

Dragica Rajčić: "Warten auf Broch. Text über Text"

Croatian-Swiss author presents at University of Toronto and University of Waterloo

Readings & Workshop
February 2, 2012

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Munk School of Global Affairs

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Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures at University of Toronto and University of Waterloo, in cooperation with the Goethe-Institut, introduce acclaimed author Dragica Rajčić

Dragica Rajčić was born in Split, in former Yugoslavia, in 1959. After a short stay in Brisbane, Australia, Rajčić relocated with her young family to St. Gallen, Switzerland in 1978. During the following ten years, she was employed in a series of manual labour and service sector jobs such as cleaning woman, waitress, and homemaker. Her first collection of poetry in German *Halbgedichte einer Gastfrau* was widely reviewed and brought her instant recognition as a so-called immigrant writer. (The term "Gastfrau" is an elegant play on words exposing the hypocrisy behind the euphemistically-termed *Gastarbeiterliteratur*, "the literature of guest workers".)

After Rajčić's return to her Croatian residence in Kaštel Stari in 1988, she founded the literary journal *Glas Kastela* and worked as a journalist during the months leading up to the outbreak of the war. In 1991, she escaped the war-torn country and returned to St. Gallen.

Since then, Dragica Rajčić has published four poetry collections (including short prose) and has written two theatre plays. Her most recent publication is entitled ***Warten auf Broch. Text über Text*** (Innsbruck: Studienverlag, 2011). Rajčić continues to work as a journalist and newspaper editor, while doing youth work and offering creative writings seminars.

TORONTO - FEBRUARY 2

2-3 pm: Reading by Dragica Rajčić at the Munk School of Global Affairs. 1
Devonshire Place, Room 208N (University of Toronto)

The author will read from her recently published book *Warten auf Broch. Text über Text* (Innsbruck: Studienverlag, 2011). Selected excerpts will be read in English by Ms. Christine Fritze (translation: Donal McLaughlin, New Swiss Writing 2011)

3-3:30 pm: Discussion with the Audience

Introduction and moderation: Dr. Charlotte Schallié (University of Victoria)

4-5:30pm: Translation Workshop with Dragica Rajčić

The workshop will be conducted in German and English.

Facilitation: Dr. Charlotte Schallié und Christine Fritze (University of Victoria)

Please note: Participants are kindly requested to read selected texts and poems by Dragica Rajčić prior to attending the workshop. Please contact Charlotte Schallié (schallie@uvic.ca) to receive an electronic copy of the readings.

Please register online for both the reading and the translation workshop:

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Cooperating Partners and Organizers:

Swiss Arts Council (Pro Helvetia)

Swiss Consulate General in Toronto

Goethe-Institut Toronto

Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures, University of Toronto, Munk School of Global Affairs, JIGES (Joint Initiative in German and European Studies) University of Waterloo