A LITERARY CONVERSATION

Our partnership with the Translation Studies Center in the School of Arts and Humanities brought a unique opportunity to discuss a fascinating new book about the Holocaust by Polish author Hanna Krall. Widely acclaimed translator Phillip Boehm along with Dr. Nils Roemer, Director of the Ackerman Center, explored this immensely perplexing memoir about Nazi-occupied Poland at a bookstore owned by local publisher Deep Vellum.

Broken into short chapters with unassuming title, the novel confronts the reader with a fragmented, disorienting world marked by uncertainty. Boehm, who aptly translated the novel into English, and Roemer discussed the literary markers of this book in the style made popular by Roger and Ebert. Readers slide through the vignettes barely able to orient the story within the historical scope of the Nazi regime and its policies. Nothing is certain or predictable in a world of mass murder. The novel is myopic, each chapter details the appearances of individuals, describes day-to-day life, and almost overwhelms the reader with its textures and colors without providing historical context.

The novel follows a woman named Izolda who finds reassurance from a card-reading that foretells that she (continued on page 2)

SPOTLIGHT

Dr. Oszváth's memoir *When the Danube Ran Red* is now available in paperback.

Dr. Patterson's new book *The Holocaust and the Nonrepresentable* is available for pre-order through SUNY press. The book will be released June 2018.

Hanna Krall's *Chasing the King of Hearts*, translated by Phillip Boehm, Feminist Press, 2017

(continued on page 2)
A LITERARY CONVERSATION
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

will soon hear from her missing husband Shayek. This fantastical reassurance in a world without reason empowers Izolda to endure the impossible task of chasing after him, her King of Hearts, and ensuring he survives the Holocaust. ▲