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AUTUMN 2022

Martina Clavadetscher

In Plain Sight

A radical change of perspective: at last, the women who for so long were 'seen but not heard' have been given a voice

The winner of the 2021 Swiss Book Prize gives a voice to women in famous paintings from history

Tells the stories behind the works of great artists

Multifaceted, subtle, surprising prose

Recommended by New Books in German



192 pages, Unionsverlag, 24.00 € Publication date: August 2022

The girl with the pearl earring, the lady with an ermine, women in world-famous paintings by Leonardo da Vinci, Vermeer, Rembrandt, Courbet, Schiele, Munch. We see their bodies, their gazes, their clothes, captured – or held captive – in an eternal moment.

But who were they outside of that moment?

Martina Clavadetscher investigates their lives, allows them to speak, and gives them their voices back. She says: "Without these women there would be no marveling, no gazing – and more than that, without these women, art history as we know it would be inconceivable. These women were also colleagues, artists, helpers, catalysts, mirrors of their times, icons, sources of inspiration, partners, saviours."

"Martina Clavadetscher is one of the boldest and most original voices of her generation." NZZ am Sonntag

"Clavadetscher mixes diverse literary forms in an ingenious way, playing with sound and rhythm and creating a precise and at the same time very poetic language." SRF

Martina Clavadetscher (born in 1979) is an author and playwright with degrees in German Literature, Linguistics and Philosophy. Her prose has earned her the *Marianne und Curt Dienemann Foundation Prize*, and in 2021 her novel *Die Erfindung des Ungehorsams* (*The Invention of Disobedience*) was awarded the *Swiss Book Prize*. She lives in Switzerland.

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