

Press Release:

17th European Literature Days

20.–23.11.2025 in Krems-Stein an der Donau

Programme Announcement

What is authentic? is the curated theme of the European Literature Days 2025 +++ Festival opening with [Martina Hefter](#) and [Eva Weber-Guskar](#) +++ Discussions and readings including with [Raphaëlle Red](#), [Jonas Lüscher](#), [Nava Ebrahimi](#), [Georgi Gospodinov](#), [Christoph Peters](#), [Gabriela Wiener](#), [Pajtim Statovci](#), [Hanna Bervoets](#), [Jörg Piringer](#) and [Elisabeth Klar](#) +++ Prize-giving ceremony of the Austrian Book Trade Honorary Award for Tolerance in Thought and Action 2025 to [Eva Menasse](#).

The limits of what is authentic and artificial are now a talking point in all corners of society – from debates about AI and virtual simulations to identity politics and gender issues. But what exactly does “authentic” mean? If feelings are technically reproducible, to what extent can we still trust them? How much humanity can we preserve in future, and which identity belongs to us in the process? What guidelines should an ethics of Artificial Intelligence embrace?

Who could discuss such questions more appropriately than writers who have always delved into the relationship between reality and fiction. For over fifteen years, the **European Literature Days** – under the artistic directorship of the author and seasoned expert on European contemporary literature, **Walter Grond** – has brought together international authors, philosophers, sociologists as well as literature lovers in Krems an der Donau to talk in detail about timely and urgent topics and to inspire debates.

Under the headline theme **What Is Authentic?** on **Thursday evening the festival opening** takes place in the Klangraum Krems Minoritenkirche: [Martina Hefter](#) and this year's winner of the Tractatus prize, [Eva Weber-Guskar](#), discuss how technology changes our emotional life and whether machines can ever develop human feelings. On Friday and Saturday, [Nava Ebrahimi](#) and [Georgi Gospodinov](#) relate projections of the past, distorted accounts of history and the search for their own roots. [Raphaëlle Red](#) considers the consequences of the colonial past, while [Jonas Lüscher](#) looks to the future and explores potential dependencies on technical innovations. [Jörg Piringer](#) and [Paul Feigelfeld](#) discuss ChatGPT, data poetry/*datenpoesie* and an ethics of AI. [Elisabeth Klar](#) and [Kes Otter Liefte](#) discuss queer ways of life, and [Hanna Bervoets](#) and [Gabriela Wiener](#) explore worlds of imagery in the digital age. [Christoph Peters](#) invites festival-goers to a Japanese tea ceremony in the State Gallery of Lower Austria, further discussions and readings are with [Pajtim Statovci](#), [Clare Clark](#) and [Simoné Goldschmidt-Lechner](#). The European Literature Days close on **Sunday morning** with the presentation of this year's **Austrian Book Trade Honorary Award for Tolerance in Thought and Action** to [Eva Menasse](#).

The literary programme again coincides with fringe events of concerts and exhibitions. Selected talks, readings and debates can be watched from home via **livestream**. After the festival, **videos** of the events are released **on okto.tv and on the [YouTube-channel](#)** of the European Literature Days.

The full **programme** as well as information about **tickets** are now available [here](#).

Further information:

Event venue:

Klangraum Krems Minoritenkirche, Minoritenplatz 5, 3500 Krems an der Donau, Austria

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Press photos:

https://celum.noeku.at/pinaccess/showpin.do?pinCode=2025_Elit_Auswahl