



by Markus Orths
Hanser Verlag
August 2017 / 576pp
Fiction

This book is outside of the five-year window for guaranteed assistance with English language translation. We suggest getting in touch with the relevant funding body for an informal conversation about the possibility of support. Please refer to our recommendations page for books that are currently covered by our funding guarantee.

Max *Max*

review

Max is a colourful chronicle of the life of artist Max Ernst, pioneer of the Dada movement and Surrealism. Packed full of dazzling characters, this is a lively, passionate and accessible take on recent art history.

The enigmatic artist who stands at the centre of this novel is orbited by six very different but equally inspirational women, and the novel's different sections look at each of these relationships in turn. Orths interprets Max Ernst's different relationships as successive phases of a maturing love, but also focuses on the women as independent, tremendously talented artists in their own right. Each relationship has a unique impact on Max's artwork, vividly described in the novel. At the same time, the narrative follows the rich history of the first half of the twentieth century, recounting Max's biography and the evolution of his art in the wider context of the Western European art scene. The Dada movement is replaced by Surrealism, the post-war depression by the frantic lust for life in the 1920s, the panic and horror of the Second World War by a stunned emptiness in the war's aftermath.

Max will appeal to readers of imaginative historical novels like *Madame Picasso* by Anne Girard or *Girl with a Pearl Earring* by Tracy Chevalier.

about the author

Markus Orths was born in 1969 and studied Philosophy, English and Romance languages in Freiburg. He is a freelance author and lives

with his wife and three children in Karlsruhe. His previous work was published by Schöffling & Co, and his novels have been translated into sixteen languages. Orths's novel *Das Zimmermädchen* was made into a film in 2015. He also writes radio plays and books for children.

rights information

Carl Hanser Verlag

Kolbergerstrasse 22, 81679 Munich, Germany

Contact: Friederike Barakat

Tel: +49 89 99830 509

Email: friederike.barakat@hanser.de

www.hanser-literaturverlage.de

Carl Hanser Verlag was established by its eponymous owner in 1928 in Munich, and its founder's interests in both literature and science have been maintained to the present day. The firm publishes fiction and non-fiction for both adults and children. Its authors include Italo Calvino, Umberto Eco, Jostein Gaarder, Lars Gustafsson, Milan Kundera, Harry Mulisch, Philip Roth, Susan Sontag, Botho Strauß, Raoul Schrott, Rafik Schami, Alfred Brendel, Elke Heidenreich and ten Nobel prizewinners, among them Elias Canetti, whose works have been translated into more than thirty different languages.