

Eleonora Requena

Outside Texts

Translated from the Spanish by Guillermo Parra

Textos por fuera / Outside Texts is a collection of poems that question themselves, the Spanish language, the poetic self, and the author's personal geographies within and beyond Venezuela and Argentina. Animating the texts in this book is the experience of exile and migration in response to a collapsing nation and its dramatic, ongoing crisis. These poems seek spaces to exist outside (and within) the everyday self and beyond the poem as a fixed creation.

// Eleonora Requena's poetry is fundamental for any reader interested in Latin American poetry. *Outside Texts* names silence with subtlety and translates the edge of verbs in constant unfolding. It conjugates the experience of the outside along with the most intimate aspects of the self, bringing us closer to the absolute being of the word, a being named from within to give the world meaning through tenderness. Requena writes poetry of the deepest honesty, an honesty made into words that make us live and resist.

— ORIETTE D'ANGELO

// We all coincided, from different points of appreciation, on the high quality of language the author manifested, in the fragments from her prize-winning and still unpublished book [*mandados*] that appeared in these pages. Her poetry, we agreed, is the retelling of a journey, one she undertakes in obedience to a mandate. The order begins in an "underworld of complex branches," according to her own words, whose severity allows no delay or distraction. Language recounts, recounts by trade, with the need to seek and leave a record of what has been found, whether by chance or persistence.

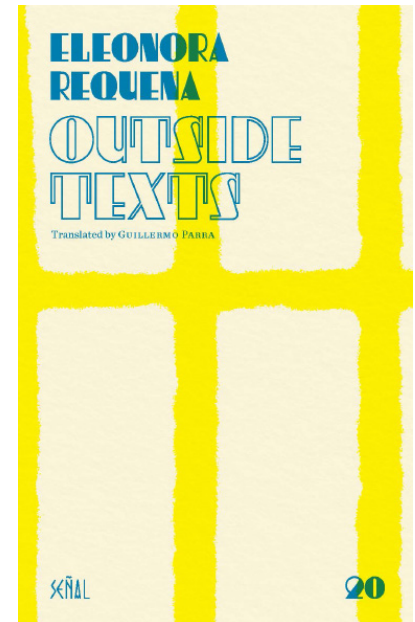
— SALVADOR GARMENDIA



Eleonora Requena books of poetry include *Sed* (Eclepsidra); *Mandados* (La Liebre Libre), winner of the Premio de la V Bienal Latinoamericana de Poesía José Rafael Pocaterra; *Es de día* (El Pez Soluble); *La Noche y sus agujeros* (El Pez Soluble); *Ética del aire* (Bid & Co. Editor); and *Textos por fuera* (El Taller Blanco). Her work has been included in various anthologies in Venezuela and Latin America. Requena now lives in Buenos Aires, Argentina.



Guillermo Parra is a poet and translator. He has published translations of the poets Juan Sánchez Peláez (Black Square Editions) and José Antonio Ramos Sucre (Noemi Press). His bilingual edition of selected poems by Vicente Gerbasi is forthcoming from Black Square Editions. His poems have appeared in the magazines *The Canary* and *Castle Grayskull*. He lives in Clearwater, FL.



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