It is normally supposed that something always gets lost in translation; I cling, obstinately to the notion that something can also be gained.

Dear friends,

We are very proud to celebrate ten years of translating, publishing and promoting the very best of French writing through the French Voices program.

Literature and knowledge are universal, and languages shouldn’t be an obstacle to their dissemination. Translations are an essential endeavor that allows the many different voices of the world to be heard beyond their borders and fosters cultural diversity. Authors have always been inspired by foreign masters, and great books have always found readers abroad.

Unfortunately translations represent only a fraction of the books published in America today. That is why in 2006 the Cultural Services of the French Embassy launched the French Voices program under the patronage of the PEN American Center, with a simple goal: to recognize and provide support to bold publishers and passionate translators who are committed to bringing the most challenging contemporary literature and the most groundbreaking non-fiction to the US.

Thanks to an independent committee of dedicated professionals—translators, academics, publishers, French and Americans—up to fifteen of the most outstanding titles have been supported each year in their journey across the Atlantic. Throughout these ten years, and with the help of this program, French has strengthened its position as the most translated language in the US.

The catalog is now 117 books strong. They form an impressive collection that showcases the diversity and depth of current writing from France and from Francophone countries which are an extraordinary asset for French-language fiction and non-fiction alike. The list encompasses such distinguished authors as Yanick Lahens, Daniel Arasse, Gwenaëlle Aubry, Annie Ernaux, Laurent Mauvignier, Mathias Énard and Jean Rolin. Some grantees have become best-sellers, such as Muriel Barbery’s
The Elegance of the Hedgehog, André Comte-Sponville’s The Little Book of Atheist Spirituality, or Pierre Bayard’s How to Talk about Books You Haven’t Read. Scholastique Mukasonga’s Our Lady of the Nile was a Publishers Weekly Best Book of the year and Tram 83 by Fiston Mwanza Mujila was nominated for a Man Booker International Prize in 2016.

The French Voices program is made possible by the dedicated involvement of the committee, of American agents, translators and publishers who seize opportunities to publish outstanding texts in translation, and of our amazing partners. I express my gratitude to the institutions who have supported the French Voices Awards since their inception: the Florence Gould Foundation, the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the Berlys Foundation, Y. A. Istel Foundation and the Institut français in Paris. I especially thank the FACE Foundation for its continued commitment to the program and to the critical mission it strives to serve. Finally, I would like to thank the curious readers who prove that culture exists to be shared, beyond borders and barriers of any kind.

Bénédicte de Montlaur
Cultural Counselor

February 1, 2017
André Comte-Sponville

**THE LITTLE BOOK OF ATHEIST SPIRITUALITY**

Nancy Huston, Tr., Viking, 2007


In this powerful book, André Comte-Sponville presents a philosophical exploration of atheism. Through his clear, concise, and often humorous prose, he offers a convincing treatise on a new form of spiritual life.

“A wonderful book... a generosity of spirit, communion and wisdom.”
—The Washington Post

Jean Échenoz

**RAVEL**

Linda Coverdale, Tr., The New Press, 2011, preface by Adam Gopnik

(*Ravel*, Éditions de Minuit, 2006)

A bestseller in France, *Ravel* is a beguiling and original evocation of the last ten years in the life of a musical genius, written by acclaimed novelist Jean Échenoz, winner of the Prix Goncourt.

“Rarely has the difficult craft of storytelling been as well mastered.”
—The Times Literary Supplement

Amin Maalouf

**ORIGINS**

Catherine Temerson, Tr., Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2010

(*Origines*, Grasset, 2004)

*Origins* recounts Amin Maalouf’s family history, beginning with the generation of his paternal grandfather. It is at once a gripping family chronicle and a timely consideration of Lebanese culture and politics.

“Maalouf’s novels recreate the thrill of childhood reading, that primitive mixture of learning about something unknown or unimagined.”
—Claire Messud, The Guardian

Léonora Miano

**DARK HEART OF THE NIGHT**

Tamsin Black, Tr., University of Nebraska Press, 2010

(*L'Intérieur de la nuit*, Plon, 2005)

What is Africa’s own “heart of darkness”? It is what confronts Ayané when, after three years abroad, she returns to the Central African village of her birth. The novel received the Prix du Premier Roman de Femme and Miano the Prix Fémina in 2013.

"In a style that is beautifully controlled and shows no trace of exoticism, Léonora Miano plunges her readers agonizingly into the mysteries of Africa: rebellions, coups d'état, archaic sacrifices, and battles between clans.”
—Josyane Savigneau, *Le Monde des Livres*
Véronique Ovaldé
KICK THE ANIMAL OUT
Unable to cope with having been abandoned by her glamorous mother, fifteen-year-old Rose uses her vivid imagination to construct her own explanation for her sudden disappearance.

“Ovaldé’s sumptuous settings – a sun-struck seaside resort, and the snowbound mountains beyond – give a radiant frame to this story of immeasurable loss.” — The Independent

Abdourahman A. Waberi
IN THE UNITED STATES OF AFRICA
David and Nicole Ball, Tr., University of Nebraska Press, 2009, preface by Percival Everett (Aux États-Unis d’Afrique, J-C Lattès, 2005)
In a literary reversal as deadly serious as it is wickedly satiric, the acclaimed writer turns the fortunes of the world upside down. In his reimagined world, a stream of sorry humanity flows from the West to escape poverty and desperation, towards the prosperous United States of Africa.

“Waberi wittily destroys a whole series of clichés and prejudices about immigration, and reveals the unhealthy side of humanitarian aid organizations draped in arrogance.” — Le Monde diplomatique

Malika Zeghal
ISLAMISM IN MOROCCO
George A. Holoch Jr, Tr., Markus Wiener, 2008 (Les Islamistes marocains, La Découverte, 2005)
Zeghal analyzes the historical roots and recent evolution of Moroccan Islamist movements in the context of a new political system combining pluralistic electoral competition with authoritarian government. She provides an original take on the prospects for the democratization of an Arab country.

“Extremely rigorous and lucid, this book by Malika Zeghal, who is also the author of a work of reference on Egypt, includes a comparative dimension that makes her analysis of Morocco even more enlightening.” — Olivier Mongin, Esprit
Muriel Barbery
THE ELEGANCE OF THE HEDGEHOG
Alison Anderson, Tr., Europa Editions, 2008
(L’Élégance du hérisson, Gallimard, 2006)
We are in the center of Paris, in an elegant apartment building inhabited by bourgeois families. The building’s concierge, Renée, and twelve-year-old tenant Paloma, hide their true talents and finest qualities from a world they suspect cannot or will not appreciate them.

“Tender and satirical in its overall tone, yet most absorbing because of its reflections on the nature of beauty and art, the meaning of life and death.”
—The Washington Post

Pierre Bayard
HOW TO TALK ABOUT BOOKS YOU HAVEN’T READ
Jeffrey Mehlam, Tr., Bloomsbury, 2007, preface by Francine Prose
(Comment parler des livres que l’on n’a pas lus?, Éd. de Minuit, 2007)
Using examples from Greene, Wilde, Montaigne, Eco, and even the movie Groundhog Day, the literature professor and psychoanalyst describes various methods of “non-reading” and the sticky social situations that might require us to use them.

“It may well be that too many books are published, but by good fortune, not all must be read... A survivor’s guide to life in the chattering classes... evidently much in need.”—The New York Times

René Belletto
CODA
Alyson Waters, Tr., University of Nebraska Press, 2011
preface by Stacey Levine (Coda, P.O.L, 2005)
Belletto’s novel blends every genre he has worked in – thriller, science fiction, experimental literature, horror – into one breathless narrative in which nothing less than our own immortality is at stake.

“This madcap, metaphysical mystery ably fits perpetual motion machines, immortality, and blood-sacrifice sects into 88 brisk and brainy pages.”
—Publishers Weekly

Maurice Blanchot
POLITICAL WRITINGS, 1953–1993
Paul Zakir, Tr., Fordham University Press, 2010, preface by Kevin Hart
(Écrits Politiques, Léo Scheer, 2003)
These pieces by Maurice Blanchot, a towering yet enigmatic figure in French thought, form a testament to what political writing could be: not merely writing about politics or politicizing the written word, but transforming the singular authority of the writer and his signature.

