

Summaries

Dominique Manotti: Writing in Order to Understand

Historian and political crime writer Manotti inspects her means of aesthetical practice: A fierce unionist since student age, she recalls the political battles and campaigns in France from the Algerian War to May 68 and beyond, studying Marx, Gramsci, Luxemburg as means of understanding and acting accordingly. She clarifies how politics, cinema and writers influenced her literary expression, topics and style.

Werner Schmidt: The Aesthetics of Resistance as the Search for a Critical Intellectual Attitude Today

The *Aesthetics* is the search for the I of the intellectual Peter Weiss. Since he understood how to discern in the processes of his time the consequences that would shape ours, we can consider him our contemporary. He was one of the foremost representatives of those who in the Brechtian spirit saw their role not in the singing of victories but in the »conquering of defeats«, who predicted a new rise of oppressors and exploiters, and, while adjusting their attitude accordingly, never wavered in their efforts to overthrow them.

Robert Cohen: The Face and the Mask. Volker Braun's Werktage 2 – Arbeitsbuch 1990–2008

Braun's 1000 page diary is an incomparable chronicle of the months and years after the end of the German Democratic Republic. It is a kind of taking stock of what remains after the cataclysmic events, a balance sheet without a balance. Its condensed prose and its complex intertextual references and configurations demand a careful and patient deciphering. Its multiple voices suggest an open work that invites the reader to collaborate in the production of meaning. First and foremost it is the work of a writer and poet and whatever truths it may contain have to be gleaned from the power and poetry of its language.

Wolfgang Fritz Haug: »Poets Tell Many Lies«. An Excursion into the Archaeology of Literature

In order to understand Plato's judgment, it has to be translated into the contradictions of his time, that is, alienated. The Gr. *pseûdos* overlaps only partially with the word for lie; it also means error, deception or disguise. Antagonistically introduced fiction is pervasive in Grecian mythology. If Plato wants to banish the poets from the polis, then not because he rejects fiction as such, but because he rejects the freedom of fiction. Images are only legitimate as ideals, as domination stabilizing fictions. Aristotle, in contrast, ties the evaluation of fiction to its truth content, and confines what is to be called poetry to imitation. The inherent idealization is risky, however, insofar as it can develop a dynamic of its own against the idealized, and the incongruity can become apparent.

Karl Heinz Götze: Concerning Some of Brecht's Experiments to Explore the Lie

Brecht's conception of the lie always intends to be beyond all morality and remain there. He is not interested in lying as something reprehensible, instead he organizes experimental literary arrangements of the questions who lies, when, why and with which results. The early Brecht of *Baal* investigates the connection between civilization and the lie in order to advocate that the human being should abandon civilization in favor of his desires, whereby

the lie would disappear, though neither egoism nor violence. The Brecht of the »didactic plays«, who was freshly converted to Marxism, advocates for the necessity for the politically motivated lie with the perspective of the later abolition of all lies. The plays that developed during the exile revolve around the lie as a necessity for survival, never class-neutral, of course. All these forms of the lie, and some additional ones, are to be found in the *Life of Galileo*, analyzed in conclusion, where the increase in the complexity of reflection on the lie and truth is won at the expense of a dialectic that in the end remains perplexing.

Otto Karl Werckmeister: Benjamin, Nothing Else. On the New Edition of Benjamin's Essay on the Work of Art

The new edition of Walter Benjamin's essay »The Work of Art in the Age of its Mechanical Reproducibility« from 1936 offers an exhaustive dossier of relevant text materials. The historical context of the essay it allows us to reconstruct reveals how Benjamin's refusal to come to terms with communism vitiates the thematic adequacy and the logical stringency of his argument.

Petra Boden: The »Fundamental Concepts of Aesthetics« – A Dictionary Project between Subversion and Subordination

After the collapse of socialism the project of the »Historical Dictionary of Fundamental Concepts of Aesthetics«, developed in 1983 at the Central Institute of the History of Literature (in the GDR), was confronted with a rash of transformations related to epistemic, staff, institutional and political aspects. Negotiations about concepts, organizing institutions and editors interfered with each other. There were intersecting or clashing interests. There were four different ›turns‹, which interfused each other, or which had parallel lines: a conceptual turn, an institutional turn, a political turn, and also a turn of intimate friendships. Those ›turns‹ are considered as a significant case for what happens when paradigm shifts coincide with political breaks.

Norbert Schneider: Mimesis and Realism. Notes on Thomas Metscher's Philosophy of Art

This contribution deals with two recent publications by Thomas Metscher on the foundation of Marxist aesthetics as related to a philosophy of art, especially with his underlying notion of gnoseological realism, following Lukács. Metscher's tendency to ontologize Marxism is criticized, as well as his propensity, despite programmatic distancing from phenomenology and existential ontology, to use in many cases just such concepts and forms of thinking himself. Basically the critique involves the construction of a conceptually developed theory with the ambition for universal validity. This must fail at that point where it can only condemn incompatible appearing empirical facts of aesthetic practice affectively from the horizon of a normative ethics of art, instead of explaining them.

