

Tanja Langer

Born 1962 in Wiesbaden, like fluxus, the well known writer and now artist lives in Berlin since 1986. She has three daughters.

She first studied philosophy, comparative literature and political sciences in Paris, Munich and Berlin, but already during her time at the university she started photography and theatre. In her work as a writer (several novels, theatre plays, short stories) she takes a look at the world from a „joyfull feminist point of view“ as a German critic put it. Always developing a phenomenology of love, she discovers German topics like in her book on Hitler’s friend, Dietrich Eckart, or her radio play about her mother’s time in a refugee camp after World War II. In her recent books she focused on art and music, for example Edvard Munch in her „Little story of the woman that couldn’t be faithful“, or Berlin artists in the eighties in „Nights on The Edge of The Inner City“.



After the death of her father she passed a writing crisis and invented the Barbie – pictures. Starting off with a very personal interpretation of Manet’s „déjeuner sur l’herbe“ she became curious of what happens to the figure in the back ground when she is put into the centre, and soon found out about the subjects of love, jealousy and hidden passion that can govern pretty gardens and homes. She went on further, doing a research on the ambivalence of disturbing, often tragical feelings, and the brightness of light and colour. Her „Holy Sebastian – I love you“ is an ironical reference to a historical art subject that fascinates her.

As she grew in her parents’ restaurant she learned that behind a beautiful surface and the politeness of people’s faces in public, terrible emotions can be hidden: so she invented Barbie’s secret life. As in her books, the artist’s work shows a great sense of subtle humour, the strange mixture of the existential and the comical, combined with a wonderful look on surprising beauty.