

Lutz Seiler

short biography

Lutz Seiler (born in 1963) grew up in East Thuringia. His home village of Culmitzsch was demolished for uranium mining in 1968. After training as a skilled building construction worker in Gera, he then worked as a carpenter and bricklayer. During his national service, he began to take an interest in literature and to write himself. Up to the start of 1990, he studied History and German Studies at Martin Luther University in Halle (Saale). In 1990, he went to Berlin where he worked for a few years as a waiter. Extended stays abroad in Rome, Los Angeles and Paris. Since 1997, he has been the director of the literary programme at Peter Huchel House near Potsdam. He is also a freelance writer and lives with his wife in Wilhelmshorst and Stockholm.

From 1993 to 1998, Seiler was the co-founder and co-editor of the literary journal *moosbrand*. He initially wrote mainly poems (publishing five poetry collections) and essays, later also short stories and novels. In 2007, he won the Ingeborg Bachmann Prize for the short story *Turksib*. In 2014, he won the German Book Prize for his first novel *Kruso*, which has been translated into 25 languages, adapted several times for the stage and filmed by UFA. His second novel *Stern 111* (*Star 111*) was awarded the 2020 Leipzig Book Fair Prize. In 2023, Lutz Seiler received the Georg Büchner Prize.

Awards

- 1999 Kranichstein Literature Prize
- 2000 Meran Poetry Prize
- 2000 Dresden Poetry Prize
- 2002 Anna Seghers Prize
- 2003 Ernst Meister Prize
- 2003 Villa Aurora grant, Los Angeles
- 2004 Bremen Literature Prize
- 2005 SWR Best List Prize
- 2007 Ingeborg Bachmann Prize
- 2009 Harald Gerlach grant, state of Thuringia
- 2010 Nomination for the Leipzig Book Fair Prize for *Die Zeitwaage* (*The Timescales*)
- 2010 German Narrator Prize (for *Die Zeitwaage*)
- 2010 City of Neuruppin Fontane Prize (for *Die Zeitwaage*)
- 2011 Villa Massimo German Academy grant, Rome
- 2012 Christian Wagner Prize
- 2012 Rainer Malkowski Prize (shared)
- 2014 Mainz Poetic Lectureship
- 2014 Uwe Johnson Prize (for *Kruso*)
- 2014 German Book Prize (for *Kruso*)
- 2015 Marie Luise Kaschnitz Prize
- 2015 Heidelberg Poetic Lectureship, Ruprecht Karl University of Heidelberg

- 2017 Thuringia Literature Prize
- 2020 Leipzig Book Fair Prize, Fiction (for *Stern 111*)
- 2022 Visiting professor at the Imre Kertész Kolleg at the University of Jena
- 2023 Literature Prize of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation
- 2023 Bertolt Brecht Prize
- 2023 Bamberg Poetry Professorship
- 2023 Berlin Literature Prize
- 2023 Georg Büchner Prize

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Bibliography

Individual titles (poetry and prose)

