
European Book Club digital: Book presentation and reading with the author

„The Fluid Land“ Novel by Raphaela Edelbauer

Date: Monday, 07.12.2020 - 8 p.m. (Israel time)

Place: Zoom

Language: English

Organizer: Goethe-Institut Tel Aviv and Austrian Cultural Forum

Price: Free admission

A town that doesn't want to be found. A countess who rules over the memories of an entire community. A hole in the earth that threatens to drag its inhabitants into the depths.

When her parents die in an accident, the highly talented physicist Ruth Schwarz is confronted with an almost intractable problem. Her parents' will calls for them to be buried in their childhood home, but for strangers, Gross-Einland remains stubbornly hidden from view.

When Ruth finally gets there, she makes an amazing discovery: beneath the town lies a huge cavern which seems to exert a strange control over the lives of the inhabitants. There are hidden clues about the hole everywhere, but nobody wants to talk about it. Not even when it becomes clear that the stability of the entire town is in jeopardy.

“The emergence of the Identitarian Movement and the rise of extreme right wing politics all over the world have made it impossible for me to ignore the questions this book poses. Concepts of homeland and identity have again come under focus in the media and, in many places for the first time since 1945, are being used in a proud, unreflected manner. The main character, Ruth, travels not metaphorically but quite literally into the depths of her family history. Can our concept of homeland ever again be neutral or even authentic? Is there a collective memory that awakens in our brains when we're not paying attention? And can the past ever have nothing to do with us?”

Raphaela Edelbauer.

Raphaela Edelbauer, was born in Vienna in 1990 and grew up in Hinterbrühl in Lower Austria. She studied Creative Writing at the University of Applied Arts, she was awarded the first prize at the Rauriser Literaturtage 2018 and received a year-long stipend from the German literature fund. She won the highly acclaimed audience award at the Ingeborg Bachmann competition in 2018. In 2019 she received the Theodor-Körner-Preis.

Nominated for the German Book Prize • Nominated for the Austrian Book Prize
Selected by >New Books in German<



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Moderation:

Marietta Sander, Goethe-Institut

Arno Mitterdorfer, Austrian Cultural Forum