

Agencia Literaria Carmen Balcells

FRANKFURT BOOK FAIR 2015

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NEW TITLES

António Lobo Antunes *Da Natureza dos Deuses*

Rodrigo Blanco *The Night*

Fogwill *Los Pichiciegos*

Antonio García Porta *Las dimensiones finitas*

Antonio Garrido *El último Paraíso*

Mempo Giardinelli *La última felicidad de Bruno Fólner*

Clarice Lispector *The Complete Stories*

Eduardo Mendoza *El secreto de la modelo extraviada*

José Ovejero *Los ángeles feroces*

Miquel de Palol *El jardí dels set crepuscles*

Antonio Penadés *Tras las huellas de Heródoto*

Javier Ruescas *Electro*

Albert Sánchez Piñol *Vae Victus*

Samanta Schweblin *Siete casas vacías*

Antonio Skármeta *Libertad de movimiento*

José Carlos Somoza *Croatoan*

ANNIVERSARIES

José Donoso *20th Anniversary of his death*

Josep Pla *The Gray Notebook, 50th Anniversary in 2016*

Juan Rulfo *Pedro Páramo, 60th Anniversary in 2016*
Juan Rulfo's Centennial in 2017

António Lobo Antunes DA NATUREZA DOS DEUSES (ON THE NATURE OF THE GODS) D. Quixote



"The heir to Conrad and Faulkner" (George Steiner)

"One of the living writers who will matter most" (Harold Bloom)

"Lobo Antunes' sketches are alive with the poetry of the everyday, and tinged with the gentlest of self-mockery"
(J. M. Coetzee)

"A master navigator of the human psyche... [with] the voice of Nabokov by way of Cortazar, Gogol by way of Dylan."
(Jonathan Levi, Los Angeles Times Book Review)

"Perhaps Portugal's greatest living author... A genius"
(Alan Kaufman, San Francisco Chronicle Book Review)

"When Antunes is in full heat... he reads like William Faulkner or Céline" (The Boston Globe)

"Antunes is definitely a writer worth reading for his literary talent and his insights into Portugal's history, geography, and national character" (Publishers Weekly)

"One of the most skillful psychological portraitists writing anywhere"
(The New Yorker)

"Antunes has empathy for the contradictions of human feeling. He is a warm-blooded writer"
(Michael Pye, New York Times Book Review)

"Deserves a wide audience of discerning readers"
(Washington Post)

The underlying theme of *Da natureza dos deuses*, the latest novel by António Lobo Antunes, is power and how it is used.

This heartrending choral novel revolves around the extreme cruelty of the main character, the doctor, who escapes poverty to become lord and master of an empire. This harsh work reveals how power relationships, moral degradation, and destitution inevitably lead to extreme violence.

António Lobo Antunes (Lisbon, 1942). He studied Medicine and was called up in 1970 to serve as a military doctor in the Angolan War. There he met Ernesto Melo Antunes, one of the leaders of the later Carnation Revolution, in which Lobo Antunes himself took part. These events, as well as a deep approach of human nature and a talent for imagery, determined his literary orientation. The absurd horror of war and revolutions betrayed by politicians are recurrent themes in his work. Lobo Antunes is the most highly regarded living Portuguese writer in Portugal and abroad. His vast corpus which is the most solid of contemporary Portuguese literature, translated into more than 20 languages.

Rodrigo Blanco THE NIGHT

Alfaguara

A new, not-to-be-missed voice in the Latin American literature of the 21st century

THE NIGHT

Rodrigo Blanco

In the city of Caracas there are constant power blackouts. This dual darkness of the night is full of dangers, violence, dreams, ambitions. And literature. Real and fictitious characters and multiple narrators, blur in this night creating a frenzied fresco, where space and time are permeable and changing.

Four fictional characters star in the novel: a psychiatrist; his friend, a patient severely affected from obsessions; a half-mad writer who obtained a literary prize with an incomprehensible short story; and a dynamic though tortured woman.

The story of these characters, with their relationships, crises, love affairs, rifts (estrangements), projects and failures, construct a *bildungsroman* which metamorphoses into a *roman noir* and ends with a murder. At the same time the novel includes a “biography-homage” to a real Venezuelan author, Darío Lancini (1932-2010), a writer specialized in intertextual games.

Rodrigo Blanco was born in Caracas in 1981. Earned a degree in Letters from the University of Venezuela, where he serves as a Literature professor. In 2007, he was selected to participate in the Bogotá 39 event as a representative of Venezuela. His stories have appeared in the anthology *De la urbe a la orbe, nueva narrativa urbana* and the *Antología de la Novísima Narrativa Breve Hispanoamericana*.

The Night is his first novel. It will be published simultaneously by Alfaguara in Spain and Latin America and Gallimard in France.

