



Swiss Books

FICTION - NONFICTION 2022

RIGHTS CATALOGUE

Contents

NEW RELEASES

L'Aire	4
art&fiction	6
La Baconnière	8
Catalogue Anne Cuneo	10
Antipodes	12
d'autre part	13
Hélice Hélas	14

BACKLIST	15
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NEW RELEASES

Founded in 1978, **L'Aire** specialises primarily in literature and poetry. With more than 1600 titles in its catalogue, it is currently one of the leading publishing houses in French-speaking Switzerland. L'Aire is committed to upholding classic and contemporary Swiss literature, and to promoting new and unusual writing. It also publishes historical and socio-political works as well as translated fiction.

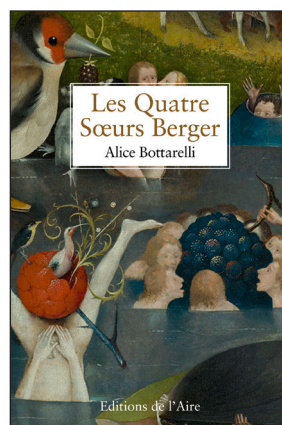


Bottarelli Alice
Les quatre sœurs Berger
The Four Berger Sisters

In the heart of a forest, four sister gather to empty their family cottage.

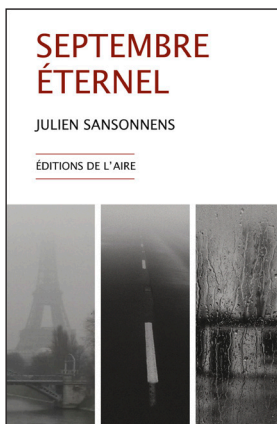
Following the death of their mother, four sisters return to their parent's cottage. They must empty it, and divide what is worth keeping. Easier said than done for a house filled with pieces of their childhood.

Tensions quickly rise as the sisters are confronted with the memories of their youth, good and bad. But an unexpected catastrophic event will bring the four of them together, forcing them to face their differences.



Novel
2022
256 pages
9782889562527

Prix George-Nicole 2022 - Winner



**SEPTEMBRE
ÉTERNEL**

JULIEN SANSONNENS

ÉDITIONS DE L'AIRE

Novel
2021

373 pages
9782889561971

Julien Sansonnens
Septembre éternel
Eternal September

Journeying through French suburbia, we meet the “Gilets Jaunes” and discover the social realities of contemporary life in France.

2019: an old man commits suicide on a bench in Eastern France. Would he have imagined, when he pulled the trigger, that from his death would come one of the most profound revolts the country has ever seen? A life cut short, and a nation rises, making history.

Marc Calmet is driving through the country, off the beaten path towards Paris to close the sale of his business. As the rumours of insurrection draw closer, two destinies - of a nation and of a man - intertwine.



Essay
2022
153 pages
9782889562381

Marie Thorimbert
L'événement littéraire
The Literary Event

The modern means of book promotion, seen in their cultural, economical and political contexts.

Today, the publication of a book is no longer sufficient to move crowds. Due to the transformation of cultural practices, new forms of communication and promotion are emerging, from public readings to digital events. How do these contemporary mechanisms fit historically into a democratisation and diversified access to culture?

This essay sheds light on the decisive decades in this development, from the 1980s to the present day.

Michel Petrossian
Chant d'Artsakh
Song of Artsakh

An ancient spiritual song, transcribed by an erudite musician, resonates intensely in our ancestral ears.

In September 2020, Azerbaijan, supported by Turkey, launched a vast military offensive to retake Nagorno-Karabakh (Artsakh). Fought over between Armenia and Azerbaijan, the territory was granted to Azerbaijan in 1921 by Stalin. The tragic events which followed prompted Michel Petrossian to take up his pen and recount the events in a diary that would last up until the spring of 2021.

Prix littéraire de l'Œuvre d'Orient 2022 - Winner



Lyrical essay
2021
167 pages
9782889562152

Since 2000 **art&fiction** has been a point of reference in French-speaking Switzerland, publishing works by, for and about Swiss artists. Documenting the works of visual artists in the realm of books and writing, as its name suggests, the collective also publishes authors of fiction.



art&fiction

Fabienne Radi
Email diamant
Diamond Enamel

Thirty-two short, sharp and quirky stories about teeth.

