

## Picturing the Real:

# The Power of Images in German Fiction



GERM BC 3057

Spring Semester 2021

## "Picturing the Real: The Power of Images in German Fiction"

Lecture course: Mon & Wed 10:10—11:25 (online)

Instructor: Prof. Erk Grimm, Barnard College Milbank Hall 320 b

This survey course explores the rich and fascinating dialogue between text and image in the Twentieth and Twenty-first centuries. It introduces you to great modernists, visual artists and contemporary writers who examined the gap between real and fake news and who reflected on the political task of witnessing as well as the challenges of presenting the individual in portraits and “selfies.”

Readings range from modern pioneers (such as Brecht, Heartfield) via nobel-prize winning authors (such as Thomas Mann) to contemporary figures (W.G. Sebald). You will become acquainted not only with iconic figures such as Kafka or Brecht but also with the voices of contemporary women writers (K. Hacker, J. Hermann, M. Maron). Visual artists include Wim Wenders and major photographers (A.Sander). Throughout the semester, the “power of images” will be at the center of our discussion. This course gives you the opportunity to find out about modernity’s intense involvement with visual media, new gender roles, and different representations of “the self” and “the other” in today’s visual culture.