

## **Weiter Schreiben / Writing On >>> Editorial**

We spoke with many authors from crisis regions and asked them what they wish for themselves. The response we heard most frequently was, “To write on.” To keep on writing also means to keep on being read, for writing and being read belong together. Authors do not write for themselves, but so their thoughts can be heard.

It is of elemental importance for authors that their writing process is not interrupted. Writing is not merely an art; it is also a way of life, a way of perceiving the world, making sense of it and relating to it.

This is especially true for authors from crisis regions. For them, not only is the writing process interrupted by the political situation, at times it is even life threatening. When artists are forced to leave their country or region, they are also cut off from their own language. Writing On therefore combines both an artistic and a political objective. We publish authors who have had to make a radical new start in short literary forms: poetry, short stories, literary essays in the original language and in the German translation. They enrich our imaginations, enhance transcultural dialogue and thwart stereotypes and reading habits. For example, feminist perspectives, such as in Syria and the so-called Middle East, reveal a less noted way of grappling with war and everyday life. Roma and Sinti authors make themselves heard with literature and break with racial stereotypes about Europe’s largest minority.

Those who have to leave their country abruptly often lose large parts of their networks. Anyone who is constantly discriminated against finds it difficult to go public. It is all the more important to gain new and different networks that allow access to unknown literature and media scenes. This is the work of the author teams in which many well-known German-language authors participate. Some of them are also from war and crisis regions and share the experience of a radical upheaval and a new beginning. Together, they work on the literary texts and translations and exchange views about the literary scene and aesthetic decisions so that more can emerge from Writing On. One thing is already certain: in 2018 an anthology of selected Writing On works by will be published by Blumenbar publishers.

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Most of all, we thank our readers for their interest.

Ines Kappert and Annika Reich, Artistic Directors of Writing On