

WRITING AGAINST WAR. INGEBORG BACHMANN 1926 – 1973



An exhibition of the Austrian Federal Ministry for Foreign Affairs,
in cooperation with Literatur-Verein zur Förderung von Werk- und Kunstverständnis i:b
Academic concept: Hans Höller
Exhibition design: Erika Thümmel
Co-ordination: Helga Pöcheim
Graphics: Susa Kavalari
Audio-visual processing: Thomas Schauer

1. Thematic-structural concept of the exhibition

The exhibition combines concentration on a theme – “Writing”/“War” – and chronological organisation.

The chronological aspect is made transparent by seven consecutive sections (spatial organisation, titles of the sections, and commentary texts). History, biography and history of the work, which are constitutive of “writing”, are effected on the spatial and design plane, as well as on the visual-textual plane by the following elements:

- Thematisation of writing through the projection of a continuously produced typewritten text (“Bohemia lies on the sea”) in the centre of the exhibition
- Views between the image/text panels onto large picture panels standing behind them as a time horizon: the wars overshadowing Ingeborg Bachmann’s writing
- Thematically relevant texts from Ingeborg Bachmann (including extensive passages, previously unpublished, from her war diary, or the poem “Lay down your arms”), as well as an accompanying commentary
- Photographs, which bring into focus the characteristic premises and constellations of writing for every individual section, f.i. in the second section: the post-war Vienna of “The Third Man”; the encounter with Paul Celan in which, in dialogue with Celan’s poetry, she grasps the war that has ended as an epochal break in civilisation (“Writing after Auschwitz”)
- Visual presentation of historically significant traces of history in the texts
- Thematically relevant audio texts, read by Ingeborg Bachmann (CDs and headphones)
- The international character of the exhibition, which reflects the wish to allow readers unfamiliar with the original language access to the work of Ingeborg Bachmann, is realised by means of bilingual versions. While all commentary texts are translated to the national language, quotations from texts by the author can be perceived simultaneously in German and in translation.
- Concluding summary of the individual thematic aspects in the portrait of Bachmann by Gerda Haller, which was recorded in June 1973 for Austrian television and which represents a kind of literary testament by the Austrian writer (rediscovery of an extraordinary film that is almost forgotten today).

Titles of the individual sections in the exhibition

I	War in the land of childhood. Carinthia 1926-1945
II	Ingeborg Bachmann's war diary 1945
III	“After the war – this is the beginning of an era.” Vienna 1946 – 1953
IV	“Safe passage (Aria II)”. Italy 1953 – 1957
V	“Lay down your arms!” Munich, Zurich, Rome 1958-1962
VI	German twists of fate / Bohemia lies on the sea. Berlin 1963 - 1965
VII	“The House of Austria” in Rome. 1966 – 1973
VIII	“Ingeborg Bachmann in Italy – autobiographical and poetic notes” (Gerda Haller's film about Bachmann)

2. Fundamental design concept of the exhibition

The exhibition is characterised by structural clarity and centring on one theme. What is important is the transparency and lightness of the constituents, as well as a great deal of light (“the light shed by language”). The space required is about 100 square metres, and it is just as possible to develop the exhibition along a corridor as in a rectangular or square room, or even split over two rooms.



In the centre of the exhibition is the **ANIMATED PROJECTION OF THE SCRIPT** i.e. the projection of a continuously produced typewritten text, for visual illustration and as an acoustic atmospheric image of the process of writing (on DVD: lettering “Bohemia lies on the sea”). By means of a projector - provided by the exhibition host - this text is projected onto a translucent back and front projection foil (W 290 x H 215 cm).

The background of the exhibition (and thus also of the creative work of Ingeborg Bachmann) is formed by:

THREE LARGE-FORMAT WAR PICTURES

digital prints on textile that are free-standing or suspended from the ceiling (W 300 x H 200 cm).

In front of these, the literary work of Ingeborg Bachmann forms up in chronological/biographical sequence, in the form of:



SEVEN SECTIONS OF IMAGE/TEXT PANELS

consisting of 20 printed, free-standing textile panels (H 215 x W 80 cm) which in accordance with the thematic focus points and the spatial setting, are put together to form bay-like niches – leaving a clear view onto the war pictures positioned behind them.

As a background image to every section there is a format filling picture, which shows either Ingeborg Bachmann or the town in which she lived during that period of her life. The panels themselves show biographical information, commentaries and photographs, as well as original documents related to texts by the author produced during that time.

At THREE AUDIO POINTS

placed in the section relating to the respective phase of Ingeborg Bachmann's life, one can listen to ORIGINAL AUDIO DOCUMENTS by means of headphones and CD players (supplied) – recordings of readings of her own poems, from the Frankfurt Lectures, and excerpts from “Malina”:



