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# Charco Press

## Catalogue

### 2019

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# ABOUT

Charco means 'puddle' in Spanish. It is also a colloquialism used in some Latin American countries to refer to the Atlantic Ocean. Therefore, *cruzar el charco* means 'crossing the puddle' and is a way of referring to crossing the ocean, or travelling between continents.

Charco Press focuses on finding outstanding contemporary Latin American literature and bringing it to readers in the English-speaking world. We are the cultural and linguistic bridge for you to be able to access a continent of fiction that has, until now, been missing from your reading world.

It is an exciting time to be discovering and reading Latin American literature given the vast and rich array of works coming out of this region, the diversity of voices. Charco Press represents a hand-picked selection, a small 'puddle', compared to the ocean of talent that exists out there. We actively seek out those authors who write works that are not only entertaining, but also engaging and thought-provoking. They have won prizes and accolades for good reason. And we are proud to be bringing them to you through the talented work of our brilliant - many of them emerging - translators.

Charco Press hopes to become the puddle into which you will happily dip your toe over and over again.

## DEAR READER,

We will always have a soft spot in our hearts for 2018, the first full calendar year of operation for Charco Press! We wanted to step back and share some highlights with you:

- **Man Booker International Prize 2018** (Longlist) - DIE, MY LOVE by Ariana Harwicz (translated by Sarah Moses & Carolina Orloff)
- **Republic of Consciousness Prize 2018** (Shortlist) - DIE, MY LOVE by Ariana Harwicz
- **PEN Translates Award** - THE DISTANCE BETWEEN US by Renato Cisneros (translated by Fionn Petch)
- **PEN Translates Award** - RESISTANCE by Julián Fuks (translated by Daniel Hahn)
- **PEN Translates Award** - AN ORPHAN WORLD by Giuseppe Caputo (translated by Juana Adcock & Sophie Hughes)
- **Creative Edinburgh Start-Up of the Year 2018 Award**
- **Saltire Society Emerging Publisher of the Year** (Carolina Orloff, co-founder of Charco Press)

None of this would have been possible without your support and interest in what we are doing. For that, we are deeply grateful and humbled.

The following pages introduce our 2019 line-up, and you will perhaps see why we are pretty excited about what we have in store. Enjoy.

**The CHARCO PRESS Team**

## Finalist Gabriel García Márquez Short Story Prize 2018



Considered to be one of the most prominent names among the new generation of Guatemalan writers, Rodrigo Fuentes (1984) won the II Premio Centroamericano Carátula for Short Stories (2014) as well as the Short Story Prize Juegos Florales of Quetzaltenango (2008). His stories have appeared in anthologies such as *Asamblea Portátil: Muestrario de narradores iberoamericanos* (2009), *Sólo Cuento III* (2011), and *Ni hermosa ni maldita* (2012). He is the co-founder and editor of the magazine *Suelta* and of the digital publishing house *Travesía*. His book *Trout, Belly Up* was the finalist of Gabriel García Márquez Prize for Short Stories, the most prestigious prize awarded to short-story writers in Latin America. *Trout, Belly Up* has been published in Guatemala, Bolivia, Chile and Colombia and translated into French. Fuentes divides his life between the US and his native Guatemala.

# TROUT, BELLY UP

Rodrigo Fuentes

Translated by Ellen Jones

In this highly original collection of interconnected short stories, the Guatemalan countryside is ever-present, a place of timeless peace yet also riven by sudden violence. The stories provide glimpses into the life of Don Henrik, a good man struck time and again by misfortune, as he confronts the crude realities of farming life. Over the course of these episodes we meet merciless entrepreneurs, hitmen, drug dealers and fallen angels, all wanting their piece of the pie. Told with precision and a stark beauty, in a style that recalls Hemingway, *Trout, Belly Up* is a unique ensemble of beguiling, disturbing stories set in the heart of the rural landscape in a country where violence is never far from the surface.

ISBN: 978-1-9164656-1-9

eISBN: 978-1-9164656-8-8

07 February 2019 • vv ca. 100pp

B format paperback • £8.99

Short Stories

# FEEBLEMINDED

Ariana Harwicz

Translated by Carolina Orloff and Annie McDermott

In *Feebleminded*, Harwicz drags us to the border between fascination and discomfort as she explores aspects of love, need and dependency through the dynamics between a mother and her daughter, searching through their respective lives to find meaning and define their own relationship.

Written in a wild stream of consciousness narration in the best tradition of Virginia Woolf and Nathalie Sarraute, and embedded in a current trend of elusive violence so ingrained in contemporary Latin American fiction, *Feebleminded* follows the pair on a roller coaster of extreme emotions and examinations into the biographies of their own bodies where everything – from a childhood without answers to a desolate, loveless present – has been buried.

