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CHILDREN & YOUNG ADULT
2019
About us

_kunstanstifter_ is a small and independent publishing house from Mannheim, Germany. Our titles are hybrids of literature and art, for children and grown-up readers alike, often beyond established categories. We publish collector-quality books with the highest artistic standards.
Matthias Friedrich Muecke
Niemandsland
Memories of a Childhood in a divided land

Berlin during the Cold War. Matthias Friedrich Muecke casts a close look, from the perspective of those who were there then, at life as a teenager amidst the travails of everyday life in East Berlin in this captivating story. One of the protagonists is a bit cheeky and unflappable, while the other is sensitive and shy. They make an oath to remain inseparable friends forever and go through all sorts of things together, especially as reactions to the despotic, authoritarian system. Eventually, they become rebellious teenagers hankering for adventure. Their non-conformity eventually becomes dangerous and leads to a catastrophe.

Matthias Friedrich Muecke’s book contains fragments of memories from this period. They’re often bizarre, sometimes playful, and accompanied by melancholy black and white drawings which capture the atmosphere, in great detail, of a fairytale-like childhood during a bygone era.

ISBN: 978-3-942795-85-2 | Format: 160 x 230 mm |
Length: ca. 200 pp. | Autumn 2019
Linda Wolfsgruber & Jorge Luján
Garden of Shapes

»Next to the triangle and the square the pentagon asks himself if he has one or two sides too many, but on looking up he discovers thousands of shapes as lovely as his own.«*

Linda Wolfsgruber and Jorge Luján have realised a homage to the poetic nature of geometry. Circles, rhombuses, hexagons, trapezoids and a number of other shapes are presented here both as images and in texts in a most visually pleasing form. This book is an aesthetic delight for both older and younger readers alike.

*English translation by Janet Glass

Eleanor Sommer
The Moon Woman and the Sun Woman

Once upon a time, both the sun and the moon were women; this, however, has been forgotten long ago. They didn’t live in the sky then, but just above Earth. One only had to lift one’s head a bit to be able to converse with them. They liked to play with children most of all as children often visited them in the sky. One day though, a grown up came to visit, someone with a soul darker than the darkest of nights … In her own words and dreamlike pictures, Eleanor Sommer tells this story based on the traditional Chinese folktale of the Moon Woman and the Sun Woman.

Stella Dreis & Michael Stavarič

Scareman

The little crow is baffled. From his nest looking over vast fields, he can watch a terrifying scarecrow dressed in rags flapping eerily in the wind. Someone must have put it there. Why do people do such things? Why do they want to chase peaceful birds away? When even his mum couldn't provide a sound answer, the little crow decided to emulate human beings. The result is a scareman, intended to terrify and shoo people away.

Remarkably, the bird’s plan is successful. Soon, however, he observes a small child burst into tears in panic after encountering his scare man. The crow is terribly embarrassed by what he sees and decides never to do anything like what he has just done again. On the contrary …

This short tale, together with Stella Dreis’ subtile yet intensely colourful illustrations, is wonderful evidence of human beings having a lot to learn from the fabulous world of animals.

Madam Fafu loves insects! And she loves telling stories about a lady who can turn herself into her favourite creatures using special insect sprays. One day, she finds a ladybird on her desk. On the very same day she had told a story about a metamorphosis into this very insect. Can that be a coincidence?

Using delicate colours and fine pencil drawings Julia Dürr sets the stage for Astrid Walenta’s seemingly surreal story. There are stories within the story within the story … But it is left up to the reader’s fantasy to determine what might be true.

A picture book that can be read over and over again and in which alternative possible interpretations can be discovered time and time again in the pictures and in the text.

Finn is different. Mummy says he is sick. Lena doesn’t pay any attention to this and makes friends with the boy next door, who is absolutely fascinated by music, just like she is.

Thomas J. Hauck tells the story of a special friendship from the perspective of child-like carefreeness with no prejudices. Lena definitely sees the differences between herself and Finn, but is undeterred by them and comes to cherish him in spite of or even because of his deviation from the norm.

The story is elaborately illustrated by Katharina Sieg using a mixture of water-colours, pencils and crayons.

