Soledad Marambio

Chintungo: The Story of Someone Else

Translated by K.T. Billey

Chintungo is the story of a boy turned man turned father, refracted through the poems of his daughter. Social and political change fold into mule-drawn trains and honeymoons in Europe, barefoot boys, and VHS novelties, tracing one family’s movement from the coast of Chile to Pinochet’s Santiago. Marambio’s poems examine the facts, photos, and unknowable gaps in memory and history.

“...In this elegy of sorts, rules are inverted: the poet honors the pangs of poverty and illegitimacy... The book assembles memory, history, and the shared act of writing as an echo chamber one cannot stop listening to, returning to, remembering.

— LINA MERUANE

“...Marambio’s poems veer into subversive territory with great subtlety, and Billey’s translation recreates the nuances with astonishing skill.

— IDRA NOVEY

Soledad Marambio is a poet and translator. She is the author of En la noche los pájaros (La Calabaza del Diablo, 2013). In 2016 she received a grant from the National Council for the Arts and Culture in Chile to complete her first novel. Chintungo is her second book.

K.T. Billey is a translator of Icelandic and Spanish. She won Vallum’s 2015 Poetry Prize, and was awarded the Leif and Inger Sjöberg Prize by the American Scandinavian Foundation. Her essays and literary criticism have appeared or are forthcoming in Guernica, BOMB, the Harvard Review, and others.