

Nevfel Cumart

Nevfel Cumart is the best-known German-language poet of Turkish descent.

He was born in Lingenfeld (Rhineland-Palatinate) in 1964 and grew up in Stade (Lower Saxony), where he published his first book in 1983. After school-leaving examination in 1984 he completed an apprenticeship in carpentry.

Cumart received a Masters's Degree in Turkic, Arabic and Islamic Studies from the Otto-Friedrich-University in Bamberg. He has been living and working as a freelance writer, translator, lecturer and journalist in the village of Stegaurach near Bamberg (Bavaria) since 1992.

Cumart's sixteen volumes of poetry are proof that he is one of the most productive poets of his generation. In addition to poetry and short stories in German, English and Turkish, Cumart has also published numerous poems, short prose and essays in anthologies and specialist publications.

Cumart has translated many Turkish writers into German, including the famous novelist Yasar Kemal and the reform theologian Yasar Nuri Öztürk, who is often referred to as the "Martin Luther of Islam". He also has written articles and reviews about modern Turkish literature. He is the literary editor of the Bamberg city magazine *Fränkische Nacht* since 1992.

Cumart has given many many lectures and seminars on Turkish culture, the role of minorities in Germany, and on the religion of Islam. He has traveled widely and given readings in England, Ireland, Turkey, Italy, Poland, Denmark and Switzerland.

Cumart has received numerous awards, among others the coveted literary awards bestowed by the German federal states of Rhineland-Palatinate (1992), Bavaria (1995) and Berlin (1996), the Bavarian Culture Award (2008), the cultural prize of the Upper Franconian Foundation (2009) and the Pax Bank Prize for inter-religious commitment (2010).

Cumart is chairman of the literary society "Neue Gesellschaft für Literatur Erlangen e.V." (NGL), as well as being a member of P.E.N.-Zentrum Deutschland and the Rotary Club Bamberg-Domreiter. He has a seat on the board of the German writers' society Verband deutscher Schriftsteller (VS), Regional Group Upper Franconia and also sits on the Academic Advisory Board of the Georges-Anawati-Stiftung, a foundation promoting interreligious and intercultural dialogue.

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