Ursula Schröter: On the Difficulty of Wanting to be an Expert on »Everyday Life and Domination in the GDR«

On more than 1300 pages Stefan Wolle gives his opinion about »Everyday Life and Domination in the GDR«, a text filled with contradictory evaluations, for which an underlying concept cannot be identified. This generates the impression that Wolle does not take his readership seriously, probably because he does not want – or is not able – to muse about his own share in the failure of the GDR-State. For the study of sources one can thank Wolle.

Buchhandlungen, die das Argument-Verlagsprogramm führen

Augsburg	Probuch, Gögginger Straße 34 (0821/579173)
Berlin	Argument-Buchladen, Reichenberger Straße 150 (030/611 39 83) Motzbuch, Motzstraße 32 (030/2115958) Schleichers Buchladen, Königin-Luise-Straße 40/41 (030/841902-0) Schwarze Risse, Mehringhof - Gneisenaustraße 2a (030/6928779)
Bielefeld	Eulenspiegel Buchladen, Hagenbruchstraße 7 (0521/175049)
Bremen	Buchladen im Osterort, Fehrfeld 60 (0421/785 28)
Düsseldorf	BiBaBuZe, Aachener Straße 1 (0211/34 00 60)
Erfurt	Buchhandlung Contineo, Magdeburger Allee 90 (0361/7314536)
Essen	Heinrich-Heine-Buchhandlung, Viehofer Platz 8 (0201/820700)
Frankfurt/M	Unibuch, Jügelstraße 1 (069/775082) Karl Marx Buchhandlung, Jordanstraße 11 (069/778807) Herbert Bärsch Nachf. GmbH, Hostatostr./Albanusstr. 29 (069/314032-0)
Freiburg	Jos Fritz, Wilhelmstraße 15 (0761/26877)
Göttingen	Buchladen Rote Straße, Nikolaikirchhof 7 (0551/42128)
Hamburg	Buchhandlung im Schanzenviertel, Schulterblatt 55 (040/4300808) Buchladen in der Osterstraße, Osterstraße 171 (040/4919560) Heinrich Heine Buchhandlung, Grindelallee 26 (040/441133-0)
Hannover	Annabee, Stephanusstraße 12-14 (0511/1318139)
Heidelberg	Buchhandlung Schöbel & Kube, Plöck 65 (06221/26036)
Hildesheim	Amei's Buchecke, Goschenstraße 31 (05121/34441)
Kassel	ABC Buchladen GmbH, Goethestraße 77 (0561/777704)
Kiel	Zapata Buchladen GmbH, Wilhelmplatz 6 (0431/93639)
Köln	Der Andere Buchladen, Weyertal 32 (0221/416325)
Konstanz	Buchladen zur Schwarzen Geiß, Am Obermarkt 12 (07531/15433)
Mainz	Cardabela, Frauenlobstraße 40 (06131/614174)
Marburg	Roter Stern GmbH, Am Grün 28 (0542/24787)
München	Basis-Buchhandlung, Adalbertstraße 41b-43 (089/2723828)
Münster	Buchhandlung Rosta, Aegidiistraße 12 (0251/449026)
Nürnberg	Buchhandlung Libresso, Bauerngasse 14 (0911/225036)
Reutlingen	Jakob Fetzer Buchladen GmbH, Georgenstraße 26 (07121/239080)
Schweiz	Bern Münsterergass Buchhandlung, Münsterergasse 33 (031/3102323)
Österreich	Wien Lhotzkys Literaturbuffet, Taborstraße 28 (0043/1 276 47 36)
Niederlande	Utrecht De Rooie Rat, Oudegracht 65 (031-30-2317189)

Frauenbuchläden, die das Argument-Frauenprogramm führen

Augsburg	Frauenbuchhandlung Elisara, Schmiedgasse 11 (0821/154303)
Düsseldorf	Buch am Dreieck, Blücherstraße 3 (0211/4644050)
Göttingen	Laura GmbH, Burgstraße 21 (0551/47317)
Idstein	Hexenbuchladen, Obergasse 11 (06126/6437)
Leipzig	Frauenbuchladen Tian, Könnerritzstraße 92 (0341/4797475)
Mannheim	Frauenbuchladen Xanthippe, T3, 4 (0621/21663)
München	Lillemor's Frauenbuchladen, Barerstraße 70 (089/2721205)
Tübingen	Frauenbuchladen Thalestris, Bursagasse 2 (07071/26590)