



Women suffer, heal, forgive and love in war. And fight, too, of course. War is never a purely male affair. Women, however, often remain invisible, their figure blurred behind the heroic. Yet they take on many roles in war: they fight in the field and drive tanks, care for the wounded and also help heal their souls, become witnesses to the ruins and sing of suffering.

The Federal Agency for Civic Education's multi-year thematic focus "Metamorphoses" focuses on contemporary political, cultural, and social movements of women. At the Leipzig Book Fair 2023, we will devote ourselves to women at war, women between the fronts, and women who carry the war within them, even thirty years after. In a literary exchange about the events of the past wars in the former Yugoslavia and the current war in Ukraine, we question how traumatic war events are remembered, narrated and perceived by women without reducing the works to the gender affiliation of their authors. And last but not least, we explore the question of how love is conceivable in a war.

METAMORPHOSES #Women and War

An event of the Project Group Central, Eastern and Southeastern Europe of the Federal Agency for Civic Education.

Time: April 27, 2023, 5 p.m. - 11 p.m. (admission from 4 p.m.)

Location: Literaturhaus Leipzig, Gerichtsweg 28, 04103 Leipzig, Germany.

Languages: German and English, with simultaneous interpretation



PROGRAM | April 27, 2023 | Literaturhaus Leipzig

16.00 - 17.00

Coffee Talks

17.00 - 18.00

We stay with our pictures

"The war moves on to other places, and the cameras, journalists and photo reporters move with it, producing their news and their new images. We, on the other hand, stay behind with ours."

A conversation between two filmmakers and war witnesses Aida Begić (online) and Iryna Tsilyk.

M: Irine Beridze

18.00 - 19.00

Voice of the Dead

A book like a monument to the family and all ancestors who remained strong through the terrible events of history.

Talk and reading with Lana Bastašić and Lisa Weeda.

M: Nina Weller

19.00 - 19.30

Reception

19.30 - 20.30

War in me

How does a woman live with the war inside her, in emigration, between the fronts, in the middle of the war?

Conversation and reading with Slavenka Drakulić (online) and Kateryna Mishchenko.

M: Katharina Raabe

20.30 - 21.30

Love in war

In every love story in times of crisis, bitter reality and optimism meet - and seemingly give rise to hope.

Talk and reading with Ivana Sajko and Haska Shyyan

M: Henrike Schmidt

21.30 - 22.30

Music with Maja Fadolinka

Maja Milinković alias Maja Fadolinka sings a unique fusion between Fado and Sevdalinka, between traditional urban folk music from Portugal and Bosnia and Herzegovina. Instrumental accompaniment: Adis Hatunić and Džanin Zeković

Reading voice: Verena Noll

Interpreters: Lilian Astrid Geese and Silvia Schreiber.

The entire event will take place in English and will be simultaneously translated into German.