

Press Release / 11 mai 2021

Beyond Words Festival

17 – 23 May 2021, online & onsite at the Institut français

From 17 May 2021, the Institut français reopens its doors and goes Beyond Words, onsite, online, or both, with its festival of literature.

Audiences can expect the latest publications from both sides of the Channel, readings, exclusive conversations, screen adaptations and a great line-up including acclaimed authors **Maylis de Kerangal**, **Laurent Binet**, **Ananda Devi**, **Douglas Stuart** or **Eric Vuillard**, and new voices **Rebecca Watson**, **Alice Zeniter**, **Julia Kerninon** and **Delphine Minoui**, to name but a few.

Many of them will take us beyond borders and out of our comfort zone, tackling the **Syrian war**, the **Franco-Algerian relationship**, **decolonial feminism** or **poverty**.

Some others will play **distorting reality and history**, from the conquest of Europe by the Incas, and the exquisite illusion of the art of trompe l'oeil to the complete manipulation of the audience by **Florian Zeller** and **Christopher Hampton** in the brilliant Academy Award and BAFTA-winning *The Father*.

Women writers take centre stage at this year's edition. One of the *Observers'* Top 10 debut novelists, **Rebecca Watson**, and the author of *A Respectable Occupation*, **Julia Kerninon** discuss with **Lauren Elkin** how young women authors can bring a different voice to the literary world. As for **Françoise Vergès**, a veteran of the feminist cause, she publishes *Decolonial Feminism*, a powerful manifesto for an intersectional feminism centered around anticolonialism and anti-racism.

Alice Zeniter, **Kaouther Adimi** and **Natalya Vince** will discuss how trans-Mediterranean literary ties continue to inform the Franco-Algerian relationship while Albert Londres-prized journalist **Delphine Minoui** will explore how literature has coped with the war and the devastation it has left in its wake.

From *Spiral* to noir revival, **Olivier Norek** will also give us some thrills and spills, while **Agnès Poirier** will tell us the fascinating history of **Notre-Dame de Paris**.

www.beyondwordslitfest.co.uk

[Programme](#)

[Line-up](#)

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