

LITERATURVERLAG DROSCHL

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RIGHTSLIST 2020



Iris Hanika: *Echoes Chambers*

Novel, 240 pages

HERMANN-HESSE-PRIZE 2020

»The author brings together what has lost its hold in reality. In *Echoes chambers*, New York and Berlin form a space for reflection that sparkles with wit and intellectual willfulness. « (From the jury's statement)

***Echoes Chambers* receives high acclaim by the media, and ranks first on the Austrian ORF top ten book list and third on the German Südwestrundfunk's top ten book list for Summer 2020**

In *Echoes Chambers*, Iris Hanika impressively demonstrates her skills as artful, ingenious storyteller. We are travelling to New York to accompany the poet Sophonisbe. She follows an invitation to come to the »City of Dreams« for ten weeks before returning to Berlin, where Roxana, the novel's second protagonist and a successful writer of self-help books, takes over.

The two women get caught up in various incidents, excesses and digressions, including with a young bourgeois who gives the story another sharp twist. Nevertheless, this book does not just speak of mature delusional love – it is also about Echo and Narcissus. The intricately woven episodes are brimming with a boisterous thirst for knowledge, a good dose of life's reality and merciless criticism of capitalism.

Echoes Chambers, a travel as well as a romance novel, but also an action novel and self-help book, provides for great literary joy.

»A novel, so fantastic that you wish it all readers, and above all readers of the world.« (FAS)

»Literary finesse and easy reading at the same time – this art novel is an immensely funny romance novel and a city novel rolled into one.« (Deutschlandfunk)

»Many people have written about New York but rarely have modern city life and myth got entangled as beautifully as in Iris Hanika's new novel *Echoes Chambers*.« (Stuttgarter Zeitung)

»Written with incredible ironic finesse and effortlessness.« (Deutschlandradio)

»*Echoes Chambers* is a partly extremely funny novel about language, literature, delusional love and life.« (Buchkultur)

»Greatly entertaining. And as a matter of fact a really unprecedented book.« (NDR)

»The new novel by Iris Hanika cannot be read without feeling dizzy. Delightful.« (WamS)

» A multi-layered and artistically mirrored artifact that comes along light-footed, plays ironically with its own knowledge of the world and life and radiates a very contemporary, hopeless serenity.« (Radio Bremen)

»Quite argumentative, often funny and entertaining from start to finish.« (taz)

»Iris Hanika's novel is challenging, unusual, eloquent, political, entertaining and now at the top of the best lists.« (Wiener Zeitung)

»Iris Hanika has written a literary capriccio on a graceful subject, with a lot of knowledge in the background, as a conversation piece that can be discussed excellently in the salons of the big cities.« (FAZ)





Roman Markus: *Thingy, or Tomorrow we turn to dust*

Novel, 232 pages

With *Thingy, or Tomorrow we turn to dust*, the young Viennese writer Roman Markus has written a real summer novel, lively and fun.

»This summer shall never end« the narrator, named ... Thingy tells himself. Okay, the start into the hot season may not have been overwhelming – both his job at Teletext and his girlfriend Doreen are gone all of a sudden. But JC, not his »best, but closest« friend, and Jo, who knows how to live well and wildly, take him back to life again.

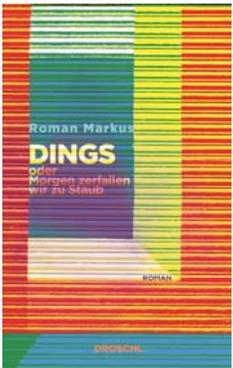
A short trip from Vienna to Berlin, a summer job as movie projectionist at a local cinema, love and living in the moment – all this puts a sudden stop to Thingy's every day monotony. He eventually enters the Now but not without the occasional stupidities, such as a devastating sausage stand trip through the neighbourhood or several boozy nights.

Like in a big city road movie, Thingy stumbles from one situation into the next while re-discovering his curiosity and joy of life. Fantastically funny and with rich imagery, Roman Markus portrays this twen having the summer of his life.

Roman Markus's *Thingy, or Tomorrow we turn to dust* is a »pretty good summer novel full of wit, drive and frenzied action.« (Jenaer Stadtmagazin)

»Thanks for this extraordinarily well written, exhausting, recalcitrant and really cool book.« (Ninas Buchblog)

»The story of a man in his mid-twenties in a wonderfully funny and pictorial way. A real summer book! (BR)



Thomas Jonigk: *Going on.*

Novel, 200 pages

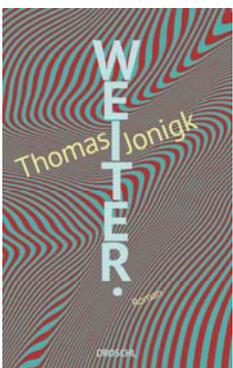
How to be happy? This is the central question both protagonists from *Going On* are trying to find an answer to. In her childhood and adolescence Veronika was exposed to violence and lack of affection. Robert, freshly dumped by his long-term partner, is at rock-bottom when Veronika stumbles into his life in a café in West Berlin in May 1986. From then on things are looking up, there is a ray of hope: Life is going on.

Veronika's is slowly warming up to Robert and Robert feels a weight has finally been taken off his chest. The two strangers help each other get back on their feet. Step by step their desire - a life of love and security - takes shape. It's now up to them to take back control of their lives. What can they do for themselves? Which decisions will they take?

Thomas Jonigk portrays these two very different people with empathy and kindness and leads them out of a seemingly hopeless situation.

»Why I was excited from the beginning, is Thomas Jonigk's extraordinary linguistic humor.« (Marcus Kufner, Bücherkaffee)

»It's fascinating with which kind of great astuteness and will to survive Jonigk's protagonists are provided with, without any kitsch and so touching.« (Karin Cerny, profil)





Bettina Gärtner: *Herrmann*

Novel, 288 pages

With wit and dry humour, Bettina Gärtner portrays middle-aged Herrmann and his middle-class life between capital and countryside. Despite being sickly and rather unambitious, Herrmann would like to climb the career ladder in his company. What he doesn't want, though, is to keep running his recently deceased father's dog breeding business. But what would the people in the village say? Then, his private and professional life is turned completely upside down within a single week as people and incidents from the past make an unexpected but disturbing appearance - above all Urban, Herrmann's friend from his youth who had disappeared to England 30 years ago.

Bettina Gärtner's novel is an original portrayal of today's times, with a humorous take on the quirky personalities we all know.

“*Herrmann* is a book straight out of our day and age - brimming with reality, tragic comedy and brilliant linguistic accuracy.” (Björn Hayer, Cicero)

»Besides a plenty bizarre background description about life in the Austrian province, *Herrmann* is also a novel about contemporary working environments which is presented in an eloquent way full of linguistic humor.« (Veronika Hofeneder, literaturhaus.at)



Helwig Brunner: *Gummy Bear Campaign*

One-minute novellas, 144 pages

One-minute novellas are stories reduced to a minimum which were invented by Hungarian writer István Örkényi during the age of Goulash communism. Helwig Brunner transports this pithy literary format into our times.

The subject matter of these one-minute novellas is everyday life. Brunner's razor-sharp observations reveal human, interpersonal and societal absurdities which unfailingly end in surreal, sober or grotesque punchlines.

“A rather slim but nonetheless brilliant book ... Helwig Brunner's highly polished language is pure bliss. His little stories, always dedicated to a name, a protagonist or a hero are pearls that even after repeated reading won't lose any of their irresistible charm.” (Franz Becker, Musenblätter)



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