Jutta Bücker
Zorilla

People near the harbour are worried: a Zorilla marten has settled in their town. Nobody knows where it came from, nor why it has come. What is the animal up to? All the while, frenzied tales of its antics spread until, one day, a crowd of very concerned locals marches to its abode and is, to put it mildly, quite surprised!

The first version of the marten’s story was written by Jutta Bücker more than ten years ago. Her intention is not to preach but to invite readers to overcome their initial fears and engage in dialogue with what is thought to be so different.

A timeless and important story that can inspire courage and the overcoming of prejudice, to help everyone be more curious and interested in those they meet.

Leonora Leitl  
Queen for a night

Roberta Tannenbaum has lost her job in the Biology Centre. And although the whole family wants to help her, Roberta grows sadder and sadder. Until her children come up with the idea of creating her own job.

In vivid pictures, Leonora Leitl illustrates how Roberta goes about it and what the mysterious Queen of the Night has to do with it. She tells the impressive story of a mother who loses her job and pulls herself out of the abyss she subsequently sinks into with the help of her family and the desire to make her passion into a career.

Ann Cathrin Raab

Word Scuttle-Scramble-Race

Whether in ultra-quick roller-skating procession by foot-scooter-speeding-rocket-racing-technology or a seven-mile-robot-footed-machine – the absurd animal characters in Ann Cathrin Raab’s “Word Scuttle-Scramble-Race” tell readers about a competition in which the participants all have their own ideas of how they can win.

Join the chase in which small figures whizz by and find out who is making whose life a misery, who has the fastest vehicle, and who reaches the finish line first.

This sequel to Raab’s first book “Wörterwuselwelten/Into a World of Words”, which was published in 2016 by kunstanstifter. This new book offers readers a chance to venture off on an expedition with more of her remarkable illustrations and stories chockful of adventure.

Ann Cathrin Raab  
**Into a World of Words**  
The Outing

Start on an adventure, discover the realm of words! Follow all the quirky little animals that bustle about Ann Cathrin Raab’s adventurous world of words, and find a story within a story ...

This vivacious picture book provides for playful learning and joyful reading while creating room for the imagination – really smart nonsense!

**White Ravens** 2016, an award presented by the International Youth Library that recognizes outstanding children's and youth literature.


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Ann Cathrin Raab  
**Five Mice, One Cat**

A black’n white cat and mouse story – or rather, masses of mice make a big mess and meow! This wonderful simple and concise masterpiece by prize-winning author Ann Cathrin Raab will delight all very small and all very big fans of picture books. The storyline rolls through the delusively simple drawings, which are done in a blatantly comic style. And the calm ending will please especially those who read the book aloud to their kids – for all ends well, and all sleep well!

Iris Anemone Paul  
Polka for Igor

Igor is a special dog. You can’t see this, but if you take the time to listen to old polka records with him you will be rewarded with stories from his past. For Igor was a hero in Poland at that time. Little Ola knows this. As soon as the needle begins scratching the record, Igor’s blood begins to surge through his veins. And then, sitting in a wingback chair, the two of them travel through a story of casseroles and sauerkraut, tightrope dancers as tender as turkey schnitzels, Russian recorder players, Bengal tigers and sheep smelling of cuckoo flowers – accompanied by the sound of an accordion and a crackling open fire.

Winner of Serafina 2018

Nominated for the German Children’s Literature Award 2019 in the category: PICTURE BOOK and for the German Children’s Literature – Special Award 2019: New talents (category: Illustration)

Yi Meng Wu  
Yaotao's Characters

Lyon in the southeast of France: In her grandparents’ attic, Lucie finds an old suitcase filled with mysterious Chinese letters. Does it belong to her great-grandfather Yaotao who emigrated in the thirties from China to France? All of a sudden the characters begin to dance and tell her Yaotao’s story.

Yaotao’s heritage is an atmospheric journey back in time, written for both young and old, and a story about the arrival in a new culture.

Winner of Joseph-Binder-Award 2018 – bronze

Mirjam Zels  
**Just Like Friends**

What child doesn’t know fear? Some kids are apparently more afraid than others. Mirjam Zels draws a loving portrait of little Sophie who has a hard time keeping up with the rest. Everything seems to be all right in that ordinary town, but something’s different, and nobody really cares.

