

FDE

2023

# ALMUDENA SÁNCHEZ

## *PHARMAKON*

Translated from Spanish by Katie Whittemore

**A delicate, beautifully written testimony to depression from one of Spain's most exciting new voices.**

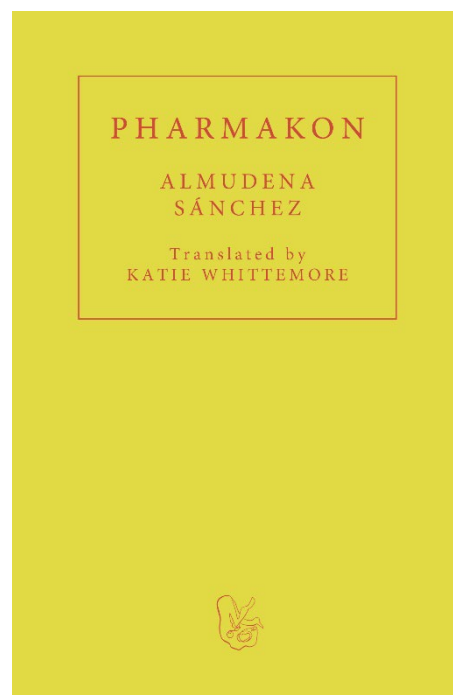
Pulling no punches in its 150 pages, *Pharmakon* is the story of an explosion, of the moment depression blew up the life the author thought she knew and settled in her body. But *Pharmakon* isn't a sad book; it is testimony, written with humour and intimacy by one of Spain's most singular voices, one that deftly combines wit, eccentricity, and warmth. Far from shrinking from taboos, Sánchez grabs hold of her depression and dredges it for the whys and hows, excavating her memory, behaviour, and craters of the mind: here there is infancy and the family home, youth at school in Mallorca and in the fields of Castile; psychiatrists who save and pills that bring her back to life; there are dreams, nightmares, and desires. And books, lots of books—some that serve to escape and others to understand what was happening in her head—because for Sánchez, literature is comfort, quest, and salvation. *Pharmakon* is an insight, from one of Spain's most singular voices, into the experience of depression and recovery.

'Her prose shines with images of surprising originality, novel comparisons and poetic glimmers [...] an exciting and compelling literary chronicle of pain and unease which, happily, does not become a simplified, sorry tale of suffering.' —SANTOS SANZ VILLANUEVA.

'The reader is left with the feeling of having had access to some of the most intimate and vulnerable thoughts of a person, shared through reflections full of humility and empathy.' —PALOMA ABAD, *VOGUE*.

**ALMUDENA SÁNCHEZ** (Mallorca, 1985) is a writer and journalist, with a Master's in Creative Writing. With her first book shortlisted for the Setenil Prize, in 2019 she was selected as one of the best thirtysomething authors working in Spain. *Fármaco* is her latest novel.

**KATIE WHITTEMORE** is a translator from Spanish, her full-length translations include works by Sara Mesa, Aroa Moreno Durán, Nuria Labari and Javier Serena.



Essay

January

B-format Paperback, flapped

155pp

978-1-913744-20-5

World Rights

£10.99

VENTURA AMETLLER

## *SUMMA KAOTICA*

Translated from Catalan by Ot Capa

**A mind bending, highly experimental work of literature, encompassing legend, mysticism and 20th Century history.**

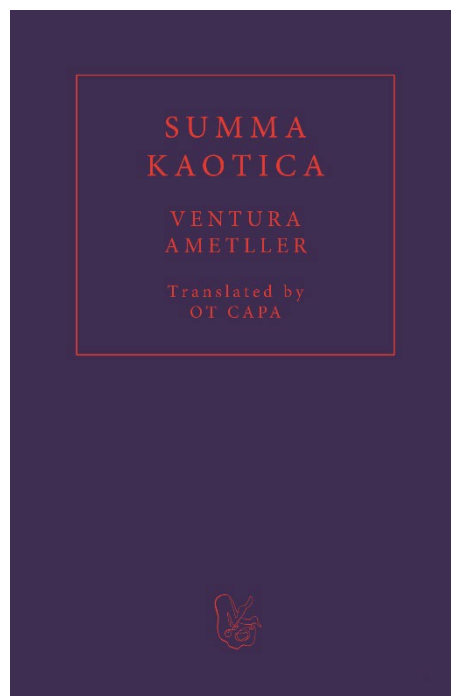
In outrageous, daring prose, Ventura Ametller tells the story of a young boy as he lives through the build-up to and outbreak of the Spanish Civil War. Blending fact and fiction, legend and history, *Summa Kaotica* is a tour de force, an explosion of language and literature. It is one of the most outstanding, groundbreaking works of art ever written in the Catalan language. The book begins with the discovery of a tattered text belonging to the *anti-historian* Petter White O'Sullivan, and it is his text that the reader is reading. He tells the story of the creation of Anamorphus, formally Protomorphus, as he begins his life as a spermatozoon, then a foetus, before being born into the village of Poel. From here, we follow his life as he grows up and witnesses – often from a child's point of view – some of the most important events on the 20th Century.

