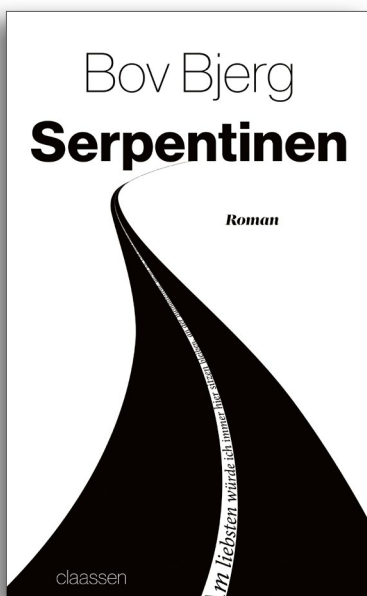


German Book Prize: Shortlist

Bov Bjerg • Dorothee Elmiger • Thomas Hettche •
Deniz Ohde • Anne Weber • Christine Wunnicke



Bov Bjerg **Switchbacks**

Claassen

Jury evaluation:

A father sets off on a journey with his son, not just into the hilly landscape of his childhood but also into his own oppressive family history and Germany's past. "Serpentinen" offers a deeply sociological and simultaneously very literary account of oppressive gloom – often with surprising wit. Not a single word is out of place in this novel, rendering it capable of relating the unspeakable.



Biography:

Bov Bjerg, born in 1965, is a writer and reader. Together with friends, he founded various reading stages in Berlin, including Dr. Seltsams Frühschoppen, Mittwochsfaizit and Reformbühne Heim & Welt. His first novel was titled "Deadline", the second "Auerhaus"; the latter has been adapted and produced for various renowned German theatres.

Press contact and interview requests: Claassen Verlag
Susanne Müller, Telephone: +49 30 234 56 374
E-mail: susanne.mueller@ullstein.de

German Book Prize: Shortlist

Bov Bjerg • **Dorothee Elmiger** • Thomas Hettche •
Deniz Ohde • Anne Weber • Christine Wunnicke



Dorothee Elmiger

Out of the Sugar Factory

Carl Hanser

Jury evaluation:

The starting point of Dorothee Elmiger's novel is a simple question: Where does sugar actually come from? The narrator assembles her research into a highly essayistic form, more like a collage. These investigations lead her not only into world history but literary history as well, which is why a text can find itself landing in Haiti, one of the major sugar exporters, only to encounter Heinrich von Kleist's novel "Betrothal in Santo Domingo" there. This method demonstrates that colonialism is inseparably interwoven with European history and that whenever Europeans tell each other anything different they are recognising only half the truth.



Biography:

Dorothee Elmiger, born in 1985, lives and works in Zurich. In 2010 her debut novel "Einladung an die Waghalsigen" was published, followed in 2014 by the novel "Schlafgänger". Her texts have been translated into various languages and adapted for the stage. Dorothee Elmiger has received numerous awards for her work, including the Aspekte Literature Prize for best German-language prose debut, Rauriser Literature Prize and Erich Fried Prize.

Press contact and interview requests: Carl Hanser Verlag
Henriette Kuch, Telephone: +49 89 998 30 - 692
E-mail: henriette.kuch@hanser.de

German Book Prize: Shortlist

Bov Bjerg • Dorothee Elmiger • **Thomas Hettche** •
Deniz Ohde • Anne Weber • Christine Wunnicke



Thomas Hettche **Heartstring**

Kiepenheuer & Witsch

Jury evaluation:

With a light and elegant touch, this novel interweaves major themes from the present and Germany's past. From an enchanted attic, it takes us into the world of wooden marionettes, World War II and post-war West Germany to the loss of innocence and the end of childhood. It is about imagination and recapturing it – and, in the process, Thomas Hettche succeeds in creating a work of illusionist art as playful and melancholy as the one the novel itself describes so impressively.



Biography:

The novelist Thomas Hettche has been considered one of Germany's often polarising, always surprising literary voices since 1989, when he published his debut "Ludwig muß sterben". "Der Fall Arbogast" was translated into 13 languages, and his best-selling novel "Pfaueninsel", which tells the atmospheric story of a female dwarf in 19th century Prussia, received the Wilhelm Raabe Prize, Wolfgang Koeppen Prize, Solothurn Literature Prize and Bavarian Book Prize, among others.

