

## **Apeejay Kolkata Literary Festival presents Shadow Boxing Women: Readings and Conversations**

**Kolkata, 13<sup>th</sup> January, 2013:** Apeejay Kolkata Literary Festival 2013 hosted on its closing day a special reading session with German writers Inka Parei and Dorothee Elmiger in conversation with translator Katy Derbyshire. Award winning author, Inka Parei read out excerpts from her book 'The Shadow Boxing Women'. A decaying apartment building in post-Wall Berlin is home to Hell, a young woman with a passion for martial arts; When Hell's neighbour disappears the protagonist sets out across the city in search of her. In the course of her quest, she falls in love with a bank robber, confronts her own dark memories, and ends up saving more than just her missing neighbor.

Presented with Goethe Institut /Max Mueller Bhavan, Pro-Helvetia Swiss Arts Council and Seagull Books, the event revealed a book that is on the surface a crime novel but in reality is a haunting dual portrait of a city and a woman caught up in times of change and transition. This debut novel in English combines Parei's tight prose with a compulsive delight in detail that dynamically evokes many lost and overlooked corners of German city of Berlin.

### **About the speakers:**

**Inka Parei** lives in Prenzlauer Berg, writing and tutoring emerging literary talents. Her novel 'The Shadow-Boxing Woman' was published by Seagull Books in 2010. She won the Ingeborg Bachmann Prize in 2003 for 'What Darkness Was', the translation of which is forthcoming from Seagull Books (January 2013).

**Dorothee Elmiger** is a Swiss writer based in Berlin, she studied at the Swiss Institute of Literature in Biel (Switzerland) as well as in Leipzig and Berlin. Her debut novel 'Einladung an die Waghalsigen' (Invitation to the Bold of Heart) won several prizes, including the Aspekte Literature Prize 2010 for the best German debut prose. Dorothee Elmiger has published in several literary magazines and newspapers and was a resident fellow at the Villa Aurora, Los Angeles in 2012. Elmiger is considered one of the most promising young Swiss writers, especially after winning the second Ingeborg Bachmann Prize, the Kelag Prize, in 2010.

**Katy Derbyshire** co-edits [www.no-mans-land.org](http://www.no-mans-land.org), an online magazine of contemporary German writing in English, and co-hosts a monthly translation lab in Berlin. She has translated books by Helene Hegemann, Clemens Meyer, Inka Parei (The Shadow-Boxing Woman and What Darkness Was for Seagull Books), Simon Urban, Dorothee Elmiger (An Invitation to the Bold of Heart for Seagull Books) and Sibylle Lewitscharoff (Apostoloff, forthcoming from Seagull Books); and in 2008 she founded a blog called Love German Books.

### **About Apeejay Kolkata Literary Festival (AKLF) 2013:**

A Community initiative by the Apeejay Surrendra Group, the annual literary festival hosted since 2010 in Kolkata is the first international literary festival in Kolkata, a city celebrated for its intellectual depth and cultural heritage. An array of special curated discussions, performances and some of the finest literary events are scheduled for the fourth edition from 9th- 13th January, 2013. A noteworthy literary and cultural representation from across India and overseas will be seen at the Festival, amongst the finest minds from India and overseas. Prominent personalities attending will be Ramachandra Guha, William Dalrymple, Shyam Benegal, Pavan Varma, Yasmin Ali Bhai Brown, Amit Chaudhuri, Leila Seth, Manil Suri, Ruchir Joshi, Onir, Urvashi Butalia, Shobhaa De and Tishani Doshi and several others. Events are scheduled at significant cultural and heritage venues across Kolkata like National Library, St John's Church, banks of Hooghly, Lascar Monument, and at India's finest and most loved 92 year old iconic bookstore- Oxford Bookstore, Kolkata. Amongst the many highlights is Festival's collaboration with the Tibor-Jones South Asia Prize to recognize and encourage new and emerging writers in the South Asian region.

**For event videos & pictures Log On to <http://www.aklf.in/>**

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