

# Announcing the 2022 Lorca Latinx Poetry Prize Winner and Honorable Mentions

Carmen Giménez selects *ephemeral*, by heidi andrea restrepo rhodes

MADRID, SPAIN (October 7, 2022) — [The Lorca Latinx Poetry Prize](#), [Letras Latinas](#), and [EcoTheo Collective](#) are thrilled to announce the winner of the 2022 Lorca Latinx Poetry Prize, which supports the publication of an English-Spanish language chapbook by an emerging Latinx poet with no more than one full-length collection in print. The 2022 Prize is awarded to **heidi andrea restrepo rhodes** for her chapbook *ephemeral*. Honorable mentions are given to Ayling Zulema Dominguez for *Como el Nopal*, and Cristian Ramirez Rodriguez for *Violet Nerve*. The winner and honorable mentions were selected by this year's guest judge **Carmen Giménez** and first reader **Suzi F. Garcia**.

Giménez states: "*ephemeral* is lush and hypnotic, a greenhouse of exotic unnamed plants, of longing. The language is elemental, physical, wrought, erotic. This poet has a rare sonic gift. I want love to live in all of us this way."

In its second edition, the Lorca Latinx Poetry Prize offers Spanish translation and bilingual publication of the winning manuscript, and a cash prize of \$500 from Letras Latinas. This year, individual poems from both the winner and honorable mentions will be published in the Autumn issue of [EcoTheo Review](#). The winner will also have the chance to read alongside the guest judge at a celebratory offsite event organized by LOGOS, a liturgically-inflected reading series and project of EcoTheo Collective, at AWP 2023 in Seattle, in partnership with Letras Latinas, the literary initiative at Notre Dame's Institute for Latino Studies.

The Lorca Latinx Poetry Prize was conceived to honor the role of transoceanic friendship in poet Federico García Lorca's life, work, and legacy by bringing emergent Latinx poets and their poetry to larger international audiences. restrepo rhodes is the

second winner of the Prize, which was inaugurated in 2019 with poet Steven Sanchez at the Unamuno Authors Festival in Madrid. The Prize continues to facilitate platforms for the winning poet to present their work, including at festivals, residences and readings in the United States, and beyond.

**The 2022 Lorca Latinx Poetry Prize winner *heidi andrea restrepo rhodes***

**(*ephemeral*)** is a queer, disabled, Colombian/Latinx, poet, scholar, educator, and cultural worker. Her poetry collection, *The Inheritance of Haunting* (University of Notre Dame Press, 2019) won the 2018 Letras Latinas Andrés Montoya Poetry Prize. She has received poetry fellowships from CantoMundo, Radar, VONA, and Yale's Center for the Study of Race, Indigeneity, and Transnational Migration and was a finalist for the 2020 Rona Jaffe Foundation Writers Award. Her poetry has been published in *Poetry*, *Academy of American Poets Poem-a-Day*, *Split This Rock's Quarry*, *Nat.Brut*, and *Foglifter*, among other places. Born in Arizona, and raised in California, she currently lives in Cambridge, MA.

**Honorable mention *Ayling Zulema Dominguez* (she/they)(*Como el Nopal*)** is a first-generation Chicana-Dominicana poet, collage artist, mixed media community artist, and youth arts educator from Bronx, NY. Her poetry and public art installations are rooted in radical love, and aimed at affirmation as a step towards liberation. She believes in art that offers protest and nurtures a search for wholeness outside of systems of oppression. Their work dares to ask community members, "Who are we at our most free?" Ayling currently teaches spoken word and visual art classes in public schools across the Bronx and Washington Heights. Select poems of hers have been published in *No, Dear Magazine*; *Moko Magazine*; *La Galería Magazine*; *The Protest Review*; *Latino Rebels*; *Bronx Free Press*; and *Alegria Magazine's Latinx Poetry Anthology*.

**Honorable mention *Cristian Ramirez Rodriguez* (*Violet Nerve*)** is a 19-year-old unpublished poet currently working towards a Physics degree at Saint Mary's College of California. Inspired by his professor and mentor, Brenda Hillman, he continues to develop his poetic voice. Cristian works across documentary styles of poetry while remaining interested in the lyric tradition. His autochthonous, cross-disciplinary,

docu-poetic, and multilingual techniques allow him to convey lived experiences as a Latino-Canadian while contemplating the diverse histories which brought him there.

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### **ABOUT The Lorca Latinx Poetry Prize**

**The Lorca Latinx Poetry Prize for an emerging poet** was inaugurated in 2019 at the Unamuno Author Series Festival in Spain. First judge Ruben Quesada selected poet Steven Sanchez, who read at the Residencia de Estudiantes in Madrid and the Centro Federico García Lorca in Granada. The Prize was conceived to honor the role of transoceanic friendship in poet Federico García Lorca's life, work, and legacy by bringing emergent Latinx poets and their poetry to larger international audiences. The Lorca Latinx Poetry Prize *for an emerging poet* is presented in collaboration with [Letras Latinas](#), the literary initiative at University of Notre Dame's Institute for Latino Studies; [EcoTheo Collective](#); [the Fundación and Centro Federico García Lorca](#); the [Unamuno Author Series](#); and the Red Door Series, among other partners. The Prize is co-coordinated by poets Francisco Aragón, Esperanza Snyder, and Spencer Reece, and counts on an Advisory Circle that includes Laura García-Lorca de los Ríos and poets Richard Blanco, F. Douglas Brown, Blas Falconer, Jennifer Grotz, Raina J. León, Alexandra Lytton Regalado, Luis Muñoz, and Mark Wunderlich.

### **ABOUT Letras Latinas**

*Letras Latinas*, the literary initiative at the Institute for Latino Studies (ILS), strives to enhance the visibility, appreciation and study of Latinx literature both on and off the campus of the University of Notre Dame. They place an emphasis on programs that support newer voices, foster a sense of community among writers, and place Latinx writers in community spaces. *Letras Latinas* is proud to be a founding member of the [Poetry Coalition](#), a national alliance of organizations working together to promote the values poets bring to our culture and the important contribution poetry makes in the lives of people of all ages and backgrounds. *Letras Latinas* is under the direction of Francisco Aragón.

## **ABOUT EcoTheo Collective**

**EcoTheo Collective** is an arts nonprofit whose mission is to celebrate wonder, enliven conversations, and inspire commitments to ecology, spirituality, and art. EcoTheo Collective is the proud home of the Starshine and Clay Fellowship — a collaboration with Cave Canem that honors the legacy of Lucille Clifton and supports the next generation of Black poets — as well as the Lorca Latinx Poetry Prize, which facilitates various trans-oceanic platforms for poets to present their work—as a way to celebrate Federico García Lorca’s legacy of friendship across borders, and to globalize Latinx poetry in the 21st century. EcoTheo Collective hosts regular in-person and online events as part of the LOGOS series, which seeks to evoke transcendence through poetry, ritual, and conversation. LOGOS has featured poets such as U.S. Poets Laureate Rita Dove and Ada Límón, along with Pulitzer Prize winners Gregory Pardlo, Jericho Brown, Forrest Gander, and Jorie Graham. EcoTheo Collective also publishes *EcoTheo Review*, an online and quarterly print magazine, which was recently selected as a finalist for the Whiting Literary Magazine Prize. *ETR* publishes original art and writing that explore intersections between nature and faith. EcoTheo Collective also hosts the annual Wonder festival, which connects participants with the sacred beauty of places along with the power of literature and the arts to inspire, heal, and transform.