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**JACKIE SMITH WINS 2021  
HELEN & KURT WOLFF TRANSLATOR'S PRIZE,  
NOW IN ITS 25<sup>TH</sup> YEAR**

New York, NY (May 20, 2021)—The Goethe-Institut New York is pleased to announce that **Jackie Smith** is the winner of the 2021 Helen & Kurt Wolff Translator's Prize for her translation of *An Inventory of Losses* by Judith Schalansky, published by New Directions.

"I'm honored and thrilled to have been chosen as this year's winner of the Helen & Kurt Wolff Translator's Prize. *An Inventory of Losses* is a book like no other, a kind of literary cabinet of curiosities, and I feel very fortunate to have had the opportunity to help bring it to the English-speaking world," said Smith.

The winner of this year's prize was determined by a jury of five with an expertise in German literature and translation, consisting of Shelley Frisch (Chair), Bettina Abarbanell, Philip Boehm, John Hargraves, and Susan Harris. In their statement, the jury said:

"Judith Schalansky's genre-bending (or blending) text roams across time and space in twelve chapters whose identical lengths belie their tremendous diversity of subject matter, as they transport us from an island that disappeared into the South Pacific all the way to the moon, from ancient Greece to present-day Germany – and beyond.

Jackie Smith's translation follows this back-to-the future slalom with remarkable grace and agility, brilliantly capturing the musicality of the original text, its philosophical depths, psychological insights, meticulous scientific observations—as well as its playful ingenuity and deeply poetic imagination. In fact a catalogue of these achievements might properly be construed as an 'Inventory of Gains.'"

Jörg Schumacher, executive director of the Goethe-Institut New York, notes:

“Over the course of its 25 year history, the Helen & Kurt Wolff Translator's Prize has become a coveted award. The impressive list of past recipients shows a jury that has struck a perfect balance between honoring well-established and up & coming translators. The promotion of German-language literature in translation is an essential component of our mission at the Goethe-Institut to foster cultural exchange across the Atlantic. We would like to thank our partners at the Foreign Office and the Friends of Goethe New York for their continued generous support.”

The award ceremony will take place at the Goethe-Institut New York on **June 24<sup>th</sup>**, featuring special guest Alexander Wolff, grandson of Kurt Wolff.

This year marks the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Helen & Kurt Wolff Translator's Prize, which awards \$10,000 annually to an outstanding literary translation from German into English published in the USA the previous year.

This year's winner, **Jackie Smith** worked as a commercial translator, including several years at a German bank, before venturing into book translation. She translates fiction and non-fiction, and in 2017 was the winner of the Austrian Cultural Forum London Translation Prize. *An Inventory of Losses* is her first full-length literary translation and, in addition to winning the Wolff Translator's Prize, was also longlisted for the International Booker Prize 2021.

Funded by the German government, past winners of the Helen & Kurt Wolff Translator's Prize include inaugural prize winner John E. Woods, Joel Agee, Anthea Bell, Ross Benjamin, Susan Bernofsky, Philip Boehm, Daniel Bowles, John Brownjohn, Isabel Fargo Cole, Charlotte Collins, Peter Constantine, Margot Bettauer Dembo, Shelley Frisch, Michael Henry Heim, Michael Hofmann, David Dollenmeyer, John Hargraves, Breon Mitchell, Burton Pike, Catherine Schelbert, Damion Searls, Jean M. Snook, Leila Vennewitz, and Krishna Winston.

The annual Gutekunst Prize of the Friends of Goethe New York will also be awarded on June 24<sup>th</sup>, with a jury consisting of translators Tess Lewis, Alta L. Price, and editor Jeremy Davies having selected Chicago-based PhD candidate **Jennifer Jenson** for her translation of an excerpt from Elsa Koester's novel *Couscous mit Zimt*.

For more information, visit [www.goethe.de/us/helenandkurtwolffprize](http://www.goethe.de/us/helenandkurtwolffprize)  
and [www.goethe.de/us/gutekunstprize](http://www.goethe.de/us/gutekunstprize)

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The **Goethe-Institut** is Germany's cultural institute and is active worldwide with six institutes in the USA. Since 1969, the Goethe-Institut New York has promoted knowledge of the German language and fostered intercultural dialogue between the USA and Germany. With its translation grant program, two annual translator prizes, and a German language library open to the public, the Goethe-Institut New York facilitates German-American cultural exchange.