

Adriana Díaz Enciso

Author / Translator

Member of the Society of Authors,
its Translators Association,
and the Royal Society of Literature



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Born in Guadalajara, Mexico, and established in the UK since 1999.

Mother Tongue: Spanish

Languages: Proficient Spanish and English, and can read French

As an author

Her most recent publications are *Flint* (poetry, **Contraband Books**, UK, 2022), and the reissue in 2023 of her first novel *La sed* by **Paraíso Perdido** (Mexico). She has also published (in Mexico) the novels *Ciudad doliente de Dios*, inspired by William Blake's Prophetic Poems (**Alfaguara-Penguin/Random House-UNAM**); *La sed* (**Colibrí**), *Puente del cielo* (**Random House-Mondadori**), and *Odio* (**LunArena**); the books of short stories *Cuentos de fantasmas y otras mentiras* (**Aldus**) and *Con tu corazón y otros cuentos* (**Dirección General de Publicaciones FONCA**); the books of poetry *Sombra abierta* (**Bellas Artes, Jalisco**), *Pronunciación del deseo (de cara al mar)* (**UNAM, col. El Ala del Tigre**), *Hacia la luz* (**Ditoria**), *Estaciones* (**Colibrí**), *Una rosa* (**Ediciones sin nombre**), and *Nieve, Agua* (**Mano Santa Editores**), and the prose piece *El libro, la ciudad* (**Ditoria**).

She has been a contributor to over 30 newspapers and magazines in Mexico, the UK and other countries, including Mexican major publications such as *Vuelta*, *La Jornada*, *Nexos*, *Letras Libres* and *Confabulario* (cultural supplement of *El Universal*); she writes a monthly column for *Literal Magazine*, and for several years wrote a fortnightly column ("Lo que contemplas") for *Laberinto*, cultural supplement of newspaper *Milenio*. In the

UK she has been a contributor to *PN Review*, *Poetry London*, *Modern Poetry in Translation* and *Wormwood*. Her work has also appeared in the **European Review Versopolis** and in the *Review. Literature and Arts of the Americas*, and has been included in more than a dozen anthologies in Mexico, the UK, Spain, Italy, Argentina and Slovenia, the most recent one being *A Miscellany of Death and Folly* (Egaeus Press, UK). In 1997 she was shortlisted in the international competition "La sonrisa vertical" (**Tusquets**) with her novel *Puente del cielo*.

Author of dozens of song lyrics for Mexican rock band **Santa Sabina** and of the libretto for a couple of theatrical-musical shows in Mexico with the **Choir of the University of el Claustro de Sor Juana** (*El Llibre Vermell de Montserrat* and *Música Divina, Humanas Letras*, directed by Rita Guerrero), as well as of the cabaret show *Monólogo con farol*; she also wrote the libretto for *Phantom Palace*, chamber opera by Mexican composer Hilda Paredes commissioned by the **English National Opera**. She wrote scripts for the Mexican TV program *Hora Marcada*.

Grants and Scholarships

- 2022-(to end in 2025)** Member of the **Sistema Nacional de Creadores de Arte**, Fondo Nacional para la Cultura y las Artes, Mexico
- 2009-2011** Member of the **Sistema Nacional de Creadores de Arte**, Fondo Nacional para la Cultura y las Artes, Mexico
- 2003** **Arts Council** London
- 1998** Resident at **Ledig House, International Writers Colony**, in Ghent, New York.
- 1994-1995** **Centro Mexicano de Escritores**, Mexico.
- 1991-1992** **Consejo Nacional para la Cultura y las Artes**, Mexico.

She has been invited to dozens of literary festivals, conferences and venues, including the Conference of Poets of the Latin World; the Conference on the Anniversary of the birth of Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz; the International Book Fair in the city of La Paz, Bolivia; Trinity College, Dublin; the University of Cork and the National Irish University at Galway; the Centre Culturel de Mexique in Paris, the Instituto Cervantes in Manchester and London, the Monterrey International Writers Conference; the Blake Society; King's College Arts and Humanities Festival; the Wellcome Trust; the Enemies Project with the London Book Fair, the Edinburgh International Book Festival, Mexico City's Zócalo International Book Fair, Lirikonfest Poetry Festival in Slovenia, Guadalajara's International Book Fair and the International Book Fair at Mexico City's Palacio de Minería.

As a translator

Member of the Society of Author's Translators Association. She was a member of Asetrad and ITI as well for several years. She has been a self-employed translator from English into Spanish and Spanish into English for over 35 years, and has some experience translating from French into Spanish.

Translator of Walter de la Mare's *Seaton's Aunt*, published in 2023 by the **National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM)**, **George Eliot's *The Lifted Veil***, 2020, UNAM, and of the award winning book *Algae in an Aerial Sea* (into English, Pre-Textos, Spain, 2022), by Spanish poet **Iván González**. She translated the collection of British short stories *Sombra del árbol de la noche*, and the anthology of contemporary British poetry *Debajo la hierba. Arriba la bóveda del cielo*, compiled and edited by her. Both books were commissioned for the UK-Mexico Dual Year 2015 by Mexico City's Zócalo International Book Fair, where they were launched in October 2015.