“This selection of essays provides rich insights into the ways one of France’s leading writers interpreted and related to the political history of his country in the decades following the Second World War.”—Samuel Weber, Avalon Foundation, Professor of Humanities at Northwestern University
Céline Curiol

**VOICE OVER**

Sam Richard, Tr., Seven Stories Press, 2008, preface by Paul Auster
*(Voix sans issue, Actes Sud, 2005)*

A lonely young woman works as an announcer in Paris’ Gare du Nord, surrounded by people yet separate from them. Obsessed with a man who loves another, she suffers alone as she waits for him. She wanders the streets, playing on the edge of danger, seeking connection.

*“Not only is it the finest first novel I have read in many years, but it is, quite simply, one of the most original and brilliantly executed works of fiction by any contemporary writer I know of.”*—Paul Auster

Marie Darrieussecq

**[LE BÉBÉ]**

Ann Kaiser, Tr., seeking an American publisher
*(Le Bébé, P.O.L, 2002)*

In this seemingly simple account of the first six months of her child’s life, recorded in journal form, Darrieussecq invites us into the mother and child’s inner circle. She received the prestigious Medicis Prize in 2013.

*“This is an enchanting text that stays with you. Moving, funny, thoughtful, and anything but superficial.”*—Madame Figaro

Annie Ernaux

**THINGS SEEN**

Jonathan Kaplansky, Tr., University Of Nebraska Press, 2010
preface by Brian Evenson *(La Vie extérieure, Gallimard, 2000)*

In this “journal,” Ernaux turns her penetrating focus on those points in life where the everyday and the extraordinary intersect, where “things seen” reflect private life meeting the larger world.

*“Annie Ernaux’s work represents a severely pared-down Proustianism, a testament to the persistent, haunting and melancholy quality of memory.”*—The New York Times

Yasmina Khadra

**COUSIN K**


With his father brutally killed during a national liberation war and his older brother an army officer far away, the young narrator lives reclusively with his mother, who scorns him. He turns to his young cousin for affection, only to be so deeply mocked and humiliated that his love becomes hopelessly entangled with hatred.

*“Cousin K is a highly polished psychological novel embodying an immense dose of mute violence. Khadra continues to address us in one of the very strongest voices emanating from North Africa today.”*—L’Humanité
Frédéric Pajak  
[LE CHAGRIN D’AMOUR]  
Donald Nicholson-Smith, Tr., University of Nebraska Press, forthcoming in 2018 (Le Chagrin d’amour, PUF, 2000)  
From the depths of World War I trenches, Guillaume Apollinaire sent more than 400 letters to Lou, an old flame, and Madeleine, his lover at the time. Pajak revives Apollinaire’s kaleidoscopic work, along with around 300 black-and-white line drawings, and establishes him as a forerunner of cubism, surrealism, and cinema.  
"An intensely contemplative and obscure work, both enigmatic and whimsical.” —Télérama

Jean Starobinski  
ENCHANTMENT: THE SEDUCTRESS IN OPERA  
We often look to the theater for spectacle and wonder, but in opera, we find pure enchantment. What is it about the marriage of music and the stage that fills us with such bewilderment and passion? How does the sensual space of opera transport us into the realm of dreams?  
"Much of it opera addicts will find fascinating, some of it they will find illuminating, and all of it impressively erudite.”—London Review of Books

Lyonel Trouillot  
CHILDREN OF HEROES  
The story of two Haitian children oppressed by the violence of their alcoholic father, Corazon, the silence of their subjugated mother, Josephine, the family’s poverty, and the crushing privations of their country.  
"Trouillot writes with his heart on his sleeve... and his unabashed empathy for plucky Colin and brave, sexy Mariéla recalls elements of Dickens.” —Publishers Weekly

Tanguy Viel  
BEYOND SUSPICION  
Set in the south of France where the stakes are high and no one is beyond suspicion, this Hitchcockian tale presents siblings and lovers in constantly shifting configurations.  
"Reads like William Faulkner trying his hand at a story in the style of James M. Cain.”—Kirkus Review
Bruce Bégout
COMMON PLACE: THE AMERICAN MOTEL
Colin Keaveney, Tr., Otis/Seismicity, 2010, preface by D.J. Waldie
(Lieu commun. Le Motel américain, Allia, 2003)
A legacy of the 20th century, the motel unknowingly foreshadowed a new type of urban existence. With it was born the society of permanent mobility and perpetual transit, a world of freeways and gas stations, travelling salesmen and seasonal migrations. In short, the itch to move.

“The American city is at the heart of Bégout’s research. A philosopher and a novelist, he makes it the object of his analysis and the disincarnated character of his novels and short stories.”—Cartel

Geneviève Brisac
[LES SŒURS DÉLICATA]
J. A. Underwood, Tr., seeking an American publisher
(Les Sœurs Délicata, L’Olivier, 2004)
This narrative about a family’s demise in the days leading up to Christmas is told from the point of view of one of the seven young Délicata sisters. Abandoned by their mother, they learn that their father is having an affair with their governess.

“Powerful writing in a condensed narrative.”—French Voices committee

Père Patrick Desbois
THE HOLOCAUST BY BULLETS
Catherine Spencer, Tr., Palgrave Macmillan, 2009, preface by Paul A. Shapiro
(Porteurs de Mémoire, Michel Lafon, 2007)
In this heart-wrenching book, Desbois documents the daunting task of identifying and examining the sites where Jews were exterminated by Nazi mobile units in Ukraine during WWII, with the goal of providing proper burials for the victims.

“An outstanding contribution to Holocaust literature. [It] should be on the shelves of even the smallest library.”—Library Journal
Samir Kassir

BEIRUT
Malcolm Debevoise, Tr., University of California Press, 2010, preface by Robert Fisk
(Histoire de Beyrouth, Fayard, 2003)
Offering a dazzling panorama of the city’s Seleucid, Roman, Arab, Ottoman, and French incarnations, Beirut takes the reader from the ancient to the modern world. This chronicle of a city at the crossroads of the Mediterranean is widely praised as the definitive history of Beirut.

“Beirut is a passionate tour de force, a love letter to that sparkling capital that takes us on a careening ride through its history...”
—Robert Dreyfuss, author of Devil’s Game

Luc Lang

CRUEL TALES FROM THE THIRTEENTH FLOOR
Donald Nicholson-Smith, Tr., University of Nebraska Press, 2015
(Cruels, 13, Stock, 2007)
In fifteen fierce tales, Luc Lang captures the contemporary world and its everyday cruelty. The family, the couple, the workplace, neighbors, the city, and the road serve as characters and settings to a series of scathing short stories, and paint a tragic and comic fresco in which no one is spared.

“The author extraordinarily narrates our subterranean brutality.”
—Télérama

Eric Laurrent

DO NOT TOUCH
Jeanine Herman, Tr., Dalkey Archive, 2009
(Ne pas toucher, Éditions de Minuit, 2002)
Clovis Baccara is entrusted with guarding French mafioso Oscar Lux’s new bride when Oscar is taken into police custody for embezzlement and racketeering on the day of his wedding. Alone with her, Clovis struggles to adhere to the one rule he has given himself: do not touch!

“Part of Laurent’s talent lies in his ability to reinvent (or perhaps subvert) a commonplace theme by means of language as well as humor.”
—World Literature Today
Jean Rolin

THE EXPLOSION OF THE RADIATOR HOSE

Louise Rogers Lalaurie, Tr., Dalkey Archive, 2011
(L’Explosion de la durite, P.O.L, 2007)

In this epic story, Jean Rolin travels to Africa, accompanying a battered Audi to its new life as a taxi to be operated by the family of a Congolese security guard. The ghosts of Conrad, Proust and Sebald act as guiding lights to the author’s sensual and digressive attack on history.

“Like Sebald, Rolin is a master of sentence structure, honing his syntax with considerable elegance.”
—World Literature Today

Jean-Louis Schefer

[L’HOSTIE PROFANÉE]

Edward Gauvin, Tr., seeking an American publisher
(L’Hostie Profanée : Histoire d’une fiction théologique, P.O.L, 2007)

Schefer looks back at the medieval fable of the ritual profanation of the consecrated host. Is this recurrent myth a condemnation of a Judaic heresy? Is it ordinary anti-Semitism or a desire to prove that the Catholic dogma is one based on ideology?