Fogwill LOS PICHICIEGOS
(The Pichiciegos)
Periférica



“One of the most original storytellers in Latin America”
(Julio Ortega)

“For enthusiasts of authentic literature that abandons timeworn territory, stays away from clichés, repairs mediocrities, and is audacious”
(Joaquín Marco, El Mundo)

“One of the most fascinating and eccentric authors of the best Argentine literature”
(Ignacio Echevarría, El País)

Los pichiciegos, one of the great masterpieces of late 20th-century narrative, tells the story of a group of Argentine soldiers (“*pichis*”) who, following the construction of an underground shelter, desert right in the middle of the Falklands War (April-June 1982) to create a community with its own laws. Everything will then revolve around their basic needs: to eat, keep warm, see in the dark, and not be discovered. To achieve this, they will trade with both their own side and the English.

Fogwill (Buenos Aires, 1941-2010) is regarded as one of the most important Argentine writers. Author of stories, poems and novels, he has worked as a university professor, editor, publicist, business consultant, and more. Among his milestones as a novelist are *Vivir afuera* (Living Outside, 1998) and the trilogy comprised of *La experiencia sensible* (The Sensitive Experience, 2001), *En otro orden de cosas* (In Another Order of Things, 2002) and *Urbana* (Urban, 2003).

A. G. Porta **LAS DIMENSIONES FINITAS**
(The Finite Dimensions)
Acantilado

**LAS DIMENSIONES
FINITAS**

A. G. Porta

Bruno, a promising young business consultant, has been kicked out of the house by his girlfriend, Jeanine, at the worst possible time. He soon realises that he's also about to lose his job and is forced to adopt a more austere lifestyle: he cuts his expenses, cancels his gym membership, gives up his BMW, and starts taking public transport. At this point he still doesn't know Rothko, Salinger, Nacho Vegas or the architect Habraken, characters who will burst into his life in a couple of weeks. A chance encounter on the bus with a girl named Albertine will change his future.

Las dimensiones finitas, which takes its title from a Salinger story, is not just a chronicle of the first few years of the recent economic crisis, or a list of the reading material, paintings, or music that fill the lives of the characters. *Las dimensiones finitas* is, above all, a novel about the lack of understanding that can devastate a relationship.

A.G. Porta (Barcelona, 1954) was awarded the *Ámbito Literario de Narrativa* 1984 prize for the book *Consejos de un discípulo de Morrison a un fanático de Joyce* (Advice from a Morrison Disciple to a Joyce Fanatic), written in collaboration with Roberto Bolaño. Other novels by Porta are *Braudel por Braudel* (Braudel on Braudel, 1999), *El peso del Aire* (The Weight of the Air, 2001), *Singapur* (Singapore, 2003), *Concierto del No Mundo* (The No World Concerto, 2006), which won the *Café Gijón* 2005 Novel Prize, *Geografía del tiempo* (Geography of Time, 2008), and *Otra vida en la maleta* (Another Life in the Suitcase), written with Gregorio Casamayor. Porta's works have been translated into several languages.

Antonio Garrido EL ÚLTIMO PARAÍSO
(The Last Paradise)
Planeta

Fernando Lara Novel Prize, 2015



In the early 1930s, Jack's life has been ravaged by the Great Depression. After being fired from a car factory in Detroit for being Jewish, he returns to New York to look after his alcoholic father. He has no work and no money, and his life takes a further turn for the worse when he accidentally becomes involved in a murder. With no other option than to leave a country devoid of opportunities, Jack embarks on an unusual project: the U.S.S.R. needs qualified personnel to work at an automotive factory arising from a cooperation agreement with Henry Ford.

The coexistence of two opposing mentalities, capitalist and communist, is put to the test at the new factory, and the logical clash between these two worlds provides a glimpse into the tensions of the Cold War. Jack finds himself involved in a power struggle that forces him to act as an agent for both sides. Meanwhile, he is also caught between the love of two women, an American and a Russian.

With only two published works, *The Scribe* (2008) and *The Corpse Reader* (2011), **Antonio Garrido** (Linares, 1963) has conquered the hearts of historical fiction enthusiasts and been translated into a dozen languages. *The Corpse Reader*, which was awarded the City of Zaragoza International Historical Novel Prize, was an Amazon number-one bestseller in the United States in June 2013. *The Last Paradise* is his third novel.

Clarice Lispector COMPLETE STORIES

For the first time, all the stories of this Brazilian legend

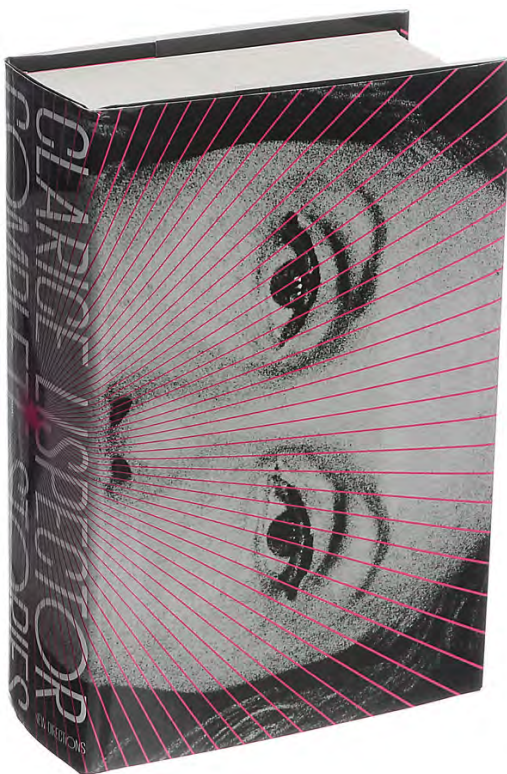
"Her "Complete Stories" is a remarkable book, proof that she was —in the company of Jorge Luis Borges, Juan Rulfo and her 19th-century countryman Machado de Assis— one of the true originals of Latin American literature" (Terrence Rafferty, New York Book Review)

