Erb, Elke

b. 18 February 1938, Scherbach (Eifel)

Writer

Erb emigrated from West Germany to the GDR in 1949. She made her poetic debut in the 1960s with a type of ‘pure poetry’ (Volker Braun) that appeared in journals and anthologies. Her first independent publication (1975) was a collection of poetry and prose entitled Gutachten (Opinions). Characteristic of all of her texts is her attempt to find new possibilities for expression. Both her poetry and prose are experimental in nature. Despite an apparent generation difference, Erb played an active role in the alternative culture of the Prenzlauer Berg district of East Berlin, helping to foster and nurture new talent.

Carol Anne Costabile-Heming