But then one day Sophie overcomes her inner daemon and makes friends with her fear, accepting the little monster as a rather helpful and protective pal.

In her tender and touching illustrations, Zels shows how the key to coming to grips with fear quite obviously lies within ourselves.

Winner of *Serafina* 2017  
*German Design Award* Winner 2018

Monika Maslowska & Sabi Kasper
The Best-Witch-Test-Tournament

“In the beautiful witches’ land
a furious argument began
about who the best witch might be,
from Buckeltal to Kreuzberg three.”

Griselda Grauenstein, Tumina Tuempelschreck and all the other merry witches compete in the Best-Witch-Test-Tournament. The king is supposed to determine the winner, but he is soon caught up in the crazy effects of the overzealous magic spells. Can little Tilly Tupfen help him out of his predicament?

Sabi Kasper’s funny rhymes and Monika Maslowska’s magical acryl-india ink illustrations create a fabulous chaos of magic spells.


Jana Walczyk & Andrea Katzenberger
When the names got lost

Jakob likes his name and, even more, all the pet names his parents give him. But then everything changes. The atmosphere at home gets more and more tense, the names give way to hurtful words until finally words disappear altogether. The boy keeps a low profile and explores his own fantasy world behind bulletproof glass with a self-made shuttle. A particular encounter makes him realize how important it is to open up and get to the bottom of unpleasant things instead of hiding away.

Andrea Katzenberger describes the wavering emotions of a little adventurer humourously and tactfully, whilst Jana Walczyk’s illustrations reveal Jakob’s unlimited imagination.

Irene Berg & Ingrid Mennen

Ben and the Whales
The extraordinary Journey

Ben and his grandpa just love to watch whales together, standing on top of a cliff by the seaside. But one day the old man dies, and Ben has to learn how to cope with the loss. His father tells him the story of a whale calf and an old humpback whale, to make him aware that life is a journey, for us too – and sometimes you got to let go to be able to move on.

Irene Berg’s evocative illustrations are kept in subdued, subtle shades that underline the philosophy of this gentle tale.

On the shortlist of Huckepack 2017


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Irene Berg & Ingrid Mennen

A dress full of stories

Tinka loves stories, letters and words. She makes a friend for herself out of newspaper and shows her her world. From the perspective of an inquisitive, book-loving child, in this short poetic story Ingrid Mennen describes what else Tinka comes up with while discovering the world around her and trying to make sense of it, set in scene by Irene Berg’s calming and at times cautiously coloured illustrations.

Christina Röckl
Chewing gum gums up your stomach

Lies are everywhere. They are international, sensational, go beyond acceptable limits, are big, small and sticky. Adults are the best master liars when they try to make you believe the most extraordinary rubbish in order to talk you out of undesired activities, as quick as a flash and with no trouble. Everyday life is incredibly dangerous! Monsters lurk around every corner. People lie like troopers and chewing gum sticks to your head. What is true and what isn’t? – A second look can work wonders.

In this picture book lies vie with alleged facts for attention, but also some of the smallest truths are hidden in it and can be tracked down if you look closely. And so: enter into the sea of pictures and sapere aude! (Translation: dare to think for yourself)


Christina Röckl
And then Your Head Will Burst

What would you reply if asked, »What is the soul?« And if you asked a child? How would a child explain a term we adults have tried to define in a thousand smart books? In cooperation with children, illustrator Christina Röckl created texts which she collected and translated into striking images. Thus, an abstract idea becomes a picture book for adults invented by children – original, delightful, and deeply moving.