"It might even become your bible" (Benjamin Anastas, New Republic)

"An ideal introduction to this "female Chekhov on the beaches of Guanabara" whose rediscovery has argued our understanding of Modernism with a certain sensuality" (Megan O'Grady, Vogue)

"Lispector's particular brilliance as a woman and as a writer is here: she refuses to accept that her talents might seem incongruous against the backdrop of her appearance. (Stephanie LaCava, Los Angeles Review of Books)

"Bound to become a kind of bedside Bible or I Ching for readers of Lispector" (Valéria Luiselli, Publisher's Weekly)



Lispector's family emigrated to Brazil when she was two months old, settling in the city of Recife. In 1937 they moved to Rio, where she earned a Law degree. She lived in several European countries and the United States, where some of her works were written. Lispector began writing very young and published her first book in 1944, *Perto do Coração selvagem* (Prize of Fundação Graça Aranha 1945) which was credited with introducing the introspective narrative to Brazilian fiction. The author sought to take this further in her subsequent books.

Clarice Lispector, widely considered Brazil's greatest modern writer, is one of the greatest women writers of the 20th century. "That rare person who looked like Marlene Dietrich and wrote like Virginia Woolf," Clarice Lispector is one of the most popular but least understood of Latin American writers.

Lispector's development as a writer was directly connected to the story of her turbulent life. Born in the nightmarish landscape of post-World War I Ukraine, Clarice became, virtually from adolescence, a person whose beauty, genius, and eccentricity intrigued Brazil. This precocious girl, through long exile abroad and difficult personal struggles, matured into a great writer. Clarice Lispector transformed one woman's struggles into a universally resonant art. She was also a translator from the English language.

Eduardo Mendoza EL SECRETO DE LA MODELO EXTRAVIADA (The Secret of the Mislplaced Model) Seix Barral

The hilarious return of the detective from The Mystery of the Enchanted Crypt

Seix Barral Biblioteca Breve

Eduardo Mendoza

El secreto de la modelo
extraviada



The famous detective without a name or a brain created by Eduardo Mendoza has left the hairstyling business behind and is now getting by as a delivery boy for a Chinese restaurant. One day, while making a delivery, he is attacked by a dog. This incident takes him back to a case from the distant past, when the police liberated him from a psychiatric hospital and he somehow became the prime suspect in a model's murder.

This humorous adventure has a certain air of farewell to one of the most mythical characters in recent Spanish fiction. His perspective, as outrageous as it is dark, illuminates the past of a city populated by characters –outlandish rogues and hilarious hustlers– in danger of extinction in today's uniform, globalised world.

Eduardo Mendoza was born in Barcelona in 1943. He worked as an interpreter for the United Nations in New York, where he lived from 1973 to 1982, and now lives in Barcelona. His works have been translated into more than 30 languages, and have been applauded by the public and European critics.

José Ovejero **LOS ÁNGELES FEROCES**
(The Ferocious Angels)
Galaxia Gutenberg



José Ovejero
Los ángeles feroces



"Deep, enjoyable, and pleasantly disconcerting"

(J. A. Massoliver, La Vanguardia)

"Ovejero writes realistic pages in his portrait of a sordidness that is neither future nor exotic"

(Marta Sanz, El Cultural)

"There are doses of tenderness, and the rebelliousness conceals a flash of hope, but through the fragmentedness of this disturbing story, Ovejero composes an imaginative allegory of the disjointedness of today's world"

(Santos Sanz Villanueva, El Mundo)

Alegría possesses a unique gift: she never ages or falls ill because her blood has extraordinary immunological properties. When her secret is made public, an endless struggle begins. An eternal youth potion is running through her veins, and everyone wants to get their hands on it.

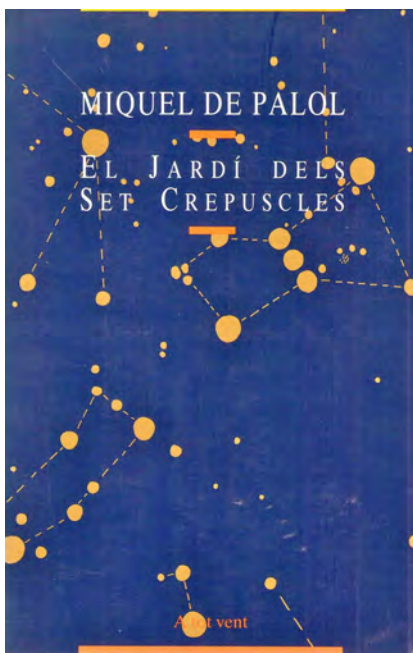
Los ángeles feroces is a social novel set in a post-apocalyptic future, structured with the fatalism of a Greek tragedy and masterfully narrated by a sort of disturbed big brother.