Press contact and interview requests: Verlag Kiepenheuer & Witsch
Gudrun Fähndrich, Telephone: +49 221 376 85 38
E-mail: gfaehndrich@kiwi-verlag.de



German Book Prize: Shortlist

Bov Bjerg • Dorothee Elmiger • Thomas Hettche •
Deniz Ohde • Anne Weber • Christine Wunnicke



Deniz Ohde **Sky Glow**

Suhrkamp

Jury evaluation:

Deniz Ohde writes with captivating clarity about a segment of society we otherwise only very rarely get to hear from. It is a text about a (post-)migrant worker milieu, about a small family and its hopeful wish to belong in an education and incentive system unable to keep its promise of equal opportunity. Ohde not only renders three dimensionally a world and its actors that usually remain hidden behind the doors of cluttered rental flats but manages to do so without ever resorting to clichés or didactic finger-pointing.



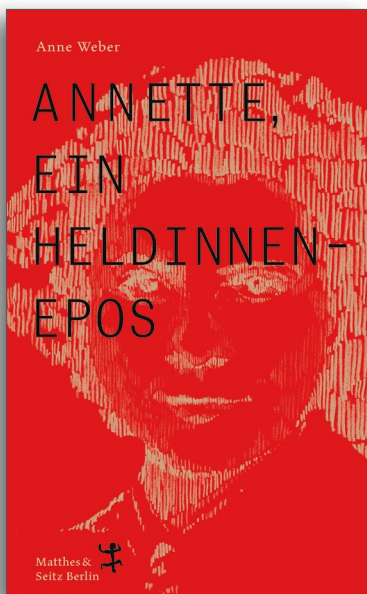
Biography:

Deniz Ohde, born in Frankfurt am Main in 1988, studied German language and literature in Leipzig, where she lives. In 2016 she was a finalist in the 24th open mike and 10th poet | bewegt literature competition, in 2017 the holder of a 21st Klagenfurt Literature Course scholarship and in 2019 she was shortlisted for the Wortmeldungen Advancement Award. "Streu-licht" is her first novel.

Press contact and interview requests: Suhrkamp Verlag
Alexandra Richter, Telephone: +49 30 740 744 291
E-mail: richter@suhrkamp.de

German Book Prize: Shortlist

Bov Bjerg • Dorothee Elmiger • Thomas Hettche •
Deniz Ohde • **Anne Weber** • Christine Wunnicke



Anne Weber

Epic Annette

Matthes & Seitz Berlin

Jury evaluation:

Anne Weber has succeeded in transforming the real life of 96-year-old Anne Beaumanoir into a magnificent piece of literature in the form of an epic. With subtle humour, she writes about a woman utterly steadfast in her determination to fight for her ideal of justice. In mostly unrhymed verses that develop a flowing rhythm, playfully and with great sensitivity, Anne Weber sets the stage for her heroine. Enthralled, we follow Annette from the French Resistance to the Algerian War of Independence. Philosophical, political and reflective, the novel discreetly establishes a connection to the present. A wonderful and convincing homage to an extraordinary woman.



Biography:

The writer and translator Anne Weber was born in Offenbach in 1964 and has been living in Paris since 1983. She has translated both from German into French (Sibylle Lewitscharoff and Wilhelm Genazino, among others) and vice versa (Pierre Michon and Marguerite Duras). She writes her own books in both German and French. Her work has received, among other awards, the Heimito von Doderer Literature Prize, 3sat Prize, Kranichstein Literature Prize and Johann Heinrich Voß Prize. Her books "Luft und Liebe", "Ahnen" and "Kirio", among others, appeared from S. Fischer Verlag. Matthes & Seitz Berlin has published her translations of the works of Georges Perros, "Luft-schnappen war sein Beruf" and "Klebebilder".

Press contact and interview requests: Matthes & Seitz Berlin
Benjamin Vieth, Telephone: +49 30 443 088 50
E-mail: presse@matthes-seitz-berlin.de



German Book Prize: Shortlist

Bov Bjerg • Dorothee Elmiger • Thomas Hettche •
Deniz Ohde • Anne Weber • **Christine Wunnicke**



Christine Wunnicke

The Lady with the Painted Hand

Berenberg

Jury evaluation:

"Die Dame mit der bemalten Hand" recounts migration the other way around. In 1764, the German explorer Carsten Niebuhr becomes stranded on the Indian island of Elephanta. Suffering from swamp fever, he is found and nursed back to health by the locals. "Die Dame mit der bemalten Hand" is a breezy novel about curiosity, traveling and the early scientific exploration of the world. It is also a novel about the friendly welcome that, with a little luck, one can experience in a foreign country. All of it told with a great deal of mischief and quirky wit. Self-assured and absolutely captivating.



Biography:

Christine Wunnicke was born in 1966 and lives in Munich. She has received the Bavarian State Advancement Award for Literature and Tukan Prize. Berenberg has published, among other books, her novels "Der Fuchs und Dr. Shimamura" (2015) and "Katie" (2017), which were both nominated for the German Book Prize (longlist), as well as the novella "Nagasaki, ca. 1642" in paperback (2020).