

# Literatur & Haltung

Rachel Salamanders Archiv



## Literature & Attitude The Archive of Rachel Salamander

A Monacensia at the Hildebrandhaus Exhibition

20 May 2026 – 31 March 2028

Opening on Tuesday, 19 May 2026, at 8 PM

*Here, my hitherto invisible archive shall be made visible and spark synergies with Monacensia's collections.  
Rachel Salamander, 2022*

**Literature & Attitude** highlights Rachel Salamander's extraordinary role as a publicist and facilitator, and as the founder of the *Literaturhandlung*. Established in 1982, *Literaturhandlung* was Germany's first bookstore dedicated to literature on Judaism after 1945. It has cultivated an environment that serves as an intellectual and emotional haven for many.

This exhibition delves deep into Rachel Salamander's literary and political sphere. Her world stretches far beyond Munich with *Literaturhandlung* events hosting writers of international renown such as Louis Begley, Maxim Biller, Lily Brett, David Grossman, Batya Gur, Barbara Honigmann, Ruth Klüger, Amos Oz, Robert Schindel, Zeruya Shalev, Gerty Spies, and Grete Weil.

### Experience the Salamander Archive

The 2-year exhibition makes Rachel Salamander's archive accessible to the public for the very first time. Her extraordinary repository of knowledge and memory opens an unparalleled window into the history of Jewish literature, culture, and public discourse after 1945. As a part of the exhibits, her archive's original audio recordings bring readings and discussions to life, inviting visitors to step into these literary events of the past and immerse themselves in their atmosphere. Photos, excerpts from television segments, and documents such as guest books and event programs create a vivid experience of socially relevant debates from the 1980s onward. Documents from the Monacensia Literary Archive, the Archive of the Institute for Contemporary History Munich-Berlin, and the Austrian National Library have been carefully selected to supplement and contextualize the material from Rachel Salamander's archive.

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*I simply wanted to give Jewishness a presence in the non-Jewish public sphere and honor the relevance of the Jewish experience. That means talking, talking, talking, and breaking down feelings of alienation.*

Rachel Salamander, 2024

The "Red Collection" forms the heart of the Salamander Archive. Over the course of four decades, Rachel Salamander has meticulously documented the evolution of literature on Judaism and contemporary historical discourses. A treasure trove of sources, this collection of newspaper clippings, correspondence, and documents filling hundreds of red file folders holds profound relevance for researchers and the interested public alike. It has been fully digitized in time for the exhibition's opening and is now searchable online. Efforts have been made to compile a representative selection of "Red Collection" items, encouraging visitors to the exhibition to embark on their own research journey. The exhibition, cataloging, digitization, and outreach efforts for the archive are supported by the Alfred Landecker Foundation.

Co-CEO of the Alfred Landecker Foundation, Lena Altman, says, "Now accessible, Rachel Salamander's archive makes Jewish thinking, writing, and remembering visible in all its diversity. It opens up a space where reinterpreting the uniqueness of Jewish experience — in literature, debate, and lived practice — in dialogue with the present becomes possible and inspires the development of new perspectives. Through our support, we contribute to making Jewish life tangible in its distinctiveness and multitude of voices — not as a side story, but as a defining part of our cultural present."

In "Dem Jüdischen Präsenz geben," the short film produced specifically for the exhibition by Christiane Huber and Sven Zellner, Rachel Salamander speaks to the importance of remembrance for the future and her 40 years of documenting Jewish literary and cultural history. Screenings of this short film are part of the multimedia exhibition.

(20 min.)

## **Reading Lounge: Literature & Attitude**

After founding the *Literaturhandlung* in 1982, Rachel Salamander curated more than 1,000 events at various venues across Germany and Austria. The reading lounge at Forum Atelier invites visitors to discover books — and their authors — selected and introduced by Rachel Salamander at her events.

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## **Associate Artist: Miriam Salamander**

A site-specific installation, created from paper and wire by artist Miriam Salamander, enters a dialogue with the exhibits, making the exhibition itself part of the artwork. A linear element and an essential vehicle of legibility, wire spans space and meets paper as the medium of information.

Another set of artworks, hosted at the Curator's Space, explores light as a source of visibility and of revelations hidden within overlapping layers.

*In my artistic practice, I work with paper as my primary medium. I sculpturally link its inherent cultural-historical significance as a vehicle of (written) symbols and information to their legibility, spatial extension, and spatial disintegration.*  
*Miriam Salamander, 2026*

[www.miriamsalamander.com](http://www.miriamsalamander.com)

## **Curator's Space**

"Literature & Attitude" is the new name for the redesigned Curator's Space on the first floor of the Monacensia Library at Hildebrandhaus. This themed space connects contemporary Munich literature and art with the exhibition. Visitors can enjoy selected radio plays by Dana von Suffrin, Michaela Melián, and Richard Oehmann in a comfortable setting, alongside a thoughtfully chosen collection of books.

## **MON Mag – Dive In Online**

Monacensia's online magazine, MON Mag, enhances the exhibition with a dedicated dossier that frequently features exclusive original articles and contributions from fellow travelers and scholars. Diverse, high-quality, and free.



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## Film

### ***Rachel Salamanders Archiv – A film by Christiane Huber and Sven Zellner***

To both celebrate and commemorate the 2022 donation of the Salamander Archive, Monacensia produced a film exploring the impact of remembrance and collecting on the future. The conversation with Rachel Salamander vividly illustrates the unique nature of her archive and its vital significance for Jewish life in post-Holocaust Germany. Artist Sarah Pelikan, writer Robert Schindel, the historian and former director of Literaturhandlung Berlin, Barbara Picht, and the companion and collaborator Klaus Blanc also share their personal perspectives. Exploring the early days of the *Literaturhandlung*, the film uses audio recordings of events featuring Hilde Domin, Daniel Goldhagen, Marcel Reich-Ranicki, and Art Spiegelman to delve into formative debates that shaped public discourse in the Federal Republic of Germany's past and remain pertinent today. (60 min.)