José Ovejero is the author of travel, poetry and essay books (he was awarded the Anagrama Prize for *La ética de la crueldad*, The Ethics of Cruelty), and novels that span several genres: the political thriller (*Las vidas ajenas*, Other People's Lives, Primavera Prize), historical satire (*La comedia salvaje*, The Savage Comedy), and urban tragicomedies (*Nunca pasa nada*, Nothing Ever Happens).

Miquel de Palol EL JARDÍ DELS SET CREPUSCLES (The Garden of the Seven Twilights)

"Since its origins, the novel has vacillated between the poles of restraint and capaciousness, the formal discipline of Flaubert or Jane Austen and the catch-all approaches of Sterne or Pynchon. Palol is a rarity in the landscape of present-day Catalan letters for his unswerving devotion to the latter approach"
(Words without borders)

"Il", c'est-à-dire le grand roman européen, avec autant l'estomac (plus mille pages ici) que de cellules grises (histoire, philosophie, cosmologies, ésotériques: il brasse tout), le digne héritier des Broch, Mann, Musil. Miquel de Palol, c'est le cousin catalan et contemporain des fresquistes titanesques de l'Europe agonisante de l'entre-deux-guerres"
(Damien Aubel, *Transfuge*)



Barcelona 2024. As Europe is devastated by an atomic war, a small group of people –all of them members of the Catalan high bourgeoisie– manage to flee and go into hiding near de Pyrenees. Here they take refuge in a strange castle hidden in a rock and surrounded by a magic garden. In this castle reigns an atmosphere of excessive and fantastic luxury, it is the perfect place in which to escape the spectre of the war by the telling of a stories.

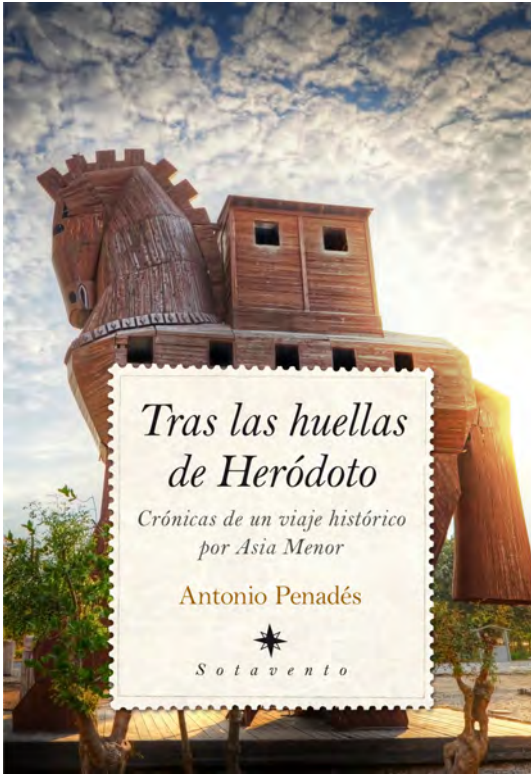
All these stories –some amusing, other dramatic, erotic or philosophic– weave together artistically and converge at the same time into one big story: that of a very powerful economic clan whose past is related with the Mir Bank, whilst its destiny is bound to a jewel that confers extraordinary Powers upon its owner. And so, little by little, in the course of seven days and seven evenings, the character's limits between reality and fantasy gradually become distorted.

El Jardí dels Set Crepuscles (The Garden of the Seven Twilights) is a rich mosaic formed by stories linked to a variety of genres –philosophical, historical, romantic, symbolist, science-fiction, detective–, a complex literary device, full of cultural references and allusions, that exudes the pleasure of writing and the enjoyment of narrating. The reader needs only to surrender to a delightful read –one that cannot possibly exhaust the pleasures of a book that evokes the tradition of Works such as *The Thousand and one Nights*, *The Decameron*, *The Canterbury Tales*, of a book that had been considered by critics as a masterpiece of contemporary world literature.

Miquel de Palol (Barcelona, 1953) studied Architecture and is a poet and fiction writer. His novel *El jardí del set crepuscles* (The Garden of the Seven Twilights) received the 1989 Joan Crexells Prize, the 1990 "Serra d'Or" Critic's Prize, the 1990 National Critics' Prize, as well as the 1990 National Prize for Catalan Literature. This was the beginning of a fictional oeuvre that lies somewhere between the fantastic, the legendary and philosophical speculation.

Antonio Penadés TRAS LAS HUELLAS DE HERÓDOTO (In the Footsteps of Herodotus)

Almuzara



In 2009, Antonio Penadés embarked on a long journey to revisit the places where scenes from Herodotus' *History* took place more than 2,500 years ago. This book chronicles that journey, which began in Halicarnassus, a corner of modern-day Turkey where Herodotus spent his childhood, and follows the itinerary of the Persian king Xerxes' army's expedition to Greece.

The relationships between men and the gods, the legends of Zeus and Aphrodite, the temple of Athena, Pythagoras, Alexander the Great, and Pericles are some of the themes and characters that appear in this fascinating journey.

