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Feast on Poetry at the 6th Annual Poesía En Abril Festival

(Poetry Lovers Can Celebrate National Poetry Month Delighting the Senses)

Did you know Chicago is home to the largest international Latino Poetry Festival in the Midwest? To kick off National Poetry month, Contratiempo and DePaul University will present its 6th Annual Poesía en Abril Festival spotlighting local and international award-winning poets. **The festival is free to the general public and takes place April 11 - April 30 at various venues.** According to Executive Director Moira Pujols, "Chicago is the perfect city for a Pan-Latino poetry festival. Having such a confluence of poets gathered here for Poesía en Abril fosters a fascinating dialogue between visiting poets and their counterpart from Chicago, whose backgrounds are as varied as the visiting poets countries´of origin"

The theme of this year's festival is the five senses. Audiences can indulge their senses with a poetic feast merging poetry with visual art, music, hip-hop, multimedia presentations and food to engage audiences. The festival will also feature readings, performance, literary translation panel discussions and a special performance by poets Juan Carlos Mestre (Spain) and Coral Bracho (Mexico). They are being honored this year for their acclaimed poetry and impact on this genre. **Read full schedule…**

"For the audience, the festival is a wonderful opportunity to eavesdrop into the poetic world, and into the poets´ inspiration, perspectives and marvelous personal stories. We can feel part of the poem and make more real the spaces we imagined when reading poetry. The Festival is a one of a kind in the Midwest because it empowers local and transnational poets with a platform to showcase their work to a bilingual audience and helps communities cultivate an appreciation for poetry in Spanish," says Executive Director Moira Pujols."

As the festival grows, so does the number of organizations collectively participating in this poetry festival initiative. These organizations include: The Poetry Foundation, University of Illinois at Chicago, DePaul University, CityLit, Sobremesa Supper Club, Northeastern Illinois University, Instituto Cervantes, Institute of Puerto Rican Arts & Culture and Casa de Arte y Cultura Calles y Sueños. **Read full schedule…**

Chicago participating artists include: Rey Andújar, Juan Carlos Bueno, Gerardo Cárdenas, Rafael Franco, Charly García, Juana Goergen, Silvia Goldman, Jesús Guerrero, Ignacio Guevara, Jorge Montiel, Jorge García de la Fe, Catalina María Johnson, Miguel Marzana, Elizabeth Narváez-Luna, Scheme Navarro, Julio Rangel, Martha Rivera, Claudia Pérez Brown, Febronio Zatarain

Visiting poets participating in festival include: Juan Carlos Mestre (Spain), Coral Bracho (México), Jorge Ortega (México), Andrea Cote Botero (Colombia), Luis Lorente (Cuba), Raúl Bueno (Peru), Leonardo Rossiello (Uruguay), Norberto Codina (Cuba/Venezuela), Nicolás Hernández Guillén (Cuba), Mara Pastor (Puerto Rico)

About contratiempo

Contratiempo is a nonprofit publishing and writing center whose mission is to preserve and highlight the cultural identity and contributions of Spanish speaking Latino populations of the United States. Contratiempo fulfills its mission by publishing revista contratiempo, conducting creative writing workshops, publishing local authors through our Ediciones Vocesueltas imprint and presenting literary events in collaboration with other like-minded educational, literary and cultural organizations.

About DePaul University

DePaul University is the nation's largest Catholic university, and the largest private insitution in Chicago, serving over 25,000 students and committed to an educational experience that weaves together mind, place, people and heart.

All events are free to the general public. To see the full schedule of poetry events and venues go to www.contratiempo.net

Photos available upon request

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