'*Summa Kaotica* is Dalí in words.' —LLUÍS RACIONERO.

'Ametller chooses the subaltern and places them in a hallucinatory geography. He makes legendary that which was not, and vice versa, lowering the smoke of history. An upside-down world that is, in truth, more anchored than our own.' —ADRIÀ PUJOL.

VENTURA AMETLLER (Pals, 1933 – Mataró, 2008), born Bonaventura Clavaguera, was a Catalan polymath. Although he worked professionally as a veterinarian, he was interested by almost all aspects of the arts and his writings alone stretch from poetry and essay to narrative and the novel. His 1986 novel *Summa Kaòtica* is one of the pre-eminent works of Catalan surrealism

OT CAPA is a translation collective focussed on translating experimental, ambitious pieces of work from Spanish, Catalan and French.



Fiction

March

B-format Paperback, flapped

300pp

978-1-913744-21-2

World Rights

£12.99

JOSEP M. ARGEMÍ

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## *THE ANGEL OF SANTA SOFIA*

Translated from Catalan by Tiago Miller

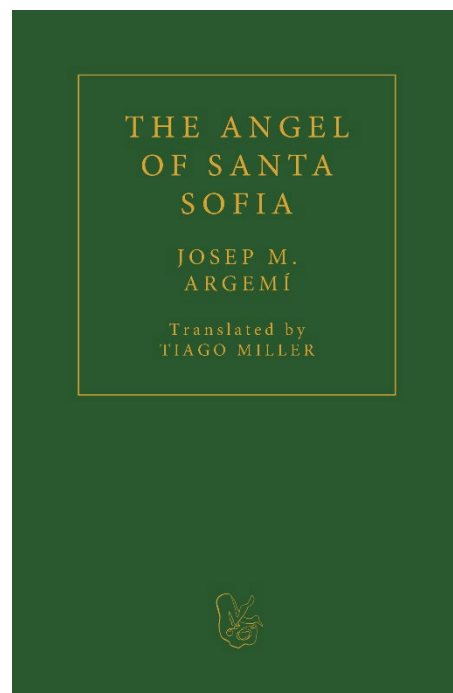
A dark, poetic, perfectly formed story of fable-like, *Dant-esque* qualities.

A mysterious traveller arrives in Turin for an atypical congress that disturbs the peace of the city while awakening a host of demons. From this enigmatic, hypnotic premise emerges a journey into light and darkness, desire and secrecy. An exquisite odyssey of characters and memorable scenes. Mixing legend, reality and religion, Josep M. Argemí has created a world of demons, exorcisms and another world existing parallel to our own. And he does this in a lyrical style that keeps the reader guessing until the very end.

‘The Angel of Santa Sofia seems not just the work of the goldsmith that Argemí certainly is, but rather a set of fables sculpted by water and time’  
—PONÇ PUIGDEVALL, *EL PAÍS*.

JOSEP M. ARGEMÍ (Barcelona, 1965) is a writer and qualified lawyer who has published numerous exceptional novels and has been shortlisted for two of the most important prizes in Catalonia. He understands imagination not so much as a genre but as the prism that allows us to understand literature as a machine for producing happiness.

TIAGO MILLER is a writer and translator living and working in Lleida, Catalonia. In addition to his translations of Catalan literature, he contributes articles on Catalan culture and language to various publications.



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Fiction

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April

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B-format Paperback, flapped

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70pp

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978-1-913744-40-3

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World Rights

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£7.99

MICHAËL FERRIER

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*FRANÇOIS, PORTRAIT OF AN  
ABSENT FRIEND*

Translated from French by Martin Munro

**A heartbreaking ode to friendship and memory  
written in powerful, poetic prose.**

A blank voice in the middle of the night tells Michaël Ferrier of the deaths of his friend François and his daughter Bahia. In the following devastation, speech resumes and memories return: how two young loners meet and connect, their years of study, their passion for cinema and radio. Memories unfold and gradually come together in a chronicle of friendship and a memorial to a lost friend.