Email diamant offers us an array of literary genres: from poetry to fiction, diary entries to celebrity biographies, these witty and unusual stories are all about teeth.

Be that smiles, crooked teeth, dentists or even how to produce some sounds, Fabienne Radi leaps from one story to the next without running out of breath. Skilled in the art of incongruous associations, her style is light, playful, abrasive and always enlightening.



Short biting stories
2020
178 pages
9782940570942

Swiss Literary Prize - Winner



Art stroll
2021
92 pages
9782889640126

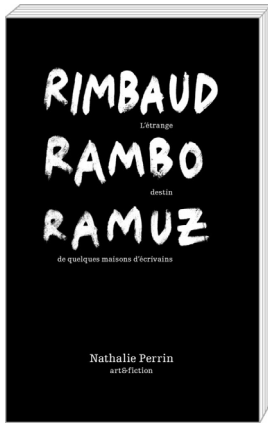
Florence Grivel
Sfumato:

I have never seen the Mona Lisa in real life

A short and spirited essay in which the narrator explores her very personal relationship with art and the idea of a masterpiece.

Under the false pretense of a rambling story about the author's artistic training, *Sfumato* is an alchemical tale, one in which the protagonist moves from a quest for her needs to one for her desires.

In a succession of rich visual vignettes, from Italian words to English phrases, from gastronomic considerations to historical accounts, the narrator comes across the Mona Lisa at every turn of her artistic journey.



Artist's writings
2022
120 pages
9782889640218

Nathalie Perrin

Rambo Rimbaud Ramuz :

L'étrange destin de quelques maisons d'écrivains

The Strange Fate of Some Writers' Houses

A contemporary artist's discussion of museology and heritage in light of the history and destiny of Charles Ferdinand Ramuz's house.

What is it that has led us for centuries to revere the birthplaces of literature, even hold them as sacred?

They are neither museums, libraries nor historical buildings, but they are upheld, charged with the idea that they are a means to anchor an author to a place. And more than that, what are reasons and expectations that could drive the public to defend the house of a departed man, who wrote on paper with a non-refillable pen?

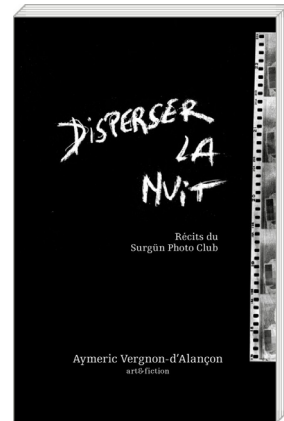
Aymeric Vergnon d'Alañon
Disperser la nuit: Récits du Surgün Photo Club
Dispersing the Night: Tales of the Surgün Photo Club

The tale of five exiles in search of a redeeming picture.

The disguise will be perfect. They won't see anything coming. No one will suspect that behind the harmless silhouette of a wanderer, I will attempt to steal souls to save my own.

Thus opens *Dispersing the Night*: our narrator, equipped with his only camera, is at the beginning of a strange quest for himself and the world.

At the heart of this quest, from the shadows, emerges the enigmatic Surgün Photo Club: an association run and frequented by immigrants, where the power of images and of photography are explored in a variety of ways.



Novel
2022
360 pages
9782889640249

A Swiss publishing house with almost a century of history. **La Baconnière** was a haven for authors in exile during WW2 (Aragon, Supervielle, Éluard). Today, it still defends the intellectual quality of its publications, from humour to essential writings, essays to poetic prose. Its narrative titles are often framed in genres more intimate than the novel: accounts, diaries, biographies mixed with fiction.



La Baconnière

Pierrine Poget

Warda s'en va: Carnets du Caire

Warda is Leaving : Notes from Cairo

A solitary stay in Cairo. An experience of strangeness, awkwardness and vulnerability in a labyrinthine city that welcomes wanderers.

