

Amanda Berenguer

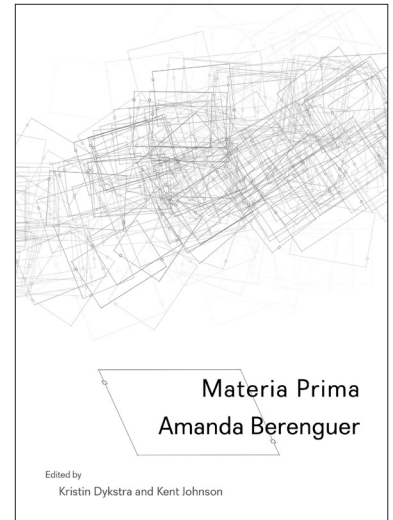
Materia Prima

Edited by Kristin Dykstra and Kent Johnson

Translated from the Spanish by Gillian Brassil, Anna Deeny Morales, Mónica de la Torre, Kristin Dykstra, Kent Johnson, Urayoán Noel, Jeannine Marie Pitas, and Alex Verdolini.

Materia Prima is the first English-language collection of Amanda Berenguer's poetry. A key contributor to Uruguay's famed literary Generación del 45, Berenguer stands among the most important post-World War II poets of Latin America, along with her now-legendary compatriot Marosa di Giorgio. Berenguer's poetry, stylistically and conceptually varied, ranges from classic, measured lyric to Dickinson-inspired gnomic utterance; from metaphysical and erotic rhetorical effusion to condensed and radically concrete experiment; from seemingly apolitical languor to pointed ideological dissent.

The poems included in this edition span a large portion of Berenguer's career and are taken from eight books, with an additional section dedicated to her visual poems.



// Here is urgent work, “wingenuous” and “mythovulsive,” feisty yet lyrical, playful yet deeply serious, explorative yet assured. A great achievement.

— PIERRE JORIS

// *Materia Prima* is a beautifully balanced anthology that reveals the range and force of Berenguer's genius.

— PETER BOYLE



Amanda Berenguer (1921 – 2010) was a vital presence in Uruguayan literary life for more than six decades. Awards for her contributions included, among many others, the prestigious international Casa de las Américas Prize for Poetry (1986) and two national Uruguayan prizes for her collection *La dama de Elche*. Berenguer's lifelong dedication to the arts included work with little presses and radio programming, as well as collaborations with dancers and musicians.

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