

Overcoming Dictatorships – the encounter of poets, artists and writers

Poland, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Italy, Romania and the new German Länder – in the twentieth century these countries were ruled by, and finally overcame authoritarian or totalitarian systems of government. Still, what do people who wanted to realize artistic activities under conditions of limited freedom, remember of that time? How far did those who did not emigrate, have to adapt themselves to the regime in order to create, or to keep, a free space for themselves?

It is our intention to encourage the dialogue and exchange of experiences between artists, poets and writers from the above-mentioned countries, which are all involved in the two-year-project. The aim is to reduce prejudices through a profound transfer of culture, and to contribute to a better understanding between the regions of East Central Europe and Western Europe.



COMUNE DI TRENTO



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TECHNISCHE
UNIVERSITÄT
DRESDEN



Overcoming Dictatorships

Intellectuals and Regimes

Trento, 9-10 maggio 2008

9 May, 17:30

Sala Affreschi, Biblioteca Comunale, Via Roma, 55 – Trento

Presentation of the literary anthology

Present tensions. European writers on overcoming dictatorships (Budapest, CEU Press, 2008)

Introduction, prof. Francesco Zambon (University of Trento)

Lectures by Alessandro Tamburini, Lutz Rathenow and Gabriel Chifu

Present tensions. European writers on overcoming dictatorships

ed. Kristina Kaiserová and Gert Röhrborn, Budapest: Central European University Press, 2008

This volume is an intersection of literary works on the question of how to overcome dictatorships. It emerged from the transnational project “Overcoming Dictatorships – the Encounter of Poets, Artists and Writers” which convened acclaimed writers. Their range in terms of generation, European country of origin and artistic direction serves both as an advantage, and as the challenge posed by this anthology. The original motivations to take part showed considerable variety: such as putting into words a contemporary biography of persecution, the descendant’s feeling of personal historical responsibility, or the artistic curiosity of the outsider. The anthology is dedicated to the imaginative power of literature, and to Central Eastern and South Eastern Europe in particular. The formerly multicultural setting of these countries has suffered the most from European dictatorships and their insufficiently processed legacies. The cultural transfer exhibited here will help reduce prejudices and promote new forms of understanding with Western Europe: let us hope it will contribute to the development of a diversified but common European culture.

Contributors

Introductory texts by Kristina Kaiserova, Gert Röhrborn and Astrid Köhler

Literary texts by Zsófia Balla (Budapest), Mikoláš Chadima (Prague), Gabriel Chifu (Bucharest), Jirí Dedeczek (Prague), Denisa Mirena Piscu (Bucharest), Lutz Rathenow (Berlin), György Spiro (Budapest), Alessandro Tamburini (Trento), Wolfgang Templin (Berlin), Olga Tokarczuk (Nowa Ruda), Eduard Vacek (Teplice)



10 May

9 – 18 Sala Convegni della Facoltà di Economia,
Via Rosmini, 44 – Trento

Conference: “Intellectuals and dictatorship:
a comparative perspective 1922-1990”

“Trahison des clerics”? Intellectuals and artists in front of Fascism
Monica Cioli (University of Trento)

Why did the German Intellectuals collaborate with the National Socialist regime?
Georg Bollenbeck (Universität Siegen)

The “Art of idea” as a key for the analysis of society
Karl S. Rehberg (TU Dresden)

Architecture, politics and the city in Stalin's Russia
Alessandro De Magistris (Polytechnical School of Milan)

Intellectual change in Soviet and post-Soviet Russian intellectuals
Olga Novikova (Universidad Autónoma de Madrid)

Two painters in the GDR between conformity and opposition 1955 - 1965:
Harald Metzkes and Gerhard Richter
Eckart Gillen (Museumspädagogische Dienst, Berlin)

Intellectuals under Communism: the case of Romania
Cristina Petrescu (University of Bucharest)

Simultaneous translation in English, German, Italian

