

# Eleni Vakalo

## *Before Lyricism*

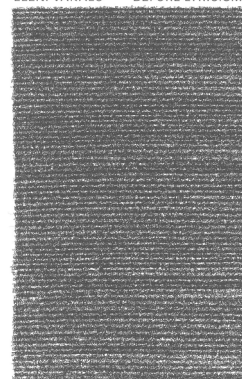
Edited and translated from Greek  
by Karen Emmerich

*Before Lyricism* includes six book-length poems written in the 1950s and 1960s. For Vakalo, these poems formed a larger, accretive whole. *Before Lyricism* allows us to see the complex web of intertextual relations that bind these poems together. Meanwhile, by bringing them into English, this volume will enrich not only our knowledge of this key period in Vakalo's career, but English-language readers' understanding of modern Greek poetry as a whole.

// ... one of the most important books of poetry ever to be written in the modern Greek language ... anti-lyrical but dramatically human ... limits the imagination to the infinite dimensions of the real and excites logic as far as fantasy will take it.

— NORA ANAGNOSTAKI

ELENI VAKALO BEFORE LYRICISM



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**Eleni Vakalo** (1921–2001) was a Greek poet, art critic, and art historian. Vakalo published fourteen books of poetry, nine volumes of art history and art theory, had regular columns and produced a radio broadcast, both of art criticism. She received the State Poetry Prize in 1991, and the prestigious Academy of Athens Prize in 1997.



**Karen Emmerich** is an Assistant Professor at Princeton University. A translator of eleven Modern Greek books, her co-translation of Yannis Ritsos's *Diaries of Exile* was awarded the PEN Award for Poetry in Translation, and her translation of *Poems (1945-1971)* by Miltos Sachtouris was a finalist for National Book Critics Circle award.

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