



Daniela Strigl

IN DEFIANCE

An Inquiry into a Conflicted Quality

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From Karl Kraus and Michael Kohlhaas to stubbornness and The Taming of the Shrew: Daniela Strigl explores the crucial importance of defiance.

A defiant person is one who clings to something unreasonable, sometimes against their better judgement. Defiance is associated with stubbornness, obstinacy, and yet it's also a prerequisite for resistance: to defy someone is to resist them, which may include those with more power. In this essay, Daniela Strigl grapples with the historical and literary phenomenon of rebellion against authority. Troublemakers may have a bad name and 'lateral thinking' is perhaps increasingly discredited these days, but mavericks still command our respect. Free-thinking women, in particular, have long been considered especially provocative. But does all this make defiance a virtue? And doesn't art in a hostile environment depend on defiance?

DANIELA STRIGL

born in Vienna in 1964, studied German language and literature, philosophy, history and theatre studies. Essayist, literary critic, teaches at the Institute for German Studies at the University of Vienna, was a member of the jury for the Ingeborg Bachmann Prize (Klagenfurt) and a member of the jury for the German Book Prize. Numerous prizes: Austrian State Prize for Literary Criticism 2001, Alfred Kerr Prize 2013, Berlin Prize for Literary Criticism 2015. Co-editor of the Ebner-Eschenbach-Edition. Most recently published by Residenz: "Berühmt sein ist nichts. Marie von Ebner-Eschenbach. Eine Biographie." (2016) and "Zum Trotz" in the series Unruhe bewahren (2025).