Martin Pollack

TAINTED LANDSCAPES

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When idyllic landscapes harbor dark secrets

The official victims of the 20th century are commemorated in memorials. But how do we remember the thousands of nameless, secretly buried victims – Jews, Roma, anti-communists or partisans? How do we in Central Europe live in landscapes tainted by innumerable hushed up massacres: from Rechnitz in Burgenland to Kocevski Rog in Slovenia and Kurapaty near Minsk? Martin Pollack relentlessly, yet diligently draws a new, more honest map of our continent. It is a map in which memory and honest location replace shameful secrets and anonymous graves.

MARTIN POLLACK

Born in Bad Hall in 1944, died in Vienna on 17 January 2025. Studied Slavic studies and Eastern European history. Translator of Polish literature, journalist and author, 1987-1998 correspondent for SPIEGEL in Vienna and Warsaw. Numerous prizes, including the Austrian Book Trade Honour Prize for Tolerance in Thought and Action (2007) and the Leipzig Book Prize for European Understanding (2011). Most recently lived in southern Burgenland and Vienna. His essays 'Contaminated Landscapes' (2014) and 'Topography of Memory' (2016) were published by Residenz Verlag.

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