



Cornelia Berens, M.A.

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SHORT BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Cornelia Berens, M.A., was born in 1957 and studied modern German literature, literature of the Romance languages, and art history at the *RWTH Aachen University*, completing her M.A. with honors in 1982. Cornelia Berens is married to the sculptor Jan Koberstein.

After moving to Hamburg in 1983, Cornelia Berens worked as a researcher and teaching fellow at the Seminar for Literary Studies, *University of Hamburg*; from 1988 to 1990 at the Literaturhaus Hamburg; from 1991 to 1993 as a literature editor for the *Festival of Women/Hammoniale*; and as a staff member responsible for cultural affairs for the Parliamentary Group of the party *Bündnis 90/Die Grünen* in Hamburg's state parliament. In this period, she also worked as a moderator and as a freelance editor for publishing companies and independent groups in the arts and culture, specializing in project development and art, literature, and theater critique.

In July 1994, Berens joined the staff of the *Hamburg Institute for Social Research* and co-coordinated the project "Angesichts unseres Jahrhunderts / In the Face of Our Century". As a member of the Institute's Research Unit *Theory and History of Violence*, Berens was the coordinator of the *International Study Group for Trauma, Violence, and Genocide* from August 1995 until the end of 1998 and became the editor of the TRN-Newsletter for the *International Network for Interdisciplinary Research about the Impact of Traumatic Experience on the Life of Individuals and Society* (Trauma Research Net) in 1999. In this capacity, she was a visiting fellow of the *Hamburg Foundation for the Advancement of Research and Culture* from 2000 to 2007.

Now a resident of Giekau near the Baltic Sea in Schleswig-Holstein, Cornelia Berens has renewed her former freelance work as an editor for academic publishers as well as private clients and such activities as planning projects, moderating panel discussions and meetings focusing on various topics in the sphere of social and historical research.

Since 2002 the Feldenkrais Method® became a vitally important part of her daily life, consequently leading to the four-year professional training program. Berens completed the requirements of the training in Heidelberg (Educational Director: Roger Russell) with full certification as a Feldenkrais practitioner in March 2010.

Cornelia Berens was also the spokeswoman of the Hamburg chapter of *BücherFrauen e.V. / Women in Publishing* from 1994 to 1996 and a member of the jury of the Förderung Freier Theaterarbeit (which selects independent theater groups to receive municipal funding) of the Office for Cultural Affairs of the City of Hamburg in 1996, 1997 and 1998/99.

Berens' main thematic interests are

- modern literature and trauma and here, in particular, the vicissitudes of the so-called transmission of trauma from one generation to another,
- the dialogue between art & literature (developing "finissage"-readings for exhibitions),
- the scientific background of the Feldenkrais Method® and how thinking about the Feldenkrais Method® can change our notion and understanding of science in general.