• Beauty and the Book Award Winner, Frankfurt Book Fair 2014
• Joseph Binder Award – prize-winning entry
• on the longlist of the Most Beautiful German Books 2014 by Stiftung Buchkunst/Foundation Book Art
• nominated for the Serafina 2014, a young talent award for illustrators by the German Academy of Literature for Children and Young Readers in cooperation with the Frankfurt Book Fair

• Winner of the German Children’s Literature Award 2015
Ulrike Möltgen & Kilian Leypold  
**Wolf Bread**  

Just imagine taking a long walk through a dark forest on your way to school! This happened in post-war Germany, in the 1940’s ... On a bitter cold winter morning, even before the sun rises, the little boy has to hit the trail. How reassuring that his mom has provided him with a delicious sandwich, despite the poverty they were all going through. Suddenly and unexpectedly he bumps into two very strange fellows that couldn’t look more unalike, but both as ravenous as wolves ... What on earth might they be scheming? Scared and intrigued, the little boy does exactly the right thing to save his skin.

With an acute sense for infantile emotions, the authors show how reality and fantasy flow together in the formation of fear.


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Ulrike Möltgen & Michael Stavaric  
**Milli Rabbit on the Run**  

Milli Rabbit is a shy little creature. Scared of the dangers that lurk everywhere the small rabbit runs off, shaking with fear!

She seeks shelter in the woods, on the fields, and even in the big noisy city. When she has almost given up, a miracle happens, and Millie need not hide anymore.

Ulrike Möltgen’s vividly colored collages and Michael Stavaric’s poetical words enchant this meaningful fable. A specially colored palette brings images to life. Trembling, shivering, Milli squeaks, »How mean to give me such a scare! Maybe I can hide in a sea of flowers?« »Oh Millie«, the flowers send their scent, »but we are red! No refuge for you here, for we can make no white rabbit disappear ... just hop along!«

Linda Wolfsgruber & Michael Stavarič
When the Magpie King lost his White Color

When the magpie king wakes up one morning, his entire plumage has changed to raven black! Where did the white disappear? Nobody knows the answer. The king’s subjects whisper behind their wings, but none of them dares to address this mystery. Thus the magpie king harbors growing resentments towards his fate, towards his subjects, and the white in the world.

This fairytale-like story by Michael Stavarič about a king on the search for his lost white identity is wonderfully matched by Linda Wolfsgruber’s aerial illustrations in black-and-white and pastel shades.


Linda Wolfsgruber & Anna Rottensteiner
Ice Crystals in Summer

Mist surrounds the little chalet in the Alps where Klara and Franzi are waiting. All is quiet, the landscape covered in snow – in the middle of summer! Klara’s heart is pounding in her chest. Will Mother find her way back from the cable car station safely? She looks out for her through the window covered with ice crystals and tries not to think of Father’s stories of cocky trolls.

Anna Rottensteiner tells of the mystical magic of a winter snow landscape and describes in a homely way how childish fantasy plays its little games. Linda Wolfsgruber’s rustic illustrations create a mountain idyll in an unusually snowy summer.

Wilma’s Mice Hunt

Wilma is a starving cat. Searching for goodies she strolls through the city and the woods, always on the look-out. It’s not so easy, as the mice scurry away quickly ... and suddenly, what the heck is this? Wilma keeps bouncing into ever new surprises.

Liliane Steiner’s illustrations employ special color schemes and hide away unexpected little details. It’s not just Wilma – nor the children – who greatly enjoy this search. Use the enclosed magnifier and let yourself be surprised!

Nele Palmtag
Through the Woods

Tom Cat, Poodle and Peep lead a quiet life as Mrs Darling’s pets. They are cossetted and fussed over, and spend most of the time together at home. But one day Mrs Darling falls off the ladder and is taken to the hospital by ambulance. The animals are frantic, because they are suddenly all alone. Boldly they decide to set off for the hospital themselves.

The pampered pets’ risky journey through the woods, where they come across some roughish types, is told in witty rhymes and with humorous illustrations by Nele Palmtag. Will they ever be able to make friends with such wild animals?

Orlando Hoetzel & Verena Stegemann
A Magic Cat Called Light

Marvelous illustrations feature the story of the fairy-tale cat called Light and the chubby child Marble. This is an enchanting tale which focuses on light and the relationship between people and animals!


Orlando Hoetzel & Verena Stegemann
An Owl Named Sili

Following A Magic Cat Called Light which focusses on the relationship between people and animals, the authors continue their series with this second volume. This is a charming tale of an owl that collects candles to not dine in the dark!