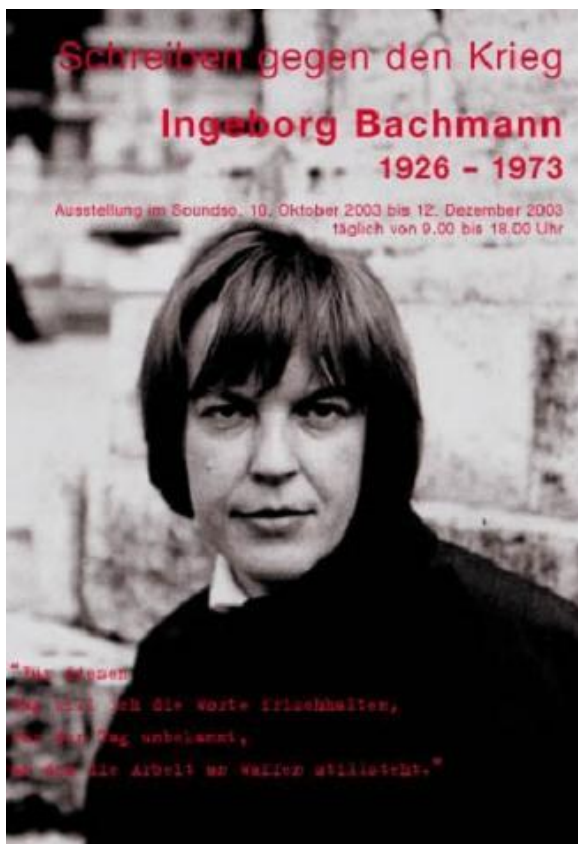
On a monitor one can see the **FILM “Ingeborg Bachmann in Italy – autobiographical and poetic notes”** by Gerda Haller (ORF, 1973): a moving portrait of the author, a kind of testament in which she counters the continuing history of war and violence with her utopia of “there will come a day ...”.

(24 minutes, original soundtrack at low volume, with subtitles in the national language, provided on VHS or DVD).

MISCELLANEOUS

Depending on what is possible at the location, there should be a person assigned to selling books (a porter or similar), or else a locked display case with books. Seating accommodation (in front of the monitor showing the Haller film and at the audio points) should be provided.

3. Means of Advertising for the Exhibition



- an invitation card to announce the opening
- a poster
- a banner to be placed at the entrance or on the façade, indicating the title, duration of the exhibition etc.
- “Leporello” (obligatory, to be distributed for free), a folding brochure providing information on the author’s biography, content of the exhibition, list of works translated into the respective national language, production details of the exhibition, and a list of sponsors, if applicable (A4 landscape format, folded twice).

(all printing matters can be individually adapted for the venue)

A CD with the basic layout data for the invitation card, poster and Leporello, suitable for print shop printing, can be sent to the respective hosts, or else for a fee to cover printing costs, the required quantity of printed matters can be supplied ready-made.

www.ingeborg-bachmann.cc/Ausstellung.html
provides basic information to hosts and visitors

4. Overview of technical equipment

Qty	The following items are supplied with the exhibition:	These are required from the local host:
3	<p>Audio points: CD players with stands and headphones + 3 CDs with original audio documents (readings by Ingeborg Bachmann)</p> <p>Poems, 5m50s for panel 10 Die gestundete Zeit, Nachtflug, Alle Tage, Herbstmanöver (Ellen Marga Schmidt's documentation of the audio-visual recording, in Works, vol. 4, page 441 s)</p> <p>Frankfurt Lectures, 5m48s for panel 15 Ö1 Fragen und Scheinfragen (25.4.1960) (Ellen Marga Schmidt's documentation of the audio-visual recording, in Works, vol. 4, page 449 s)</p> <p>Malina, 7m52s for panel 19 (Ellen Marga Schmidt's documentation of the audio-visual recording, in Works, vol. 4, page 473 s)</p>	
1	<p>DVD film or VHS cassette "Ingeborg Bachmann in Italy", a film by Gerda Haller, ORF 1973, 24 minutes</p>	<p>Monitor or television with VHS or (preferably!) DVD player</p>
1	<p>DVD – script animation "Bohemia lies on the sea", 1 hour Free-standing screen is supplied</p>	<p>DVD player and projector</p>
1	<p>CD with the data (Apple, QuarkXpress) for the following types of printed matter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Leporello/Folding leaflet, double-sided A4 - Poster, 50 x 70 cm - Invitation Card, 21 x 20 cm <p>Fonts: Helvetica, Trixi</p> <p>(The respective exhibition venue and the opening times are to be inserted.)</p>	<p>Printing to be undertaken locally, or by Druckerei Khil in Graz on payment of printing costs</p>

5. Transport list

Delivery of all exhibition elements in 4 wooden boxes:

	Contents	Transport-box dimensions	Weight total approx.
Box 1	20 x printed textile panels (W 80 x L 214cm) 20 x upper clamping rails (L 80 x 3.5 x 2.5cm) 20 x bottom clamping rails with extensions (L 89 x 5 x 6cm) 20 x vertical stand elements, bundled together (L 82 x 7 x 2cm)	102 x 42 x 43	kg
Box 2	1 x projection screen (H 215 x W 290cm) 3 x background textile panels, in rolls 6 x lightweight rails for background panels (L 300 x 4.5 x 2cm) 2 x heavy-duty rails for projection screen rail (L 288 x 4 x 5cm) 9 x vertical stand elements for background panels (L 221 x 4 x 4cm) 2 x vertical stand elements for projection screen (L 227 x 4 x 4cm)	310 x 22 x 23 cm	kg
Box 3	3 x stands for CD players and headphones 3 x base plates for projection screen (25 x 25 x 0.5cm) 9 x base plates for background pictures (25 x 25 x 13cm)	102 x 42 x 43 cm	kg
Box 4	1 x DVD (film by Gerda Haller) 1 x DVD (script animation) 1 x VHS cassette (film by Gerda Haller) 3 x audio CDs (readings by Ingeborg Bachmann) 3 x CD players 3 x sets of headphones	42 x 22 x 23 cm	kg
	Total weight		approx. 200 kg

Illustrated instructions for setup and dismantling of the exhibition can be downloaded:
www.ingeborg-bachmann.cc/ausstellung_veranst.html

Information provided by:

Literatur - Verein zur
 Förderung von Werk- und Kunstverständnis i:b
 A-1070 Wien, Lerchenfelder Straße 67/35
www.ingeborg-bachmann.cc

Mag. Helga Pöcheim
 Tel: +43-(0)664-510 5443