Reina María Rodríguez

The Winter Garden Photograph

Translated from the Spanish by Kristin Dykstra with Nancy Gates Madsen.

The Winter Garden Photograph began as an homage to a magazine, The Courier, published by UNESCO. Reina María Rodríguez used the magazine’s photographs of faraway places to spark an investigation of the mental landscapes comprising her own, contemporary Havana. With the original Cuban edition of this book, Rodríguez won her second Casa de las Américas Prize for Poetry.

This edition includes an interview with Rodríguez, conducted by Rosa Alcalá.

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I am stimulated as a reader by her intellect and use of intertextuality, and drawn in by her intimacy and vulnerability.

— Rosa Alcalá

“Reina María Rodríguez is the premier poet of her generation and one of Cuba’s most dynamic leading thinkers. Her dedication to a local and global community of artists and writers speaks of a practice that unites creative engagement and cultural advocacy.

— Roberto Tejada

Reina María Rodríguez has won the 2002 Alejo Carpentier Medal for Achievement in Cuban literature, Cuba’s 2013 National Prize for Literature, and the 2014 Pablo Neruda Ibero-American Prize for Poetry. With La foto del invernadero (The Winter Garden Photograph), she took her second Casa de las Américas prize in 1998.

Kristin Dykstra is the principal translator of The Winter Garden Photograph and co-editor of Amanda Berenguer’s Materia Prima (UDP, 2018). Dykstra is the recipient of an NEA Literary Translation Fellowship and won the inaugural Gulf Coast Prize for Literary Translation. Her translations include books by Omar Pérez, Juan Carlos Flores, Ángel Escobar, and Marcelo Morales.

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