

Berlin, July 3, 2024

PROGRAM & TICKET SALE KICKOFF

24th international literature festival berlin

September 5 – 14, 2024 Program

September 9 – 18, 2024 Young Program

150 authors from around 50 countries

[Program of the 24th ilb](#) | [Tickets](#)

In September, everything in Berlin will revolve around literature: for ten days, you can go on a literary journey and look forward to inspiring encounters with the giants of world literature along with many new discoveries. The festival is aimed at an audience that is enthusiastic about reading and it is open to anyone seeking a dialogue about the pressing social and political issues of our time. At the 24th international literature festival berlin, 150 authors from around 50 countries worldwide can be experienced. The diverse authors who will present their work include well-known voices such as Rachel Cusk (Canada/FR), Olivia Laing (UK), Mithu Sanyal (Germany), Elif Shafak (Turkey/UK), Aleida Assmann (Germany), and the Booker Prize winners Ben Okri (Nigeria/UK), and Paul Lynch (Ireland). In addition, the audience can discover young talents such as the Scandinavian shooting stars Thomas Korsgaard (Denmark) and Iida Turpeinen (Finland), the Uyghur poet Tahir Hamut Izgil (China/USA), or the new star of Japanese contemporary literature Hiroko Oyamada (Japan). The multifaceted program with around 150 events and workshops combines different formats such as book premieres, panel discussions, a poetry night, a graphic novel day, and festival parties. Tickets go on sale with the publication of the program on July 3.

The 24th ilb was developed under the direction of Lavinia Frey and her team and features a number of innovations. For example, internationality has been given a new aspect: for the first time in its 24-year history, the festival is working with a curator in residence. The author Helon Habila (Nigeria/USA *1967), who comes from Nigeria and lives in the USA, has developed this year's festival program together with the ilb curators and contributed his perspective from the very beginning. Another new feature is a jointly developed festival theme: under the conceptual guideline "Strange New World", over one hundred authors and panel guests will examine how literature reacts to current crises and conflicts and share their views on our "Strange New World". In addition, the festival is geared even more strongly towards visitors: changes such as the early announcement of the program, new ticket options such as a 10-pack, and especially a Festival Kitchen as a meeting point to join in conversation with the authors are all aimed at encouraging the desire for international literature. The ilb is a place for encounters and exchange – between writers and their readers, between established authors and up-and-coming talents, and between familiar stories and new perspectives.

“Authors bring us closer to their view of the world. They challenge our supposed certainties and enable us to see ourselves in a new way. Literature not only deals with what is, but also with what could be. The international literature festival berlin brings this together in a magical way and creates space for inspiration, new discoveries, and new connections.”

Lavinia Frey, Festival Director

The festival will be opened on September 5 by the Franco-Rwandan writer **Beata Umubyeyi Mairesse** with her speech “Strange New World” about the interaction of past, present, and future and the power of literature for our understanding of the strange new world. On the opening evening, **Szczepan Twardoch** (Poland) will read for the first time in Germany from his novel “Cold”, in which a Russian revolutionary escapes from the Gulag under Stalin and writes a diary in which he reports on the political and human upheavals of his time. The actor Ulrich Matthes will read from the German translation (tr: Olaf Kühl).

Curator in Residence **Helon Habila** has curated 15 events at the festival in which international authors share their different perspectives on a topic and present current new publications – with no less than six thematic panels, six book presentations, a workshop, and a film screening with discussion. In “Extreme Metaphors: Challenging the Received Tradition”, three award-winning female voices of African-futurism – **Okwiri Oduor** (Kenya/Tunisia), **Novuyo Rosa Tshuma** (Zimbabwe/USA), and the Hugo, Nebula and World Fantasy Award winner **Nnedi Okorafor** (Nigeria/USA) – come together for the first time at the ilb. They will talk about science fiction, magical realism, and the desire to break open established categories.

Habila can be experienced both as the host of his program as well as on stage: In the discussion “The Art of Writing”, Habila will give insights into his work and his new, as yet unpublished novel. As moderator of the panel “A Writer is by Definition a Disturber of the Peace” on the 100th anniversary of James Baldwin’s birth, he will shed light on the power of literature. Authors **Sasha Marianna Salzmann** (Russia/Germany) and **Logan February** (Nigeria/Germany) will present their favorite works by the African-American writer and discuss his legacy for the civil rights movement and for the rights of minorities worldwide.

