

## Carlos Soto-Román

### 11

translated from the Spanish by Alexis Almeida, Daniel Beauregard, Daniel Borzutzky, Whitney DeVos, Jèssica Pujol Duran, Patrick Greaney, Robin Myers

The title of this book evokes the “other” September 11: Chile’s September 11, 1973, when Augusto Pinochet led a military coup to oust the democratically elected government of Salvador Allende and inaugurated a brutal 17-year dictatorship. Assembled from found material such as declassified documents, testimonies, interviews, and media files, *11* immerses readers in the State-sponsored terror during this period and the effects it would continue to have on Chile. The poetry in this book adopts the form of collage, erasure, and appropriation, the language emerging from censorship and suffocation as experienced under military rule. This collaborative version into English, taken on by eight translators, attempts to answer that question and provide a means to reflect on the relationship between writing, trauma, and politics.

// In *11*, Soto-Román uses appropriation in order to exaggerate or intensify censorship, in a negative poetics that in no way falls into the trap of nihilism or negativism itself... the interface or conceptualist machine that he builds employs various tactics of resistance in order to make absences and silences speak... We do not confront the end of poetry here; however, the attentive reader of *11* does indeed witness an impressive, apocalyptic gesture, even within the storied tradition of experimental and radical Chilean poetry.

— SCOTT WEINTRAUB, *ASYMPTOTE*

// This book of poetry, with its form inevitably alluding to the textual, fosters estrangement and breaks up meaning among registers: here, I read an order, a list of aliases used by torturers, a technical procedure to punish a body, but I’m also reading something else. *11* offers a vehicle for these materials, aligned with a historical sequence that is not necessarily chronological.

— TERESA CABRERA



**Carlos Soto-Román** (Valparaíso, 1977) is a poet, translator, and pharmacist. In the United States he has published *The Exit Strategy* (Belladonna), *Alternative Set of Procedures* (Corollary Press, 2014), *Bluff* (Commune Editions). In the UK he has published *Nature of Objects* (Pamenar Press), and in Chile he has published *La Marcha de los Quiltros*, *Haikú Minero*, *Cambio y Fuera*, *11*, *Densidad (d=m/V)* and *Antuco* in collaboration with Carlos Cardani Parra.



Trade Paperback

Poetry | \$20

6" x 8" | 200 pp.

ISBN: 978-1-946433-97-8

Distributed by:  
Small Press Distribution  
Inpress Books (UK)

Release Date: June 15, 2023

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