Told through brief but extremely powerful chapters, this short lyrical novel follows *Die, My Love* as the second part in what Harwicz has termed an 'involuntary trilogy'. An incredibly insightful interrogation on the human condition, desire and the burden of deep-rooted family mandates.

ISBN: 978-1-9164656-0-2

eISBN: 978-1-9164656-7-1

2 May 2019 • ca. 110pp

B format paperback • £9.99

Literary Fiction

# Finalist Man Booker International Prize 2018 for *Die, My Love*

Longlisted

The  
Man  
Booker  
International  
Prize  
2018



Compared to Nathalie Sarraute and Virginia Woolf, Ariana Harwicz (Buenos Aires, 1977) is one of the most radical figures in contemporary Argentinian literature. Her prose is characterised by its violence, eroticism, irony and direct criticism of the clichés surrounding the notions of the family and conventional relationships. Her first novel,



published in English in 2017 under *Die, My Love*, was shortlisted for the Republic of Consciousness Prize 2018, nominated for the First Book Award at the EIBF 2017 and longlisted for the Man Booker International Prize. *Feebleminded* is Harwicz's second novel and a sequel to *Die, My Love* in what the author herself has called 'an involuntary trilogy', to be completed by *Precoz* (Precocious, 2015, forthcoming by Charco Press, 2021). *Feebleminded* is currently being adapted for the stage in Argentina. Harwicz lives in France and has just finished her fourth novel *Degenerado* (Degenerate), to be published in June 2019 by Anagrama (Spain).

A taut, lyrical portrait of four people  
thrown together on a single day in  
rural Argentina

Compared to Carson McCullers, William Faulkner, Flannery O'Connor, Sara Gallardo and Juan Carlos Onetti, Selva Almada (*Entre Ríos*, Argentina, 1973) is considered to be one of the most powerful voices of contemporary Argentinian and Latin American literature and one of the most influential feminist intellectuals of the region. Including her debut *The Wind that Lays Waste*, she has published two novels, a book of short stories, a book of journalistic fiction and a kind of film diary (written in the set of Lucrecia Martel's most recent film *Zama*, based on Antonio di Benedetto's novel). She has been finalist of the Rodolfo Walsh Award and of the Tigre Juan Award (both in Spain). Her work has been translated into French, Italian, Portuguese, German, Dutch, Swedish and Turkish. This is her first book to appear in English.





# THE WIND THAT LAYS WASTE

Selva Almada

Translated by Chris Andrews

*The Wind That Lays Waste* begins in the great pause before a storm. Reverend Pearson is evangelizing across the Argentinian countryside with Leni, his teenage daughter, when their car breaks down. This act of God - or fate - leads them to the workshop and home of an aging mechanic called Gringo Brauer and a young boy named Tapioca.

As a long day passes, curiosity and intrigue transform into an unexpected intimacy between four people: one man who believes deeply in God, morality, and his own righteousness, and another whose life experiences have only entrenched his moral relativism and mild apathy; a quietly earnest and idealistic mechanic's assistant, and a restless, sceptical preacher's daughter. As tensions between these characters ebb and flow, beliefs are questioned and allegiances are tested, until finally the growing storm breaks over the plains.

Selva Almada's exquisitely crafted debut, with its limpid and confident prose, is profound and poetic, a tactile experience of the mountain, the sun, the squat trees, the broken cars, the sweat-stained shirts, and the destroyed lives. *The Wind That Lays Waste* is a philosophical, beautiful, and powerfully distinctive novel that marks the arrival in English of an author whose talent and poise are undeniable.

ISBN: 978-1-9164656-3-3

eISBN: 978-1-9993684-0-1

09 July 2019 • 140pp

B format paperback • £9.99

Literary Fiction

# LOOP

Brenda Lozano

Translated by Annie McDermott

*Loop* is a love story narrated from the point of view of a woman who waits for her boyfriend Jonás to return from a trip to Spain. They met when she was recovering from an accident and he had just lost his mother. Soon after that, they were living together. She waits for him as a sort of contemporary Penelope who, instead of knitting only to unknit, she writes and erases her thoughts in a notebook: Proust, a dwarf, a swallow, a dreamy cat or David Bowie singing 'Wild is the Wind', make up some of the strands that are woven together in this tapestry of waiting.

Written in a sometimes irreverent style, in short fragments that at points are more like haikus than narrative prose, this is a truly original reflection on love, relationships, solitude and the aesthetics and purpose of writing.