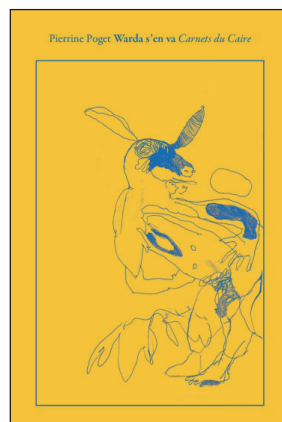
Strolling through the streets, doubting her perceptions, fantasising about aggression, the narrator moves back and forth between reality and illusion, torn between pleasure and the fear of drifting.

Two years later, Pierrine dives back into her notebooks, searching for a glimmer of something which could bring meaning to her troubled and worrying memories. Later still comes a third act, when this unusual travel diary becomes even more distorted and is turned towards the present.

Prix Médicis 2021 - Nominated

Prix Hors concours 2022 - Nominated

Prix de L'Académie romande 2022 - Winner

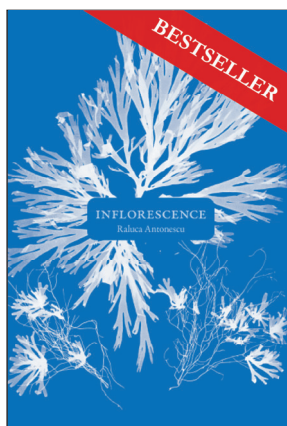


Novel

2021

128 pages

9782889600540



Novel

2021

268 pages

9782889600298

Raluca Antonescu

Inflorescence

The story of four generations of women across a century.

Jura, 1911. A woman goes to a so-called magical place, *Le Gouffre du diable* ("The Devil's Chasm") to implore the end of her pregnancy. From this grim place, Raluca Antonescu weaves the portraits of four ordinary women who share a common ancestress. Their lives intertwine, and sometimes tear each other apart whilst the garden, like a thread, links their destinies together.

Prix Pittard de l'Andelyn - Winner

Prix des lecteurs de la ville de Lausanne - Winner

German sample available

By the same author: *Sol* (2018), *L'Inondation* (2014)



Travel novel
August 2022
96 pages
97828896009008

Maxime Maillard **Tamam**

A Swiss journalist and his Russian partner find themselves in Istanbul at the time of the conversion of Hagia Sophia back into a mosque.

On 24 July 2020, a human tide flows into the Sultanahmet district to take part in the Friday prayer. A stranger to the rite, trapped by the collective power of the orison, the narrator has no choice but to abandon himself to fear and wonder. His journey resumes in Göreme and in the conservative Konya, where the travellers, on their honeymoon, stay with enigmatic hosts.

A chronicle of an Anatolian journey, *Tamam* seamlessly intertwines the adventures of a changing country with that of a blossoming love story.

By the same author: *Monsieur Vitesses* (d'autre part, 2014)

Corinne Desarzens **Un Noël avec Winston** *A Christmas with Winston*

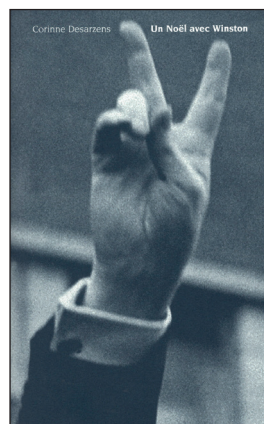
An intimate portrait of a man of excesses. Beyond his qualities and faults lay a savage, a phoenix, a being that nothing could bring down.

Turning her back on a linear biography in favour of a freer form, Corinne Desarzens welcomes the decisive moments, the anecdotes and the stories that draw the monstrous portrait of a brilliant and unpredictable Winston Churchill.

We discover, following the sequences of his life, the tensions during the vote to replace Chamberlain, the atmosphere of the Yalta Conference, the mnemonic methods of the old lion to remember his 1700 speeches, his home which was a world in and of itself, as well as his debts, his fuel...

Prix Wepler - Nominated

By the same author: *La lune bouge lentement mais elle traverse la ville* (Swiss Literary Prize, 2021), *L'Italie c'est toujours bien* (2014)



Novel
168 pages
September 2022
9782889600861

Born in 1936 to Italian parents, **Anne Cuneo** was a writer of literary and documentary pieces. She wrote and directed for radio, television and theatre. After a first cycle of autobiographical novels, Anne Cuneo explored historical fiction and made it her own: a story anchored in reality but able to take liberties with it to highlight certain aspects. Anne Cuneo is also the author of a series of crime novels firmly rooted in our social realities.



