

Neo Rauch
in Munich with
Wife Rosa
Loy before his
Work "The
Blue" (2006)

Every picture is a novel

NEO RAUCH, pioneer of the New Leipzig School, is one of the most influential artists of our time. Retrospectives in Munich and in his hometown Leipzig honor the painter, who just turned 50

He is a dream, a daydream, and a nightmare

Pictures are populated by figures who "knocked at some point," as he says.

He particularly loves his "companions" – the name of his current exhibitions in Leipzig and Munich (both until August 15, 2010) – "because I don't know their origins and approach them as strangers." **Neo Rauch**, 50, is considered a pioneer of the so-called New Leipzig School: a realistic, narrative style of painting that has been popular worldwide since the fall of the Berlin Wall.

enjoys great success; an art movement that is, however, also criticized as neoconservative and highly polarizing. Especially in the USA, Rauch, supported by gallerist **Gerd Harry Lybke**, 49, quickly rose to superstardom around the turn of the millennium. US collectors loved him at first sight; he always paints directly onto the canvas without sketches. Hollywood star **Brad Pitt** bought Rauch's two by three meter painting "Stages" for 660,000 euros at Art Basel in 2009. In his pictures, Rauch, who lost his parents in a train accident at the age of four weeks and grew up with his grandparents, multiplies time and space. He incorporates cartoon

elements that break up the style and combines objects from a wide variety of eras. His figures also appear strangely disparate, as if several levels were superimposed. To maintain distance from his works, the publicity-shy Rauch, who is supported by his wife, the artist

Rosa Loy, 51, as he puts it, "is so wonderfully sheltered in everyday life," has developed his own style: He looks at his often large-format pictures through equally large-format mirrors that hang in his studio, the former Leipzig cotton mill.

Right next to the oft-quoted punching bag, on which he likes to work out, practice karate, and "focus his body and mind." Rauch was worried that the current double exhibition—in his opinion, "the 100th retrospective about me"—might feature too much "old material." That "people, and especially my colleagues," might turn away from him in boredom. But the opposite is the case. In the first few days alone, the Munich Pinakothek der Moderne (www.pinakothek.de) and the Leipzig Museum (www.mdbk.de) recorded record visitor numbers.

And the painter, who polarizes so strongly, is now presumably satisfied as well. He announced at the opening in Munich: "My most beautiful experience was the legitimization of my old paintings from the 1990s by the ones that have recently been added—and vice versa." y

Steffi Hugendubel-Doll



Visitors to the
Pinakothek der Moderne
in Munich in front of "The
Screening" (2006)

The parallel exhibitions "**Companions**" can be seen at the Pinakothek der Moderne and the Museum of Fine Arts until August 15.

Book tips

non-fiction book

Phoenix daughter Isabelle Müller

Another book of fate, you might think – but Müller's story is gripping and moving in its clarity and absolute candor. The half-Vietnamese woman had to endure a lot, including abuse at the hands of her father. In her book, she tells, in a completely undramatic way, how she coped with everything on her own.



Today she is a successful art dealer and lives in Germany.

Krüger, 281 pp., 17.95 euros

crime thriller

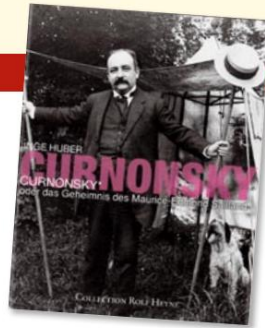
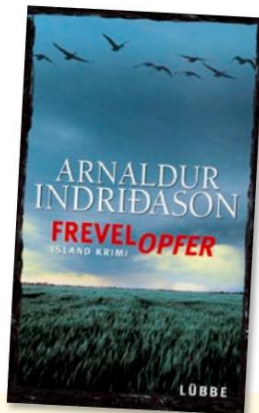
Sacrificial victim

Arnaldur Indridason

Iceland is facing increasingly massive problems:

volcanic eruptions, bank failures, drugs, rural exodus. In his new crime novel—one of his strongest—Indridason paints a picture of the changing society on the Nordic island, placing investigator Elinborg at the center of the story. A rapist uses date rape drugs to subdue his victims in Reykjavik's club scene—what's really behind it? High tension!

Lübbe, 384 pp., €18.99



biography

Curnonsky

Inge Huber

Hardly anyone knows him by his real name Maurice

Edmond Sallier (1872 -

1956), nicknamed Curnonsky. Also known as the "Prince of Gastronomy," he is considered a pioneer of modern French cuisine, the founder of restaurant criticism, and the father of Gault Millau. Huber, a Munich native, recently discovered the estate of the flamboyant Frenchman, who for 60 years associated with "tout Paris," including the painter Toulouse-Lautrec and the composers Debussy and Satie. She enthusiastically set about capturing the life of this gourmand, gourmet, and prolific writer. A little gem. Collection Rolf Heyne, 256 pp., €39.90

novel

Ways of Heart

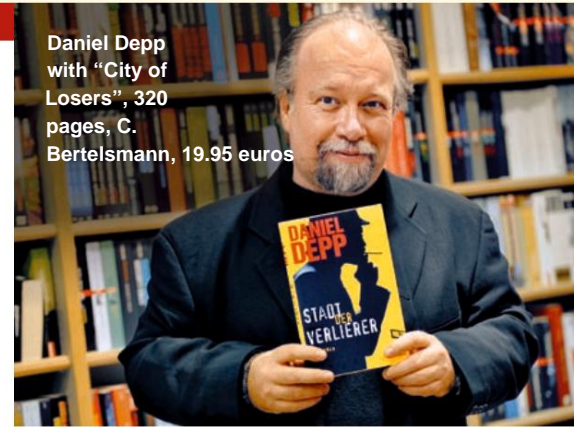
Maeve Binchy

The romance queen, who has her heart in the right place, turns 70 in May. Yet her novels have lost none of their fresh charm and typically Irish humor. In her

new book, single mother Clara has a tough time with her daughters Adi and Linda. One fights against everything and everyone, the other changes lovers like shirts. On top of that, Clara is offered a job as a chief physician. Getting it all under control only succeeds with the help of good friends—and we already know them from Maeve's other bestsellers. Knaur, 581 pp., €19.95



Daniel Depp with "City of Losers", 320 pages, C. Bertelsmann, 19.95 euros



The little one plays, the big one writes

author: Daniel Depp

Daniel calls his little brother John, which is why the dedication in his first novel is "For John." Behind this lies Johnny Depp, 46, the younger of two sons of a Kentucky waitress – and so far the more famous one. Perhaps that will change when Daniel Depp, 55, and not quite as smart as his relative, establishes himself as a novelist. For "City of Losers," a crime thriller and simultaneously biting portrait of the Hollywood dream factory, Depp, the older one, received solid reviews and high praise from the star in the family: "What a book! I am incredibly proud of my brother." Daniel Depp knows what he's writing about. He's a screenwriter, worked for many years in Johnny's production company, and sees the film mecca through the eyes of his protagonist, David Spandau, a former stuntman and private detective. Raymond Chandler and Dashiell Hammett send their regards. Part two is already in the works – thanks to brother Johnny. He could no longer see the unpublished manuscripts in Daniel's apartments and practically forced him to find a publisher.



idiots
Brother John

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