

ALMOST ISLAND

Contributors: Winter 2019

Anna Deeny Morales is a dramatist, translator of poetry, and literary critic. Original works for contemporary dance, theater, and opera include *La straniera* (1997); *Tela di Ragno* (1999–2002); *Cecilia Valdés* (2018); and *La Paloma at the Wall* (2019). Her one-act opera libretto, *iZAVALA-ZAVALA!: an opera in v cuts*, recently commissioned by the University of North Carolina, Charlotte, and composer Brian Arreola, will debut in 2021. A 2018 National Endowment for the Arts recipient for the translation of *Tala* by Gabriela Mistral, Deeny Morales has translated works by Raúl Zurita, Mercedes Roffé, Alejandra Pizarnik, Nicanor Parra, Amanda Berenguer, Malú Urriola, and Marosa di Giorgio, among others. She received a PhD from the University of California, Berkeley, and has taught at Harvard University and Dartmouth College. She currently teaches at Georgetown University, and her book manuscript, *Other Solitudes*, considers transamerican dialogues on consciousness and poetry throughout the last century.

Diana Bellessi was born in Zavalla, Argentina, in 1946, and lives in Buenos Aires. She is a poet, translator, and literary critic. Bellessi studied philosophy at the Universidad Nacional del Litoral, and from 1969 to 1975 she travelled by foot throughout the American continent. This journey, along with her country's Dirty Wars that lasted from 1976–1983, deeply inform her work. For various years, Bellessi gave poetry workshops in prisons throughout Buenos Aires. Her numerous volumes of poetry include *Destino y propagaciones* (1972); *Crucero ecuatorial* (1980); *Tributo del mudo* (1982); *Danzante de doble máscara* (1985); *Eroica* (1988); *Buena travesía buena ventura pequeña Uli* (1991); *El Jardín* (1992); *Crucero Ecuatorial. Tributo del Mudo* (1994); *The Twins, the Dream* (with Ursula K. Le Guin) (1996); *Sur* (1998); *Gemelas del sueño* (with U.K. Le Guin) (1998); *Mate cocido* (2002); *La Edad Dorada* (2003); *La rebelión del Instante* (2005); *Variaciones de la luz* (2006); and *Tener lo que se tiene: Poesía reunida* (2009). She has translated works by Ursula K. Le Guin, Denise Levertov, Adrienne Rich, and Olga Broumas, among others.

Bellessi was a founding member of *Revista Feminaria* and participated on its editorial board; she was on the editorial board of *Diario de Poesía*; and a founding member of the publishing cooperative, Nusud. She has received various awards, including a 1993

Guggenheim Fellowship in Poetry; the Antorchas Foundation Fellowship in 1996; the Konex Prize, Quinquenio 1999–2003, for her achievements in poetry in 2004; the Argentine National Prize in Poetry in 2007; and, again, the Konex Prize, Quinquenio 2009–2013, for her achievements in poetry in 2014.

Ida Vitale was born in 1923 in Montevideo, Uruguay. As a student of literature, she was inspired by the poetry of Gabriela Mistral, a fascination for nature, and the works of José Bergamín. During the Uruguayan military dictatorship, she lived in exile in Mexico from 1974 to 1984 with her second husband, Enrique Fierro, a poet and professor. They returned to Uruguay for a few years and eventually settled in Austin, Texas. In 2018, Vitale returned to the city of her birth. Vitale was a centripetal force of the Uruguayan literary and artistic movement known as the “Generación del ’45” [Generation of ‘45]. She has written numerous volumes of poetry and prose, including *La luz de esta memoria* (1949); *Palabra dada* (1953); *Cada uno en su noche, poesía* (1960); *Oidor andante* (1972); *Fieles* (1982); *Sueños de la constancia* (1988); *Léxico de afinidades* (1994); *Procura de lo imposible* (1998); *Un invierno equivocado* (1999); *Reducción del infinito* (2002); *De plantas y animales* (2003); *El abc de byobu* (2004); *Trema* (2005), and in 2017, *Poesía reunida*, a volume of complete works.

Vitale was conferred a doctor honoris causa by the Universidad de la República Oriental de Uruguay in 2010. She has received various awards, including the Octavio Paz Prize (2009); the Carlos Monsiváis Medal for Cultural Merit (2010); the Alfonso Reyes Prize (2014); the Reina Sofía Poetry Prize (2015); the Federico García Lorca Poetry Prize (2016); in France, the Max Jacob Prize (2017); in Guadalajara, the Romance Languages and Literature Prize; and, in Spain, the Cervantes Prize (2018).