Portrait: © Centre culturel suisse

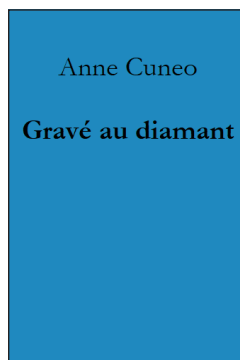
Gravé au diamant

Diamond Engraved

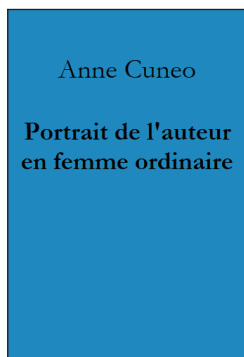
Anne Cuneo's first published title. An autobiographical novel inspired by André Breton's *Nadja*, dotted with essential social issues.

Zurich, Spring 1963, a day in the life of Lise, an editor in an advertising agency. Her wounded soul, her 'atrophied psyche', she tries to heal it by delving into her past : the death of her father when she was only 9 years old, the successive religious boarding schools that were more prisons than schools, her arrival in Switzerland with everything to prove, her lack of experience with love, the multiple attempts at writing... until her personal emancipation.

Anne Cuneo's first printed title. After its publication, *Gravé au diamant* was so well received that the Radio Suisse Romande created a prize for it, the **Anti-Prix de la Radio Romande**.



Autobiographical novel
1967 (*L'Aire*), 2011 (*Campiche*)
180 pages
9782882412881



550 pages
Novel
2009 (first edition 1980-82)
9782882412287

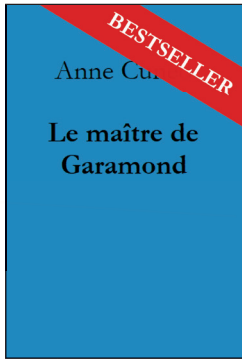
Portrait de l'auteur en femme ordinaire

Portrait of the Author as an Ordinary Woman

In this second opus of her life story, originally intended to be a private confession, Anne Cuneo gives us access to the last years of her childhood.

'Anna' was eleven years old when she saw Lausanne for the first time. A Milanese girl from a good family who had lost her father three years earlier in atrocious circumstances. She was raised by her mother and lived for a long time in a sad boarding house for Italian girls.

It was in Catholic School that Anne Cuneo blossomed. She learned French better than anyone else, became interested in literature, lost her faith and discovered the need to travel.



Historical novel
2002
613 pages
9782882411259

Le maître de Garamond

Garamond's Master

A journey to the sources of modern typography, printing and publishing, and the beginnings of a new humanist school of thought.

On the evening of 24 December 1534, a man suspected of heresy was hanged in Paris, Place Maubert: Antoine Augereau, printer, publisher and punchcutter. His body and books were then burned. He was accused, as a scapegoat, of being the author and printer of the anti-catholic *Placards* (posters).

Antoine Augereau created and passed on the typefaces that have - directly or indirectly - shaped those we still use today. His story is told by the most famous of his apprentices, Claude Garamond, who simultaneously tells his own.

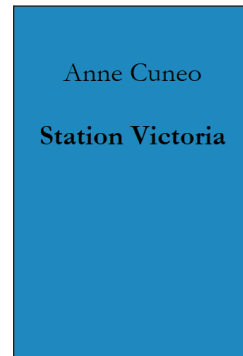
Station Victoria

Anne Cuneo's first 'real' novel. A lively tale written as a diary, whispering us the tales of a double awakening and of an irreplaceable friendship.

Amalia can be called anything but lazy: there is much energy and curiosity in this fourteen-year-old girl arriving in London alone and penniless on that fateful day in March 1954. With ten words of English in her pocket, she quickly meets Victoria Brown, an octogenarian suffragette, who relives her flamboyant past by taking the young Amalia under her wing and sharing everything that she knows and has lived, from literature to sexual experiences.

