

Press Release

German Book Prize 2017: six novels in the final round

The finalists have been chosen. The jury has selected six novels for the shortlist of the German Book Prize 2017:

- Gerhard Falkner: **Romeo oder Julia** (Berlin Verlag, September 2017)
- Franzobel: **Das Floß der Medusa** (Paul Zsolnay, January 2017)
- Thomas Lehr: **Schlafende Sonne** (Carl Hanser, August 2017)
- Robert Menasse: **Die Hauptstadt** (Suhrkamp, September 2017)
- Marion Poschmann: **Die Kieferninseln** (Suhrkamp, September 2017)
- Sasha Marianna Salzmann: **Außer sich** (Suhrkamp, September 2017)

“In light of our mortality, we have a duty to think boldly, Imre Kertész once wrote. Bold thinking: that is what all of the shortlisted texts have in common – despite their many thematic and aesthetic differences. What they all share is an awareness that serious literary activity also always means breaking with prevailing systems of speech, thinking and feeling. What unites many of the texts thematically is the question of who ‘we’ are and who ‘we’ want to be – which also brings Europe into the picture. And, after reading the books, there can be no doubt: The idea of Europe is always at stake – today more than ever – and it is up to those of us alive now to act responsibly, which also means acting boldly”, says Katja Gasser (Österreichischer Rundfunk), jury spokesperson for the of the German Book Prize 2017.

Since the submission process began, the seven members of the jury have reviewed 200 titles published between October 2016 and 12 September 2017.

In addition to Katja Gasser, the members of the jury for the German Book Prize 2017 are: Silke Behl (Radio Bremen), Mara Delius (*Die Welt*), Christian Dunker (autorenbuchhandlung berlin), Maria Gazzetti (Casa di Goethe, Rome), Tobias Lehmkuhl (independent critic, Berlin) and Lothar Schröder (*Rheinische Post*).

The Börsenverein des Deutschen Buchhandels Stiftung – the foundation of the German Publishers and Booksellers Association – awards the German Book Prize 2017 to the best German-language novel of the year. The winner

receives 25,000 euros, the five finalists 2,500 euros each. The award ceremony will be held on 9 October 2017 in the Kaisersaal of the Frankfurt Römer to coincide with the start of the Frankfurter Buchmesse.

The German Book Prize is awarded by the foundation of the German Publishers and Booksellers Association, with financial support from the Deutsche Bank Foundation. Other partners include the Frankfurter Buchmesse and the city of Frankfurt am Main. The television network Deutsche Welle supports the German Book Prize in its media activities both at home and abroad. Those interested can watch the award ceremony via live stream at www.deutscher-buchpreis.de. The radio stations Deutschlandfunk and Deutschlandradio Kultur will also broadcast the ceremony as part of the “Dokumente und Debatten” programme on digital radio and as a live stream online at www.deutschlandfunk.de.

Starting on 27 September 2017, the website www.new-books-in-german.com will feature English translations of excerpts from the shortlisted titles, along with an English-language dossier about the shortlist. “The Book Prize Bloggers” will present the nominated titles on www.deutscher-buchpreis-blog.de. After reading the 20 books on the longlist, the bloggers discuss them and provide background information and contributions for critical debate. These blogs will also all be presented together on the Facebook page of the German Book Prize (www.facebook.com/DeutscherBuchpreis) and under the hashtag **#dpb17**.

Downloads

[Information about the nominated titles](#)

[Press photo - shortlisted titles](#)

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For more information about the German Book Prize 2017, please go to www.deutscher-buchpreis.de.

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