



Press Release

September 22, 2017

The Franz Kafka International Literary Prize 2017

The Canadian writer Margaret E. Atwood will be awarded the prestigious Franz Kafka Prize at the Old Town Hall in Prague on October 17, 2017. She will become the seventeenth laureate of this international literary prize awarded by the Franz Kafka Society in cooperation with the City of Prague.

The Franz Kafka International Literary Prize will be awarded to the Canadian writer Margaret E. Atwood at the Old Town Hall in Prague on Tuesday, October 17, 2017. The international jury selected her at its annual meeting in May at the headquarters of the Franz Kafka Society as the seventeenth laureate of this Prague literary prize. **“This is a very great honour and I would be most pleased to accept. Franz Kafka has a special place for me, since as an undergraduate I wrote one of my first pieces of serious literary criticism about his work,”** said the laureate afterwards.

Margaret Atwood will travel to Prague in mid-October to attend the traditional award ceremony in the Brožík Hall of the Old Town Hall, where the laureates receive the main symbol of the prize – a bronze statuette of Franz Kafka by Jaroslav Róna. The financial award is USD 10,000.

As part of the Franz Kafka Prize’s accompanying programme organized by the Franz Kafka Society, she will also meet her readers at book signing events at the Globe (October 17) and Luxor (October 18) bookstores and at a literary event at the Václav Havel Library (October 18).

*Margaret Eleanor Atwood (1939 Ottawa) is a Canadian poet, novelist, literary critic, essayist, and environmental activist. She graduated at Harvard's Radcliffe College and her theoretical work mainly focuses on Canadian literature and Canadian identity. She is the author of many collections of short stories: **The***

Tent (2006), novels: *Life Before Man* (1979), *The Robber Bride* (1993), *The Blind Assassin* (2000), collections of poems: *The Journals of Susanna Moodie* (1970), *True Stories* (1981), and books for children: *Rude Ramsay and the Roaring Radishes* (2003).

*Atwood's most famous work is a "speculative" fiction situated in the near future called **The Handmaid's Tale** (1985). A television series based on her book was created this year and won a total of six Emmy Awards last week.*

Margaret Atwood herself has won more than 55 awards both in Canada and internationally, and has received numerous honorary degrees. She will also be awarded the Peace Prize of the German Book Trade at the Frankfurt Book Fair next month.

The Franz Kafka International Literary Prize has been awarded by the Franz Kafka Society since 2001. Its laureates to date include writers Philip Roth, Ivan Klíma, Péter Nádas, Elfriede Jelinek, Harold Pinter, Haruki Murakami, Yves Bonnefoy, Arnošt Lustig, Peter Handke, Václav Havel, John Banville, Daniela Hodrová, Amos Oz, Yan Lianke, Eduardo Mendoza and Claudio Magris.

In 2017, the jury included Peter Demetz, André Derval, Marianne Gruber, Oldřich Král, Petr Matoušek, Lorenzo Silva, Jiří Stránský, Jiří Stromšík and Hans Dieter Zimmermann. At its meeting, the jury chose among the leading figures of contemporary world literature.

The main partner of the Franz Kafka Society in organizing the Franz Kafka International Literary Prize is the City of Prague. The award ceremony regularly takes place under the aegis of the President of the Senate of the Parliament of the Czech Republic and the Mayor of the City of Prague. **The mission of the Franz Kafka Prize is to reward artistically exceptional literary production of a contemporary author whose work addresses readers regardless of their origin, nationality or culture, like the work of Franz Kafka.** The prize is presented for the entire work of the particular author to date.

(TCH)

The award ceremony of the Franz Kafka International Literary Prize takes place under the aegis of the President of the Senate of the Parliament of the Czech Republic and the Mayor of the City of Prague

The main partner of the Franz Kafka International Literary Prize is the City of Prague



The Franz Kafka International Literary Prize is supported by the Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic



The Franz Kafka International Literary Prize is supported by Hotel Century Old Town Prague



Contact:

Markéta Mališová
Director, The Franz Kafka Center
The Franz Kafka Society
Tel.: +420 224 227 452
mail@franzkafka-soc.cz
www.franzkafka-soc.cz