For a teenager in search of an identity, Miss Brown ends up being a sublime mentor, finding a new lease of life by imparting her precious stories and advice to her new young friend.

Anne Cuneo's novel takes us on a journey into the very British world of horse racing, pubs, darts tournaments, Shakespeare and Turner, rock'n'roll invading jazz clubs...



Novel
1989
560 pages
9782882411822

Antipodes was founded in 1995. Publishing around twenty books per year, their catalogue includes over 300 titles, mainly in the domain of social sciences: history, sociology, anthropology, philosophy, political science, psychology, but also comics and graphic novels with the Trajectoires collection and a new children's collection, Petitpodes.

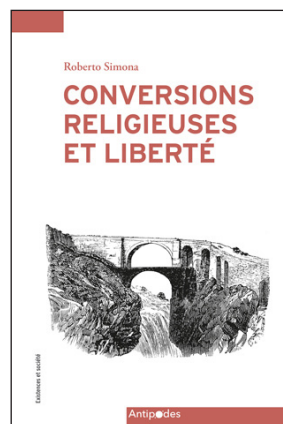
Antipodes

Roberto Simona
Conversion religieuses et liberté
Religious Conversions and Freedom

While current debates tend to focus on radicalization, the subject of religious conversion remains little-studied. This essay is the intersection of a long-term qualitative study with an exploration of the different paths to religious conversion.

The experience of individual religious converts can reveal a multitude of trajectories and help to answer some important questions: Who are these converts? How did they approach conversion? Are there differences in the conversion process between Islam and Christianity? What consequences do the converts have to face as a result of their choice?

This book is one of the first comparative studies of people living in Switzerland who have converted from Christianity to Islam or vice versa.



Social essay
2022
255 pages
9782889012091



Economic history essay
2021
504 pages
9782889011865

Isabelle Lucas
Un impérialisme électrique
An Electric Imperialism

An examination of the economic and political relations between Switzerland and Argentina in the 20th century.

From merchant emigration, the grain trade and investments in electricity production to business relations and political intervention, exchanges between Switzerland and Argentina in the last century were nothing short of intense.

Analysing the different rounds of negotiations in which Swiss-Argentine relations were forged, this book pays close attention to the private and public parties which were involved. It follows the financial mechanisms that lead to increasingly unequal exchanges between the two countries, and thus emerges the question of the existence of Swiss imperialism.

A publishing house that reflects its books, small, but of high quality. Since 1997, for **d'autre part**, the emphasis has been on the quality of the text, naturally, but also on the book itself. Absolutely everything, from ideas to words to paper, is made in Switzerland, with infinite care. Their work has brought to light several award-winning authors of fiction, whose reputation is now well established.



éditions d'autre part



Novel
2020
136 pages
9782940518715

Jean-Pierre Rochat
Roman de gares
Train Station Novel

A farmer has lost his farm after fifty years of hard work: facing idleness, despairingly, his heart cries out for more.

‘dèdè’ leaves his farm, his animals, his mountain, and despite his age, sets out on the road, braving the cold weather and new adversities.

Two women will cross his path. The first, married to a powerful but boring man, worships our protagonist’s talent as a writer. She will offer him admiration, stimulating conversation, luxury and pleasure. The second, a worker in an industrial bakery, will bring him joy and spontaneity, and a way of living life one day at a time.

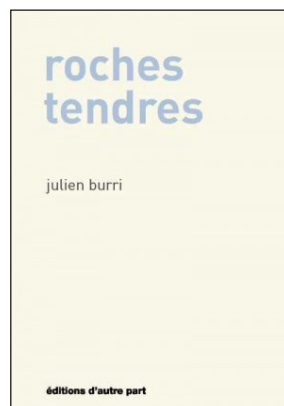
By the same author: *Petite Brume* (2017), *L’écrivain suisse-allemand*

Julien Burri
Roches tendres
Tender Rocks

***Tender Rocks* simply and delicately recounts the memories of a house destined to disappear.**

The story begins with the disappearance of Grace, the narrator’s wife. Distraught, he will return to his childhood home - Le Clos - in order to trace their relationship back to the moment they met. This place is home not only to the seeds of their love but to a great many other stories.

