Alejandra Pizarnik

A Tradition of Rupture

Translated by Cole Heinowitz

Since the publication of her 1955 debut poetry collection, The Most Foreign Country, Alejandra Pizarnik has captivated the imaginations of many of Latin America’s most celebrated twentieth-century writers. In recent years, English translations of Pizarnik’s poetry have gained enormous international acclaim, yet her critical writings remain almost entirely unknown outside the Spanish-speaking world. A Tradition of Rupture makes these writings available to English-speaking readers for the first time, providing a rare glimpse of the famously introverted poet in her capacity as public intellectual and critic.

"A deeply informed, judiciously selected, and pitch-perfectly rendered collection…
— Ammiel Alcalay

"…a further & necessary record of what it means to claim a life through poetry.
— Jerome Rothenberg

Alejandra Pizarnik (1926–1972) was a leading voice in twentieth-century Latin American poetry. Pizarnik spent most of her life in Argentina, but moved to Paris in 1960 where she was influenced by the work of the Surrealists and fellow expatriates Julio Cortázar and Octavio Paz. Known primarily for her poetry, Pizarnik also wrote experimental fiction, plays, a literary diary, and works of criticism.

Cole Heinowitz is a poet, translator, and scholar based in New York. She is Associate Professor of Literature and Director of the Literature Program at Bard College. Her other translations include Mario Santiago Papasquiaro’s Advice from 1 Disciple of Marx to 1 Heidegger Fanatic (Wave Books) and Beauty Is Our Spiritual Guernica (Commune Editions).