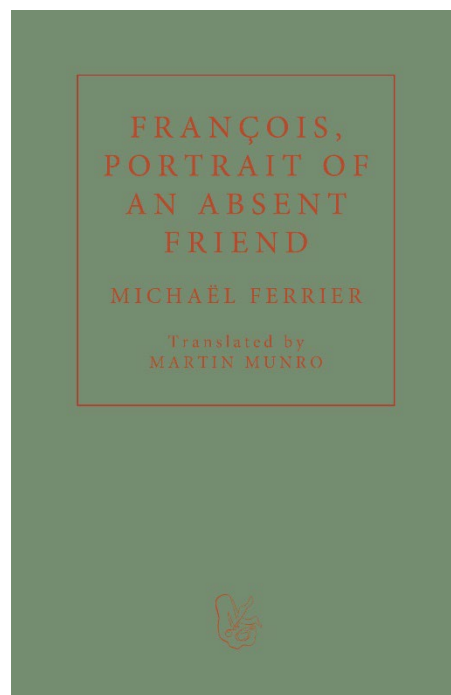
*François, Portrait of an Absent Friend* is both an elegy to a friend and a wonderfully delicate, poetic look at friendship in general. Ferrier tells us how friendships are formed, how they are lost, how they are maintained, and what happens when they are taken from us. From Paris to Japan, Ferrier transports us to the writer's time and the place as we feel the pain, the bitterness, and the longing left by François' death.

'A great book.'—*LA CROIX*

'Michaël Ferrier's writing possesses the art of making us see and hear the marvellous rediscovered memory.' —*PHILIPPE CHAUCHÉ, LA CAUSE LITTÉRAIRE.*

**MICHAËL FERRIER** (Strasbourg, 1967) is a French-Mauritian writer and academic currently living in Tokyo. Ferrier's work is markedly interdisciplinary, spanning three countries and their cultures, and questioning the complexity of French/francophone history and identity in relation to other nations.

**MARTIN MUNRO** is Winthrop-King Professor of French and Francophone Studies and director of the Winthrop-King Institute for Contemporary French and Francophone Studies at Florida State University. He has translated several works by Michaël Ferrier.



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Fiction

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May

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B-format Paperback, flapped

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200pp

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978-1-913744-22-9

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# JORDI LARIOS

## *ON YELLOW EVENINGS*

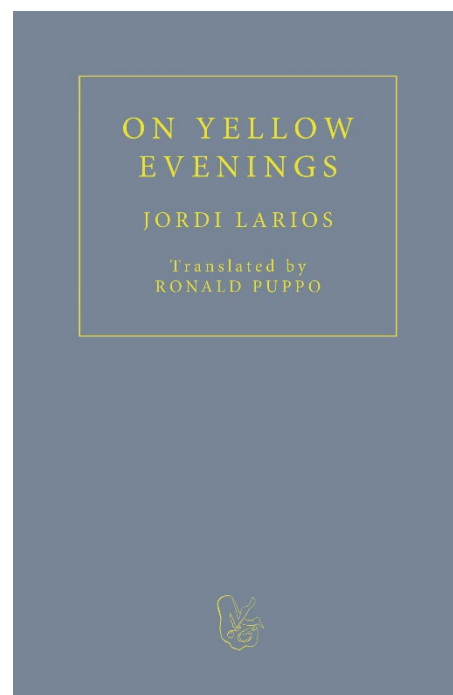
Translated from Catalan by Ronald Puppo

**An exciting collection of poems spanning nearly forty years from one of Catalonia's finest poets.**

This collection features one hundred poems selected by award-winning poet Jordi Larios. Keenly aware that we measure the world through words, he also knows that words become worn with use, and that poetry recalibrates their instrumentation, injecting them with fresh focus for graphing elusive terrains of inner and outer experience, prodding us to encounter and engage the world in a way that sustains and renews the self. Each Larios poem is a magnet, impacting us with the infixed force that its reading unleashes, subtle yet powerful in its imagery. A seagull, unfazed by the 'crisis of the sunset,' declares life on a greying backdrop ('Rough Weather'), and desolate landscapes can set the scene for unexpected solace ('Cold,' 'Historical Present'): pulling sunken memories to the surface and bringing poetic imagery into alignment with points of inwardness in search of outward counterparts. Along with the subtle power of imagery, Larios blends into his poems an uncanny marshalling of words, reassigning them to posts of optimal meaning and musicality. Technique underlies the poems, but the resulting art is greater than the sum of words, lifting language above 'the clattering of / too many words,' which, bereft of poetry, only render us alone ('Man Alone').