Isabel de los Ángeles Ruano was born in Chiquimula, Guatemala, in 1945. She is a poet, novelist, journalist, and teacher. The 1954, US-backed military coup d’état forced Ruano to flee to Mexico with her family. The coup would eventually lead to the Guatemalan Civil War that lasted from 1960 to 1996.

The family managed to return to Guatemala in 1957, and Ruano received her teacher’s diploma from the Educación Primaria Urbana in Chiquimula. In 1966, Ruano went back to Mexico and published her first book, *Cariátides*. Upon her return to Guatemala in 1967, she

worked as a journalist, and in 1978, she received a bachelor's degree in Spanish and Latin American Languages and Literatures at the Universidad de San Carlos de Guatemala.

Ruano's published works include *Cariátides* (1966); *Cantares ¿Quién dijo cantares?* (1979); *Canto de amor a la ciudad de Guatemala* (1988); *Torres y Tatuajes* (1988); *Los del viento* (anthology, 1999); *Café express* (2002; 2008); *Versos dorados* (2006); *Poemas grises* (2010); and *Los muros perdidos* (2013). Her unedited novels include *Los soliloquios de María Ixcamparic*; *Reprise de los inmortales*; and *Carta de una bruja a una condesa medieval*. For over thirty years, Ruano has struggled with mental illness, and Guatemala City's neighborhood, Justo Rufino Barrios, zona 21, has become her home. She was awarded the prestigious Miguel Ángel Asturias National Prize in Literature by the Ministry of Culture in 2001.

Mirta Rosenberg was born on October 7, 1951 in Rosario, Argentina, and passed away on June 28, 2019, in Buenos Aires. Her volumes of poetry include *Pasajes* (1984); *Madam* (1988); *Teoría sentimental* (1994); *El arte de perder* (1998); *El árbol de palabras: obra reunida 1984–2006* (2006); *El paisaje interior* (2012); *El arte de perder y otros poemas* (2015); *Cuaderno de oficio* (2016); and *Bichos, sonetos y comentarios*, co-authored with Ezequiel Zaidenweg (2017). Rosenberg has translated poetry and essays by Katherine Mansfield, William Blake, Walt Whitman, Emily Dickinson, Anne Sexton, Derek Walcott, Marianne Moore, Hilda Doolittle, W.H. Auden, James Laughlin, Seamus Heaney, and Anne Talvaz. In collaboration with Daniel Samoilovich, she translated *Henry IV* by William Shakespeare. Her poetry has been widely anthologized as well as translated into the German, French, and English.

In 1990 Rosenberg founded the prestigious publishing house *Bajo la luna*. She was also the founding director of *Extra / lecturas para poetas*, and a member of the editorial board of *Diario de poesía*. Rosenberg was the recipient of a Guggenheim Foundation Fellowship in 2003; the Konex Prize in 2004 for her achievements in literary translation; and, in 2013, she received the José Pedroni Province Poetry Prize for her book *El paisaje interior*.

Rosabetty Muñoz was born in Ancud, Chiloé, Chile, in 1960. She is a Professor of Spanish at the Austral University of Chile and has participated in the cultural development of her country's southern region. Muñoz's works include *Canto de una oveja del rebaño* (1981);

1994); *En lugar de morir* (1987); *Hijos* (1991); *Baile de señoritas* (1994); *La santa, historia de una su elevación* (1998); *Sombras en el Rosselot* (2002); *Ratada* (2005); *En nombre de Ninguna* (2008); *Polvo de huesos* (anthology, 2012); *Chiloé, ovejas en la memoria* (2016); *Hijos* (2016); *Ligia* (2019); and *Técnicas para cegar a los peces* (2019).

Muñoz is the recipient of various awards and fellowships, including the Pablo Neruda Prize (2000); the Consejo Nacional del Libro Prize for *Sombras en El Rosselot* for best unedited work (2002); and the Altazor Prize (2013) for the anthology *Polvo de Huesos*. Muñoz is a member of the Academia Chilena de la Lengua and a recipient of the 2018 Lifetime Achievement Award given by the Neruda Foundation.