“This immensely erudite yet unpretentious work is organized as a quest for missing puzzle pieces or an enigma to be solved.”
—Libération

Abdellah Taïa

SALVATION ARMY

Frank Stock, Tr., Semiotext(e), 2009, preface by Edmund White
(L’Armée du salut, Seuil, 2008)

This coming-of-age novel narrates the story of Taïa’s life with complete disclosure - from a childhood bound by family order and latent (homo)sexual tensions in the poor city of Salé, through an adolescence in Tangier, to his disappointing “arrival” in the Western world.

“Taïa has a captivating way of taking us into his confidence and telling us essential truths.”
—Edmund White
**Daniel Arasse**

**TAKE A CLOSER LOOK**
Alyson Waters, Tr., Princeton University Press, 2013
(On n’y voit rien, Denoël, 2003)

Arasse shows us what it is to enter into the complexity of a work of art, visiting all of its dark corners, refuting supposed truths. Eschewing “artspeak” for a more readable style, he wages war on a proliferation of scholarly commentaries that render the works virtually invisible.

"An outstanding example of what is possible when the stiff formalities of scholarly prose are cast aside in favor of a more playful, imaginative approach.”—Times Higher Education

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**Henri Atlan**

**THE SPARKS OF RANDOMNESS: SPERMATIC KNOWLEDGE**

Science and technology always bring us back to the human condition: knowledge, sexuality, aging, disease, and death. Taking inspiration from antiquity and from the rabbinical inquiries that led to the Talmud, Atlan founds a brand of ethics adapted to modern science’s power over life.

“[Atlan’s] approach to texts is original and stimulating, his ideas both lucid and insightful”—Elie Wiesel

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**Christian Boltanski & Catherine Grenier**

**THE POSSIBLE LIFE OF CHRISTIAN BOLTANSKI**

In a book-length interview, which the artist likens to a “psychoanalysis” or “confession,” Boltanski recounts his unusual wartime childhood, how he created various installations, and other stories that illuminate his complex, enigmatic works.

“Christian Boltanski’s [...] own story is little-known. Any arts library specializing in modern artists will welcome this.”—Midwest Book Review

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**Georges-Olivier Châteaureynaud**

**A LIFE ON PAPER**
Edward Gauvin, Tr., Small Beer Press, 2010, preface by Brian Evenson (from various French titles)

Châteaureynaud is France’s own Kurt Vonnegut. His stories are as familiar as they are fantastic. A Life on Paper presents characters who struggle to communicate across the boundaries of the living and the dead, the past and the present, the real and the more-than-real.

“Beautiful prose featuring ingenuous protagonists and clever, unexpected forays into horror are the hallmarks of these mischievous stories.”—Publishers Weekly
Mathias Énard

ZONE

Charlotte Mandell, Tr., Open Letter, 2010, preface by Brian Evenson
(Zone, Actes Sud, 2008)

In this novel written in a single sentence, a French-born Croat working for the French Intelligence Services is traveling by train to Rome, carrying a briefcase containing a wealth of information about the violent history of the Zone, to be sold to a representative from the Vatican.

"The 150,000-word sentence that makes up Énard’s erudite and ambitious novel is certainly an attempt to create a Flaubertian encyclopedia of our times at the end of a violent century."
—The New York Times

Gilbert Gatore

THE PAST AHEAD

Marjolijn de Jager, Tr., Indiana University Press, 2012
(Le Passé devant soi, Phébus, 2008)

During Rwanda’s civil war, Gatore kept a diary that was lost during his escape. He later attempted to recreate through fiction the impressions he recorded. The Past Ahead is the story of two lives after their experiences of genocide.

"A vibrant work of fiction that explores what it takes to make a monster out of a human being, and challenges the definition of survivor."
—ForeWord

Pierre Guyotat

COMA

Noura Wedell, Tr., Semiotext(e), 2010, preface by Gary Indiana
(Coma, Mercure de France, 2006)

Coma is the deeply moving, vivid portrayal of the artistic and spiritual crisis that wracked Guyotat in the 1980s, when he reached the physical limits of his search for a new language, entered a mental clinic, and fell into a coma brought on by self-imposed starvation.

"A text of great sensitivity to the world and to humanity. It’s an urgent, necessary publication [...] Guyotat’s writing is literally stunning"
—Colin Herd, 3:AM Magazine

François Dosse

GILLES DELEUZE & FÉLIX GUATTARI: INTERSECTING LIVES

Deborah Glassman, Tr., Columbia University Press, 2010
(Gilles Deleuze et Felix Guattari, La Découverte, 2007)

Dosse examines the prolific and improbable relationship between Deleuze, an established philosopher, and Guattari, a political militant, who collaborated on several groundbreaking works over twenty years.

"A glimpse into a remarkable period in French intellectual history. It is captivating."
—Publishers Weekly
Jean-Marie Blas de Roblès

WHERE TIGERS ARE AT HOME
Edward Gauvin, Tr. ( Là où les tigres sont chez eux, Zulma, 2008)
Deckle Edge UK, The Other Press (Mike Mitchell, Tr., 2013)

When Eleazard begins editing a strange, unpublished biography of Kircher, the rest of his life begins to unravel. And Eleazard himself starts losing his sanity.

“Psychodrama meets history meets mystery – vintage Umberto Eco territory, as practiced by French philosophy professor turned novelist Blas de Roblès.” —Kirkus Review

Emmanuelle Saada

EMPIRE’S CHILDREN: RACE, FILIATION, AND CITIZENSHIP IN THE FRENCH COLONIES

For colonial rulers at the end of the 19th century, the métis threatened the legal and social distinctions on which colonial rule was based. Empire’s Children examines personal histories and the debates that affected them.

“A brilliant and deeply researched exploration of the place of race in the French citizenship experience.” —Mary Dewhurst Lewis, Harvard University
Louis-Georges Tin
THE INVENTION OF HETEROSEXUAL CULTURE
Transedition LTD, Tr., MIT Press, 2012
(L’Invention de la culture hétérosexuelle, Autrement, 2008)
In this study of the social, artistic, religious, medical, and political origins of heterosexual culture, Tin unveils a portrait of gender behavior in couples in the 12th century. He points to “homsocial” values as the basis for the nascent heterosexual culture.

“His ability to synthesize and to range widely sets Tin’s book apart from previous studies aimed at divesting heterosexuality of its magic and claims to universality.” —Times Higher Education

Jean-Philippe Toussaint
RUNNING AWAY
Matthew B. Smith, Tr., Dalkey Archive, 2009
(Fuir, Éditions de Minuit, 2005)
A European man arrives in Shanghai, ostensibly on vacation. Yet a small task given him by his Parisian girlfriend Marie sets off a series of complications. The novel pulls the reader into a jet-lagged reality, a confusion of time and place.

“The effect, in terms of the prose, is quite hilarious – like a James Bond novel written by Beckett.” —Tom McCarthy, The London Review of Books

Jean-Christophe Valtat
03
Mitzi Angel, Tr., Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2010
(03, Gallimard, 2005)
A precocious teenager in a French suburb finds himself powerfully and troublingly drawn to the girl he sees every day on the way to school. As he watches her, his daydreams full of lyrics from Joy Division and the Smiths, fairy tales, sexual desire, loneliness, rage, and impatience to grow up reveal an entire adolescence.

“03 has the afternoon listlessness of adolescence. It is a risky and ambitious book.” —The New Yorker
Zeina Abirached  
**A GAME FOR SWALLOWS**  
Edward Gauvin, Tr., Lerner, 2012, preface by Trina Robbins  
(*Mourir, Partir, Revenir, Le jeu des hirondelles*, Cambourakis, 2007)  
In this graphic novel, Abirached tells the story of her childhood in Lebanon during the Civil War. One night when the bombing is particularly intense, her parents do not get back home. Neighbors come one by one to the tiny apartment to take care of Zeina and her brother.  
“Quietly mesmerizing and thought-provoking.”—Kirkus Review

Giorgio Agamben, Alain Badiou, Daniel Bensaïd, Wendy Brown, Jean-Luc Nancy, Jacques Rancière, Kristin Ross, Slavoj Zizek  
**DEMOCRACY IN WHAT STATE?**  
William McCuaig, Tr., Columbia University Press, 2012  
(*Démocratie, dans quel état ?*, La Fabrique, 2009)  
Eight iconoclastic thinkers prove the rich potential of democracy, along with its critical weaknesses, and reconceive the practice to accommodate new political and cultural realities.  
“An extremely significant contribution to the critical debate on the current state of world politics and, more specifically, to the role of the term ‘democracy’ in political theory and practice.”—Gabriel Rockhill, Villanova University

