

Hermann Kesten-Preis des deutschen PEN-Zentrums, 15.11.22 in Darmstadt  
Kurzanrede des PEN-Präsidenten José F. A. Oliver

Good evening to everybody,

good evening, Meena Kandasamy,

good evening,

Annika Reich and Dimar Albitar Kalaji and to all the responsible parties of *Weiter Schreiben*,

Excellencies of the Hessisches Ministerium für Wissenschaft und Kunst:

Miss Elisabeth Volck-Duffy,

Excellencies of the City of Darmstadt: Mr. Oberbürgermeister Jochen Partsch,

good evening, Mr. Karsten Wiegand,

on behalf of PEN Zentrum Deutschland, it's an honour to welcome you to the award ceremony for the Hermann Kesten-Preis 2022.

One of the most distinguished voices in 20<sup>th</sup> century poetry is Mario Benedetti from Uruguay.

He wrote: "You can't do always what you want to do, but you have always the right not to do what you don't want to do."

Let's take this insight as one of this evening's cognitions and a spirit of the values we defend.

My warmest congratulations to you,

Meena Kandasamy and to you Annika Reich and Dimar Albitar Kalaji!

And my deepest thanks to all who have been involved till now in organizing and celebrating this ceremony, which always is a compass of our work and solidarity, headed up also

by your work, essential questions and decisive answers.

Enjoy the evening!