Antonio Penadés was born in Valencia in 1970. A journalist and lawyer, he runs a creative writing course at the Museo l'Iber in Valencia and is a literature professor. He published the historical novel *El Hombre de Esparta* (The Man from Sparta, Edhasa, 2005) and the historical essay *El Declive de Atenas* (The Fall of Athens, RBA/Historia National Geographic, 2013), in addition to numerous articles on Greek history in different media.

Javier Ruescas & Manu Carbajo ELECTRO TRILOGY: ELECTRO - AURA - NEMESIS
Edebé



At seventeen, Ray dreams of going to college and getting out of Origen, his hometown. But one morning he wakes up to discover that the world he knew no longer exists. There' is no one left: his parents, friends and neighbours are all gone, and in this new reality humans are no longer the most powerful creaturas on the planet. What happened? Where is everyone? Why does it seem like years have passed since the last time he went to sleep?

In this novel, set in a post-apocalyptic future in which Earth has been devastated by human nature and greed, Ruescas and Carbajo have created a story full of action, suspense and unexpected turns, in which love and the search for identity become the fundamental pillars. Electro combines the necessary ingredients to captivate readers who enjoyed sagas such as *The Hunger Games* (Suzanne Collins, 2009), *The Maze Runner* (James Dashner, 2013), *The Fifth Wave* (Rick Yancey, 2013) or *Under the Never Sky* (Veronica Rossi, 2012).

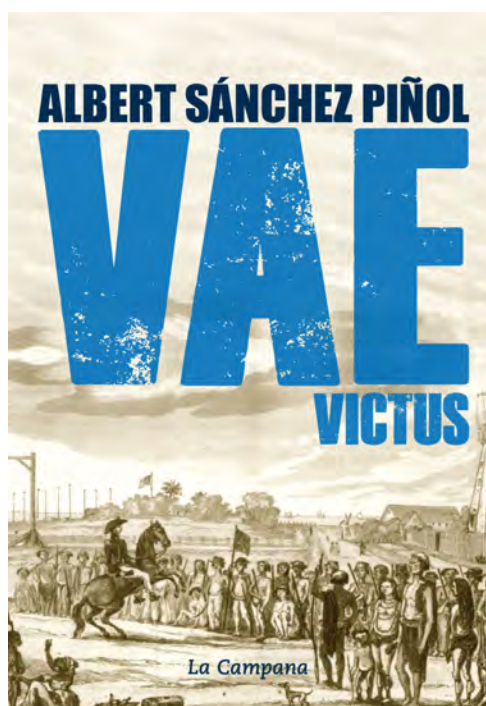
Javier Ruescas (Madrid in 1987) holds a degree in Journalism and works as an editor. His novels has been selected in *El País* among the best young adult novels in 2012 and 2013. He has amassed thousands of followers in the social network. In 2013 he was selected to join the Spanish hub of Global Shapers, the world's greatest network of young Readers under the age of 30, created by the World Economic Forum.

Manu Carbajo (Madrid in 1989) and holds a degree in Audiovisual Communication. Nowadays, Carbajo Works in publicity, directing videoclips and spots, and is currently writing the screenplay of his first feature film.

Albert Sánchez Piñol VAE VICTUS

La Campana

New adventures of Martí Zuviría



After the episode featuring the epic fall of Barcelona in 1714, recounted in the memorable novel VICTUS, military engineer Martí Zuviría was obviously destined to a long life full of outrageous adventures.

His eventful existence takes him to South Carolina in 1715, where he finds himself in the middle of a conflict between British colonists and Yama Indians. He meets face-to-face with a real historical figure, the great chief Caesar. His next destination is another conflict, this time back in Spain, where he fights along with his friend and recent enemy, the Duke of Berwick, in the French-Spanish War of 1719. We encounter him again 24 years later, living comfortably at the service of Frederick II, until a delayed revenge takes him back to Barcelona and an unexpected reunion. Finally, in 1768, Martí's troublesome personality prompts him to set sail on a ship commanded by none other than Captain Cook.

These four episodes allow us to reconnect with a unique narrative voice, so we can be moved by it all over again.

Albert Sánchez Piñol (Barcelona, 1965), the most widely translated writer in contemporary Catalan literature, went from being known as the author of the emblematic *La pell freda* (Cold Skin) to being the creator of the VICTUS publishing phenomenon (250,000 copies sold in Spain).

Samanta Schweblin **SIETE CASAS VACÍAS**
(Seven Empty Houses)
Páginas de Espuma

"She injects suspense and anguish into everyday scenarios, furnished houses and cars, and makes simple objects such as refrigerators, sugar bowls and ashtrays take on mysterious connotations and shake up families, couples and identities"
(Xavi Ayén, Culturas)

"Contains what good stories have, a secret inside, something that is never completely told, and is left to the reader's discretion"
(Javier Goñi, Mercurio)

"A true master of the genre"
(J. A. Massoliver, La Vanguardia)

"We read wanting to cover our eyes, but leaving a crack between our fingers through which we recognise clichés that will always be extraordinary when recounted by a writer like Schweblin"
(Marta Sanz, Babelia)



Samanta Schweblin is starting to be regarded as one of the most distinguished storytellers writing in Spanish today. Included on the Granta List of best young writers in the Spanish language, her books have merited numerous and prestigious awards since her debut at age 24, such as the Casa de las Américas Prize for *El núcleo del disturbio* (The Core of the Disturbance) and the Juan Rulfo Prize for *Un hombre sin suerte* (A Man Without Luck), among others.

