

Juan Gabriel Vásquez (Bogota, 1973) writer, translator and journalist. He is the author of the book of short stories *Los amantes de Todos los Santos* (The Lovers of All Saints, 2001) and two novels, *Los informantes* (The Informants, 2004), which was chosen as one of the most important Columbian novels of the last twenty-five years, and *Historia secreta de Costaguana* (The Secret History of Costaguana, 2007), awarded the Qwerty prize for the best Spanish novel (Barcelona) and the Libros & Letras Foundation prize (Bogota). He is also the author of a biography of Joseph Conrad, *El hombre de ninguna parte* (The Man from Nowhere, 2007), and the book of essays *El arte de la distorsión* (The Art of Distortion), which was given the Simón Bolívar Journalism Prize. He has translated authors such as John Hersey, Victor Hugo and E.M. Forster into Spanish, and his own work has been widely translated. He currently resides in Barcelona.

María Barbal (Trepmp, 1949) is one of the most important fiction writers of current Catalan literature and among those most frequently translated into foreign languages. With a degree in Hispanic Philology from the University of Barcelona, she has written numerous successful novels, such as *Pedra de tartera* (Mountain Scree, 1985), her first and most often translated novel, *Mel i metzines* (Honey and Poisons, 1990), *Càmfora* (Camphor, 1992), *Escrivia cartes al cel* (Writing Letters to the Sky, 1996), *Carrer Bolívia* (Bolivia Street, 1999), *Bella edat* (Beautiful Age, 2003), *País Íntim* (Intimate Country, 2005), and *Emma* (2008). She is also the author of the story collections *La mort de Teresa* (The Death of Teresa, 1986) and *Ulleres de Sol* (Sunglasses, 1994), the play *L'helicòpter* (The Helicopter, 2001) and children's books, such as *Espaguetti Miu* (Miu Spaghetti) and *Bari* (Barium, 1998). She has received the Critics, National Literature, Joaquin Ruyra, Serra d'Or, Lletra d'Or, Crexells, Cavall Verd and Prudenci Bertrana prizes.

Manal Al-Sheikh (Iraq, 1971) poet and journalist. She has published two collections of poetry—*Inhirafut-tawabeet* (The Deviation of the Coffins), Iraq, 1996, and *Assfar Alo'zlah* (Books of the Reclusion), Egypt, 2008—and an anthology of modern Iraqi poetry—*Umarauruaa* (Princes of Imaginative Visions), Iraq, 2007. As a freelance journalist, she has contributed essays and articles for many magazines and newspapers throughout the Arab world. Her latest books, a collection of poetic fiction, *Kadmu Dhaheratin Mukaddada* (Biting a Ragged Moon) and *Belnokta elhamraa tahta eynhi elyoursah* (With a Red Mark Under the Left Eye) will be published soon. She currently lives in Norway.

Salem Zenia (Algeria, 1962) poet and novelist. In 1998 he founded his own newspaper *Racines/lzuran*, a French/Tamazight bilingual biweekly oriented towards the promotion of the Berber culture and literature. He has published the poetry collections *Les rêves de Yidir/Tirga n Yidir* (The Dreams of Yidir, 1993) and *Printemps/Tifswin* (Spring, 2004), both in French/Tamazight bilingual editions, and the novels *Tafra* (Dawn, 1995) and *lyil d wefru* (Power and Sword, 2003), all published in Paris by the publisher Harmattan. Defender of the rights of the Berber people and victim of linguistic and religious persecution, Salem Zenia currently resides in Barcelona, welcomed by the Catalan PEN within the refugee writers program. In 2008 he published a poetry collection in a Catalan and Tamazight bilingual edition, *Sol cec/l'tijader al* (Blind Sun). In 2008 his first book was published in Algeria, a collection of traditional stories, *Yella zik-nni...* (Once Upon a Time...).