ISBN: 978-1-9164656-4-0

eISBN: 978-1-9993684-1-8

24 September 2019 • 250pp

B format paperback • £10.99

Literary Fiction

# A Proustian love story told by the voice of a young woman waiting for her lover to return



Brenda Lozano (Mexico City, 1981) is a fiction writer, essayist, and editor. She studied literature in Mexico and the United States. She has participated in literary residencies in the United States, Europe, and South America, and her work has appeared in several anthologies. She edits the literary journal *Make* in Chicago, and she is part of Ugly Duckling Press in New York. In addition to *Loop*, she has published her debut novel, *Todo nada* (All or Nothing, 2009), which is currently being adapted for the screen, and a book

of short stories *Cómo piensan las piedras* (How Stones Think, 2017). In 2015, she was recognized by Conaculta, the Hay Festival, and the British Council as one of the most important authors under forty years of age coming out of Mexico, and she was chosen at the Hay Festival in 2017 as part of the Bogotá 39: a list of the most outstanding new authors of Latin America. She currently lives in Mexico City. *Loop* is her first book to appear in English.

**A visionary novel about sexual orientation, loneliness and love, set in a world of prejudice and dazzling, chaotic liberation.**

Compared to Cormac McCarthy and Garth Greenwell, Giuseppe Caputo was born in Barranquilla, Colombia, in 1982. He studied creative writing at New York University and at the University of Iowa. Also at Iowa, he specialized in queer and gender studies. *An Orphan*



*World* is his debut novel, and earned Caputo a place as part of the 2017 Hay Festival's Bogotá 39 list of best Latin American writers under 40. He is also the author of several books of poems including *Garden of Meat*, *The Cage Man* and *Jesus' Nativities*, and of a second novel which remains unpublished to date. He is a contributor to *Arcadia* magazine and *El Tiempo* newspaper. After being Cultural Director of the Bogotá International Book Festival for many years, Caputo now teaches creative writing at the Instituto Caro Cuervo in Bogotá.

# AN ORPHAN WORLD

Giuseppe Caputo

Translated by Sophie Hughes and Juana Adcock

In a run-down neighbourhood, in an unnamed seaside city with barely any amenities, a father and son struggle to keep their heads above water. Rather than being discouraged by their difficulties and hardship, they are spurred to come up with increasingly outlandish plans for their survival. Even when a terrible, macabre event rocks the neighbourhood's bar district and the locals start to flee, father and son decide to stay put. What matters is staying together. Without ever mentioning the word 'gay', this is a bold poignant text that interplays a very tender father-son relationship while exposing homosexuality and homophobia with brutal honesty. With delicate lyricism and imagery, Caputo is extremely original and creative producing a tale that harmoniously balances violence, discrimination, love, sex and defiance, demonstrating that the he is a storyteller of great skill.

*An Orphan World* is about poverty, and the resourceful ways in which people confront poverty. At the same time, it is a reflection about the body as a space of pleasure and violence. Perhaps above all else, *An Orphan World* is a brutally honest love letter between a father and son.

ISBN: 978-1-9164656-2-6

eISBN: 978-1-9164656-9-5

24 October 2019 • ca. 220pp

B format paperback • £10.99

Literary Fiction

# THE ADVENTURES OF CHINA IRON

Gabriela Cabezon Camara

Translated by Fiona Mackintosh and Iona Macintyre

This is a riotous romp taking the reader from the turbulent frontier culture of the pampas deep into indigenous territories. It charts the adventures of China Iron, Martín Fierro's abandoned wife, in her travels across the pampas in a covered wagon with her new-found friend and lover, Scottish woman Liz. While Liz provides China with a sentimental education and schools her in the nefarious ways of the British Empire, their eyes are opened to the wonders of Argentina's richly diverse flora and fauna, cultures and languages, as well as to its national struggles. After a clash with Colonel Hernández (the author who 'stole' Martín Fierro's poems) and a drunken orgy with gauchos, they eventually find refuge and a peaceful future in a utopian indigenous community, the river-dwelling Iñchiñ people.

Seen from an ox-drawn wagon, the narrative moves through the Argentinian landscape, charting the flora and fauna of the Pampas, Gaucho culture, Argentinian nation-building and British colonial projects.

In a unique reformulation of history and literary tradition, Gabriela Cabezón Cámara, with humour and sophistication, re-writes Martín Fierro from a feminist, LGBT, postcolonial point of view. She creates a hilarious novel that is nevertheless incisive in its criticism of the way societies come into being, and the way they venerate mythical heroes.

