

European Literature Days 2015: 22–25 October **(Krems/Spitz)**

For the seventh year from 22 to 25 October 2015, European writers and literature experts meet in the unique ambiance of Wachau (in Krems and Spitz a.d. Donau) for a weekend of networking, discussion and explorations of European literature.

The European Literature Days comprise a **symposium** with invited and accredited participants. The focus is on themes chosen annually and presented by the Observatory for European Contemporary Literature (www.literaturhauseuropa.eu), as well as **public readings** and **literary debates** with European writers, **film screenings** and **concerts**.

The programme includes **workshops and readings in schools** for youngsters and at the Karikaturmuseum Krems. The collaborative work with the **European Literature Youth Meetings** (www.eljub.eu) enriches the European Literature Days thanks to innovative forms of contact with literature.

“The Migrants”

The Migrants is the headline theme for the European Literature Days 2015.

In her keynote speech, the Scottish writer **A.L. Kennedy** reflects on whether and how European contemporary literature is changing due to the rise of immigrant writers from non-European cultures. **Ilma Rakusa**, a European cosmopolitan writer par excellence, responds to Kennedy's reflections in the context of her multicultural family history, which motivates her remarks, “I am a European writer. My roots are in the air, not in the earth. Homelands are my homeland.”

This can be said of many of the guest writers. Literary and intellectual Europe has won more themes, forms and perspectives.

From 22 to 25 October, leading and now well established European writers such as **Najem Wali**, **Iman Humaydan**, **Jamal Mahjoub**, **Atiq Rahimi** or **Marguerite Aboutet** and many others relate how they left their native country with a particular cultural understanding, how they became acquainted with the language and culture of their host country and the personal role that they see for themselves in the place where they now live.

These issues also concern the Austrian writer **Anna Kim**, as well as her compatriot, Viennese writer **Richard Schuberth** who particularly focuses on aspects of migration.

For the first time this year's programme features a film in addition to readings: French-Afghan writer, Atiq Rahimi directed the film of his novel *Stein der Geduld* (*The Patience Stone*), a winner of the Prix Goncourt. Following the screening, the writer and filmmaker discusses his work.

The European Literature Days Symposium in 2015 is also dedicated to other themes – France as a literary landscape, trends in European contemporary literature and, finally, innovations in the digital field of writing and publishing.

Discussions are based on preparatory blogs and dossiers published biweekly throughout the year in the Observatory for European Contemporary Literature at: www.literaturhauseuropa.eu

Walter Grond, Artistic Director of ELit Literaturhaus Europa

From the Programme: *(Version 11.6.2015, subject to changes!)*

Thursday, 22.10., 19.30

Klangraum Krems Minoritenkirche, Minoritenplatz 4, 3500 Krems

Literary Soirée 1: “Europe! Europe!”

Readings and literary debates with

Anna Kim (Vienna), **A.L. Kennedy** (Glasgow), **Jamal Mahoub** (Barcelona) and **Atiq Rahimi** (Paris).

Moderator: **Gerwig Epkes** (SWR 2 Baden-Baden), Reading: **Grischka Voss**

Tickets EUR 16.00/14.00. Tel.: 02732 908030 or www.klangraum.at

Friday, 23.10. – Sunday, 25.10.

Schloss zu Spitz, Schlossgasse 3, 3620 Spitz

Symposium

Themes: “The Migrants” / “Literature Landscape France” / “Literary Trends and Innovations in the Digital Field”

Accreditation: akkrediteriung@noe-festival.at

Friday, 23.10., 19.30

Schloss zu Spitz, Schlossgasse 3, 3620 Spitz

Literary Soirée 2: “Migrants”

Reading and literary debates with

Iman Humaydan (Paris) and **Najem Wali** (Berlin).

Moderator: Gerwig Epkes (SWR 2 Baden-Baden)

Free entry! Registration for non-attendees of the Symposium at anmeldung@noe-festival.at

Saturday, 24.10., 16.00

Kino im Kesselhaus Krems, at campus krems, Dr. Karl Dorrek-Str. 30, 3500 Krems
Film: "Stein der Geduld" (The Patience Stone)

(D/F 2013, 103 mins., Directed/novel by: Atiq Rahimi)
followed by discussion with writers with **Atiq Rahimi** and **Iman Humaydan**

Tickets EUR 7.50 for non-attendees of the Symposium: Tel. 02732 908000 or
www.kinoimkesselhaus.at

Saturday, 24.10., 20.00

Schloss zu Spitz, Schlossgasse 3, 3620 Spitz
Literary Soirée 3: "European Literature and Spitz Wines"

Readings on location and wine tastings with
Lena Gorelik (Munich), **Patrick Deville** (Paris and Saint Nazaire), **Ilma Rakusa**
(Zurich), **Marguerite Abouet** (Paris), **Najem Wali** (Berlin)

Moderators: **Rainer Moritz** (Hamburg), **Wilhelm Droste** (Budapest), **Peter Zimmermann** (Vienna), **Jürgen Ritte** (Paris).

Tickets EUR 16.00 (incl. wine tasting) for non-attendees of the Symposium: Tel.
02732 908030 or www.klangraum.at

Sunday, 25.10., 12.00

Schloss zu Spitz, Schlossgasse 3, 3620 Spitz

Literary Musical Matinée

With **Catch-Pop String-Strong** (Vienna) and **Richard Schuberth** (Vienna)

Tickets EUR 16.00 for non-attendees of the Symposium: Tel. 02732 908030 or
www.klangraum.at

ELit Literaturhaus Europa: www.literaturhauseuropa.eu

All year the network of European literature institutions establishes an Observatory for European Contemporary Literature that publishes regular updates and commentaries on contemporary literature trends. As the highlight of the annual programme from 22 to 25 October 2015, the European Literature Days are held in Wachau/Austria.

Institutions from six different European countries have joined forces to set up a virtual ELit Literaturhaus Europa that focuses on European contemporary literature from various backgrounds. These include from Slovenia the publishing house and festival organizer **Beletrina-Academic Press**; from Hungary the **European Cultural Foundation Budapest** with its partners **Lette International Budapest** and **Buchmesse Budapest**; from Germany the **Literaturhaus Hamburg**; from Great Britain the media company **Sounds Right London** with its partner **European Literature Network**; from France the **Université de la Sorbonne Nouvelle-Paris 3**; and from Austria **NOE Festival und Kino GmbH** in Wachau, where ELit's headquarters are based.

The network aims for a new quality of cooperation among literary organizations in Europe. A common theme of the collaborative work is the Observatory for European Contemporary Literature that is dedicated to monitoring, research, discussion and publishing literary trends and innovations and the dissemination of literature across Europe. The Observatory is a think tank of European literary activity where the central focus is on networking between writers and literary experts. The Observatory makes available its results to the literary scene and all those interested in literature in the form of articles, dossiers and ebooks via www.literaturhauseuropa.eu.

ELit Literaturhaus Europa is committed to communicating literature within Europe's diverse cultural spaces thanks to a wide variety of events. It organizes readings with writers, workshop discussions and workshops in Budapest, Hamburg, Ljubljana, London and Paris, and enables writers to introduce their literature in other linguistic areas as well as to learn more about the new opportunities for publishing and communicating via digital media. It promotes the translation of literature into other languages and develops innovative forms of communicating literature.

As the highlight of the annual programme from 22 to 25 October 2015, the European Literature Days are held in Wachau/Austria. They include a symposium during which experts from the Observatory for European Contemporary Literature explore the annual themes, as well as literature events open to the public.

ELit Literaturhaus Europa is supported from 2015 to 2018 by the European Union “Creative Europe” Programme.