

Festival NEUE LITERATUR

New Literature from Austria, Germany, Switzerland and the United States

March 7 – March 8, 2010



SHOULD I STAY OR SHOULD I GO?

Modes of Mobility in Contemporary Fiction

The annual Festival NEUE LITERATUR brings some of the best up and coming German-speaking authors to New York, where they encounter well-known American writers in a series of conversations and readings.

This year's edition of the festival centers on the notion of mobility in today's increasingly globalized world. Many authors in Europe and the United States share an immigrant background and write in languages that are different from what they grew up with.

The "immigrant experience" has become a common theme in many recent books of contemporary fiction. However, mobility or the lack thereof is not only experienced by authors who have arrived and struggled to establish themselves and their identities in a new and often hostile society, but also by writers who are longing to move away from their small-town provincial surroundings but feel that they are stuck and cannot leave.

Contemporary fiction lets people move from one place to another or never at all, but it shows that ultimately, mobility is a concept of our mind.

Panel A *HOUSE IS NOT A HOME*
Monday, March 8, 06:00 – 08:00 PM

AUTHORS' BIOGRAPHIES

Julya Rabinowich



© Andrew Rhinky

Born in 1970 in St. Petersburg, Russia, Julya Rabinowich has been living in Vienna since 1977, where she studied translation (Russian-English), took courses in psychotherapy, and studied painting at the University of Applied Art in Vienna.

For her novel *Spaltkopf*, published in 2008, she was awarded an author's scholarship by the city of Vienna, the Book Award for an outstanding literary debut by Austrian Federal Ministry for Education, Art and Culture, and the Rauriser Literary Prize by the Province of Salzburg in 2009.

Olga Flor



© Chris Hynes

Born 1968 in Vienna, currently living in Graz, Olga Flor studied physics and worked in the field of multimedia.

Her first novel, *Erlkönig*, was published in 2002, followed by *Talschluss* in 2005 and *Kollateralschaden* in 2008, which was longlisted for the German Book Prize 2008. In 2004, Flor's monologue *Fleischgerichte* was presented at the *Schauspielhaus Graz*.

Rivka Galchen



© Aaron Harnly

Rivka Galchen, born in 1976, is a Canadian-American writer and physician. Galchen attended Princeton University in 1994 before taking her M.D. from Mount Sinai in 2003, with a focus in psychiatry. After completing medical school, she completed an MFA at Columbia University. She was a 2006 recipient of the Rona Jaffe Foundation Writers' Award for women writers. Galchen has contributed and co-authored several scientific articles to national magazines such as *The New Yorker*, *The New York Times* and *The Believer*. Her first novel, *Atmospheric Disturbances*, was published in 2008, which was named as a finalist for the 2008 Governor General's Award, one of Canada's most prestigious literary prizes. She currently is an adjunct professor in the writing division of Columbia University's School of Art.

In conversation with Daniela Strigl.

Daniela Strigl



© Elke Mayr

Born in Vienna in 1964, Daniela Strigl studied German, history, philosophy and dramaturgy in Vienna. She works as an essayist and literary critic. From 1992 to 1994, she was responsible for the Walter Buchebner Gesellschaft's literary program at *Kunsthaus Mürrzuschlag*. From 1995 to 1998, she was editor-in-chief at the arts magazine *was*. Between 1996 and 2001, she was a co-organiser of the *Literatur im März* festival in Vienna. From 2003 to 2008, she was on the panel of judges for the Ingeborg Bachmann Prize, in 2009 for the German Book Prize. She was Scholar in Residence at Rutgers University, New Jersey, in 2005 and since 2007, she has taught at Vienna University's Institute of German Studies. Daniela Strigl was awarded the Austrian State Prize for Literary Criticism in 2001, and the Max Kade Essay Prize in 2006.