Gwenaëlle Aubry  
**NO ONE**  
Trista Selous, Tr., Tin House, 2012, preface by Rick Moody  
(*Personne*, Mercure de France, 2009)  
Cleaning up her father’s home after his death, Aubry discovered an autobiographical manuscript. A fictional memoir in dictionary form, *No One* is a vivid exploration of a particular experience of mental illness and what it can reveal more generally about humanity.  
“An impassioned novel, a psychoanalytic double session, an examination of the limits of language, and an act of filial devotion.”—Lynne Tillman
Patrick Besson  
[MAIS LE FLEUVE TUERA L’HOMME BLANC]  
Edward Gauvin, Tr., seeking an American publisher  
(Mais le fleuve tuera l’homme blanc, Fayard, 2009)  
This political thriller depicts the Congo-Brazzaville of today and the Rwandan genocide. Giving a voice to each of his characters, Besson creates a fascinating portrait of Sub-Saharan Africa. He received the Grand prix du roman de l’Académie française and the Renaudot Prize.  
“A true achievement! You will leave this book informed, enchanted, and shaken!”—Le Point

Marc Crépon  
THE THOUGHT OF DEATH AND THE MEMORY OF WAR  
Michael Loriaux, Tr., University of Minnesota Press, 2013  
preface by Rodolphe Gasché  
(Vivre avec: la pensée de la mort et la mémoire des guerres, Hermann, 2008)  
Crépon’s book is a call to resist images in which death is no longer actual death since it happens to anonymous others. Seeking instead a world in which mourning the other whose mortality we share points us toward cosmopolitics.  
“A profound meditation on what constitutes evil and a rigorous and illuminating reflection on death, community, and world.”—Rodolphe Gasché

Maylis de Kerangal  
[CORNICHE KENNEDY]  
Michael Lucey, Tr., seeking an American publisher  
(Corniche Kennedy, Verticales, 2008)  
In an experimental, sensual prose, Corniche Kennedy tells of the fierce will to live of marginalized adolescents, and how they are eventually caught in the social order of the world around them. Kerangal received the prestigious Medicis Prize in 2010.  
“A beautiful novel that reads like an intensely poetic variation on eternal adolescence.”—Télérama
Stéphane Lacroix
AWAKENING ISLAM: THE POLITICS OF RELIGIOUS DISSENT IN CONTEMPORARY SAUDI ARABIA

George Holoch, Tr., Harvard University Press, 2011
(Les Islamistes saoudiens, PUF, 2010)

A penetrating look at the political dynamics of Saudi Arabia, one of the most opaque Muslim countries and the place that gave birth to Osama bin Laden.

"An extraordinary contribution that reshapes our understanding of Saudi Arabia and of Islamic politics in the Middle East."—Marc Lynch, Director, Institute for Middle East Studies, George Washington University

Kettly Mars
SAVAGE SEASONS

Jeanine Herman, Tr., University of Nebraska Press, 2015, afterword by Madison Smartt Bell
(Saisons sauvages, Mercure de France, 2010)

The Creole culture of Haiti and daily life under dictatorship are at the heart of Kettly Mars’s third novel, a critical reading of the class system and corruption that plagued Haiti during the Duvalier years.

"...a subtle novel, both feminist and political, that plunges into a world where no one dies a natural death."—Le Nouvel Observateur

Thierry Maugenest
THE STRANGE DEATH OF SULLIVAN CHANCE

David Beardsmore, Tr., Roaring Forties Press, 2014, preface by Diane Johnson
(Audimat Circus, Liana Levi, 2007)


“This satire on contemporary American popular culture is astonishingly reminiscent of American road novels of the 1960s and 1970s.”
—French Voices committee
**Laurent Mauvignier**  
**THE WOUND**  
David and Nicole Ball, Tr., Univ. of Nebraska Press, 2014, preface by Nick Flynn  
*(Des hommes, Éditions de Minuit, 2009)*  
Throughout the novel’s four parts, we realize that the Algerian War, always present, always repressed, has sickened the emotional and moral life of everyone it touched—and France itself, perhaps. Wounded men become the wound itself.  
“The Wound gives us a France that few American readers will recognize, a land and a people marked by a history in which memory and violence can seem indistinguishable.”—Michaël Gorra, author of Portrait of a Novel: Henry James and the Making of an American Masterpiece

**Pierre Michon**  
**THE ELEVEN**  
Jody Gladding, Elizabeth Deshays, Tr., Archipelago, 2013  
*(Les Onze, Verdier, 2009)*  
Corentin, a young man of humble origins, rises up in Parisian society and becomes a famous painter who is called upon to decorate the homes of Louis XIV’s mistresses.  
“A brilliant, surprising book; The Eleven is historical fiction at its best: a wholly imagined work that scrutinizes and reconceives how we construct history, time and experience.”—Martin Riker, The Wall Street Journal

**Marylène Patou-Mathis**  
**[MANGEURS DE VIANDE]**  
George Holoch, Tr., seeking an American publisher  
*(Mangeurs de viande, Perrin, 2009)*  
Marylène Patou-Mathis, an authority on prehistory, explores the essential and fascinating position in human history of the hunting and consumption of meat. Hunting can still be seen as part of our cultural heritage in such practices as hunting for sport or watching bullfights.  
*“Its dispassionate historical approach is an extremely valuable counterpart to moral and ecological reflections”*—French Voices committee
Antoine de Baecque

**CAMERA HISTORICA: THE CENTURY IN CINEMA**


Antoine de Baecque proposes a new historiography of cinema, exploring film as a visual archive of the 20th century, as well as history’s imprint on the cinematic image.

*“Thanks to this book I now understand precisely why and how I am gothic.”* —Tim Burton

Véronique Bizot

**GARDENERS**


Six impeccably (un)ruly stories by a writer for whom exploring loneliness and anxiety is an occasion for comforting laughter. The characters are busy digging their graves the way gardeners trim hedges. We are, all of us, gardeners.

*“On every page, the author changes course, introducing new characters and unexpected developments, and terrifically manipulating the silences between words.”* —Madame Figaro

Didier Eribon

**RETURNING TO REIMS**

Michael Lucey, Tr., Semiotext(e), 2013, preface by George Chauncey (Retour à Reims, Fayard, 2009)

After his father dies, Eribon returns to his hometown of Reims and rediscovers the working-class world he had left behind thirty years earlier. His story weaves together reflections on the class system in France, the role of the educational system in class identity, and the way both class and sexual identities are formed.

*“A fascinating and courageous account of how one of France’s leading writers has negotiated a complex, frequently conflicted confluence of social and psychic identities.”* —Leo Bersani

Elisabeth de Fontenay

**WITHOUT OFFENDING HUMANS: A CRITIQUE OF ANIMAL RIGHTS**

William Bishop, Tr., University of Minnesota Press, 2012 (Sans offenser le genre humain, Albin Michel, 2008)

Fontenay describes philosophy’s ongoing indifference to animal life – shading into savagery, underpinned by denial – and explains how attempts to exclude the animal from ethical systems have demeaned humanity.

*“Fontenay is an original thinker, urging us to consider a rethought version of historical materialism and a utopic animalism.”* —Leonard Lawler, author of Early Twentieth Century Continental Philosophy
Antoine Lilti
THE SOCIETY OF SALONS
Lydia Cochrane, Tr., Oxford University Press, 2014
(Le Monde des salons: sociabilité et mondanité à Paris au XVIIIᵉ siècle, Fayard, 2005)
A close examination of the 18th century French salon, Lilti’s work overturns several popular myths and gives an interpretive context for issues of sociability, oral culture, gender, public opinion, high politics, class, aristocratic culture, and the social transformations of the Revolution.

“Antoine Lilti’s book is a masterpiece. Grounded in exhaustive social historical research, it offers the most complete picture ever produced of ‘salon society’ in eighteenth-century France [...].” —David A. Bell, Princeton University

Sébastien Smirou
MY LORENZO
Andrew Zawacki, Tr., Burning Deck, 2012, preface by Jennifer Moxley
(Mon Laurent, P.O.L, 2003)
Smirou’s book is an elegant, funny, often sad meditation on the 15th century Italian statesman, art patron, and poet Lorenzo de Medici. Obliquely narrated, it telescopes historic depth into intimacy.