The stories in *Siete casas vacías* allow us to glimpse through a perverse lens –that of the narrator or sometimes the reader– the terrors and incongruities hidden behind apparently costumbrist scenes.

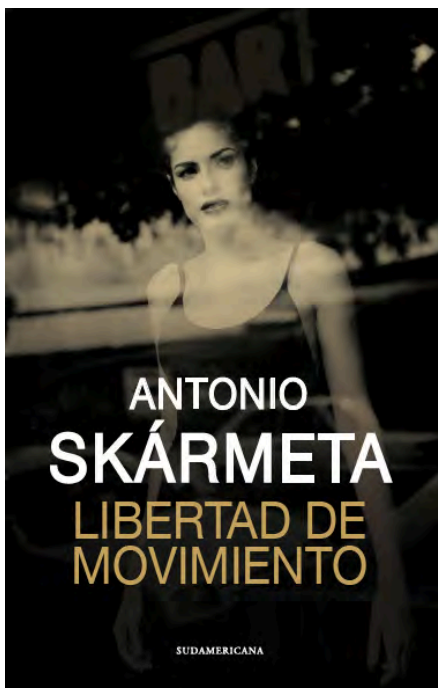
Seven dazzling stories honoured with today's most important prize for books of stories in Spanish: the Ribera del Duero International Short Story Prize.

Its release has coincided with the publication of Schweblin's first novel, *Distancia de rescate* (Distance to Rescue), which has been hailed by critics as one of the great literary events of the year.

Samanta Schweblin (Buenos Aires in 1978). She studied cinema and television. With scholarships from different institutions, she has lived in Oaxaca, Umbria and Toscana, and Berlin, where she currently resides.

Antonio Skármeta LIBERTAD DE MOVIMIENTO (Freedom of Movement)

Sudamericana / Debolsillo



These stories are full of characters who are second-best, losers, dull protagonists mired in insignificance. Some because they are too young to take charge of their destinies, others because they lack talent or luck. But they will all face a unique moment, a crossroads where they can heroically resolve to do something great for the first time –experience a passionate love affair, an exciting adventure, senseless madness– or let the moment pass and remain stuck in their trivial everyday lives.

These eleven stories travel through places as diverse as Chile, Argentina, France, Uruguay, Colombia, Spain and Haiti, but remain installed in a common space: a melancholy not without sharp black humour and irresistible irony.

Antonio Skármeta (Antofagasta, 1940) is one of Chile's most popular writers. Exiled during the dictatorship, he returned to his country after living in Argentina and Germany. He was awarded the National Literature Prize in 2014 and is particularly well-known for the cinematographic adaptations of his works. The enormously successful *Il postino* was translated into more than thirty languages and inspired Pablo Larraín's *No*, nominated for the best foreign language film award in 2013.

José Carlos Somoza CROATOAN

Stella Maris

About his works:

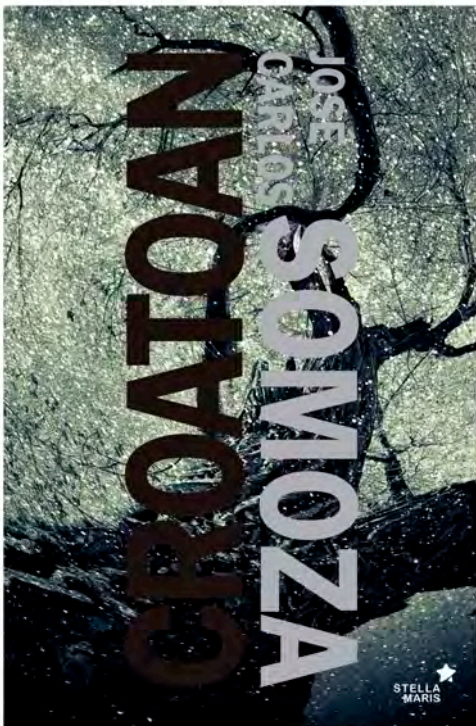
"Extremely subtle and intelligent... Totally absorbing"
(Evening Standard)

"An ornate rumination on the razor-thin line between satisfying one's scientific curiosity and violating the laws of nature" (Booklist)

"Literate, savvy, tense and thoughtful with plenty of atmosphere. It's a pleasure to read a Jose Carlos Somoza novel" (Steve Berry, New York Times)

"Somoza's tale is as disturbing as it is fascinating. It is a highly rewarding, intelligent and thought-provoking read" (The Review Zoo)

"José Carlos Somoza displays an unhurried style and a refreshing appreciation for advance science" (Entertainment Weekly)



On 6 September in an unknown year in the near future strange events start happening around the world: animals suddenly crowd together in groups, human beings move crazy, mixed with animals and insects, destroying everything, including themselves.

