

PRESS INFORMATION

Pasinger Fabrik
August-Exter-Str. 1, Munich
October 24-26, 2014
and October 20, 2014, Vienna

SCHAMROCK FESTIVAL OF WOMEN POETS 2014



The organizers of the Schamrock-Festivals of Women Poets
Augusta Laar and Sarah Ines Struck
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(Munich, August 2014) Changing the world with creative anger and poetry. Opening new perspectives to perceive our environment and the arts.

Such are the objectives of the Schamrock Festival of Women Poets, looking forward to its second issue this October 2014. The festival invites to attend a celebration of poetry embracing all generations and many countries

After the great success of the first Schamrock Festival in 2012 the second one expands to become more

international. Artists from 13 countries will present the great variety of lyrical, artistic and musical expressions of women poetry, from 24th to 26th October 2014 in Munich, Germany and on the 20th October in Vienna, Austria.

More than 50 poetesses from Austria, Galicia, Germany, Finland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Slovenia, Switzerland, Turkey, the Republic of Tuva (Mongolia) and the USA will join the 2th Schamrock-Festival of Women Poets at the Pasinger Fabrik Munich and will perform their poetry in readings, concerts and cross-over events. Before the three-day poetry marathon in Munich Schamrock takes the occasion of the 90th birthday of the great writer Friederike Mayröcker to invite on October 20th to one extra festival day to the House of Literature in Vienna.

The festival program in Vienna includes appearances by Friederike Mayröcker, Nora Gomringer and Anja Golob (Slovenia). In Munich one will meet Zehra Çirak (Turkey/Berlin), Yoko Tawada (Japan/Berlin), Nora Gomringer, Swantje Lichtenstein, Pelin Özer (Turkey), Brigitte Oleschinski, the Slam-Duo Le Poonie and Patti Trimble (USA/Sicily), Birgit Kempker, Ingrid Fichtner and Wanda Schmid (Switzerland), Yolanda Castano and Maria Reimóndez (Galicia), Dacia Maraini (Italy), Ann Egan and Cliona O'Connell (Ireland) and Kirsti Simonsuuri, Johanna Venho and Helena Sinervo (Finland), among others.

The festival presents concerts and cross-over projects with the singers, poets and musicians Sainckho Namchylak (Republic of Tuva), Renate Knaup-Krötenschwanz (Amon Düül II), Diana Syrse (Mexico/Munich), and rap artist Ebow (Turkey/Munich). Helga Pogatschar and ensemble will perform a version of her musical theatre "Drei fliegende Minuten unplugged" ("Three flying minutes unplugged") with lyrics by Nora Gomringer, and the electro-acoustic poetry duo Kunst oder Unfall (Art or Accident) invites the internationally acclaimed musicians Robyn Schulkowsky and Sebi Tramontana to join their performance as special guests on the closing night.



The organizers of the Schamrock-Festivals of Women Poets Augusta Laar and Sarah Ines Struck

Augusta Laar is a visual artist, writer and musician. She lives in Munich and Vienna. With her poetry series Schamrock Salon of Women Poets she started the Schamrock-Project, leading to the festival in 2012. As a kind of prelude for the poetry festival Augusta Laar is curating together with Kalle Laar for the first time the Schamrock Film Festival "female presence", taking place from 3th to 5th October 2014 in the Werkstattkino in Munich. Augusta Laar creates exhibitions and projects on poetic communication and works in the fields piano education, poetry, perception and sound. Together with Kalle Laar she forms the electro-acoustic poetry duo Kunst oder Unfall (Art or Accident).

Sarah Ines Struck is a writer and publisher, among others for the Storia Publishing House, and as the director of the Karin-Struck-Stiftung e. V. she manages the estate of her mother, the writer Karin Struck. Sarah Ines Struck works as an artist on various cross-art projects with visual arts and music. She has studied literature and acts as a communicator in social media and PR for cultural and technological projects. Since the beginning of 2011 she is a coorganizer and cocurator of the Schamrock Festival.