“...a captivating read, especially for those whose interest in poetic form has ever veered toward an obsession with perfection.” —Zoland Poetry

Gabrielle Wittkop
MURDER MOST SERENE
Louise Rogers Lalaurie, Tr., Wakefield Press, 2015
(Sérénissime Assassinat, Gallimard, 2006)
Gabrielle Wittkop was a self-styled modern Sadeian. Her works explore cruelty, transgressive sensuality, death, and corruption, both physical and moral. But her writing also shows a keen empathy with human suffering, a real enjoyment of the “stuff of life.”

“Utterly original and highly cultivated, Miss Wittkop introduces an aesthetic of excess. Sensual, colorful and fragrant, as jubilant as it is repulsive...”
—Le Matricule des Anges
2012
Benjamin Barthe
[RAMALLAH DREAM]
Michelle Nava, Tr., seeking an American publisher
(Ramallah Dream: voyage au cœur du mirage palestinien, La Découverte, 2011)

Developing at breakneck speed, the capital city Ramallah in the West Bank is starting to have the trappings of a “modern” society, and all the illusions and escapes that come along with it.

"An eyewitness account of development, conflict, and international aid in the rapidly developing and putatively resurgent metropolis of Ramallah."
—French Voices committee

Pierre Dardot & Christian Laval
THE NEW WAY OF THE WORLD: ON NEOLIBERAL SOCIETY
Gregory Elliott, Tr., Verso, 2014
(La Nouvelle Raison du monde: essai sur la société néolibérale, La Découverte, 2010)

Exploring the genesis and deployment of neoliberalism, this essay dispels numerous common misconceptions: neoliberalism is more than just a new economic paradigm — it is a system for transforming the human subject.

"This important book helps understand the changes in our society."—Le Monde

Philippe Descola
BEYOND NATURE AND CULTURE
(Par-delà nature et culture, Gallimard, 2005)

What is the relationship between nature and culture? By thinking beyond these notions as a simple dichotomy, Descola offers a fundamental reformulation by which both anthropologists and philosophers can see the world afresh.

"Thanks to its richness and its broad scope, this book gives to anthropological reflection a new starting point and will become the compulsory reference for all our debates in the years to come."—Claude Lévi-Strauss
Davi Kopenawa & Bruce Albert
THE FALLING SKY: WORDS OF A YANOMANI SHAMAN
Nicholas Elliott, Alison Dundy, Tr., Harvard University Press, 2013
(La Chute du ciel : Paroles d’un chaman yanomami, Plon, 2010)
In this first-person account of cosmo-ecological thought, Davi Kopenawa, shaman and spokesman for the Yanomami, paints an unforgettable picture of the Brazilian Amazon culture, the ensuing cultural repression, environmental devastation, and death.

“I am enormously impressed by this work of such powerful methodological interest and prodigious documentary richness. It wholly captivates the reader yet is simultaneously so complex, raising so many questions.”
—Claude Lévi-Strauss

Ivan Jablonka
A HISTORY OF THE GRANDPARENTS I NEVER HAD
Susannah Dale, Tr., Jane Kuntz, Tr., Stanford University Press, 2016, preface by David Biale and Sarah Abrevaya Stein
(Histoire des grands-parents que je n’ai pas eus, Seuil, 2012)
Historian Jablonka went looking for the grandparents he never knew. Matès and Idesa were chased out of Poland as communists, became illegal immigrants in France, and were pursued as Jews under the Vichy regime. Living their entire lives in hiding, they were carried off by the tragedies of the 20th century.

“An extraordinary book—at once a breathtaking work of historical investigation and a deeply personal meditation on the possibilities and limits of historical knowledge.”—Maurice Samuels, Yale University

Sylvie Lindeperg
NIGHT AND FOG: A FILM IN HISTORY
Tom Mes, Tr., University of Minnesota Press, 2014
(Nuit et Brouillard : Un film dans l’histoire, Odile Jacob, 2007)
Lindeperg recounts the history of Night and Fog, a 1956 French documentary film directed by Alain Resnais, which made French audiences confront the horrors of the Holocaust.

“Lindeperg asks us very current issues about the relationship between script and film, documentary and fiction, cinema and history.”—Slate.fr
Laure Murat
THE MAN WHO THOUGHT HE WAS NAPOLEON
Deke Dusinberre, Tr., University of Chicago Press, 2014, preface by David A. Bell
(L’Homme qui se prenait pour Napoléon, Gallimard, 2011)
Working from unpublished archives and materials of the 19th century, Murat explores the relationship between ideology and pathology, attempting to understand how political events affected mental health.

“[A] wonderful study, seamlessly translated... It is hugely entertaining.”
—Fortean Times

Rithy Panh & Christophe Bataille
THE ELIMINATION
John Cullen, Tr., The Other Press, 2013
(L’Élimination, Grasset, 2012)
Rithy Panh was only thirteen years old when the Khmer Rouge expelled his family from Phnom Penh in 1975. His entire family was executed, starved, or worked to death. Thirty years later, he decided to question one of the men principally responsible for the genocide, Comrade Duch.

“An unsettling, probing, morally urgent reflection on the Khmer Rouge years.”
—New York Review of Books

Gilles Rozier
[FROM A LAND WITHOUT LOVE]
Pierre Hodgson, Tr., seeking an American publisher
(D’un pays sans amour, Grasset, 2011)
This novel seeks inspiration in the fates of three Yiddish poets and writers that have fled Poland. Their stories allow us to better understand the catastrophe that hit European Jews.

“This Land without love manages the tour de force of making us breathe ‘air from a time that no longer exists,’ but which nevertheless, flying in the face of all logic, persists from sheer resilience.”
—Le Monde
Étienne Balibar

CITIZEN SUBJECT: FOUNDATIONS FOR PHILOSOPHICAL ANTHROPOLOGY

Steven Miller, Tr., Fordham University Press, 2016, foreword by Emily Apter
(Citoyen sujet, et autres essais d’anthropologie philosophique, PUF, 2011)

This magnus opus is the summation of Étienne Balibar’s career-long project to think the necessary and necessarily antagonistic relation between the categories of citizen and subject.

“One of the strongest, most ambitious, and most pertinent rewritings of the history of philosophy that readers are likely to encounter in their lifetimes.”
—Bruce Robbins, Columbia University

Luc Boltanski

MYSTERIES AND CONSPIRACIES

Catherine Porter, Tr., Polity Press, 2014, preface by Mark Grief
(Énigmes et complots, Gallimard, 2012)

Leading French sociologist Luc Boltanski demonstrates how detective or spy novels, paranoia and sociology all emerged approximately at the same time: they problematize reality in a similar manner, opposing an official reality to one that is hidden, menacing and un-official.

“Like any good detective story, this book is written with the ink of irony. And like all spy novels worthy of the name, it ends on a note of exaltation twinned with uncertainty.” —Le Monde

Olivier Cadiot

[UN MAGE EN ÉTÉ]

Anna Fitzgerald, Tr., seeking an American publisher
(Un mage en été, P.O.L, 2010)

Through this free meditation on the powers of literature and beauty, Olivier Cadiot, a major literary French voice, deftly and playfully weaves film and magic with bits of his own biography to create a fleet and refreshing novel.

“There is something simple, joyful and exuberant about this very personal read. A successful experimental writing.” —French Voices committee

Bernard Debarbieux & Gilles Rudaz

THE MOUNTAIN

Jane Marie Todd, Tr., University of Chicago Press, 2015
preface by Martin F. Price (Les Faiseurs de montagne, CNRS Éditions, 2010)

Les Faiseurs de Montagne comprehensively explores how our local, national, and global consciousness of mountains developed, showing us that mountains are both a geographical and social phenomenon worthy of our attention.

“An unprecedented contribution to an ongoing debate among geographers, who have yet to agree on the definition of a mountain in all its complexity.”
—French Voices committee
Julia Deck

VIVIANE
Linda Coverdale, Tr., The New Press, 2014
(Viviane Élisabeth Fauville, Éditions de Minuit, 2012)

Viviane, 42, has a child, and a husband who just left her. Yesterday she killed her analyst. In this engrossing murder mystery and gripping exploration of madness, the narrative tests the shifting boundaries of language and the self. Deck’s first novel was nominated for the Prix Femina, the Prix France Inter, and the Prix du Premier Roman.