In Spain, a group of characters receive a note sent by the biologist Carlos Mandel, two years before he commits suicide: Nico Reinosa, a former policeman, painter and former lover of Mandel, is asked to protect in a laboratory people who were close to Mandel. World leaders flee in terror around the world, but also end up succumbing to the effects of destructive behaviour. People in the laboratory have a recording where Mandel tells them he foresaw this situation, like the mythical Croatoan that wiped out an entire population in the sixteenth century. The aim of the meeting in the laboratory is to find something that could save them.

Somoza's novels often take the reader on a journey into a horrible world, but Croatoan goes further toward an apocalyptic novel. The title refers to the word that is found engraved on a tree where an entire population in the sixteenth century mysteriously disappeared.

José Carlos Somoza was born in Havana in 1959. Before he was a year old, his parents moved to Spain in 1960 for political reasons. He earned a Psychiatry degree, but he gave up medicine in 1964 in order to be a full-time writer. His novels mix genre stories –as noir, thriller, horror, science-fiction...– with other elements such as Art, Philosophy, Poetry, Science. His work has been translated into 24 languages.

He has been awarded numerous prizes for his novels: *Silencio de Blanca* (La Sonrisa Vertical in 1996), *Dafne desvanecida* (finalist for the Nadal Award in 2000), *La caverna de las ideas* (The Athenian Murders, awarded England's Gold Dagger Award for the best suspense novel in 2002), *Clara y la penumbra* (The Art of Murder, awarded the Fernando Lara Prize in 2001 and the Dashiell Hammett Prize for the best detective novel in 2002), *Zigzag* (finalist for the John W. Campbell Memorial in the United States in 2006), *La llave del abismo* (The Key of Doom, awarded the City of Torrevieja Novel Prize in 2008).

José Donoso

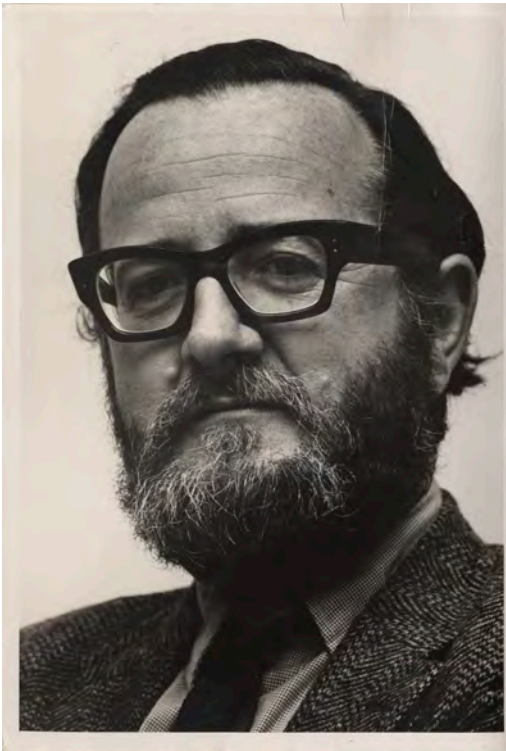
20th ANNIVERSARY OF HIS DEATH

"Donoso is one of the most important writers of Spanish American literature in the contemporary age (...) Of the entire group, he is most obsessively a novelist, most stubbornly a writer above all things, the most passionate about literature" (Mario Vargas Llosa)

"No one transcended the limitations of the immediate past and planted a banner in the kingdom of the imagination with more apparent ease than the most literary man of letters of the Latin American literary boom, the Chilean José Donoso" (Carlos Fuentes)

"El obsceno pájaro de la noche is a dense and energetic book, full of terrible risk-taking, populated with legendary saints and witches, mad old crones and a whole estate-ful of freaks and monsters, and narrated by a disturbed deaf-mute" (Robert Coover, The New York Times Book Review)

"Donoso is the writer with the highest social conscience that Chile has had"
(Antonio Skármeta)



Born in 1924 in Santiago, Chile, José Donoso is one of the most widely recognised Chilean writers.

Donoso served as an English Literature professor at several universities, mainly Princeton. He lived in Spain for several years, where he wrote some of his most important novels and established himself as a central figure in the Latin American literary boom. After returning to Chile in the late 1980s, he directed a literary workshop that became the birthplace of the "new Chilean narrative".

His first great success –regarded by critics as his masterpiece– was *El obsceno pájaro de la noche* (The Obscene Bird of Night), which Harold Bloom regards as one of the essential works of the 20th century western literary canon. This novel has been hailed as "a masterpiece" by Luis Buñuel and "one of the great novels not only of Spanish America, but of our time" by Carlos Fuentes.

Donoso received numerous distinctions, such as the Santiago Municipal Prize for Short Stories, William Faulkner Foundation Prize, Critics' Prize for CASA DE CAMPO, Chile's National Literature Prize, Italy's Mondelo Prize, and France's Roger Caillois Prize.

He died in Chile on 7 December 1996.

