town of Krems-Stein an der Donau. The festival is an integral part of the ‘Kunstmeilen’ programme: from 21 to 24 November, writers and literary experts get together to discuss topical cultural, social and political issues on this year’s headline theme **“What is a good life?”**.

At the opening event on Thursday evening in the Klangraum Krems Minoritenkirche, **Robert Menasse** and his guest this year, **Helene Hegemann**, explore the question “How good is our well-being when we strive for the best lifestyle?” On Friday and Saturday, further debates include **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 **Rory MacLean and Clemens J. Setz** (“How ‘terrestrial’ is life?”).

On Saturday, the writer Q&A sessions on **“A beautiful life – or its dark side?”** introduce another special focus discussion about digital feasibility fantasies, the surrender of utopian thinking and their dissolution in literature. **Zoë Beck** joins others in conversation. On Friday and Saturday, **Katja Gasser** and **Rainer Moritz** host evening events accompanied by musical entertainment and art exhibitions (including **Julia von Lucadou, Teresa Präauer and Helena Janeczek**). The European Literature Days close on Sunday with the award of the **Austrian Book Trade Honorary Award for Tolerance in Thought and Action** to **Francesca Melandri**.

The festival tradition continues of the literary agenda alongside a fringe programme of exhibitions and walking tours, concerts and wine tastings. This year, the European Literature Days are held in cooperation with the **Kunsthalle Krems** and the **Karikaturmuseum** as well as the new **State Gallery of Lower Austria: the newly opened museum in May 2019** reflects Wachau’s important cultural heritage and, as part of the literature festival, also showcases an **exhibition of the artists Carola Dertnig, Terese Margolles and Adrian Paci**.

Daily bulletins from the European Literature Days 2019 are released in the **blog** by writer and musician **Elias Hirschl** (www.literaturhauseuropa.eu). Short videos will also be available afterwards on **Okto.TV**.

For full details of the programme please visit: www.literaturhauseuropa.eu/de

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