“Julia Deck now belongs to the most exclusive and prestigious family of French literature.”—Le Nouvel Observateur

Agnès Desarthe

[UNE PARTIE DE CHASSE]
Christiana Hills, Tr., seeking an American publisher
(Une partie de chasse, L’Olivier, 2012)

At a hunting party, a man falls into an underground gallery. Tristan, a novice hunter, stays with him while the others seek help. A long wait begins. While talking with the wounded rabbit he hid in his pocket, Tristan tries to make sense of the violence surrounding him.

“A poetic novel whose violence is tempered by intelligence and the author’s unstinting originality.”—Marie Claire

Charles Frankel

LAND AND WINE
Charles Frankel, Tr., University of Chicago Press, 2014, preface by John Varriano (Terre de vignes, Seuil, 2011)

Frankel takes readers on a tour of the French winemaking regions to illustrate how the soil, and microclimate shape the personality of a wine. Both the uninitiated wine drinker and the confirmed oenophile will find much to savour in this guide spiked with anecdotes about winemakers and historic wine enthusiasts.

“A celebration of both science and art, the book demystifies the perplexities of wine.”—John Varriano, from the foreword

Serge Gruzinski

THE EAGLE AND THE DRAGON
Jean Birrell, Tr., Polity Press, 2014, preface by Peter Burke (L’Aigle et le Dragon: Démesure européenne et mondialisation au XVIe siècle, Fayard, 2012)

While exploring the various ways in which Mexico and China experienced, lived through and dealt with the global expansion of Europe, Serge Gruzinski pleads for a truly global history that abandons eurocentrism and considers the individual histories of the Western Hemisphere, Europe and China.

“A groundbreaking study... a feat of scholarship with striking and far reaching interpretations.”—Asian Review of Books
Jonathan Littell
THE FATA MORGANA BOOKS
Charlotte Mandell, Tr., Two Lines, 2013
The Goncourt prizewinning author of the scandalous The Kindly Ones returns with four intriguing novellas about the transience of sex, the way desire evaporates in satiation and reappears when two strangers share a long look over a strong drink.
“Littell has undoubtedly succeeded where many ambitious writers have failed. His work reveals something that is desperate and depressing but profoundly important, now as ever.”—The Guardian

Cyrille Martinez
THE SLEEPWORKER
Joseph Patrick Stancil, Tr., Coach House Books, 2014
(Deux jeunes artistes au chômage, Buchet/Chastel, 2011)
Two young and unemployed artists are caught up in New York’s underground art scene. Like a work of contemporary art, this novel is rich in self-reflection and commentary on the very nature of art, writing, literature, and the commercialization thereof.
“Using the story of Andy Warhol and John Giorno and their film Sleep as a starting point, The Sleepworker reads like a Warhol film on fast-forward.”—Kenneth Goldsmith

Scholastique Mukasonga
OUR LADY OF THE NILE
Melanie Mauthner, Tr., Archipelago, 2014
(Notre-Dame du Nil, Gallimard, 2012)
Set in Rwanda, at the Lycée Notre-Dame du Nil, in the early 1970s, just before the genocide, Mukasonga, who escaped the Tutsi massacre, brings us powerful portraits of young women in a country on the verge of collapse, as racial hatred starts to brew and persecutions rapidly expand. This first novel received the Prix Renaudot.
“Our Lady of the Nile swept me up with its artful bitterness [...] It is buoyed by its air of foreboding consequence that imparts urgency to almost every page.”—Barnes & Noble Review

Marie-Sabine Roger
GET WELL SOON
Louis Cancelmi, Tr., (Bon rétablissement, Le Rouergue, 2012)
Frank Wynne, Tr., Pushkin Press, forthcoming in 2017
After being rescued from the Seine river, Fabre is taken to a Paris hospital. He has no memory of the incident. As his new life in a hospital bed drags on, he decides to write his memoirs. Fabre’s soft side starts to get the best of him as he understands it is never too late to reinvent oneself.
“Unique. The sort of book that makes you want to hug the author to thank them for the happiness they have given you”—Focus Vif
French Voices Award 2014
Barbara Cassin

NOSTALGIA
Pascale-Anne Brault, Tr., Fordham University Press, 2016, preface by Souleymane Bachir Diagne (La nostalgie, Autrement, 2013)

Through a clever and subtle re-reading of the writings of Homer, Virgil, and Hannah Arendt, the philosopher and philologist Barbara Cassin produces an in-depth analysis, at once scholarly and personal, of nostalgia. Where does nostalgia come from? Where do we truly feel at home? Cassin explores the notion that nostalgia has less to do with place than with language.

“A rich and moving account of home and homelessness by one of the most important and distinctively original French thinkers of our time.”
—Simon Critchley, The New School for Social Research

Michèle Audin

ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-ONE DAYS
Christiana Hills, Tr., Deep Vellum, 2016 (Cent vingt et un jours, L’arbalète/Gallimard, 2013)

The debut novel of mathematician and OuLiPo member Michèle Audin, One Hundred Twenty-One Days retraces the lives of French mathematicians during World Wars I and II. In keeping with the spirit and aesthetics of the OuLiPo, the narrative oscillates stylistically, at times resembling a novel, at others resembling a fable, historical research, or a diary, with the result of being a book at once captivating and original.

“Polymorphous and fluid, the book considers how our lives find their shape, and which details are amenable to history’s telling.”
—Scott Esposito, Times Literary Supplement

Dominique Fabre

GUYS LIKE ME
Howard Curtis, Tr., New Vessel Press, 2015 (Les types comme moi, Fayard, 2007)

Guys like me exposes the shadowy, anonymous lives of Paris inhabitants. In this quiet, subdued tale, a middle-aged office worker, divorced and alienated from his only son, meets with two childhood friends who are similarly adrift. He’s looking for a second act to his mournful life, seeking the harbor of love and a true connection with his son. A stirring novel of regret and absence, with a glimmer of hope.

“Fabre’s unexpectedly touching novel has a laugh of its own behind its low-key, smoothly translated narrative voice... The city it evokes isn’t the Paris of tourists but of local people.”
—The New York Times
**André Gaudréault & Philippe Marion**

**THE END OF CINEMA?**

Timothy Barnard, Tr., Columbia University Press, 2015

*(La Fin du cinéma ?, Armand Colin, 2013)*

Gaudréault and Marion, specialists in the field of cinematography and media, retrace developments in digital technology and their impact on film. Rejecting the notion of the “death of cinema,” the authors suggest that now is the time for the rebirth of the “Seventh Art.”

“A provocative and timely book, the authors remind viewers that the ‘cinema’ has never been a static technology.”

—Richard Neupert, University of Georgia

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**Andreï Makine**

**A WOMAN LOVED**

Geoffrey Strachan, Tr., Graywolf Press, 2015, preface by Francine Prose

*(Une femme aimée, Seuil, 2013)*

Makine dwells on the fascinating and sulfurous destiny of Catherine the Great, the historical figure who captivated her contemporaries, from Voltaire to Casanova, as much as she captivates historians today. The author, who has already been translated in more than forty languages, is a master in the art of depicting deeply humane and moving characters.

“Dreamy and impressionistic... [Makine’s] writing demonstrates psychological acuity and an intuitive feel for the telling detail.”

—New York Times Book Review

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**Jean-Luc Marion**

**THE RIGOR OF THINGS**

Christina M. Gschwandtner, Tr., Fordham University Press, 2017, preface by David Tracy

*(La Rigueur des choses, Flammarion, 2012)*

The Rigor of Things is a collection of interviews between Dan Arbib and the philosopher Jean-Luc Marion, a leading scholar and expert of French Catholicism. The book also presents the key concepts of Marion’s philosophy, as well as those of the great thinkers who influenced him, such as Jacques Derrida and Emmanuel Levinas.

“This beautiful dialogue, led by student-come-philosopher Dan Arbib, affords readers a new opportunity to acquaint themselves with a brilliant mind.”

—La Croix
Fiston Mwanza Mujila

TRAM 83
Roland Glasser, Tr., Deep Vellum, 2016, foreword by Alain Mabanckou (Tram 83, Editions Métailié, 2014)
Congoles writer Fiston Mwanza Mujila’s first novel, Tram 83, is a gripping story that unfolds in the heart of a crowd gathered at a train station in the capital of a fictitious African country. Tram 83, whose story is well served by a fantastic translation, is at once delightfully funny and energetic.

