

## Markéta Pilátová

Writer in Residence / November / Czech Republic

Markéta Pilátová, born in the Czech Republic, is an author (novels, children's books, poetry), journalist and hispanist. She spent more than ten years in South America, where she taught Czech to descendants of Czech emigrants. This is how she encountered the Bat'a family and made them and their fascinating family history the protagonists of her newest novel *Mit Bat'a im Dschungel* (Wieser 2020): The Czech company founder Jan Antonin Bat'a builds a shoe factory in the Brazilian jungle, after his family fled from both the Nazis as well as the communists – an astounding saga of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Markéta Pilátová had already found her narrative style when working on her debut novel (which was nominated, among others, for the Magnesia Litera Award): The destinies of her Czech protagonists are intertwined with the lives of her South American heroes – watching them in their home countries with foreign eyes. Her novels have been translated into seven world languages.