Strong female voices from the Western Balkans can be heard in the “Spaces of Freedom” literary revue. **Barbi Marković** (Serbia/Austria), winner of the 2024 Leipzig Book Fair Prize, **Rumena Bužarovska** (North Macedonia), **Diana Čuli** (Albania), **Barbara Delač** (Montenegro), **Lejla Kalamujić** (Bosnia and Herzegovina) and **Adelina Tërshani** (Kosovo) take a female look at historiography in their texts that can be both angry and funny.

With the essay collection “Muslim-Jewish Supper: Co-existence in times of polarization” by the Muslim-Jewish couple **Meron Mendel** (Israel/Germany) and **Saba-Nur Cheema** (Germany), attention is drawn to current debates. The discussions revolve around identity politics, the Middle East conflict, and xenophobia.

In the reading “In the Presence of Absence. Poems from Palestine” **Ghayath Almadhoun** (Syria/Germany) and friends will read poems by Palestinian authors, some living in the diaspora in North Africa, Europe or the USA, while others are unable to leave the Gaza Strip. Their poetry expresses anger and sadness as well as pain and longing.

The panels curated by cooperation partner PEN Berlin are also closely related to current events. Under the key question “What If We Were Wrong: What can help against the AfD?”, politicians including Katarina Barley, Katja Kipping, Thomas de Maizière, Boris Palmer, and Linda Teuteberg will discuss why it is so difficult to counter the shift to the right in Germany, immediately after the state elections in Thuringia and Saxony.

Julian Nida-Rümelin (Germany) and **Maren Urner** (Germany) discuss the extent to which emotions and affects can harm or benefit politics. Survivor of the Hanau attack **Said Etris Hashemi** (Germany) and journalist **Gilda Sahebi** (Germany) ask how institutional racism shapes us and what we can do about it. **Davi Kopenawa** (Brazil), spokesperson for the Yanomami indigenous people, and **Mirjam Herrmann** (Germany), a well-known representative of the so-called Last Generation, emphasize the need to protect nature in the fight against climate change and environmental crises.

The echo of different voices, textual traditions, and narrative forms in international contemporary literature is explored in the *ECHO. ECHO* series in cooperation with the FU Cluster of Excellence Temporal Communities. This year, the focus is on the collective: the anonymous author collective **Wu Ming** from Italy presents its novel “UFO 78”, which was created through collaborative writing, and Eastern European poets create queer temporalities beyond the linear. **Zsuka Nagy** (Hungary), **Sergei Davydovs** (Russia) and **Łęko Zygmuntówne** (Poland) disrupt numerous forms of normativity with their poetic and satirical poetry. In the Young Program, German Children’s Literature Award winner **Chantal-Fleur Sandjon** (Germany) will present her new coming-of-age novel “City of Trees”, which describes the collective transformation experience of young people.

The ilb gives space to voices that deal with collective experiences of violence and the associated conflicts that are difficult to bear. The evening “SHARED TRAUMA. A Night of Memories” at the Documentation Center for Displacement, Expulsion and Reconciliation brings together authors, experts, and filmmakers. Where there are no words, literature and film can find forms of expression. **Branwen Okpako** (Nigeria/USA), **Ronya Othmann** (Germany), **Sasha Marianna Salzmann** (Russia/Germany), **Ofer Waldman** (Israel), **Tahir Hamut Izgil** (China/USA) and **Olga Bubich** (Belarus/Germany) show resistance against powerlessness and speechlessness.

Polyphonic and dazzling linguistic art can be heard at the Poetry Night with some of the present day’s most important lyric voices. The Uyghur poet **Tahir Hamut Izgil** (China/USA), **Logan February** (Nigeria/US/D), **Hannah Sullivan** (UK) and **Maria Stepanova** (Russia) will read in their own languages, while actors will recite the German texts, some of which have been translated exclusively for the festival.

