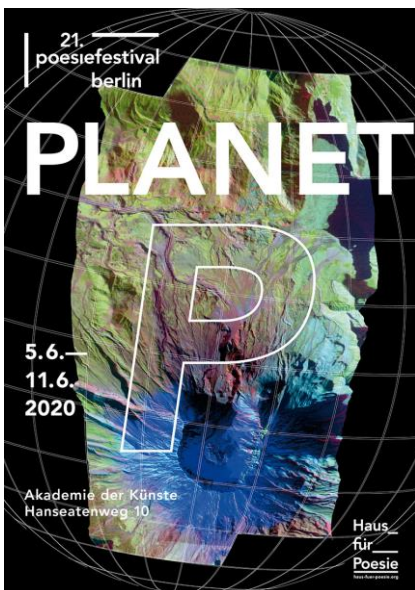


Press release from the Haus für Poesie

5.3.2020

21st poesiefestival berlin: seven days of poetry on Planet P Anne Carson, poetic activism, Canadian-German Versschmuggel/reVERSible

The **21st poesiefestival berlin** is opening its doors in the Academy of Arts in Hanseatenweg from **5 to 11 June 2020** under the heading of **Planet P**, to take a closer look at our languages and our world. Planet P is not just the planet of poetry; the title opens up room for thought about our planet, which is acutely at risk from several different factors. Poetry is tied to the here and now, whether it is dealing with wars, migration, multilingualism or political activism. We are expecting 150 poets from all over the world.



Festival image



Koleka Putuma © Mawande Sobehtwa



Anne Carson © Peter Smith

Focus Canada

The country focus of this year's poesiefestival berlin is directed at Canada. The **2020 Berlin Poetry Lecture** is being given by the celebrated Canadian poet **Anne Carson**. In 13 short lectures, Carson will be making poetological and philosophical forays into Antiquity and her own childhood. She explains how poetry emerges from mistakes and how metaphors can teach us how to take pleasure in error.

We have invited 18 German, English and French-speaking poets as well as First Nations poets to take part in what will be a high-calibre VERSschmuggel/reVERSible translation workshop. In the run-up to the festival they will be translating each others' poems in pairs, and the results will be presented in a long night of VERSschmuggel/reVERSible which is bound to be one of the festival highlights!

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Poesie

This year's festival exhibition, **Chorus**, brings together Canadian and German sound artists, poets and video artists in a multi-media installation in three languages in which visitors also take part, sensor-guided by their movements. The exhibition will be opening a week before the start of the festival (on 30 May). **Poésie Go!** will provide additional entertainment for festival visitors at audio stations with poetry podcasts from Canada and Germany.

Poetry, politics and migration

A forum with **Aleida Assmann** will be dedicated to memory in social media and the Internet; an evening with **Kathrin Passig** and others will shed light on digital poetry and its distribution. Another event will feature poetry activists giving an insight into their working methods and the places where their poetry is created – prisons, cemeteries and ambulances, as for the Iraqi poet **Kadhém Khanyar** or public squares as for the Belgian **Maud Vanhauwaert**.

Migrant perspectives will be illuminated in an evening dedicated to the poetry of the African diaspora in Europe and in a joint event featuring four writers from the International Cities of Refuge Network (ICORN) conference taking place at the same time.

Classics at the poesiefestival

A few days before the start of the festival, on 3 June, **Poets' Corner** will present an evening of readings and performances taking place simultaneously by poets from seven different Berlin districts each in their own neighbourhoods.

The poesiefestival berlin will open with **Weltklang**, the long night of poetry, with nine poets from around the world reading and performing in their own languages, including this year among others **Mircea Cărtărescu** (Romania), who has been unknown as a poet in Germany up to now, **Koleka Putuma** (South Africa), whose **Collective Amnesia** is a bestseller in her homeland, and **Ariana Reines** (USA), who recently won the lucrative Kingsley Tufts Poetry Award. Those in the audience who can understand German can follow this concert of language with readers and small lights.

On the Sunday of the opening weekend, the **Poetry Market** will be inviting us to linger at market stalls full of the wares of 40 poetry publishers and magazines and listen to the **readings in the Beech Garden**.

An extensive accompanying programme for everyone aged 0-99 is offered by **Poetic Education**, with a programme in several languages, workshops with poets, a workshop for translating Anne Carson, queer poetry as well as lemonade tree lists and 75 years of Pippi Longstocking!

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The poesiefestival berlin has been taking place since 2000 and is the biggest of its kind in Europe. As well as the book, poetry has long sought other forms of presentation and experiments with theatre, performance, music, dance, film and digital media. The festival enables poetry to be experienced in all its diversity of forms and welcomes up to 13,000 visitors each year.

The poesiefestival berlin is a project of the Haus für Poesie in co-operation with the Academy of Arts and is sponsored by the Capital City Cultural Fund (Hauptstadtkulturfonds).

FRI 5.6.– THU 11.6.2020

21. poesiefestival berlin

Academy of Arts
Hanseatenweg 10
10557 Berlin

Run-up events

SAT 30.5. Chorus

Exhibition opening (exhibition runs until 11 June)

WED 3.6. Poets' Corner

Readings in Berlin's city districts

Tickets

can be purchased online from the beginning of May and then from the box offices of the Academy of Arts in Pariser Platz and Hanseatenweg and on the evening of the event.

Social Media

Facebook [poesiefestivalberlin](https://www.facebook.com/poesiefestivalberlin)

Instagram [hausfuerpoesie](https://www.instagram.com/hausfuerpoesie)

Website

haus-fuer-poesie.org/

Press images

haus-fuer-poesie.org/en/press/press-photos/

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