

## Monika Rinck

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The moss has gambled away its talent at the Moss Casino

The moss has lost its talent. It's all alone and can no longer make ends meet. That's unfortunate. See illustration [36]. In principle, mosses have very diverse interests. One moss is now studying meteorite science, in Alsace. Another is wasting its days in the open air. But – it does form cushions. All the same. That's more than many others do. Please calm down, the moss asks the moss. It's not so easy to refund the moss its talent. Different explanations are doing the rounds, we don't know exactly. Science is struggling slightly. What we know:

When mosses run riot, you should keep your distance. If you place a piece of moss under your pillow, you can visit the boundless moss museum in your dream. It's immense. You won't see a wall, no matter how far you go, you'll see no end. The moss doesn't have an account. The Benelux countries got that wrong. Unfortunately, the discussion about this is still running, it's totally meaningless but it won't die down. Mosses are pioneer plants and offer those that come after a good seedbed. Grazing animals don't eat moss. Mosses write everything down. They accommodate beetles. That's good. But for mosses, beetles are not a genuine talent, more of a sideshow. Mosses know: if you don't pay your taxes, they'll bake you under a cheesy topping.

Translated from the German by Nicholas Grindell

**Monika Rinck** lives in Berlin. Since 1989 she published more than 20 books in a number of publishing houses. Her most recent poetry book is ALLE TÜREN (ALL THE DOORS), kookbooks 2019 and CHAMPAGNER FÜR THE HORSES (S. Fischer Verlag). Monika Rinck is a member of the P.E.N.-Club, the Academy of Arts Berlin and Vice-President of the German Academy for Language and Literature. In 2015, Monika Rinck was awarded the Kleist-Preis and in 2016 the Ernst-Jandl-Preis. She translates, most notably with Orsolya Kalász from the Hungarian, she cooperates with musicians and composers, and she teaches from time to time at the German Institute for Literature in Leipzig and the Department for Language Arts (Creative Writing) in Vienna. [www.begriffsstudio.de](http://www.begriffsstudio.de)