On the 14th Graphic Novel Day, young talents and stars of the scene will explore unusual narrative styles with ink, brush, and fountain pen – and create strange new worlds in the process such as the frothy affair of puberty, a guide to learning to be afraid, or all of Kafka on 128 pages. Participating comic book authors include **Nando von Arb** (Switzerland), **Nicolas Mahler** (Austria), **Nina Six** (France/Belgium), and **Nora Krug** (Germany/USA), who sheds light on human behavior in the face of state violence in her reading on the “Art of Drawing Politically”. The trilogy she presents combines illustration, text, photography, and archive documents on topics such as Nazi perpetration, authoritarianism, and the war in Ukraine.

YOUNG PROGRAM, September 9 – 18, 2024

This year’s Young Program presents 16 authors and illustrators from 12 countries. They approach the universal questions of literature, who we want to be, and how we want to live together, in stories and pictures for children and young people. 28 readings and just as many workshops are on the program, which includes a wide range of picture books, children’s and young adult novels, as well as a comic and poetry.

Abdi Nazemian (Iran/USA) opens the Young Program with his coming-of-age novel “Only This Beautiful Moment”, set between student protests in Iran and show business in Hollywood. In comic form, **Kat Leyh** (USA) tells of outsiderhood and friendship with wit, speed, and magic, while Dutch author **Joke van Leeuwen** opens windows into the world of imagination and thought with humorous wordplay and drawings and **Chang Yu-Jan** (Taiwan) draws from old legends in his richly detailed picture book to remind us that we must protect nature.

This year, the ilb’s reading promotion program has been reorganized in response to IGLU and the Pisa study. The new workshop program includes one- to three-day offers, which are free of charge for the first time, including a book gift for all participating students. The aim of the workshops is to increase the desire to read.

Venues:

Haus der Berliner Festspiele (festival center), Documentation Center for Displacement, Expulsion, Reconciliation, Heinrich Böll Foundation, JVA des Offenen Vollzuges, Berlin - Kisselallee

YOUNG PROGRAM: Haus der Berliner Festspiele, silent green Kulturquartier, die gelbe Villa, Theater an der Parkaue, as well as workshops in numerous Berlin schools and cultural institutions

Patron:

Joe Chialo, Senator for Culture and Social Cohesion

24th ilb

Sep 5 – 14, 2024 Program

Sep 9 – 18, 2024 Young Program

Further details literaturfestival.com

Press-Kit available [here](#)

Tickets & Prices

Tickets are available starting on July 3, 2024 at

<https://tickets.kbb.eu/kbb.webshop/webticket/eventlist?production=645>

The **box office** opens at every venue one hour before the respective event is scheduled to begin. Tickets for the ilb can also be purchased at the **box office in the Gropius Bau**.

The Berliner Festspiele **service team** can be reached at +49 (0)30 25489 – 100 or via email: ticketinfo@berlinerfestspiele.de

Regular: 12 euros / Reduced: 8 euros

Regular (special): 18 euros / Reduced: 12 euros

The special price applies to select events. More information can be found on our website.

Packages: 10 or more tickets –20%, 20 or more tickets –30%

Graphic Novel Day Pass regular: 18 euros / reduced: 12 euros

Graphic Novel Day single ticket: 5 euros (no reductions)

Tickets & Service YOUNG PROGRAM

tickets@literaturfestival.com

Phone: +49 (0)30–278786–70/–72, Mo–Fr 10am – 5pm

Prices YOUNG PROGRAM

School classes: 5 euros per student (accompanying adults free of charge)

Single ticket: 10 euros (regular) / 6 euros (reduced)

More details at <https://literaturfestival.com/en/young-program-visit/>

Main Funder
Hauptstadtkulturfonds

Main Funder Young Program
Kulturstiftung der Länder

As a Guest of
Berliner Festspiele

Presented by
radioeins
radio3

Press contact:

ARTPRESS – Ute Weingarten
Romana Weissbacher
weissbacher.artpress@utweingarten.de
Alexandra Saheb
saheb.artpress@utweingarten.de
+49 30 48 49 63 50

ilb contact:

Sydney Noemi Stein
Communications
presse@literaturfestival.com
+49 30 27 87 86 42
www.literaturfestival.com