“Fiston Mwanza Mujila’s debut novel, a critique of neocolonialism featuring a cast of drunkards and dreamers, is the dazzling voice that DRC has been waiting for.”
—The Guardian

Peter Szendy

APOCALYPSE-CINEMA: 2012 AND OTHER ENDS OF THE WORLD
At once scholarly and impassioned, Apocalypse-cinema delves into a major film theme: the Apocalypse. Incorporating research from film studies and philosophy, including the work of Spielberg and of Heidegger, among others, Peter Szendy delivers a unique, in-depth analysis of this genre.

“In this prodigiously intelligent book, Peter Szendy reflects on the specific nature of apocalyptic cinema. Organized as a series of brief essays on individual films and recurrent cinematic strategies, Apocalypse-Cinema offers brilliant insights on a genre that has yet to receive all the critical attention it deserves.”
—Marie-Hélène Huet, Princeton University

Chantal Thomas

THE EXCHANGE OF PRINCESSES
John Cullen, Tr., The Other Press, 2015 (L’Échange des princesses, Seuil, 2013)
In her most recent historical novel, The Exchange of Princesses, Chantal Thomas deftly narrates the incredible, true story of two arranged weddings: one between 11-year-old Louis XV and the 7-year-old Marie-Anne Victoire of Spain; and the other between the Regent of France Philippe d’Orléans’s daughter, Louise-Élisabeth de Montpensier, and the future heir to the Spanish throne. This in-depth work is a fascinating account of exploitation and power.

“This is one vivid, engrossing, weird little book... One of the most fascinating historical narratives I’ve ever read.”
—Diana Gabaldon, The Washington Post
Mixing fiction, history, psychoanalysis, and personal fantasy, Teresa, My Love follows Sylvia Leclercq, a French psychoanalyst, academic, and incurable insomniac, as she falls for the sixteenth-century Saint Teresa of Avila and becomes consumed with charting her life. Traveling to Spain, Leclercq, Kristeva’s probing alter ego, visits the sites and embodiments of the famous mystic and awakens to her own desire for faith, connection, and rebellion.

"Ms. Kristeva’s affection for her subject finds effortless expression in a vibrant and persuasive imagining of Teresa as she might have sounded off the page."

—The New York Times
In *The Lights of Pointe-Noire*, Alain Mabanckou—who left Congo in 1989 not to return until a quarter of a century later—builds a stirring exploration of the way home never leaves us. When the author came home to Pointe-Noire, a bustling port town on Congo’s southeastern coast, he found a country that in some ways had changed beyond recognition while many things remained untouched. He realized he could only look on as an outsider at the place where he grew up.

“This is a beautiful book, the past hauntingly re-entered, the present truthfully faced, and the translation rises gorgeously to the challenge.”
—Salman Rushdie

In the turmoil of daily life, where demands for success and performance are increasingly tyrannical, is there still a place for gentleness? According to the philosopher and psychoanalyst Anne Dufourmantelle, gentleness is a necessity. Close to goodness and beauty, it is a transformative force in life. It is also a “sensitive feast,” in which “touch, taste, perfumes, sounds” take part. Moreover, it has the surprising power of turning traumatic experiences into creation.

“Puissance de la douceur incites serenity. It shows how, from our tempests and sorrows, an incredible life force arises.”
—Le Figaro

Translation as Transhumance is both a memoir and a meditation on the art of translation by the eminent French translator from German and Vietnamese, Mireille Gansel, known particularly for her work on Nelly Sachs and the poets Reiner Kunze and Peter Huchel. The 26 short texts chart the author’s development and are thoughtful and exquisitely written.

“A very precious work for all those interested in translation and poetry, understood and experienced as a sign of humanity.”
—Remue.net
Yanick Lahens

MOONBATH

Emily Gogolak, Tr., Deep Vellum, forthcoming in 2017
(Bain de lune, Sabine Wespieser Éditeur, 2014)

A girl from the village of Anse Bleue wakes up on the sand with waves crashing against her back, wondering how she got there. In Moonbath, winner of the 2014 Prix Femina, Lahens writes a family epic of violent beauty. She takes us back three generations into the lives of the Mésidors and the Lafleurs in “a voyage into the interior realms.”

“In the Haitian tradition of the rural novel […] Yanick Lahens’ Bain de Lune establishes itself by its grand and lucid beauty.”
—Le Point

David Lapoujade

ABERRANT MOVEMENTS: THE PHILOSOPHY OF GILLES DELEUZE

Joshua David Jordan, Tr., Semiotext(e), 2017
(Deleuze, les mouvements aberrants, Éditions de Minuit, 2014)

David Lapoujade offers one of the first comprehensive treatments of Deleuzian thought. Drawing on the entirety of his work as well as his collaborations with Félix Guattari, he explores the central problem underlying the delirious coherence of Deleuze’s philosophy: aberrant movements.

“The most Deleuzian book in twenty years. Has David Lapoujade possibly found the key to Deleuze’s work?”
—Mediapart

Claude Lévi-Strauss

WE ARE ALL CANNIBALS

Jane Marie Todd, Tr., Columbia University Press, 2016
(Nous sommes tous des cannibales, Seuil, 2013)

Centering on Montaigne’s notion that “Everyone calls what is not their own custom barbarism,” Lévi-Strauss’s collection of essays takes current events as a starting point and engages contemporary debates such as “mad cow disease” or differing forms of cannibalism to point out that any belief or custom—however bizarre, or revolting—can only be explained within its own context.

“An alert and often caustic voice enlivens these pages. Far from the asceticism of scholarly treatises, the image of the author drawn here is one of a free thinker, refusing the domination of a single human norm.”
—Le Monde
Jean-Luc Nancy

[L’AUTRE PORTRAIT]
Sarah Clift, Tr., Fordham University Press forthcoming in 2018, preface by Jeffrey S. Librett
(L’Autre Portrait, Éditions Galilée, 2014)
In a thought-provoking reflection by an eminent philosopher whose thinking has turned increasingly toward visual art, Portrait attempts to approach, in a philosophical sense, the paradoxes of “the subject” in relation to its most direct manifestation as a pictorial figure.

“With his own particular denseness of expression, Jean-Luc Nancy condenses all the meanings that the word “other” evokes [...] This is how his writing unfolds. He thinks within all of the hidden recesses of words, starting with the one in the title: “portrait”.
—La Nouvelle Quinzaine Littéraire

Nelly Alard

[LE CRIEUR DE NUIT]
Grace McQuillan, Tr., seeking an American publisher
(Le crieur de nuit, Gallimard, 2010)
Sophie returns home after the death of her tyrannical father to help prepare for his funeral. She relives her abusive childhood, coming to terms with what it means that he is gone and slowly regaining her taste for life, in a story that is also an homage to Brittany.

“This is a keen, sardonic and spirited story, with springtime sharpness.”
—Le Point

David Dumortier

[TRAVESTI]
Ava Lehrer, Tr., seeking an American publisher
(Travesti, Le Dilettante, 2012)
This semi-autobiographical book fearlessly recounts the story of a man’s journey from his brutal childhood in Charente through his life as a writer and transvestite in Paris. Through poetic flights and startling imagery, Dumortier explores a diverse set of challenging subjects and moves boldly among three distinct voices: the sensitive child who endures a terrorizing father, the writer narrating his visits to schools and mentorship of children, and the promiscuous cross-dresser.

“From raw words to hard images, from brutal cynicism to the sharpest nastiness, the narrator doesn’t retreat from any truth, any harshness, any darkness. But he never deviates from his incredible talent.”
—Marie-Claire
Cyrille Fleischman
[Réparateur de destin]
Lynn E. Palermo and Catherine Zobal Dent, Tr., seeking an American publisher
(Réparateur de destin, Fayard, 2010)
In Réparateur de destin, published the year of the author’s death, Fleischman plunges into the postwar Yiddish community in the Marais. Rooted in the small quartier known as the Pletzi with its concentration of Jewish inhabitants originally from Central Europe, this collection is a window into Yiddishkeit, the culture of the Ashkenazi Jews, as it was stitched in the fabric of mid-century Paris.

“Cyrille Fleischman’s books evoke the ordinary people of Paris’s Jewish quarter with tenderness and originality.”
—Télérama

Pascal Mérigeau
JEAN RENOIR
Jean Renoir is an exhaustive and penetrating critical biography of a filmmaker who left an indelible mark not only on his native country but on the one he adopted later in life after he left France for Hollywood. A significant amount of the material in these 1100+ pages, drawn from unpublished or little known sources, offers a fresh approach to the director of Grand Illusion and The Rules of the Game.

