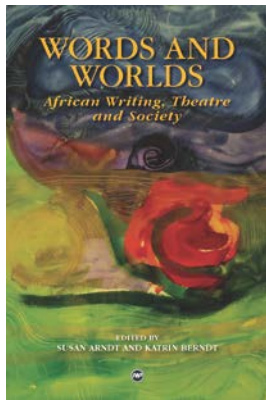


Words and Worlds: African Writing, Theatre, and Society



This collection of essays by African writers, dramatists, and theatre practitioners (such as Ezenwa-Ohateo, Nuruddin Farah, Femi Osofisan, Lewis Nkosi, Susan Kiguli, Zakes Mda, Alain Patrice Nganang, and Bole Butake), as well as some well-known German literary critics whose work focuses on Africa, reflects on the social, political, and cultural processes in Africa from historical and contemporary perspectives. In their discussions of women's writing, popular theatre, and the university, for example, the essays focus on difficult beginnings, crises, and potentials for cultural innovations. But they also examine the relationships between artists and audience, women and men, and Africa and Europe. A central concern of the volume is the encounter between Blacks and Whites which is explored extensively in discussions about the Apartheid system and post-Apartheid South Africa; racist experiences of Africans in Europe; and issues relating to exile, migration, and identity. The issue of European perceptions of Africa and its peoples, societies, and literatures are examined extensively. These essays that are wide-ranging thematically are united in a common concern about the role of fiction, theatre, writers, and artists in social, cultural, and political processes. They offer new interpretations and rare insight in their readings of African literatures.