

# VENTURA AMETLLER

## *SUMMA KAOTICA*

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Translated from Catalan by Douglas Suttle

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

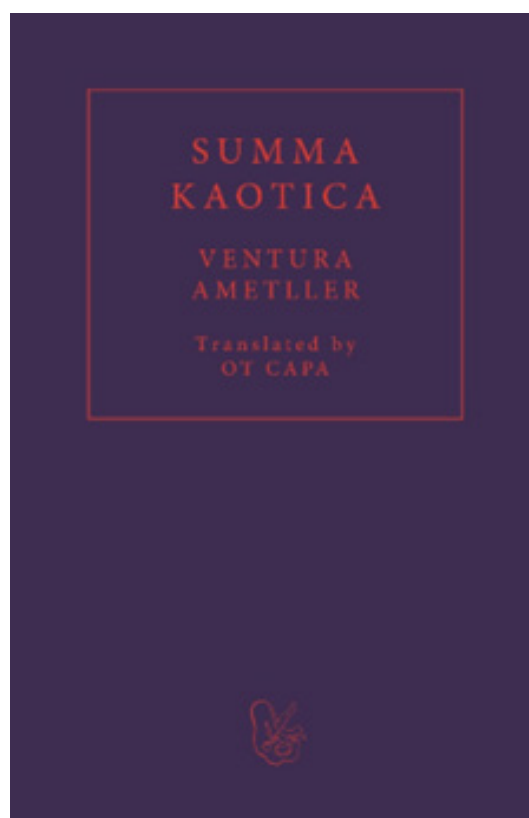
In outrageous, daring prose, Ventura Ametller tells the story of a young boy as he lives through the build-up to and outbreak of the Spanish Civil War. Blending fact and fiction, legend and history, *Summa Kaotica* is a tour de force, an explosion of language and literature. It is one of the most outstanding, 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 Proto-morphus, 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

DOUGLAS SUTTLE is a translator and editor.



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