

## Press Release

3 December 2024

### Academy Dialogue: Adania Shibli and Eva Menasse

#### Reading and Talk

Welcome: Manos Tsangaris, President of the Akademie der Künste

Wednesday, 11 December 2024, 7 pm

Akademie der Künste, Pariser Platz 4, 10117 Berlin

Adania Shibli's novel *Minor Detail* intertwines the fates of two Palestinian women: a Bedouin girl who is violated by Israeli soldiers in 1949, and a young woman in the present day who traces details of the girl's story. Eva Menasse reads passages from Adania Shibli's novel before the two authors engage in a conversation about the work's central themes: the limits of narration, and violence and erasure over the course of time in Palestine and beyond. Shibli describes a Palestinian narration – shaped by experiencing Palestine through fragments and ruptures – as an act of dysfluency and “stutter”. Shibli's novels are characterised by working with anti-narrative structures – cracks that emerge from a literary narrative whose beginning and end are blurred in the linguistic turmoil of decades of political oppression and military occupation.

**Adania Shibli**, born in 1974 in Palestine, writes novels, plays, short stories and essays. She received the Qattan Young Writer's Award-Palestine twice: in 2001 for her novel *Masaas* (Al-Adab, 2002, translated as *Touch*, Clockroot, 2009) and in 2003 for her novel *Kulluna Ba'id bethat al Miqdar aan el-Hub* (Al-Adab, 2004, translated as *We Are All Equally Far from Love*, Clockroot, 2012). Her most recent work is the novel *Tafsil Thanawi* (Al-Adab, 2017, translated as *Minor Detail*, Berenberg Verlag, 2022), which was shortlisted for the National Book Award in 2020 and nominated for the International Booker Prize in 2021. In addition to her writing activities, Shibli conducts academic research and teaches at various European universities and at Birzeit University, Palestine (2012–2018).

**Eva Menasse**, born in 1970 in Vienna, began her career as a journalist before making her literary debut in 2005 with the family novel *Vienna*. This was followed by novels and short stories (*Lässliche Todsünde*, 2009; *Quasikristalle*, 2023; *Tiere für Fortgeschrittene*, 2017), which have received numerous awards and been translated into numerous languages. Awards (selection): Heinrich-Böll-Preis, Friedrich-Hölderlin-Preis, Jonathan-Swift-Preis, Österreichischer Buchpreis, Bruno-Kreisky-Preis, Jakob-Wassermann-Literaturpreis and the Villa Massimo Rome Prize. Eva Menasse has become increasingly active as an essayist and in 2019 received the Ludwig Börne Prize for her essayistic work. Her most recent novel, *Darkenbloom* (2021), was a bestseller and has been translated into nine languages.

#### Press and Public Relations

Pariser Platz 4  
10117 Berlin  
T 030 200 57–15 14  
F 030 200 57–15 08  
presse@adk.de  
www.adk.de

**Event information**

**Academy Dialogue: Adania Shibli and Eva Menasse**

Reading in German, talk in English

Wednesday, 11 December 2024, 7 pm

Akademie der Künste, Pariser Platz 4, 10117 Berlin

Admission: € 7.50/5, free admission for persons under 18

Tickets: [ticket@adk.de](mailto:ticket@adk.de), tel. 030 20057-1000

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10117 Berlin

T 030 200 57-15 14

F 030 200 57-15 08

[presse@adk.de](mailto:presse@adk.de)

[www.adk.de](http://www.adk.de)

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