Sili, a rare mountain owl one of a kind, lives in the treetop of a lone fir situated on a high mountain peak. Up there she enjoys a fantastic view down into the valley where humans and animals move about. When darkness falls, she indulges in her candlelight dinner for one. But one night her last candle stump burns down and Sili goes searching for the shimmering lights in the valley below ...

On the shortlist of the Most Beautiful German Books 2015, Stiftung Buchkunst/Foundation Book Art

Orlando Hoetzel & Verena Stegemann

Captain Grigoleit’s Rocket
The Red Fruit Jelly Command

A cool cosmic bedtime story with illustrations reminiscent of 50’s comics! The dolce vita of the cats living on planet Red Fruit Jelly is suddenly interrupted when Captain Grigoleit and his men launch their new high-speed rocket into outer space, leaving the cats behind open-mouthed, marmalade-stained. The astronauts jet off passing through gooseberry rains and past elder comets. They have a berry-sweet mission to accomplish: the top secret red fruit jelly command!

This is our third children’s book project realized by the successful illustrator-author team Hoetzel-Stegemann.


Franziska Walther

Aim high

Erasmus is a really particular elk. He dreams of being out in the open and seeing new things, something other than the forest he has known all his life. He starts running and discovers new horizons, seas, hills, valleys, a city! Until one day he just stops. In sum, Erasmus embodies a meaningful tale about longing and arriving.

Franziska Walther employs large-sized illustrations, sequences, or poetic pics, in order to tell the story of an elk that rises above all expectations. This is her first picture book, after three novels she has illustrated for Kunstanstifter: Peter Schlemihl’s Wondrous Journey, The Time-Saver, and Werther Reloaded.

Mareike Engelke & Annette Feldmann

Not Beyond the 7 Hills

Snow White’s Grandkids Have a Ball

Are you curious about a contemporary Snow White story, down-to-earth and wildly witty? Allusions to the Grimm’s tale make for a completely new plot. Follow Mom and her seven kids’ holiday plans and find yourself in an almost fairytale-like ambience – although they’ll never reach their destination up in the snow-white mountains! But does it still matter if the big holiday plans won’t turn out? Seven lively kids, many imaginative details, wild lines, and a punchy discourse make for a great time altogether.


Eva Plaputta

Finn Flosse Cleans up the Ocean

Finn Flosse, son of a mermaid and a human father, is by all means a special inhabitant of the sea. When an unidentified invasion of colored objects and waves threatens the well-being of his friends – as indigestion or tricky traps – he jumps on to the track of the mystery, together with his friend Theo the Whale. This contemporary adventure tale addresses a bad problem, the careless dumping of our plastic waste into the oceans which harms and kills sea life. All the same, featuring artistic, scissor-cut silhouettes, this story is most joyous reading.

• nominated for Serafina 2015
• Climate Book Recommendation Oct. 2015, by The German Academy of Literature for Children and Young Readers, as a valuable book to raise climate awareness
• on the shortlist of the Most Beautiful German Books 2016 by Stiftung Buchkunst/Foundation Book Art

Marta Slawinska
The Boy Who Liked to Pick His Nose

Just relax, parents – here’s another humorous lesson to read! This is the story of little Christian who has the bad habit of picking his nose. Of course, his mother is not amused and she reproaches her son. But Christian knows how to defend himself – take it easy, Mom! For you see everyone picking their noses once in a while ... Who says it’s only little boys ..?


Roberta Bergmann
An Ape Threw a Banana, hey! And 25 Animals Came up to Play
An Animals’ ABC

Brooding on a cosy branch fork, Ralf the Ape is up to mischief. This place on top gives an ideal view to watch all the other inhabitants puttering around the big forest and its meadows, on this lazy afternoon – so why not shake it up a little? When Gunter the Bear shows up, the turmoil really starts, and one after another, the whole funny animal crowd spells out a fiesta. Amusing and easy rhyming couplets complement this dynamic picture story, ideal to listen to or to learn how to read!

Nominated for the German Design Award 2016.

Matze Döbele

Konrad’s Shadow

It’s not easy to deal with one’s shadow ...

