

Literature Competition for Creative Writing

Colonialism and its consequences in Bremen

Closing date on **30. November 2021**.

The Focke Museum-Bremen State Museum for Art and Cultural History has been commissioned by Bremens Senator for Culture to organize an art competition on the subject of colonialism and its consequences in Bremen.

Subject/explanation

European colonialism refers to a system of domination in which the power of European countries extends its power to non-European territories with the main aim of exploitation. Europeans tried to belittle the knowledge, culture and methodology of the colonized people. It is a system of knowledge, domination and violence that continues to this day and influences our thinking and actions consciously, but also unconsciously.

Bremen played a not insignificant role in German colonialism. By virtue of its status as a commercial and port city, Bremen acted as a central economic player and an important transport hub for colonial goods. Thus it was the Bremen merchant Adolf Lüderitz who, with the help of his agent Heinrich Vogelsang, acquired extensive land holdings in South West Africa (today's Namibia) in 1833. This brought to light conflicts between the colonial masters and the people living there, which ultimately led to the genocide of the Herero and Nama. Although the genocide of the Herero and Nama has been officially recognized and reconstruction aid is to be paid, the issue of colonialism and its consequences is still receiving too little attention.

Colonial traces can still be found in public space today. For example, by means of streets that are still named after the protagonists of colonialism. On the other hand, the "Ohamakari" memorial in Nelson Mandela Park, a circle of stones from the Waterberg in Namibia, explicitly commemorates the victims of the genocide committed there by Germans.

The consequences of colonialism are still reflected in everyday racism, especially in language. In it there are still testimonies of racist thought from the colonial period. The way people speak shapes and changes our (non-linguistic) reality. It influences the ideas and categories in which people think, consolidates unequal power relations or challenges them. Language is thus an essential component of individual and collective identity.

Bremen has been committed to the theme of colonialism since the 1970s. In 2019 the topic was included in the coalition agreement and cultural policy guidelines for dealing with the colonial heritage were adopted in Bremen. In addition, the Focke Museum takes into account the theme of colonialism and its consequences in its repositioning as a place of participation and participation and in the conception of the new collection exhibition.

A literary work is to be written on the subject of subject “colonialism and its consequences in Bremen”, which expresses one’s own experience and stimulates reflecting.

All literary forms such as slam poetry, short stories etc., which are suitable for representing the subject creatively may be submitted

Formalities:

- Volume: max. 1500 Wörter
- Font: Calibri or Time New Roman/Font size at least size 11
- Format: PDF
- Language: German, English, French
- Other: Please also include your contact details (name, address, phone number, e-mail)
- Authors must have full right on their own work

Please send the work by **30. November 2021** to the following e-mail address of the Focke Museum (Subject: Literature Competition 2021)

wettbewerb@focke-museum.de

A confirmation email will be send to you once your documents have been received successful.

Prize money will be awarded for the first three places

1 st place	€3000
2 nd place	€2000
3 rd place	€1000

After the closing date, the jury will meet. It consists of representatives from culture and civil society who have been supporting the Bremen Citizens’ Dialogue since 2016 and who are currently working on the topic in Bremen. The works are presented free of charge on the website of Focke Museum. The award-winning works will be highlighted. It is planned to present the works in readings in the city laboratory of the Focke Museum 2022. The works remain the property of the authors.

Prof. Dr. Anna Greve (Director of the Focke Museum - Bremen State Museum for Art and Cultural History), Patience Amankwah (Author, Consultant for racism-critical and difference-sensitive education; freelance artist), Maimuna Sallah (Student of Transnational Literature, member of the Black Community Foundation Bremen), Bassirou Ayeva (Journalist and author, social worker), Jens Laloire (Managing Director of Literaturkontor Bremen)

For more information on the civil dialogue and the subject of colonialism and its consequences in Bremen, see: <https://www.kultur.bremen.de/service/kolonialismus-13508#Dokumente%20und%20Materialien>