“Mérigeau authors a masterpiece, which both confirms the opinion we had about the director, and reorients the one we had about the man.”
—Les Inrockuptibles

Tiphaine Samoyault
ROLAND BARTHES
With access to unpublished material, diaries and index cards on which Roland Barthes noted his reflections, Samoyault expertly outlines the evolution of the intellectual. She brings about a first-class analysis of his theoretical breakthroughs, but also an illuminating account of early battles for academic recognition and struggles with tuberculosis. Released for the centenary of Barthes’s birth, it was shortlisted for the prestigious Prix Goncourt.

“Roland Barthes is a literary masterpiece, a meticulous investigation combined with a genuine evocative force.”
—Le Point
Danielle Michel-Chich
[LETTE À ZOHRA D.]
Lara Vergnaud, Tr., seeking an American publisher
(Lettre à Zohra D., Flammarion, 2012)
In an open letter addressed to the FLN militant behind the 1956 Milk Bar bombing in Algiers, Danielle Michel-Chich, a witness to the attack, asks if the end justified the means. Far from offering a bitter assignation of blame, Michel-Chich, whose grandmother died in the attack and who herself lost a leg, comes to terms with her personal trauma, while appealing for humanity in wartime.

"Danielle wanted her story to be appeased. She says we can suffer and yet not desire vengeance. The ultimate goal of this letter to Zohra D. is to ask the moral question of terrorism, that which is found throughout Camus's work: can we kill for a just cause?"
—L’Obs
French Voices Award 2016
François Bon

DAEWOO

Youna Kwak, Tr., Diálogos Books, forthcoming in 2019
(Daewoo, Fayard, 2004)

Daewoo is an evocative and powerful novel based on documentary research and interviews with former employees of the Korean corporation, Daewoo. It focuses on the stories of four women and on the haunting absence of a fifth one, Sylvia, who committed suicide after the plant closed.

“The reader is moved and devastated by this exploration of those who have fought to the point of losing connection with life, or even life itself, for one of them.”
—Le Matricule des anges

Alain Badiou


Susan Spitzer, Tr., Columbia University Press, forthcoming in 2017

Since 1983, Alain Badiou has been giving a series of open seminars, developing his specific conception of antiphilosophy through a historical narrative running from ancient Greece to the postmodern Western world. After Nietzsche and Wittgenstein, the third seminar takes on Jacques Lacan.

“In a witty role reversal, Badiou slips into the costume of the analyst to deconstruct the “anti-philosophical device” conceived by Lacan.”
—Philosophie Magazine

Anouck Durand

ETERNAL FRIENDSHIP

Elizabeth Zuba, Tr., Siglio Press, forthcoming in 2017
(Amitié Éternelle, Éditions Xavier Barral, 2014)

In an exquisite collage narrative drawn from photographic archives, personal letters, propaganda posters and political speeches, artist and writer Anouck Durand tells the true story of two photographers whose friendship was forged in the crucible of war between Albania and China.

“As an example of the inexorable sweep of history, the images are illuminating: what once was deadly serious and unquestioned propaganda now seems quaint and almost unbelievable.”
—The Guardian
Dominique Kalifa

[LES BAS-FONDS. HISTOIRE D’UN IMAGINAIRE]

Robin Holding, Tr., seeking an American publisher (Les Bas-fonds. Histoire d’un imaginaire, Seuil, 2013)

This groundbreaking essay addresses the concept of the “underworld” in 19th and 20th century France. Beggars, prostitutes, criminals, convicts, constitute the gritty underworld of society. Dominique Kalifa shows through literature, journalism and cinema, how a fantasy was constructed.

“Dominique Kalifa does not merely retrace the history of a literary theme. He shows what this fantasy reveals about how our societies persist in thinking commonly on misery and evil.”

—Le Nouvel Observateur

Emmanuelle Loyer

[LÉVI-STRAUSS]


In this widely acclaimed biography, written in collaboration with Lévi-Strauss’s widow, the eminent historian Emmanuelle Loyer presents a comprehensive portrayal of the anthropologist.

“Emmanuelle Loyer authors the first major biography of the anthropologist. A portrait of an intellectual who casted a subversive look on our time.”

—L’Express

Brice Matthieussent

[LA VENGEANCE DU TRADUCTEUR]


A mischievous translator erases the text he is supposed to be translating, and instead multiplies infuriated footnotes, expressing his disgust for the novel he has to work on, as well as his own dreams and reflections. However, the characters of the novel insert themselves back into the book. In this extremely witty novel within a novel, Matthieussent attempts to analyze the relationship between an author and his translator.

“We are at the heart of Literature, with its capacity to make the real vibrate, to reach it using words.”

—Le Monde
Pierre Senges
[ACHAB (SÉQUELLES)]

*Achab (séquelles)* follows the fictitious adventures of Captain Ahab before and after his fight with the great whale, first as a 17-years-old young man sailing to London in the hope of performing Shakespeare, then, after surviving his last encounter with Moby Dick, as a retired fisherman trying to sell his story to Broadway and Hollywood producers.

“The strange but audacious follow up to Melville dives into the making of our modernity and gives place to a geography to which the inventiveness of tone, the perpetual gaps, and the power of metamorphosis stun the reader.”
—Marianne Marie-Hélène Lafon

[JOSEPH]
Laurie Postlewate, Tr., seeking an American publisher (Joseph, Buchet-Chastel, 2014)

Joseph is a sixty year old farmer in Cantal, southern France. He knows all the farms of the region and their stories. He is soft, silent and lonely. He once loved Sylvie, thirty years ago. Joseph is a superb chronicle of the inexorable disappearance of a generation in rural France, as well as a vibrant homage to Flaubert.

“The writing of the novelist is like the world she describes, plain, noble and honorable, irrigated by the power of the earth.”
—Le Figaro

Catherine Chalier

READING THE TORAH
Michael B. Smith, Tr., Duquesne University Press, forthcoming in 2017 (Lire La Torah, Seuil, 2014)

In *Reading the Torah*, philosopher and Judaic studies scholar Catherine Chalier explains how a spiritual approach—in this case according to the Jewish tradition — leads to an overall understanding of the Torah. Chalier argues that serious study of the sacred text requires both, the knowledge of the methods used throughout history to read the Torah, and the reader’s commitment to a personal relationship with the text.

“A luminous book to understand how a spiritual reading - but not disembodied - of the “Holy Books” is arguably the best antidote for the poison of fundamentalism.”
—La Procure
Frédéric Martel
[GLOBAL GAY, COMMENT LA RÉVOLUTION GAY CHANGE LE MONDE]
Patsy Baudoin, Tr., MIT Press, forthcoming in 2018
(Global Gay, Comment la révolution gay change le monde, Flammarion, 2013)
Homosexuals can marry in Johannesburg and Mexico, but not in Chicago or Berlin. In Iran, they risk being hung while transsexuals are legally operated. For five years, Frédéric Martel conducted an unprecedented investigation in forty-five countries. Full of colorful portraits, the book relates the modern battle for Human rights.
“Global Gay, allows the reader to realize how necessary the fight against sexual discriminations is.”
—Le Monde

Michaël Ferrier
[MÉMOIRES D’OUTRE-MER]
Martin Munro, Tr., seeking an American publisher
(Mémoires d’outre-mer, Gallimard, 2015)
Following in his Mauritian grandfather’s footsteps across the Indian Ocean, the narrator rediscovers a little-known part of history, when a colonized Madagascar was sought by the Nazis as a location to expulse European Jews. This timely novel revisits the history of French identity, reflecting on the narrator’s own remarkable, unpredictable journey of personal and familial rediscovery.
“Mémoires d’outre-mer, a tale of adventures in Madagascar, shows how a familial investigation can open to much wider seas.”
—Libération
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frenchculture.org

The Book Department of the Cultural Services of the French Embassy encourages English translations of francophone fiction and non-fiction and promotes French translation across the United States. The Department provides a range of grants to help publishers acquire rights and promote paper and digital editions of translated French works. Through its Authors on Tour program, the Department initiates lively dialogues with francophone authors throughout the United States and provides tools to assist American partners in the organization of events at book fairs, universities, libraries, bookstores and other literary institutions. The Department also distributes newsletters to keep readers and professionals up-to-date on new translations, trends in French books, the digital sphere, literary events and residency programs for authors and translators.

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