**ISBN: 978-1-9164656-6-4**

**eISBN: 978-1-9993684-2-5**

**14 November 2019 • 200pp**

**B format paperback • £9.99**

**Literary Fiction**

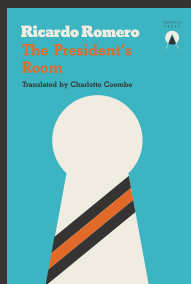
## Selected by THE NEW YORK TIMES as one of the best fiction titles published in Latin America in 2017

Gabriela Cabezón Cámara was born in Buenos Aires in 1968. Her debut novel *Slum Virgin*, (Charco Press, 2017) was followed by *La Isla de la Luna* (2012) (Island of the Moon), and *Romance de la Negra Rubia* (2014) (Romance of the Black Blonde) as well as two



collections of short stories: *Sacrificios* (2015) (Sacrifices) and *Y su despojo fue una muchedumbre* (2015) (Her Waste Became a Crowd). In 2011 she published the novella *Le viste la cara a Dios* (You've Seen God's Face), later republished as a graphic novel which won the Argentine Senate's Alfredo Palacios Prize. It was recognised by Buenos Aires City Council and the Congress of Buenos Aires Province for its social and cultural significance and its vital contribution in the fight against human trafficking. In 2013 she was writer-in-residence at UC Berkeley. Cabezón Cámara is one of the leading figures in Argentinian and Latin American literature. She is also one of the co-founders of the #NiUnaMenos movement and an extremely influential voice within the LGBT community.

# 2017 COLLECTION



## THE PRESIDENT'S ROOM

Ricardo Romero

“Romero’s sharp, sparse prose comes through clearly”

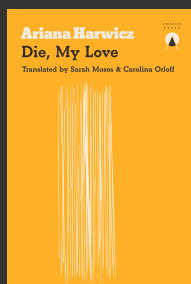
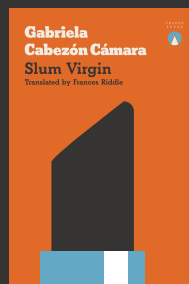
- *Asymptote*

## SLUM VIRGIN

Gabriela Cabezón Cámara

“As funny and playful as it is tough”

- *The Morning Star*



## DIE, MY LOVE

Ariana Harwicz

“There’s a touch of David Lynch to the best moments”

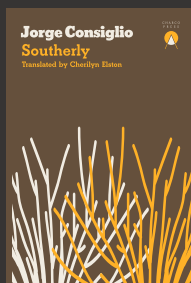
- *The Guardian*

## FIREFLIES

Luis Sagasti

“A succinct, fantastical history of the world ... Quite lovely.”

- *Glasgow Review of Books*



## SOUTHERLY

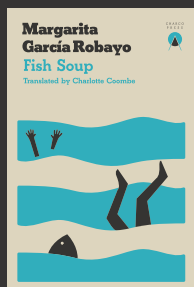
Jorge Consiglio

“Striking”

- *Glasgow Review of Books*



# 2018 COLLECTION



## FISH SOUP

Margarita García Robayo

“Concise and startling, her voice versatile and capable of packing a serious punch.”

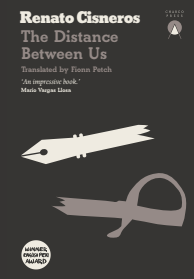
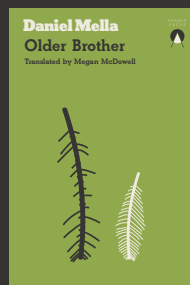
- *LA Review of Books*

## OLDER BROTHER

Daniel Mella

“Powerful .. written by one of Uruguay’s most important writers today”

- *Helsinki Book Review*



## THE DISTANCE BETWEEN US

Renato Cisneros

“His writing exerts power through its fragility.”

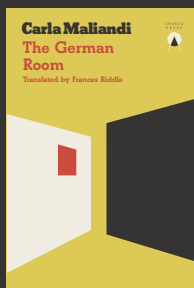
- *The White Review*

## RESISTANCE

Julián Fuks

“Eloquent, unsettling and deeply philosophical novel”

- *Financial Times*



## THE GERMAN ROOM

Carla Maliandi

“Maliandi’s prose is viciously perceptive ... Carla Maliandi speaks to the soul”

- *The Skinny*

# OUR TRANSLATORS

None of this would be possible without our translators: they are a critical part of the equation, the conduits bringing our authors' voices to you. We select contemporary translators, to give our authors a modern voice. It is their interpretation, their attention to the nuances, that makes the difference. Charco Press is doing things differently in this regard, stepping away from the mainstream, and bringing in emerging talent from the margins. Please look on our website for full information.

## BEYOND 2019...

Mexico, Colombia, Chile, Cuba, Venezuela, Peru... Charco Press has plans to bring you outstanding works by some of the rising stars of literature from these countries, and beyond. More fantastic authors that you've probably never heard of...

Keep up with us.



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