**JORDI LARIOS** was born in Palafrugell, Catalonia, and graduated in Catalan Philology from the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, where he was awarded his doctorate in 1986. In 1987 he moved to Cardiff to work as a Lecturer. He has published four poetry collections: *Home sol* (1984), *El cop de la destal* (2006), *Rendezvous* (2013), and *En vespres grocs* (2020).

**RONALD PUPPO** has taught translation and English studies since 1994 and published articles and reviews appearing in many journals. His book *One Day of Life is Life* (Fum d'Estampa Press, 2020) won the 2021 Ramon Llull Foundation Translation Award.



Poetry

June

B-format Paperback, flapped

200pp

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World Rights

£12.99

'Larios seeks the essence and purification without glitter or shrillness because "the voice that gets heard is often the softest." A great book to read.' —ENRIC UMBERT-REXACH, *NÚVOL*.

MAICA RAFECAS

## *SEPTEMBER AND THE NIGHT*

Translated from Catalan by Megan Berkobien & María  
Cristina Hall

**A moving story about environment, family  
and the paths ever leading us back home.**

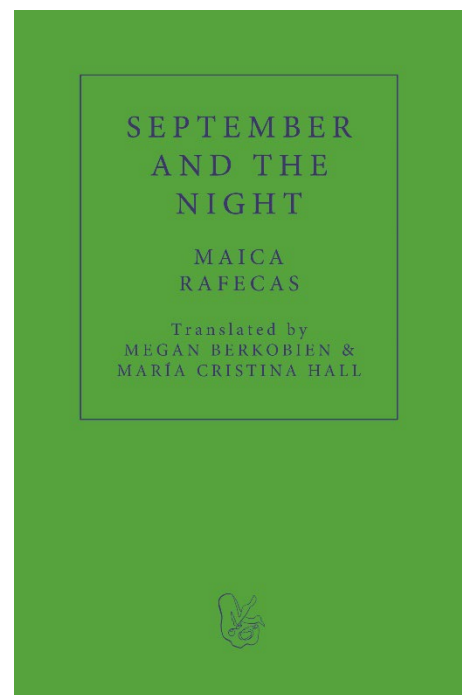
When Anaïs learns of the imminent expropriation of the small family vineyard due to the upcoming construction of an estate, she demands that her father refuse out of dignity. From here, a solitary struggle begins, obsessive and irrational in the eyes of both relatives and neighbours alike, but which Anaïs seems ready to take all the way. Written in sweeping, elegant prose, Maica Rafecas brings us the beauty of the vineyard and the terrible human cost that modern-day capitalism makes us pay. *September and the Night* is at once an elegy to the land and its people, and a warning against those who might use it for purely financial gains. This book acts as a rebellion, a reminder of the important things in life, and a call to arms, all within a beautifully written, almost fable-like novel.

‘An elegy to the power of the human and everyday bond in which all hopes lie. A gift from Maica Rafecas that will accompany us forever.’  
—MARIA MESTRE MONTSERRAT. *LA CONCA*.

‘A demonstration of the efficiency and contained beauty of Rafecas’ prose at its best.’ —GERARD VENTURA, *NÚVOL*.

**MAICA RAFECAS** (Llorenç del Penedès, 1987) is a social educator, anthropologist and publishing technician who has won numerous awards for her work. *September and Night* is her first novel.

**MEGAN BERKOBIE & MARÍA CRISTINA HALL** are writers and translators from Catalan and Spanish. Often working together, they have had translations and pieces of work published in various international publications.



Fiction

July

B-format Paperback, flapped

155pp

978-1-913744-38-0

World Rights

£10.99

ELIZABETH DUVAL

## *MADRID WILL BE THEIR TOMB*

Translated from Spanish by Alice Banks

**A truly fascinating, yet devastating portrait of a politically divided Madrid from a remarkable new writer.**

Two occupied buildings: one the former headquarters of the NO-DO (a Francoist propaganda outlet) that has been taken over by a small group of fascists, the other the ruins of some abandoned film studios that have been converted into the barracks of a Marxist-Leninist cell. Drifting between these two spaces are Santiago and Ramiro; two characters who, although finding solace in two polarised political groups, cross paths and change each other's lives. Discursive and devastating, Duval's first novel is imbued with the same traits as the era she portrays. A sad, passionate, and all too real portrait of an ever more divided world, Duval's story, in her powerful, shocking, yet considered prose, reminds us of the uncomfortable, but somewhat comforting similarities we may find with the "enemy".