Now, is it little Konrad who does all these naughty things, or is it in truth merely his shadow? Trying to get rid of this cheeky guy who does all Konrad is being accused of, but would never admit to, Konrad finds that his shadow takes immediate flight at the sight of the flashlight. Well done, boy! But later on, Konrad comes to realize that his shadow can be quite helpful too, and that the two of them actually belong together.

A meaningful parable, true craftsmanship, and a fun story!

German-French Youth Literature Prize 2015


Thomas Riegler & Christian Sova

The Big Alphabet Robbery

The big alphabet robbery is a small manifesto speaking out against censorship and conformity in our lives. The illustrator-author team created this highly original interplay between words and pictures, which intensify each other with levels of intricate meaning. The result: addictive reading in rhymes, alongside a statement on language, power, and creative resistance.

- German Design Award 2017 (Special Mention – Category Books and Calendars)
- on the shortlist of the Most Beautiful German Books 2016 by Stiftung Buchkunst/Foundation Book Art

Florian Weiß & Lasse Hölck
Ringel, the Little Seahorse

Ringel has lost his crown and ventures out into the deep sea on an adventurous quest. This enchanting tale is accompanied by unusual illustrations that reflect the mysterious underwater worlds in a realistic yet magical style. Florian Weiß even invented a particular device for his stippling technique, similar to tattoo art, and dot by dot, inch by inch, these water-blue images surfaced over a period of two years! The result is a visual feast that renders Lasse Hölck’s story in all breathtaking details, and offers us readers many adventures with hidden objects.


Yvonne Kuschel
The Green Cat

Though the green cat and the curious – funny dog share the same hill, they are as different as day and night. And when they bump into each other, two worlds clash. But then the dog learns new things and discovers unsuspected sides of himself. The canine presence in the cat’s life carries consequences, too. Who said cats and dogs don’t mix?

With colorful and characteristic felt pen drawings. Spacey op-art.

Nicole Riegert & Herbert George Wells
The Island of Dr. Moreau

Shipwrecked, saved and stranded on a remote island in the middle of nowhere, the young Englishman Edward Prendick encounters the mysterious Dr. Moreau. Initially beholden to his rescuer, he discovers by and by that something strange is going on on the island. Edward’s mistrust of the people living there grows deeper and deeper. But when gruesome creatures appear, half man, half animal, flight seems inevitable. The thriller by H. G. Wells was first published in 1896. Even today, reading it triggers eerie discomfort. In this edition, this discomfort is further enhanced by Nicole Riegert’s inscrutably beautiful xylographs. It will make your flesh creep while you hold your breath!

After “Johnny Panic and the Bible of Dreams” and “The Vampire’s Bride”, “The Island of Dr. Moreau” is kunstanstifter’s third book illustrated by Nicole Riegert.

Franziska Walther & Johann Wolfgang von Goethe
Werther Reloaded

Imagine Goethe’s Romantic cult figure as a hip New York art director! In the 21st century, The Sorrows of Young Werther seem to be fast-moving relationships, drugs, and a controlling mother. Driven by lust and a manic desire for consumption, Werther’s life is led astray. When he meets the amazing Lotte and experiences a wholeness with nature, things start to change...
Is there a happy ending in sight, this time?

Franziska Walter’s modern version of Goethe’s classic constitutes the first part of this volume; the second part features Goethe’s complete original text (1774) – two books in one.

- Winner of the German Design Award 2017 (Category Books and Calendars)
- on the shortlist of the Most Beautiful German Books 2016 by Stiftung Buchkunst/Foundation Book Art
Benjamin Courtault
Sudden Silence

Benjamin Courtault takes the reader on a bizarre road trip. An apparently small episode opens up new horizons and turns the protagonist’s unamusing and confined world upside down! As a matter of fact, rethinking creates new options resulting in a change of direction ...

Courtault makes up a fascinating, colorful scenario – simply bewitching!

