

# Yanko González

## *Upper Volta*

Translated from the Spanish by Stephen Rosenshein

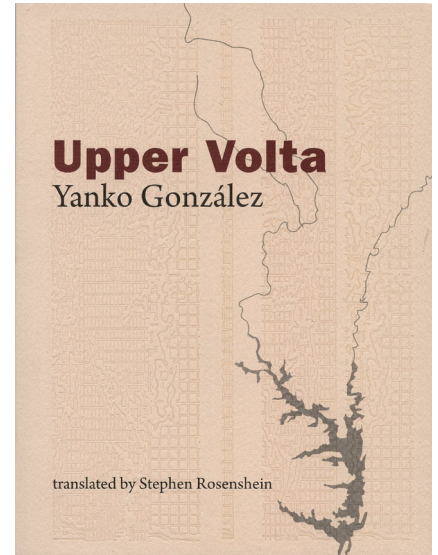
Like an anthropologist doing fieldwork, in *Upper Volta* Yanko González collects language from street corners, grocery store aisles, cocktail hours, and historical sources, laying data bare with a poet's meticulous hand. In his findings, González gives voice to the voiceless, and exposes the underbelly of our own biases—the ways in which they manifest in everyday language and collective consciousness. Originally published in Chile in 2007, *Upper Volta* transcends borders and boundaries in its exploration of topics all too relevant in our current political climate. Like a mirror, it forces us to look head-on at the language of globalization and ethnocentrism and the changing tide of thought and culture within our own society.

// González is here to show us that we don't speak a language; a language, or many languages, speak for us.

— CRISTIÁN GÓMEZ OLIVARES

// *Upper Volta* warns: words might suddenly shift in meaning... with no warning [...] Slips of the tongue [reveal] the class of the speaker, the caste, the catastrophe of a daily precarious living.

— JD PLUECKER



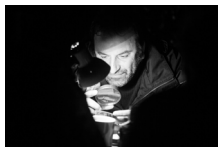
Trade Paperback  
Poetry | \$20

6" x 8" | 160 pp.

ISBN 978-1-946433-71-8

Distributed by:  
Small Press Distribution  
Inpress Books (UK)

**Release Date: May 1, 2021**



**Yanko González** is a poet and professor of social and cultural anthropology at the Universidad Austral de Chile. In 2007, González received the Chilean Critics Award for the best poetry book for *Alto Volta*. His work has been translated into French, English, German, and Dutch.



**Stephen Rosenshein** is a writer, translator, and visual artist. His debut collection of street photography and poetry, *Sincerely, Before*, was published by Clarity Editions and was nominated for the Fine Art Photo Awards in Conceptual Photography. He resides in Oakland, CA.

Media contact: Sarah Lawson • [publicity@uglyducklingpresse.org](mailto:publicity@uglyducklingpresse.org)

UGLY DUCKLING PRESSE is a nonprofit publisher of poetry, translation, performance texts, investigative forms, lost works, and books by artists. For more information, visit [uglyducklingpresse.org](http://uglyducklingpresse.org).