

WORLD_DRIVES association

world_novel **facing diversities of global culture** **a literary project**

Directorate of the project:

Prof. Uli Rothfuss, Director of the Branch Culture and Arts of World_Drives association, Member of German PEN-Center and German-Swiss PEN-Center, Delegate of the Writers-for-Peace-Comitee of the International PEN.

Does globalisation mean that the same stories will be written across the various cultures of world society, life-stories dominated by a western master model? Does globalisation erode the diversity of cultures and knead the its various remembrances to a pulp of oneness in the future?

“I am seeing more and more, that poetry is a common value of mankind, and that it everywhere and at every time comes out by hundreds and hundreds of human beings”, Goethe said. Literature does not have a fixed place of residence. The philosopher Walter Benjamin recognised, that every present time interacts with its past in a specific manner, and the well-known Palestinian poet Mahmoud Darwish states: “We have a father-land built from words” – but at the same time the literary scientist Ottmar Ette postulates “a literature without a fixed place of residence”.

The culture of world society is shaped by the past as well as the present time; it arises from the memories of groups and specific cultures. But there are the small corners and items in the memories, which are individual, focused on the detail, the peculiarity, the originality of persons and experiences. In a period, when all procedures seem to be standardised and virtual, the narrations of stories get a new significance; the narration regains a new value as the core of oral culture in contrast to the formalised words and texts.

The project “world novel” will explore the future but the authors start with their memories and experiences of their life-stories transmitted from past times. The challenge is to create the modern and future world’s novel revealed by such personal remembrances.

The stories selected among the diversity of cultures are like mosaic stones. They will shape a picture of a future created from remembrances. The various themes map the diversity of world’s cultures and its forms of literate representation. The stories across the continents and countries, towns, regions of the world, tell about the memories, the real and imagined, true, fictive and utopian ones for the future.

The road map to the world novel

The project addresses selected writers, poets from every part of the world, continents, regions, nations. They produce a text (story, essay, short story) delivered to the project, both in their native / writing language and in an English translation. (If the English translation is not possible, the project directorate will organise it).

The directorate invites in a first phase authors and poets from every part of the world to send their text (by post or email). This first target group is recruited by a reputation procedure. In the following phase further candidates are selected by recommendations of key persons and institutions.

Publication

The texts are gathered by the project directorate and will be assessed by a project jury for publication and the Award WORLD_NOVEL.

The project jury is composed by:

- the project leader Professor Uli Rothfuss, Professor for Cultural Aesthetics and Poetics at International University of Calw / Germany, and director of the Branch Culture and Arts at World_Drives
- Prof. Dr. Chinmoy Guha, Professor for English Literature at the University of Calcutta / India
- Dato Magradze, author and editor, president of the PEN-Center Georgia
- Dr. Hans-Peter Meier-Dallach, director of World_Drives and president of the World Society Foundation, Zürich / Switzerland

The texts will be published in a first phase in its written language and in an English translation on the website of the project. After the end of the project all texts shall be, also in the written language and in an English translation, be published as a book.

Forms of presentation in exhibitions, readings or performances are planned or offered to interested international events; thereby a selection of authors contribute to a symposium.

Scientific accompaniment

The project is accompanied by a research project initiated and coordinated by the Branch Culture and Arts of World_Drives association in cooperation with several universities. The results of the project are embedded within the framework of the topic "world culture" addressed by the World Society Foundation.

The results of this scientific project will be published on the website of the project and in the book, being edited by the project leader as a scientific essay.

Poets, Essayists and Novelists from all countries of the world are asked to send literary texts concerning their view of world future for which they own the publishing right, in all literary forms (please not more than 10 printing pages) to the address of the project leader. With the submission of the text they give their agreement for the publication of the text in the framework of the project.

Submission address:

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