- *berührt / geführt* (touched / led). Poems, Oberbaum Verlag, Chemnitz 1995.
- *pech & blende* (pitch & blende). Poems, Suhrkamp Verlag, Frankfurt am Main 2000, ISBN 978-3-518-12161-0.
- *Heimaten* (Homelands, with Anne Duden and Farhad Showghi), Wallstein Verlag, Göttingen 2001, ISBN 978-3-89244-464-0.
- *Hubertusweg* (Hubertus Way). Three poems, Verlag Ulrich Keicher, Warmbronn 2001.
- *vierzig kilometer nacht* (forty kilometres of night). Poems, Suhrkamp Verlag, Frankfurt am Main 2003, ISBN 978-3-518-41457-6.
- *Sonntags dachte ich an Gott* (Sundays I thought of God). Essays, Suhrkamp Verlag, Frankfurt am Main 2004, ISBN 978-3-518-12314-0.
- *Die Anrufung* (The Invocation). Essay, Verlag Ulrich Keicher, Warmbronn 2005.
- *Turksib*. Two stories, Suhrkamp Verlag, Frankfurt am Main 2008, ISBN 978-3-518-41968-7.
- *Die Zeitwaage* (The Timescales). Stories, Suhrkamp Verlag, Frankfurt am Main 2009. ISBN 978-3-518-42115-4.
- *Aranka*. Poem and commentary, Verlag Ulrich Keicher, 2010.
- *In die Mark* (Into the Mark). Poems with original woodcuts by Stefan Knechtel, ed. by Bettina Haller, Sonnenberg-Press Chemnitz 2011.
- *im felderlatein* (in field latin). Poems, Suhrkamp Verlag, Berlin 2010. ISBN 978-3-518-42169-7.
- *Im Kieferngebölge*. Peter Huchel und die Geschichte seines Hauses (In the Pine Vault. Peter Huchel and the History of his House, with Peter Walther and Hendrik Röder), Lukas Verlag, Berlin 2012, ISBN 978-3-86732-142-6.
- *Im Kinobunker* (In the Cinema Bunker). Story, Verlag Ulrich Keicher, Warmbronn 2012.
- *Kruso*. Novel, Suhrkamp Verlag, Berlin 2014, ISBN 978-3-518-42447-6.
- *Die römische Saison* (The Roman Season). Two essays, with drawings by Max P. Häring, Topalian & Milani Verlag, Ulm 2016, ISBN 978-3-946423-03-4.
- *Am Kap des guten Abends* (Good Evening Kap). Eight illustrated stories, Insel Verlag, Berlin 2018, ISBN 978-3-458-19455-2.
- *Stern 111* (Star 111). Novel, Suhrkamp Verlag, Berlin 2020, ISBN 978-3-518-42925-9.
- *Laubsäge und Scheinbrücke*. Aus der Vorgeschichte des Schreibens, Heidelberg Poetic Lectureship, Heidelberg 2020, ISBN 978-3-8253-6980-4.
- *schrift für blinde riesen*. Poems, Suhrkamp Verlag, Berlin 2021. ISBN 978-3-518-43000-2.
- *Am Bach Nr. 7*. Two essays. Verlag Ulrich Keicher, Warmbronn 2024.

Publications

- *moosbrand*. Literary journal, 1993 to 1995 as self-published original graphic issues (with Klaus Michael), from 1996 by Gerhard Wolf Janus Press Berlin (from issue 5 with Birgit Dahlke and Peter Walther), Wilhelmshorst and Berlin 1993-1998.
- *Jahrbuch der Lyrik 2003* (Poetry Yearbook 2003, with Christoph Buchwald), C.H. Beck Verlag, Munich 2002.
- *Peter Huchel* (with Peter Walther), Edition Text und Kritik, Munich 2003, ISBN 978-3-88377-727-6.
- *Christoph Meckel*, Ungefähr ohne Tod im Schatten der Bäume (A Vague No-death in the Shadows of Trees), selected poems with a discussion as epilogue, Munich 2003, ISBN 978-3-446-20275-7.
- *Oskar Loerke*, Sämtliche Gedichte (Complete Collection of Poems), ed. by Uwe Pörksen and Wolfgang Menzel, with an essay by Lutz Seiler, Wallstein Verlag 2010, ISBN 978-3-8353-0411-6.
- Peter Huchel: *Havelnacht*. With photographs by Roger Melis; poem selection and afterword by Lutz Seiler; picture selection by Mathias Bertram. Insel Verlag, Berlin 2020 (Insel-Bücherei 1487).

Radio plays

- *Turksib*, direction: Thomas Fritz; speakers: Bernhard Schütz, Marina Frenk and others; MDR (Central German Radio), 2011.
- *Kruso*, adaptation and direction: Ulrich Gerhardt; speaker: Jens Harzer; Deutschlandradio Kultur (German Radio: Culture)/MDR (Central German Radio), 2015.
- *Stern 111* (Star 111), director and editor: Heike Tauch, dramaturge; Juliane Schmidt, with Sandra Hüller, André Kaczmarczyk, Boris Aljinovic, Felix Goeser, Katrin Steinke, Tanja Schleiff, among others, RBB Kultur, 2023.