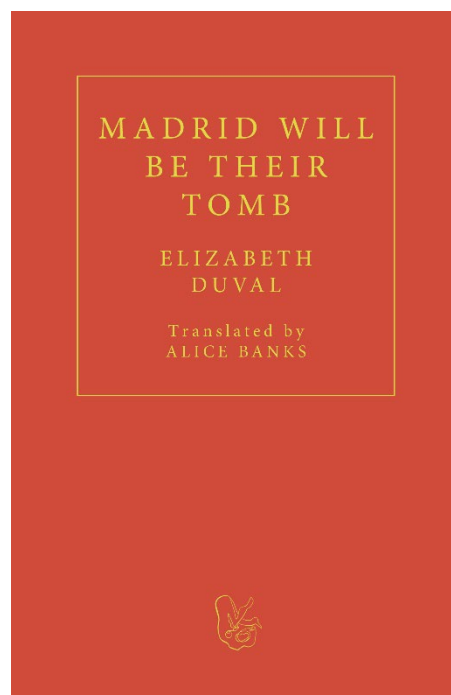
'Duval narrates disorder and subversion with a writing which is sometimes contained, sometimes runaway, sometimes ironic and sometimes poetic. Modest and powerfully beautiful, this is writing which illuminates human mystery and lifts the reader into the air, leaving them on an edge where their convictions tremble and shake.'

—JUAN MANUEL DE PRADA. *ABC*

'A marvellous novel.' —NADAL SUAÚ, *EL ESPAÑOL*.

**ELIZABETH DUVAL** (Madrid, 2000) writes as part of the Editorial Board of CTXT and collaborates with several media outlets. Her oeuvre is politically engaged and discusses a number of important social issues.

**ALICE BANKS** is based in Madrid and is a translator from French and Spanish into English as well as a regular contributor to several publications.



Fiction

September

B-format Paperback, flapped

200pp

978-1-913744-39-7

World Rights

£10.99



# ADRIÀ PUJOL

## *EMPORDAN SCAFARLATA*

Translated from Catalan by Ot Capa

**A lively, powerful description of landscapes, events and people from one of Catalonia's foremost writers.**

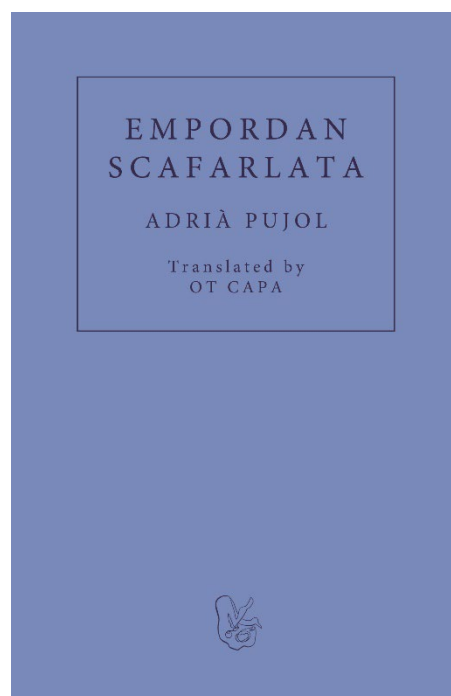
*Empordan Scafarlata* is a mirage of memories written with intelligence, irony, courage and tenderness; linking tradition, modernity, resentment and nostalgia for a mythical country and for that part of the river in which: 'he will never swim again.' In a mixture of prose and poetry, Adrià Pujol brings us snippets of Empordà, a region of northern Catalonia wedged between the mountains and the sea, and invites us onto its sweaty, well-trodden, exalted paths. All this he does it by avoiding conventions, clichés and with the sincerity of someone who writes about a world he loves and which for that very reason he does not simplify, rather elaborating it with powerful, eclectic prose, showcasing the writing that has pushed Adrià Pujol to the very forefront of great Catalan writing.

'Every page is a festival of words, images and sounds; a machine-gun burst of prose and rhyme, through which he immortalises moments, spaces and characters.' —SEBASTIÀ ROIG, *EL DIARI DE GIRONA*.

'The book is a cunning diary, a game by the author with himself, a blending of the journal of a curious anthropologist with the notebook of a perplexed poet. It is the creative exercise of someone who wants to be chronicler of a specific time and ecosystem, and who also has the will to restore a certain cordial relationship with himself.' —ISIDRE FERRÉ, *NÚVOL*.

ADRIÀ PUJOL (Begur, 1974) is a writer, anthropologist and translator who has published more than fifteen titles in Catalan. He also writes for numerous newspapers and magazines.

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Fiction

November

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200pp

978-1-913744-23-6

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