

Manifiesto neoyorkino

We are a group of established writers, from many different backgrounds, who live in New York and produce literary works in Spanish.

We are part of a lengthy tradition in this city of resident writers working in the Spanish tongue.

This lineage – aside from a handful of luminaries like Lorca and Martí – has been submerged in New York's cultural memory, due partly to the flood of world-class work produced here in English, and partly to an Anglo-centricity that has been simultaneously provincial and imperial.

We believe – particularly at a moment when Spanish-speakers constitute nearly one-third the city's population – that this is a costly amnesia, one that deprives both new immigrants and established citizens of an important part of their cultural legacy.

We have therefore decided to resurrect the forgotten past, and enhance the visibility of the flourishing present, by establishing an organization dedicated to convoking the Hispanoamerican and Spanish voices of this city, and putting our literary tradition back on New York's cultural map.

We will engage in activities that facilitate interaction among those writing in Spanish (and those interested in such productions), through public readings and events, through a web site, and through projects like the mapping (and plaquing) of sites where our forebears once lived. We will work to establish an ambience of critical sociability like that found in the literary coffee-houses characteristic of Spanish-speaking countries – hence our chosen name: *Café Nueva York*.

In an era when frontiers have acquired cultural permeability – easily penetrated by internet, video, music and travel – this need not be a parochial exercise. Indeed the very variety of Spanish-writers working in New York constitutes an opportunity to strengthen global links with the far-flung Spanish-speaking world. In an era when frontiers have acquired an aspect of fear and fortification, such connections are more necessary than ever.

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE:

Carmen Boullosa, Mexico. José Manuel Prieto, Cuba. Eduardo Lago, Spain. Naief Yehya, Mexican. Sylvia Molloy, Argentinian. Eduardo Mitre, Bolivia.

Café Nueva York

In the Hispanoamerican and Spanish literary tradition of the Big Apple
en la tradición literaria hispanoamericana y española de la Gran Manzana



Organizing Committee:

Carmen Boulosa is one of México's leading novelists, poets and playwrights. The prolific author, who has had literally scores of books, essays and dissertations written about her work, has received rave reviews from critics on several continents. She has won several Prizes (Anna Seghers in Berlin, Liberatur in Frankfurt, Xavier Villaurrutia in Mexico) and has been a Guggenheim Fellow, a Fellow of the New York Public Library's Center for Scholars and Writers, and Distinguished Visitor at Columbia University and Georgetown University, among others. She has published twelve novels, among them *La otra mano de Lepanto* (published by *Siruela*, in Spain, and by *Fondo de Cultura Económica*, in Mexico). Her latest book, *The Perfect Novel* (a science-fiction novel set in Brooklyn), was published this year by *Alfaguara* in Mexico. She currently is a Distinguished Lecturer at CCNY. Together with Salman Rushdie, she founded a house for persecuted writers in Mexico City in 2000.

José Manuel Prieto was born in Havana, Cuba. He has taught at the Centro de Investigación y Docencia Económica (CIDE), at Mexico City. He was a Fellow at The New York Public Library's Center for Scholars and Writers; he also received a Guggenheim Fellowship. He is the author of several novels as well as non-fiction books, articles and essays, and also a translator from Russian Literature to Spanish. His books are *Livadia*, *Enciclopedia de una vida en Rusia*, *El Tartamudo y la rusa* (short stories), *Treinta días en Moscú* (travel account), and others. *Livadia* has been translated into more than seven languages with an exceptionally good reception under the title of *Nocturnal Butterflies of the Russian Empire* which appeared in the United States by Grove Press. It was also most favorably reviewed in *The New York Times*, *The New York Review of Book*, *Le Monde*, *Liberation*, and *The Times Literary Supplement*. He is currently Director of the Joseph A. Unanue Latino Institute at Setton Hall University, and professor at the same University.

Sylvia Molloy, Argentinian writer, novelist, and leading literary critic. She has published the novels *En breve cárcel* and *El común olvido*, a collection of short stories, *Varia imaginación*, and several books of essays, among them *Las letras de Borges*. She was a Guggenheim Fellow, received the Senior Faculty Fellowship de Yale University, a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Civitella Ranieri Fellowship. Sylvia Molloy also received the National Translation Prize and the Prize of the Fundación Kónex in Argentina. She has been Presidente of MLA (Modern Languages Asociation), professor at Yale and Princeton, and is now Albert Schweitzer Professor of the Humanities at NYU.

Eduardo Lago surprised Spain's literary world when he won the prestigious *Premio Nadal 2006* with his first novel, *Llámame Brooklyn (Call Me Brooklyn)*. In an atmosphere of distrust towards literary prizes, particularly the *Premio Planeta*, critics and the public have embraced, with enthusiasm, a literary work that makes no commercial concessions. He is the author of *Cuentos dispersos (Scattered Tales)*, a collection of short stories, *Cuaderno de México (Mexican Notebook)*, a memoir of a trip to Chiapas, and *Dark & Yellow Rooms*, an illustrated essay on painting. He has also authored numerous articles and translated works by Charles Brockden-Brown, Hamlin Garland, William Dean Howells, Henry James, Sylvia Plath, Christopher Isherwood, Junot Díaz, and John Barth. Dr. Lago is a Sarah Lawrence College Professor on leave, and he is currently the Director of The Cervantes Institute.

Naief Yehya was born in Mexico City and lives in Brooklyn since 1992. Industrial engineer by profession, he has been writing film, music and cultural criticism in several magazines and newspapers in Mexico. He has published the novels *Obras sanitarias (Sanitary Works, 1992)*. Some of his most recent books are *The Transformed Body. Cyborgs and our Technological Heritage in the Real World and Science Fiction, 2001*, *War and Propaganda: Mass Media and the Myth of War in the US, 2003*, and, *Pornografía: sexo mediatizado y pánico moral (Pornography: Mediated Sex and Moral Panic, 2004)*.

Eduardo Mitre, poet born in Bolivia, has published in the most renowned poetry houses of our language (Visor, Pretextos, Vuelta) *Morada, Mirabilia, Desde tu cuerpo, Razón ardiente, Ferviente humo, Elegía a una muchacha y Línea de otoño*. He is also author of several books on Latin American poetry, among them *Huidobro, hambre de espacio y sed de cielo*. His most recent book is *El paraguas de Manhattan (Manhattan's Umbrella)*. He has been professor at Columbia University, Dartmouth College and Universidad Católica Boliviana. He teaches now at St John's University.