



Haunting the Present

FREE NEW LITERATURE FROM EUROPE FESTIVAL NOVEMBER 16-18

New York, October 14, 2010—Today's Europe is a fascinating convergence of old and new, with 200mph trains speeding past 1,000-year-old towns. The past and present are never far away from each other, and this year's **New Literature from Europe** festival explores this proximity by presenting some of the most powerful recent works of fiction by eight of the most important contemporary European authors. In "**Haunting the Present**," the festival's **7th annual series** from **November 16-18**, the overriding theme of the events, all of which are **free and open to the public**, is the continued sway of history on contemporary life. Readers will be transported from the mythical Polish village of Primeval to a small, bucolic French town shortly after World War II, and beyond.

For the seventh edition of the **New Literature from Europe Festival**, eight cultural institutes have teamed up to present a series of discussions and readings featuring eight critically acclaimed European writers: **Gabriela Adameşteanu** (Romania), **Antonia Arslan** (Italy), **Philippe Claudel** (France), **Radka Denemarková** (Czech Republic), **Jenny Erpenbeck** (Germany), **Gerhard Roth** (Austria), **Olga Tokarczuk** (Poland), and **Kirmen Uribe** (Spain). Moderators will include distinguished writer **André Aciman**, chair of Comparative Literature and director of the Writers' Institute at the CUNY Graduate Center and **Susan Bernofsky**, Guest Professor of Creative Writing and Literary Translation at Queens College (CUNY).

France's **Philippe Claudel** is best known in the United States as the writer and director of the critically acclaimed movie *I've Loved You So Long* starring Kristin Scott Thomas. But he first drew public attention in France as the author of *By a slow river* (*Les Ames Grises*), which won the Renaudot prize and has been translated into 23 languages. His latest book to be translated into English, *Brodeck*, won the Independent Foreign Fiction Prize 2010 and the 2010 French American Translation Prize for John Cullen's translation. In this dark and disconcerting novel, Brodeck, a concentration camp survivor, has returned to his secluded home village after the war. Asked to write a narrative exculpating his neighbors from any blame in the murder of an artist-drifter, he delves into his village's collective guilt and examines its dark secrets.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS - NEW LITERATURE FROM EUROPE FESTIVAL

Tue. Nov 16 7pm	Haunting the Present A Reading with 8 European Writers	McNally-Jackson Books 52 Prince St. (@ Lafayette) 212-274-1160	Readings in English featuring all 8 authors at one of New York's leading independent bookstores (http://mcnallyjackson.com)
Wed. Nov. 17 3 to 5pm	Translating a Past that Haunts the Present <i>With Jenny Erpenbeck and Philippe Claudel</i> <i>Moderated by Susan Bernofsky</i>	The Writers' Institute CUNY Graduate Center 365 Fifth Ave (@ 35 th St) (Room- 9100) 212-817-2005	Acclaimed authors Jenny Erpenbeck and Philippe Claudel join their American translators, Susan Bernofsky and John Cullen, to discuss the delicate art of incorporating the fraught history of Germany and France during WWII into their fiction and then translating the result into English.
Wed. Nov. 17 6:30pm	Haunting the Present A Conversation with the Authors	The Center for Fiction 17 E. 47th St (@ Madison) RSVP: 212-755-6710 or events@centerforfiction.org www.centerforfiction.org	The Center for Fiction welcomes all eight New Literature from Europe authors for a conversation with distinguished writer and professor André Aciman. Featuring Radka Denemarková, Jenny Erpenbeck, Olga Tokarczuk, Kirmen Uribe.
Wed. Nov. 17 7:45pm	Haunting the Present A Conversation with the Authors	The Center for Fiction SEE ABOVE	Featuring Gabriela Adameşteanu, Antonia Arslan, Philippe Claudel, Gerhard Roth.
Thur. Nov. 18 7pm	Eight European Voices Reading and Reception	The Czech Center 321 E. 73 rd St (@ 2 nd Ave)	Readings in English and in the original featuring all 8 authors, followed by a reception.

For more information about the festival, please visit www.newlitfromeurope.com.

High resolution author portraits: xxx

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ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Gabriela Adameșteanu is one of Romania's outstanding writers and political journalists. Her novel *Wasted Morning* was a landmark of dissident writing during the communist years. She is the recipient of numerous awards in Romania and internationally, including a 2002 Hellman Hammett Grant from the Human Rights Watch and the Romanian Writer's Union's 1984 Annual Prize. **Featured novel: *Wasted Morning*.**

Antonia Arslan is an Italian writer and a professor of modern and contemporary literature at the University of Padova. Her writing centers around the Armenian genocide and the survivors who live in Italy. **Featured novel: *La Strada di Smirne [The Road to Smyrna]*.**

Philippe Claudel is the celebrated author of *By a slow river (Les Ames Grises)*, which won the Renaudot prize in France and has been translated into 23 languages, and *Brodeck*, which won the Independent Foreign Fiction Prize 2010 and the 2010 French American Translation Prize for John Cullen's translation. He is also the writer and director of the movie *I've Loved You So Long* starring Kristin Scott Thomas. **Featured novel: *Brodeck*.**

Radka Denemarková has worked as a researcher, lecturer, and theatrical advisor, and has published numerous translations from German. Her latest novel, *Money from Hitler* received the Czech Republic's prestigious Magnesia Litera award for Czech Literature in 2007. In sparkling, imaginative prose, Radka Denemarková depicts a world of absurdity and darkness. *Money from Hitler* is now being made into a feature film. **Featured novel: *Money from Hitler*.**

Jenny Erpenbeck is the author of stories, novels and plays, which have been translated worldwide, and her literary honors include the Ingeborg Bachmann Jury Prize, and the Heimito von Doderer Prize. She has worked on opera and musical productions since 1991. **Featured novel: *Visitation*.**

Gerhard Roth's first novel was published in 1972 and he's gone onto write 14 more novels along with plays, a children's book, and several books of essays. The destructive forces of National Socialism and Austria's relationship with its past and its present constitute the central theme of one of his latest book translated in English, *The Story of Darkness*. **Featured novel: *The Story of Darkness*.**

Olga Tokarczuk is one of Poland's most accomplished contemporary novelists. Her work is widely translated in Europe, and her novel, *Runners*, won the 2008 Nike Prize for Best Book. **Featured novel: *Primeval and Other Times*.**

Kirmen Uribe is considered one of the most outstanding renovators of present literature, delving into the waters of autofiction with a rich style that is complex and evocative. His novel, *Bilbao-New York-Bilbao*, has received Spain's National Prize of Literature 2009, the Critic's Prize 2008 in Basque language, the Ramón Rubial Foundation Prize and the Booksellers Guild of Euskadi Prize. **Featured novel: *Bilbao-New York-Bilbao*.**

Moderator **André Aciman** is the author of fiction, essays, and a memoir, and is the Chair of Comparative Literature and Director of the Writers' Institute at the CUNY Graduate Center. His most recent novel is *Eight White Nights*.

Moderator **Susan Bernofsky** is an expert on German literature and culture as well as on the theory and practice of literary translation. She is a Guest Professor of Creative Writing and Literary Translation at Queens College (CUNY)

ABOUT THE ORGANIZERS

Partner institutions: [Cultural Services of the French Embassy](#), [the Goethe-Institut New York](#), [the Istituto Italiano di Cultura](#), [the Instituto Cervantes New York](#), [The Czech Center New York](#), [the Austrian Cultural Forum](#), [the Romanian Cultural Institute](#), and the [Polish Cultural Institute in New York](#)

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