April 24, 2023

The Center for Fiction Partners with American Library in Paris and The Center for the Art of Translation to Present an International Celebration of Literature

New York, NY — The Center for Fiction, American Library in Paris, and The Center for the Art of Translation are partnering to present The International Library, a series of conversations across time, place, culture, and literary tradition, with live audiences in San Francisco, Brooklyn, and Paris.

At the intersection of theory and practice, past and present, as well as story and history, The International Library departs from contemporary region-specific events in the hope of broaching new possibilities and connecting new audiences across land and sea for a collective, intercultural experience. The series begins with two events on May 18 and June 15, 2023 at 1:30 p.m. EST/11:30 a.m. PST/19:30 CEST.

“Notes on Sugar,” on May 18th, features German author Dorothee Elmiger and writer Kate Zambreno in conversation about Megan Ewing’s new English translation of Out of the Sugar Factory by Dorothee Elmiger (Aus der Zuckerfabrik). Out of the Sugar Factory plumbs the impact of the sugar manufacturing industry through a kaleidoscope of memories, dreams, literary references, narrative threads, and historical fragments, reflecting on global systems of capital through her personal experience. At a time when this critical historical lens is under attack across the US, we can look to Elmiger’s work as inspiration to keep revising old stories we have told until now.

“Translating Traditions / Translating the Book of Genesis,” on June 15th, centers on Samantha Schnee’s new English translation of Mexican author Carmen Boullosa’s The Book of Eve (El libro de Eva). The book twists, challenges, and ultimately revises the Book of Genesis through Eve’s perspective. Schnee and Boullosa will be in conversation about translation twice (and sometimes thrice) over.
Each event will happen on stage at The Center for Fiction while being livestreamed for audiences at the American Library in Paris and The Center for the Art of Translation in San Francisco, bringing an international audience together to share in these conversations about the power of stories to reach across borders.

About The Center for Fiction

The Center for Fiction, now celebrating its 200th year, is a literary nonprofit that brings diverse communities together to develop and share a passion for fiction. Founded as the Mercantile Library of New York in Manhattan, the organization is now based in the heart of the Brooklyn cultural district, with a 18,000 sq. ft. facility that offers New Yorkers an immersive cultural experience centered on reading and writing. Throughout the year, The Center for Fiction provides a vast array of public programming, reading groups, and writing workshops. The First Novel Prize and Emerging Writer Fellowships help build literary careers, and KidsRead/KidsWrite programs inspire an early love of reading and writing in public school students with author-led events. In recent years, the organization’s programming has expanded to include storytelling in all its forms, integrating music, theater, dance, film, television, and the visual arts into its exploration of the best of fiction throughout history and today.

About The American Library in Paris

The American Library in Paris was established in 1920 under the auspices of the American Library Association with a core collection of books and periodicals donated by American libraries to United States armed forces personnel serving their allies in World War I. The Library has grown since then into the largest English-language lending library on the European continent. The Library celebrates the written word and the life of the mind. Through our evolving collections and innovative cultural programming, we promote knowledge, inspire lifelong learning, and promote a sense of community. We are a welcoming home for the thoughtful and curious in Paris.

About The Center for the Art of Translation

Founded in 2000, the Center for the Art of Translation is a literary nonprofit based in San Francisco, California. Our publications, events, and educational programming enrich the library of vital literary works, nurture and promote the work of translators, build audiences for literature in translation, and honor the incredible linguistic and cultural diversity of our schools and our world. Two Lines Press is an award-winning press committed to publishing outstanding literature in translation. Two Voices events host international writers and translators for original and provocative conversations about literature and language. Poetry Inside Out is a collaborative language arts and literacy curriculum that celebrates diversity, builds literacy skills, improves critical thinking, and unlocks creativity by teaching students to translate great poetry from around the world.

Learn More: https://centerforfiction.org