- Winner of the German Design Award 2017 (Gold – category Editorial)
- One of the winners of Most Beautiful German Books 2016, also awarded with an Honorary Appreciation in the international competition by Stiftung Buchkunst/Foundation Book Art


Martin Burkhardt & Steffen Herbold
There are Pirates, or The Sad Life of Lili Lillersen

How about magical realism in a Northern setting? Lili loses her whole family in a great misfortune. Then one night, the lonely young woman wakes up and sees a pirate sitting on the edge of her bed. Is this just a dream? A crazy story evolves, with weird characters and odd happenings ... You see, quite miraculously, this book celebrates life, despite it all!

Renate Wacker
Mascha and the Bear
A Folk Tale from Russia

This unpretentious folk tale has a new setting – the wood resembles a suburb, the bear becomes a hunter and trapper. Mascha goes out into the forest to gather berries, but she gets lost and held captive at the bear’s hut. The bear is unwilling to let her leave, until at last she manages to free herself, relying on her own powers and wit. The layers of meaning remind us that we’ve all been held captive, that we’ve all had our bears...
Renate Wacker’s intriguing illustrations discover the power of fable and dream worlds, the extraordinary in the ordinary.

- Plague at the Biennial of Illustration Bratislava (BIB) 2015
- German Design Award – Nominee 2015
- Honoured by the Joseph-Binder-Award Jury
- Award by the Federal State of Saxonia 2014, 3rd place (Sächsischer Staatspreis für Design)
- White Ravens 2014
- e.o. Plauen-Advancement Award 2013

Roberta Bergmann & Frank Wedekind
Spring Awakening
A Child’s Tragedy

The German writer Frank Wedekind’s works were often censored in the 19th century. They turned against the educational principles and limited, middle-class morals of his times. In Frühlings Erwachen, a drama written in his mid-twenties, he employs the suicide of a school friend to portray the situation of a young generation which lacks access to sexual information.

Roberta Bergman has created a magnificent frame for this book. Her illustrations are reminiscent of the art-deco style of the period, yet these have a direct, contemporary appeal. The design appears both unusual but rooted in classical drama. This book pairs her striking images with a classic text to raise significant issues.

These illustrations have been nominated for the German Design Award 2015.
Katharina Jourdan & Marc Oliver Rühle

World End Party

The Sky above Us, Gone up in Smoke

“Sometimes I wish he would cry for me ...” Instead it is Mina who cries for him – for Elia, her fallen fiancé. This truly dramatic play leads us straight into the heart of a young woman in the midst of a hazardous war zone, where her life and love story take place. Third-person narration alternates with Mina’s point of view, in diary notes and intimate memories, all giving evidence of the roller coaster of emotions and the reality of countless women who go unrecognized as war victims.

Katharina Jourdan convincingly contrasts the main characters in her illustrations. Mina, the sensitive woman is portrayed in soft lines, whereas Elia the fighter remains a distant shadow in the drawings as well as in the drama.

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Anni von Bergen & Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Libretto by Lorenzo da Ponte

Don Giovanni

Don Giovanni, a passionate womanizer, simply cannot help plunging his fellow (wo)men into disaster incessantly. However, his misdeeds cannot go unpunished forever. His actions not only anger his former lovers, they also arouse the resentment of the undead.

Anni von Bergen skilfully presents the emotions sung in the opera in her dramatic and expressive drawings. A wonderful interplay between music, text and illustrations.

Mara Burmester  
Grandmother’s Fur  
No Fairy-Tales

Grandmother’s Fur is not a fairy-tale collection, as the subtitle indicates, but an illustrated and critical look at the traditional structures of fairy-tales. In 16 short texts, using selected quotations of famous fairy-tales, the author plays with realities and illusions, in words and drawings. Always center stage is the world’s lack of answers, its relevancy and proven sense.

“The Special Book” – on the list of the best books published by independent publishers 2015


Nicole Riegert & Nikolai Rainow  
The Vampire’s Bride

This literary tale by the Bulgarian writer Nikolai Rainow deals with the difficult relationship between the courageous young princess and the cannibal vampire. Who has not heard of the recent bestselling vampire fiction for teenagers? But in The Vampire’s Bride, the romance is getting way more creepy – not least owing to the terrific illustrations by Nicole Riegert! Riegert worked with monotypes and pastel stick on film, thereby creating these images that show a fragile, archaic appearance, faintly reminiscent of messages emerging from the twilight zone …

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