Why create a Festival for Women Poets?

"Out of some creative anger!", that is Augusta Laar's answer if asked about the impetus to invent a festival for women poets. „Poetesses get less invitations to literature festivals and have generally less possibilities to publish and perform. Literature written by women is still regarded often as inferior compared to 'normal' literature by male writers. Thus women are prevented from inscribing themselves into the ruling norms and canons. This anger has great creative potential. 'Stay with your anger!', Marlene Streeruwitz told me at the 2012 festival ..."

Sarah Ines Struck adds: "We are working against unjust social structures – also together with likeminded men. To a Schamrock Salon that will happen before the festival we are inviting men in Munich and Vienna, to present and read poetry by women. It's not only that we provide a network for women poets and connect them with their readers. We encourage women to work together, to find new paths to cooperate and to share. We are linking countries and try to itemize social structures by the use of poetry and maybe even make them a bit more just. It is, of course, possible to question whether or not literature has the ability to change the world, but if men and women don't even start trying ..."

Augusta Laar and Sarah Ines Struck realise the Festival mostly honorary. „Without the help by sympathizers like Kalle Laar for graphics and website, Alma Larsen for lectorship and texts, Barbara Yurtdas for the focus on Turkey, including translations, Karin Fellner and Tamara Ralis for Ireland, as well as Susanne Becker-Gonnella for the Italian translations, to mention but a few, we could never succeed with the festival", Sarah Ines Struck explains. "But Schamrock is just such a big inspiration. We are able to present the variety and richness of contemporary women poetry, encompassing all generations and many different art forms", says Augusta Laar. „This project opens up new perspectives of dealing with our world and the arts for all of us.“ "Being on the advisory board for the visual arts department of the women's artists society GEDOK Munich it is particularly important for me to encourage cooperation between the genres", Laar continues. „That's why I am especially looking forward to the exhibition 'A Poem is like a Pearl', the annual GEDOK exhibition taking place parallel to the festival at the pavilion of the Ismaning castle. Here, artists from Munich react upon poems of some of the festival poets with their individual visual means. Just like in the exhibition 'Wort.Bild.Stelle' ('Word.Picture.Spot'), designed by GEDOK-artists during the festival in the atrium of the Pasinger Fabrik.“

Sponsors and cooperating partners (as of July 2014)

The festival is supported by the Department of Culture of the Town of Munich, the Equality Body of the Town of Munich, the Bavarian Ministry of Science and Art, the Oberbayern district, the Cultural Trust of the Municipal Savings Bank of Munich, the Swiss foundation Pro Helvetia, the Austrian Cultural Forum Berlin, the DTV publishers, the GEDOK Munich, the Lyrik Kabinett foundation Munich, the Therese Literary Society, the Cultural Department of the St. Gallen Canton, Switzerland, the Istituto Italiano di Cultura Munich, the Instituto Cervantes Munich, the Yunus Emre Enstitüsü (Yunus-Emre-Institute), the Robert Bosch Foundation, the FILI Finnish Literature Exchange, the Slovenian Cultural Institute Skica and the Consulate General of the Republic of Slovenia, Munich.

Cooperating partners are the Pasinger Fabrik Munich, the Houses of Literature Munich and Vienna, the Literature Archive Monacensia Munich, the Vienna Poetry School, the Allitera publishers, the Literature Foundation of Bavaria, the Tatendrang Agency, the Karin-Struck Foundation e.V., the Wortschatz bookstore, Bradshaw Books, the Tigh Fili Cultural Centre and the Institute of Finno-Ugric/Uralistic Studies of the Ludwig-Maximilians-University Munich.



The organizers are grateful for additional support like contributions to the non-profit Society Schamrock e.V. (contributions are entitled for a tax deductible receipt):

<http://www.schamrock.org/verein>

More information:

<http://www.schamrock.org/festival>

<http://www.facebook/schamrock.org>

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