



April 2024

Dear friends of Diogenes,

First of all, I'd like to express my gratitude for your warm reception of the Tapir series. Even as we've poured our joy into it, I've often been asked whether, given the difficulties books face, I actually like being a publisher. Nearly twelve years ago, I pondered how to usher this publishing house and all the passionate people who accompany it into the future. Most of my friends advised against it. And so I simply claimed that books would experience a renaissance by 2025 and dove in. You've probably noticed that I've been trying to steer us away from the blues surrounding books ever since.

In recent weeks, as if a bottle of water had landed at our feet in the desert, newspapers and magazines have abounded with signs that a future devoid of books would not only be unimaginable, but also tragic. Dua Lipa, Kaia Gerber, and all the fashion brands in the world are currently aiding our cause. For Chanel, Charlotte Casiraghi recommends female authors, and it's flattering to see the culture pages perhaps also regarding the book as a trend for this reason. If lately the focus has been mainly on lifestyle, or rather on who and where we are, there's now a renewed appreciation for engaging the mind, seeking tranquility, and cultivating attention.

And so it is with great pleasure that I invite you to another program full of unique storytelling artistry. This selection presents the book as a kind friend—Benedict Wells's honest, inspiring reflections on his writing and life, fantastic debuts by Jacqueline O'Mahony, Gianni Solla, and Sarah Pines, extraordinary and deeply resonant books by Stefanie vor Schulte, Raffaella Romagnolo, and Daniela Krien, rousing entertainment by Marco Balzano and Micha Lewinsky, philosophically astonishing material by Martin Suter and Benjamin von Stuckrad-Barre, a comforting and important book by Dror Mishani, loving and utterly crazy novels by Anne Reinecke, Norman Ohler, and Leon de Winter, a powerful thriller by the indomitable Sasha Filipenko, and a new children's book by Luis Murschetz, whose *Grabowski the Mole* represents a landmark moment in children's literature, and luckily a not-so-new one by Tomi Ungerer that we've discovered.

I eagerly await your thoughts on our new stories and wish you plenty of time to enjoy them. Late in his life, by the way, Tomi Ungerer wrote: "Books always were my best friends ... I love them, pet them on their backs, smell the ink when they are fresh out of the press, the mildew when they are old. I talk to them, as I talk to trees, stones, and animals. Books are lasting, they do not lose their leaves in autumn as trees do. I owe them my education and my fantasies. Paradise would be for me a library, to read forever and be able to remember everything!"

Sincerely yours,

Philipp Keel