The details of the film's premiere will be announced at a later date.

### *Rachel Salamanders Archiv*

A film commissioned by Monacensia at Hildebrandhaus

Director and Concept: Christiane Huber

Co-director and cinematography: Sven Zellner

Sound: Lorenz Kainz

Editing: Sophie Oldenbourg

Graphics: Büro Alba

© 2026

## Anthology

### ***Literatur & Haltung Rachel Salamanders Archiv***

Edited by Anke Buettner and Tina Rausch

Rachel Salamander's bookstore in Munich cultivated an extensive network of influential people, bookshops, and institutions. The *Literaturhandlung* network fostered dialogue between Jewish and German communities after the Shoah through initiatives and published works. With more than 1,000 events, Salamander created ample opportunities for authors and thinkers to engage with the public, thereby enriching and enhancing intellectual discourse in the German-speaking world for several decades. The anthology highlights German literary texts from authors who became regular guests at Literaturhandlung events following 1982 and rose to prominence in the German literary landscape. The contributors include Louis Begley, Maxim Biller, Lily Brett, David Grossman, Batya Gur, Barbara Honigmann, Imre Kertész, Ruth Klüger, Amos Oz, David Rokeah, Robert Schindel, and Zeruya Shalev.

Verbrecher Verlag, Berlin 2026

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## **The Salamander Archive Project – Archival Work and Collective Memory**

With this multi-year project, encompassing both print and digital formats, Monacensia is establishing the groundwork for ongoing, cross-disciplinary knowledge exchange.

Stretching over 40 meters when laid out in a row, the Salamander Archive incorporates a vast assortment of materials, from video recordings to photographs, from correspondence to personal accounts, and from historical records to approximately 30,000 minutes of audio. The collection gives rich and broad insights into the debates surrounding literature, culture, and society from the early 1980s to the present.

By incorporating material on Jewish literary and cultural history, the Salamander Archive significantly broadens the scope of our collective memory. Thanks to Monacensia's meticulous cataloging, indexing, and digitization efforts, the Archive's documents are now available to the public for the first time. This project gives visibility to Jewish life, thought, and writing in the more recent past, while also emphasizing their relevance to contemporary issues such as antisemitism, cultural self-identification, and democratic public debate.

The Salamander Archive is a permanently accessible resource for scholarly analysis by researchers, students, schoolchildren, and the public. You can already search the catalog for the Rachel Salamander bequest library. Beginning in mid-2026, [monacensia-digital.de](https://monacensia-digital.de) will also host a selection of documents and original materials.

The Salamander Archive has been a vital part of Monacensia's in-house curated outreach program since 2024.

In MON Mag:

*Die Tiefenerschließung der Audiokassetten aus dem Bestand des Archivs Salamander – Die Literaturhandlung als einzigartiger jüdischer Diskursraum*, an article by Louisa Mathes



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## **The Salamander Archive Project**

The Literature & Attitude exhibition is part of the Archive Salamander initiative, a multi-year project by Monacensia at Hildebrandhaus focused on development and outreach. This event falls under the patronage of the Mayor of the City of Munich.

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A project sponsored by the Alfred Landecker Foundation



## **About the Alfred Landecker Foundation**

The Alfred Landecker Foundation was founded in 2019 and is based in Berlin. Its purpose is to remember the Holocaust, fight antisemitism, and defend democracy. This becomes all the more challenging because trust in democratic institutions is declining while historical revisionism and hatred towards minorities are on the rise. To contribute to the future of democracy, the Foundation brings together and supports a global network of academics and civil society.

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## Imprint

Project Director: Anke Buettner

Concept & Curation: Anke Buettner, Dr. Patrick Geiger, Sylvia Schütz

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Program Curation: Dr. Rebecca Faber

Cultural Education: Felicitas Friedrich

Project Coordination: Farina Asche

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Associate Artist: Miriam Salamander

Exhibition film: Christiane Huber, Sophie Oldenbourg, Sven Zellner

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Exhibition Design & Coordination: Laura Moosburner

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Photo Documentation: Thomas Dashuber

Facsimiles: Katharina Kuhlmann,

Transcript, Glossary, Index of Persons – Text & Editing: Tina Rausch

Scientific Advisory Board

Lena Altman, Alfred Landecker Foundation

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Dr. Michael Ott, Department of Culture of the City of Munich

In collaboration with the Radio Drama and Story Podcast Department, Bayerischer Rundfunk

## BR2

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Landeshauptstadt  
München  
**Kulturreferat**

**We are deeply grateful to**

Dr. Rachel Salamander

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**ALFRED LANDECKER  
FOUNDATION**

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## **Monacensia at the Hildebrandhaus**

Maria-Theresia-Str. 23

Universal-access entrance at Siebertstr. 2

81675 Munich

## **Hours**

Mon–Wed, Fri 9:30 AM–5:30 PM

Thu 12 PM–7 PM

Exhibitions only: Sat, Sun 11 AM–6 PM

Free admission

[www.monacensia.org](http://www.monacensia.org)

## **Café lev**

Daytime Cafe at Hildebrandhaus

Tue, Wed, Fri 9:30 AM–5:30 PM

Thu 12 PM–7 PM

Sat 12 PM–6 PM

**Dive into MON Mag, our online magazine!**



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