Audiobooks

- *7 Poems by Lutz Seiler*. One mini-CD. Accompanied by Anna Homler (percussion / voice) and Michael Intriere (cello), Los Angeles 2003.
- *vor der zeitrechnung* (before the calculation of time). One audio CD. Poems and a story, read by Christian Brückner and the author, Argon Hörbuch Verlag, 2006, ISBN 978-3-936125-64-2.
- *Kruso*. Nine audio CDs. Read by Franz Dinda, Hörbuch Hamburg, 2014, ISBN 978-3-89903.
- *Stern 111* (Star 111), unabridged version, read by Lutz Seiler, Audio Verlag 2020, ISBN 978-3-7424-1434-2.

Translations

- Georges Castéra, poems, in: *VERSSchmuggel* (ReVERSible / poets translate poets), Verlag Das Wunderhorn, Heidelberg 2003, ISBN 978-3-88423-208-8.
- Ken Babstock, poems, in: *VERSSchmuggel* (ReVERSible / poets translate poets), Verlag Das Wunderhorn, Heidelberg 2008, ISBN 978-3-88423-299-6.
- Ken Babstock, *Gedichte* (Poems, from Canadian English into interlinear versions by Eva Bonné), in: *Sprache im technischen Zeitalter* (Language in the Technical Age), issue 202, July 2012, ISSN 0038-8475.

- Milo De Angelis, *poems*, on: www.lyrikline.org (from Italian into interlinear versions by Theresia Prammer).
- Saihate Tahi: Poems. In: *Eine raffinierte Grenze aus Licht. Japanische Dichtung der Gegenwart (A refined border of light. Japanese poetry of the present)*, Göttingen 2023.

Anthologies (selection)

- *Twentieth-Century German Poetry. An Anthology*, edited by Michael Hofmann, Farrar, Straus and Giroux, New York 2006.
- *Inventur. Deutsches Lesebuch 1945–2003 (Inventory. German literature 1945–2003)*, edited by Norbert Niemann and Eberhard Rathgeb, Carl Hanser Verlag, Munich 2003.
- *Spitzen. Gedichte. Fanbook. Hall of Fame (Peaks. Poems. Fanbook. Hall of Fame)*, edited by Steffen Popp, Suhrkamp Verlag, Berlin 2018.
- *La mer gelée. nummer gold (The frozen sea. gold issue)*, edited by Matthieu Becker, Le nouvel Attila / Othello, Paris 2019.
- Karl Otto Conrady (ed.), *Der Große Conrady. Das Buch deutscher Gedichte. Von den Anfängen bis zur Gegenwart (The Great Conrady. The Book of German Poems. From the Beginnings to the Present Day)*, Düsseldorf 2008.
- Christoph Buchwald (ed.), *Jahrbuch der Lyrik (Poetry Yearbook)*, Frankfurt am Main, various years.
- Christiane Collorio, Peter Hamm, Harald Hartung and Michael Krüger (ed.), *Lyrikstimmen. Die Bibliothek der Poeten (Poetry Voices. The Library of the Poets)*, Hörverlag, Munich 2009, ISBN 978-3-86717-338-4.
- Ron Winkler (ed.), *Schneegedichte (Snow Poems)*, Frankfurt am Main 2011.
- Anja Bayer, Daniela Seel (ed.): *all dies hier, Majestät, ist deins - Lyrik im Anthropozän (All that is here, Majesty, is yours – Poetry in the Anthropocene)*, kookbooks, Berlin 2016, ISBN 978-3937445809.

Works in English

- *In the year one*. Selected Poems, translated by Tony Frazer, selection from *pech & blende (pitch & blende)* and *vierzig kilometer nacht (forty kilometres of night)*, Sydney 2005, ISBN 1-920882-11-1.
- *Poems*. Translated by Andrew Duncan, Duration Press, 2005.
- *Kruso*. Translated by Tess Lewis, Scribe Publications, Melbourne, London 2017, ISBN 978-1-911344-00-1.
- *in field latin*. Poems, translated by Alexander Booth, translation of *im felderlatein*, Seagull books, London, New York, Calcutta 2015, ISBN 978-0857423368.
- *Pitch & Glint*. Poems. Translated by Stefan Tobler. And Other Stories, Sheffield-London-New York 2023.
- *Star 111*, novel. Translated by Tess Lewis. And Other Stories, Sheffield-London-New York 2023.
- *In Case of Loss*, essays. Translated by Martyn Crucefix. And Other Stories, Sheffield-London-New York 2023.