

PRESENTED BY PROGRAM IN LITERARY ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF GERMAN STUDIES
DEPARTMENT OF COMPARATIVE LITERATURE



JAN WAGNER, Contemporary German Poet

READING IN ENGLISH AND GERMAN

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 7

7:00PM

MC CORMACK THEATER

Jan Wagner was born 1971 in Hamburg and has been living in Berlin since 1995. He is a poet, a translator of Anglo-American poetry (Charles Simic, James Tate, Simon Armitage, Matthew Sweeney, Jo Shapcott, Michael Hamburger, Tim Turnbull and many others), a literary critic (*Frankfurter Rundschau*, *Der Tagesspiegel* and others) and has been, until 2003, a co-publisher of the international literature box *Die Aussenseite des Elementes* („The Outside of the Element“). Apart from numerous appearances in anthologies and magazines, he has published the poetry collections *Probebohrung im Himmel* („A Trial Drill in the Sky“; Berlin Verlag, Berlin 2001), *Guerickes Sperling* („Guericke’s Sparrow“, Berlin Verlag, Berlin 2004) and *Achtzehn Pasteten* (“Eighteen Pies”, Berlin Verlag, Berlin 2007), and, as translator and editor, collections of selected poems by James Tate, *Der falsche Weg nach Hause* („The Wrong Way Home“, Berlin Verlag, Berlin 2004) and Matthew Sweeney, *Rosa Milch* (“Pink Milk”, Berlin Verlag, Berlin 2008). Along with the poet Björn Kuhligk he edited the comprehensive anthology of young German language poetry *Lyrik von Jetzt. 74 Stimmen* („Poetry of Now. 74 voices“, Dumont Verlag, Cologne 2003), its sequel *Lyrik von Jetzt zwei. 50 Stimmen* (Berlin Verlag, Berlin 2008) and co-operated on the book *Der Wald im Zimmer. Eine Harzreise* (“A Forest Inside the Room. A Journey Across the Harz Mountains“, Berliner Taschenbuch Verlag, Berlin 2007), an homage to Heinrich Heine. For his poetry he received various scholarships (2002 in the Künstlerhaus Edenkoben, 2004 as Heinrich-Heine-resident in Lüneburg, 2007 at the German Academy in Rom/Casa Baldi, 2008 as writer-in-residence at Oberlin College, Ohio, USA, among others) and literary awards, most recently the Alfred Gruber Award (2004), the Mondsee Poetry Award (2004), the Anna-Seghers-Award (2004), the Ernst-Meister-Award for Poetry (2005) and the first Arno-Reinfrank-Award (2006).