She has also translated the books *Wolf Hollow*, by Lauren Wolk (**Santillana**), *Hands in Water* (poetry) by Martha Black Jordan published by **El Tucán de Virginia**, and **George Steiner's *On Difficulty and Other Essays* (Fondo de Cultura Económica)**. In 2017 she finished the translation into English of the book of poetry *The Cycle of Evaporation*, by Spanish poet Álvaro García. She's currently working on the translation into Spanish of a selection of poems by British poet David Harsent. She recently translated Mexican poets Guillermo Fernández and David Huerta for *Modern Poetry in Translation*, and Laura Solórzano for *PN Review*.

Her work includes literary translations for several major Mexican newspapers and journals of authors such as Peter Ackroyd, Charles Dickens, Iain Sinclair, Jack London, Arthur Conan Doyle, poet Sean O'Brien, Maitreyabandhu and David Harsent. She has also translated poetry by Pascale Petit and excerpts of Margaret Drabble's fiction for the **International Festival of Literature** in Tampico, Mexico, and poems by Sasha Dugdale and Cristina Viti.

She has a vast experience in the translation of arts-related audio-guides and catalogues. Her work has been used by major museums such as the **Guggenheim** and **Metropolitan** museums in New York, the **Reina Sofía Museum** in Madrid, the **Picasso Foundation's Casa Natal Museum**, the **Centre Pompidou** in Paris, **Hampton Court**, the **Tate Britain**, **Tate Modern**, **National Gallery** and **INIVA** in the UK, among others. She has worked as an interpreter for **INIVA** and the **Serpentine Gallery** in London. She's the translator, among other art-related publications, of the texts accompanying

Francisco Zúñiga's *Catalogue Raisonné* by master lithographer Andrew Vlady (**Zúñiga Laborde Foundation**); ***Matter and Discourse of Faith***, bilingual edition of a retrospective catalogue of Mexican painter **Roberto Rébora's** work, published by **Turner**, and of **Robert Storr's *September***, about Gerhard Richter's work, for **Heni Publishing**.

Editorial Experience

For over 30 years she has done freelance proofreading, translation, copy-editing, manuscript assessment and writing of book flaps for several publications and institutions, including:

Publishing department of the **Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana** in Mexico City, including editorial work for magazine ***Casa del Tiempo***.

Milenio and ***Viceversa*** monthly magazines (editorial coordinator).

Publishing houses **Cal y Arena**, **Clío**, **Era**, **Fondo de Cultura Económica** and **Planeta** (some of the major publishing houses in Mexico).

McGraw Hill (translation and proofreading).

Festival Internacional Cervantino.

The Harvill Press (reader reports).

Heni Publishing, London.

PEN translates (assessment of manuscripts).

She was research assistant for the translation of **Julia Kristeva's *Thérese Mon Amour*** into English by Lorna Scott-Fox.

Teaching

She has led several literary workshops in Mexico and the UK, was lecturer of Media and Culture at the **ITESO University** in Guadalajara, Mexico, and lecturer of British Literature at the **Universidad del Claustro de Sor Juana**.

She taught literature at the **Escuela Dinámica de Escritores** in Mexico City, has been a tutor for the online creative writing platform **Central de Escritura**, as well as for **Escritoras Mexicanas**, and taught literary translation and literature at the **Instituto Cervantes** in London for eight years. In recent years she has taught online courses on William Blake, on Arthur Machen and Algernon Blackwood and a workshop on literature and dreams for the **Colegio de San Ildefonso's Cátedra Octavio Paz (Mexico)**, and in 2021 she led the course "William Blake for Innocents: an Introduction" in **Swedenborg House**, London. She has also given talks on Arthur Machen and Mary Shelley for the **Casa Universitaria del Libro, National Autonomous University of Mexico**.

Other experience

In 2023 she was jury for the Mexican Ministry of Culture's **2024 Sistema Nacional de Creadores de Arte**, and for the "Incentive to Creation" competition of the Quintana Roo's **Institute of Arts and Culture**.

She was co-curator, along with artist Pato Bosich, of the exhibition "**Beyond the Shadow of the Ship**" for the **Three Highgate Gallery** in London (December 2022-February 2023), around Samuel Taylor Coleridge's "The Rime of the Ancient Mariner".

From 2015 to 2018 she was a member of the Board of Trustees of *Modern Poetry in Translation*.

From **2013** to January **2015** she was the **Secretary of the Blake Society**, for which she worked as a Trustee since **2011**. She worked in the organisation of several events and was co-leader of the fund-raising appeal to acquire William Blake's Cottage in Felpham and turn it into a centre for creation.

In the 1990s she coordinated, along with a vast group of artists, musicians and students, massive concerts and other public events in support of indigenous communities in Mexico.

From 1983 to 1987 she produced and presented "Dimensión del rock", a radio program for **Radio Universidad de Guadalajara**. In the 1980s she also worked as assistant for the Carlos Ashida and Magritte art galleries in Guadalajara, Mexico.