A poetic tale rather than a novel, *Tender Rocks* renders the still glowing embers of childhood, in a house at the foot of a steep cliff. The narrator pieces together the lives of three generations and the flames of a love that has stood the test of time.



Novel
2021
100 pages
9782940518746

Since 2011, **Hélice Hélas Éditeur** produces and publishes literature and independent comics. Its eclectic catalogue seeks to establish connections between different universes: ‘baroque’, ‘epic’ or ‘punk’ literature, Swiss science fiction, translations of ancient texts, pamphlets, essays or even artists’ books.

HELICE HELAS
(Y)

Nétonon Noël Ndjékéry
Il n’y a pas d’arc-en-ciel au paradis
No Rainbows in Heaven

Reminiscing on the history of sub-Saharan human trafficking, this novel recounts two hundred years of deprivation of liberty and human exploitation in the region of present-day Chad.

At the end of the nineteenth century, the trans-Saharan slave trade is in full swing. Caravans of men, women and children are transported like cattle through the desert. Zeitoun, a young teenager, manages to escape his servitude. He will meet two other fugitives: Tomasta and Yasmina. The three of them find refuge on an drifting island in the middle of Lake Chad. There will they establish a society with new foundations, partly protected from the menacing historical events scarring Africa and Chad.

**Prix Hors concours 2022, Prix littéraire CEZAM 2023,
Prix Ivoire 2023 - Nominated**



Novel
2022
376 pages
9782940700110



Novel
2022
120 pages
9782940700165

Vincent Kappeler
Les six vies de Salomon
The Six Lives of Salomon

A mystical, post-apocalyptic tale of a tribe struggling to survive in an absurd, grotesque and menacing world.

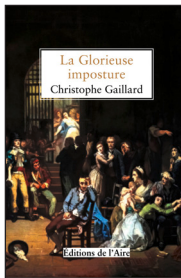
A dystopian story stretched across millenia. In a cruel and unpredictable post-apocalyptic world, humans are raiding for their lives, riding inexplicably large pigs. The protagonists of this novel will find themselves to become perpetrators of degenerated forms of cruelty, as portrayed by the invention of the ‘broyotine’, a twisted version of the guillotine.

Narrating humanity through the margins of history, *Les six vies de Salomon* creates a new mythology where brutality acts as an evolutionary principle.

BACKLIST



L'AIRE



Christophe Gaillard

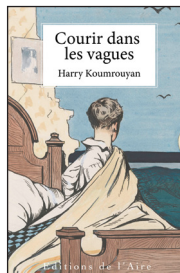
La Glorieuse imposture - *The Glorious Deception*

The last moments of André Chénier's life in prison before he was executed at just 31 years old, during the Reign of Terror.

Historical novel - 2021 - 360 pages - 9782889561889



L'AIRE



Harry Koumrouyan

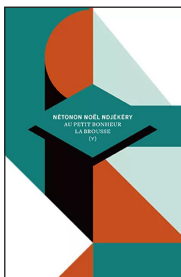
Courir dans les vagues - *Running in the Waves*

Protagonists left to their ambiguity, to their capacity to make or break themselves, and to face the rising tide as best they can.

Novel - 2021 - 320 pages - 9782889561698

English sample available

HELICE HELAS
(Y)



Nétonon Noël Ndjékéry

Au petit bonheur la brousse - *Haphazardly in the Bush*

At the crossroads between Swiss mythology and griot traditions, discover the adventures of the young Bendiman in Chad.

Initiation story - 2019 - 448 pages - 9782940522958

HELICE HELAS
(Y)

By the same author: *Malax* (2016)



Marie-Jeanne Urech

La terre tremblante - *Unsteady Earth*

An ecological Gulliver's travel across valleys, mountains and surrealism.

Novel - 2019 - 152 pages - 9782940522811

Persian rights sold

English excerpt published in a chapbook series (Strangers Press, 2022)

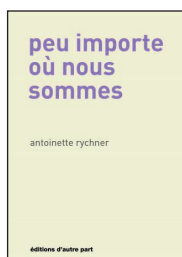


Guillaume Gagnière
Les toupies d'Indigo street
The Spinning Tops of Indigo Street

Between wanderings and retreats, an invigorating journey through Indonesia, South-East Asia and Japan.

