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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GOETHE-INSTITUT NEW YORK ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF 2025 TRANSLATOR'S PRIZES

New York, NY (May 15, 2025)—The Goethe-Institut New York is pleased to announce that **Paul Reitter** is the winner of the 2025 Helen & Kurt Wolff Translator's Prize for his translation of Karl Marx's *Capital: Critique of Political Economy, Volume 1*, published by Princeton University Press. **Juliane Scholtz** is the winner of the Gutekunst Prize of the Friends of Goethe New York for her translation of a portion of Judith Kuckart's auto-fictional novel *Die Welt zwischen den Nachrichten* ("The World Between the News").

The winner of this year's Wolff prize was determined by a jury of three with an expertise in German literature and translation, consisting of Shelley Frisch (Chair), Philip Boehm, and Elisabeth Lauffer. This year's winner was selected from eighteen German-to-English translations published in the United States or Canada in 2024. In their statement, the jury said:

"Friedrich Engels, who published a handwringing essay called 'How Not to Translate Marx' in 1885, pronounced Karl Marx's prose 'almost untranslatable.' Small wonder, then, that there have been so few translations of *Capital* into English, despite its status as one of the most consequential books in history. We are fortunate that Paul Reitter has now achieved the near-impossible task of translating *Capital*, volume one, into what *The Nation* has lauded as 'crisp and contemporary' English. Our jury has marveled at Reitter's ability to retain the accuracy of the lengthy original, seemingly forbidding text, while rendering it an inviting and even humorous read. Together with editor Paul North, Reitter has brought us an extraordinary edition that also features a sweeping scholarly apparatus drawing on generations of scholarship and helping to make this new translation the definitive one for our era."

This year's winner of the Wolff Prize, **Paul Reitter** received his PhD in German Studies from the University of California, Berkeley. For more than twenty years, he has taught in the German

department at Ohio State University, where he served as the director of the Humanities Institute from 2012 to 2018. He writes mainly about German-Jewish culture, the history of the humanities, and translation, and in his own translation projects he has focused on retranslating and reframing texts that deliver philosophical critique and social criticism in enduringly exciting ways. His work has been supported by fellowships from the American Academy in Berlin and the Guggenheim Foundation.

Since 1996, the Helen & Kurt Wolff Translator's Prize has been awarded annually to honor an outstanding literary translation from German into English published in the USA or Canada the previous year. The translator of the winning translation receives US \$5,000 and a fully funded trip to the Frankfurter Buchmesse. A public award ceremony will take place at the Goethe-Institut New York on **June 17th at 6:30pm** with both prizewinners, members of the juries, Friends of Goethe New York board member Jeffrey Himmel and Consul for Culture and Science Mariella de Carvahlo in attendance.

The annual Gutekunst Prize of the Friends of Goethe New York will also be awarded on June 17th, with a jury consisting of translators Tess Lewis, Alta L. Price, and editor Jeremy Davies.

The jury said of the win:

“The 2025 Gutekunst Prize jury unanimously and enthusiastically commends Juliane Scholtz for a flexible and dexterous translation of a passage from Judith Kuckart’s auto-fictional novel *Die Welt zwischen den Nachrichten* (“The World Between the News”). The linguistic hurdles and traps in this year’s selected excerpt were formidable. Kuckart’s style is slightly slant to conventional German and her prose—idiosyncratic, variable, and varied—reflects her retrospective view of her world and her history. Memory here is unreliable and so is language. Capturing the shifts in tone and register in the narrator’s voice is no easy task and Juliane Scholtz rises to the challenge inventively. She brings to the translation an imaginative and linguistic distance from the original that preserves a sense of the narrator’s character. She chooses words that are vivid and apt in their specificity, deftly recreating the atmosphere of the original. Juliane clearly has an intuitive sense of narrative and language that is hard to teach, a keen eye for the telling detail, and a sharp ear for colloquial rhythms.”

This year’s winner of the Gutekunst Prize, **Juliane Scholtz** earned a B.A. in Physics and German Studies from Cornell University and a Master’s degree in Materials Science and Engineering from the University of Michigan. While at Cornell, Juliane twice received the Goethe Prize for the Best Undergraduate Essay Written in German. In 2018, Juliane attained the Goethe-Zertifikat C2: Großes Deutsches Sprachdiplom from the Goethe-Institut New York. She is a former student of the Immanuel German School – Deutsche Sprachschule Philadelphia. In 2013-2014, Juliane received the Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange Scholarship (CBYX) to study abroad in Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany.

To attend the award ceremony for both prizes on June 17th, please register [here](#).

The Helen & Kurt Wolff Translator's Prize and the Gutekunst Prize are generously funded by Friends of Goethe New York with additional support from the Frankfurter Buchmesse and the German Consulate General New York.

For more information, visit **www.goethe.de/us/helenandkurtwolffprize**
and **www.goethe.de/us/gutekunstprize**

The **Goethe-Institut** is Germany's cultural institute and is active worldwide with six institutes in the USA. Since 1969, the Goethe-Institut New York has promoted knowledge of the German language and fostered intercultural dialogue between the USA and Germany. With its translation grant program, two annual translator prizes, and a German language library open to the public, the Goethe-Institut New York facilitates German-American cultural exchange.