Josep Pla EL QUADERN GRIS / THE GRAY NOTEBOOK
—50th ANNIVERSARY in 2016—



"Considered one of the most influential Catalan authors of the twentieth century, [Pla] was born and raised in the Empordà, and over the course of his life wrote over 30,000 pages of prose in which he diligently catalogued the landscape and the life and habits of the people of the region. His complete works, published and republished over the years, contain marvelous descriptive passages that capture the landscape's history and its complex topography at once"

(Words Without Borders)

"Josep Pla has long been considered one of the finest writers of autobiographical texts in any of the languages of Spain"

(Hispanic Review)

"Pla seems to enjoy an almost constant series of presence effects in plays of light and shadows, expressions on faces, turns of phrase, the direction of the wind. His own encounters with presence are what illuminate the communicative potential that the landscape holds, if we approach it the right way"

(Romance Quarterly)

"Josep Pla was a popular journalist who traveled widely to report on world events. His politics, conservative yet liberal, joined with an ironic skepticism that did not endear him to Catalan leftists and nationalists. Yet by the end of his life he was recognized as the most distinguished prose stylist in Catalan. His devotion to writing is evident in his collected works, which fill forty-six volumes. The Gray Notebook is a diary from 1918–19 that Pla revised over many decades"

(World Literature Today)

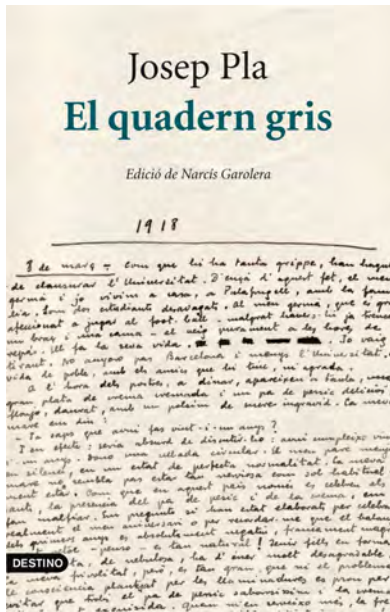
"The grand old man of Catalan letters and one of Spain's most prolific writers"

(Chicago Tribune)

"Pla's work speaks to those who appreciate his travels on foot because there is something to be admired about writers like him, and Rimbaud and Robert Walser, for example, who wore out their shoes in the process"

(Antonio Tabucchi)

Josep Pla EL QUADERN GRIS / THE GREY NOTEBOOK



It is a diary begun in 1918 that enabled him to discover his narrative voice, and completed in 1965 when he was a well-established writer. Josep Pla imbues the landscape and his surroundings with profound meaning that goes beyond mere description. He does not simply seek the most fitting adjective to reflect what he observes but rather searches for the seed of the emotion that it inspires in him. The cultural, politic, aesthetic and moral reflections that result from observing his immediate surroundings stem from a need to discover the secret they conceal, the significance of a fleeting yet striking impression, and the meaning behind scenes from everyday life.

Pla's opus, solely comprising prose Works, is immense. Influenced by Montaigne, Pascal, Leopardi, and Stendhal, Pla offers his own brilliant testimony of his time. He was an extremely insightful journalist who traveled widely and frequently. Traveling was not an exercise in tourism for him, but rather a discovery of life, and literature. A self-declared "anti-romantic", Pla shunned affected, artificial Language. Beyond being a novelist, he was a skillful and articulate storyteller. Pla's work is his own greatest ally.

Juan Rulfo PEDRO PÁRAMO
60th anniversary in 2016
Juan Rulfo's centennial 2017



"Rulfo's novel is not only one of the masterpieces in the worldwide literature of the XX century but also one of the most influential books of this century"
(Susan Sontag)

"Pedro Páramo is one of the best novels in the Hispanic language and indeed in the Literature"
(Jorge Luis Borges)

"Juan Rulfo is criticized because he has only written Pedro Páramo. He is always been asked when he will have another book. This is a mistake. Firstly, because Rulfo's stories are as important as his novel Pedro Páramo, which, I repeat, is for me, if not the best, if not the longest, if not the most important, the most beautiful of the novels ever written in Spanish. I would never ask a writer why he doesn't write more. But in the case of Rulfo I'm much more careful. If I had written Pedro Páramo I would not worry about and I would never write anymore in my life"
(Gabriel García Márquez)

Pedro Páramo is one of the works that represents in the best way Mexican literature in the world. It has more than 50 translations into different languages, and is available in nearly one hundred countries. It is a classic of universal literature. It was the precursor to a new phase of Latin American writing.

Next year is the 60th anniversary of *Pedro Páramo* and there will be a lot of activities and commemorative publications by intellectuals who studied Rulfo's work. *The Burning Plain* is a notable collection of short stories.

Juan Rulfo was born in Sayula, Jalisco (México) the 16th May 1917. Juan Rulfo's literary work is crucial among those produced in Mexico, according to the reception that has experienced inside and outside the country, from its publication until today.

He had enormous impact on those Latin American authors, including Gabriel García Márquez, who practiced what has come to be known as "magic realism", but he did not theorize about it. Rulfo's Works are often classified as belonging to the period of the Latin American literary "boom".