Travel novel - 2020 - 110 pages - 9782940518685

English sample available



Antoinette Rychner
Peu importe où nous sommes
No Matter Where We Are

Six months of a family's devastated daily life, following the emotional tsunami caused by their child's leukaemia diagnosis.

Autobiographical Novel - 2019 - 160 pages - 9782940518654

German rights sold



Jean-Pierre Rochat
Petite Brume - *Tiny Mist*

One day in the courtyard of his farm, a farmer's life is turned upside down: all his belongings and livestock are sold at auction.

Novel - 2017 - 116 pages - 9782940518463

German and audiovisual rights sold

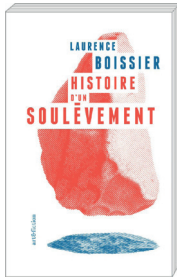


Laurence Boissier
Rentrée des classes - *Back to School*

A family fill in the gaps left by the departed father as best as they can.

Novel - January 2017 - 168 pages - 9782940570911

German and Persian rights sold

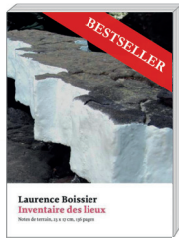


art&fiction

Laurence Boissier
Histoire d'un soulèvement - *Story of an Elevation*

A geological hike lasting several days, during which the narrator hears and tells another story, that of the rise of the Alps.

Novel -2020 - 248 pages - 9782940570904



art&fiction

Laurence Boissier
Inventaire des lieux - *Inventory of Locations*

A seemingly subjective inventory of the locations identified, their associated rituals, and their conventional use to which the user must conform.

Field notes - 2015 - 136 pages - 9782940570027

German rights sold
English sample available
Swiss Literary Prize - Winner



art&fiction

Hubert Renart
Sans titre - *No Title*

An anthropomorphic novel that gives voice to a piece of art.

Novel - 2012 - 192 pages - 9782940377602



Antipodes

Pascal Roman
L'adolescence, un passage - *Adolescence, a Passage*

An essay to address the various issues that can be encountered during adolescence, alphabetically classified.

Essay- 2018 - 261 pages - 9782889011117

Antipodes



Collective work

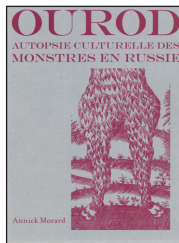
La Mort appréciée - *Appreciated Death*

A unique contribution to the understanding of assisted suicide in Switzerland.

Anthropological essay - 2021 - 340 pages - 9782889011971



La Baconnière



Annick Morard

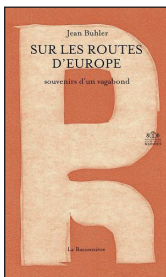
Ourod - *Cultural Autopsy of the Monster in Russia*

First major study on this topic, this essay reveals the historical, cultural and literary sources of monsters and the monstrous in Russia.

Essay - 2020 - 304 pages - 9782889600168



La Baconnière



Jean Buhler

Sur les routes d'Europe - *On European Roads*

A very early piece of work for Jean Buhler. His immense trip through pre-WW2 Europe, to experience its pleasures and perils.

Travel memoir - (1942) reed. 2019 - 196 pages - 9782940431977



La Baconnière



Alain Freudiger

Le mauvais génie - *Une vie de Matti Nykänen*

The Evil Genius: A Life of Matti Nykänen

A biography bordering on fiction about the legendary Finnish ski jumper Matti Nykänen.

Biographical fiction - 2020 - 136 pages - 9782889600199



Anne
Cuneo

Antipodes



art&fiction



HELICE HELAS
(Y)

Translation of Swiss works

Funding and support from **Pro Helvetia**

More information:

<https://prohelvetia.ch/en/guidelines-literature/>



CONFÉRENCE INTERCANTONALE
DE L'INSTRUCTION PUBLIQUE DE
LA SUISSE ROMANDE ET DU TESSIN



FONDATION
JAN MICHALSKI
POUR
L'ÉCRITURE
ET LA
LITTÉRATURE

Swiss Books Agency
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