Carme Arenas (Granollers, 1954) professor of Catalan literature, translator and editor. She has translated authors such as Svevo, Sciascia, Bontempelli, Machiavelli, Bocaccio, Calvino and Eco. As part of the POCIO (Poetry and Education) group, she has participated in the creation and publication of the book *Aprendre amb Joan Brossa* (Learning from Joan Brossa, 1993) and the websites *Els entra-i-surts de Brossa* (Brossa's Comings and Goings, Education M. Prize, 2004), *Viu la poesia* (Poetry Lives, Normal School Prize, 2008) and *Carles Sindreu*. She has published studies about the avant-garde movements, *Les avantguardes a Europa i a Catalunya* (The Avant-Gardes in Europe and Catalonia, 1989), with N. Cabré, and *Carles Sindreu i Pons o el compromís amb l'avantguarda* (Carles Sindreu i Pons or the Compromise with the Avant-Garde, Amador Garrell i Alsina journalism prize, 2002). She has edited the complete works of Joan Salvat Papasseit (2006) and Carles Sindreu's *El klaxon i el camí* (Honking and the Road). Currently she is head editor of the magazine *Catalan Writing* and general secretary of Catalan PEN.

Raffaella Salierno (Naples, Italy, 1954) doctor of Chinese and Mongol studies from the University of Naples' Eastern Institute. She has arranged for the research and promotion of eastern cultures through cultural outreach and translation. She is coordinator of the Committee of Imprisoned Writers of Catalan PEN, director of the "Refugee Writer" Program and member of the Board of Directors of the Network of ICORN cities of refuge.

NOVEMBER 15, INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE IMPRISONED WRITER

PEN

català

Distance and Literature

Barcelona - Agramunt - Potenza



SHAHRAZAD
stories for life



Culture 2007

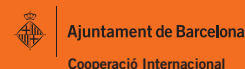


Education and Culture DG



ICORN
international cities
of refuge network

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Barcelona Thursday, 12 November 2009

Vindictory Event in Favor of the Freedom of Expression

Reading of texts by persecuted writers

11:30 am-1:00 pm and 4:30-5:30 pm

Carriage Hall of the Ateneu Barcelonès
Ateneu Barcelonès, c. Canuda 6, 08002 Barcelona

Distance and Literature

Lecture

Speaker: **Juan Gabriel Vásquez**

19:00-19:30 pm

Round Table

Participants:

Maria Barbal, Manal Al-Sheikh and Salem Zenia

Moderator: **Carme Arenas**

19:30-20:30 pm

Literary Vigil

The invited authors will read selections from
their work

20:30-21:30 pm

Conference room of Espai Mallorca.
Espai Mallorca, c. Carme 55, 08001 Barcelona

During the literary vigil refreshments will be served

Agramunt Friday, 13 November 2009

Welcome from the event organizers

19:00-19:15 h

Distance and Literature

Lecture

Speaker: **Maria Barbal**

19:30-20:00 pm

Exile and Poetry

Participants: **Manal Al-Sheikh and Salem Zenia**

Presentation: **Raffaella Salierno**

20:00-20:30 pm

Literary Vigil

during which the invited authors will read selections
from their work, and they will also read texts from
the book *El Nadal que no vam tornar a casa: 1939, el primer
Nadal a l'exili* (The Christmas We Didn't Go Home: 1939,
the First Christmas in Exile), edited by Quim Torra,
published by Acontravent, 2009.

20:30-21:30 pm

Espai Guinovart
Plaça del Mercat s/n, 25310 Agramunt

After the literary vigil refreshments will be served

Potenza Saturday, 28 November 2009

Distance and Literature

Lecture

Speaker: **Gian Antonio Stella**

18:00 pm

Round Table

Participants:

Maria Barbal, Manal Al-Sheikh and Hamza Zirem

Moderator: **Maria Rosa Salvia**

18:30-19:30 pm

Literary Vigil

With the participation of the invited authors

20:00-21:30 pm

Ridotto Teatro "Francesco Stabile"
Piazza Mario Pagano
Potenza 85100