

*Poetry is fed by correspondences, by what is present
and what is absent, near, distant, wanting...*

- Pedro Cuperman

Preface

The present volume commemorates the 10th anniversary of *Corresponding Voices*, a poetry series conceived by Pedro Cuperman under the belief (deeply rooted in his own creative experience) that poetry is basically a dialogical act, a sort of ritual through which we may enter into a more genuine and soulfully form of communication with the other, personal or non-personal, divine, animal, object, space: with the world at large, which becomes a personal “other” under the dialogical lens of poetry. This world “may or may not be ours”, said Pedro once, “but whatever it does it is also the guiding principle that brought us together”.

Corresponding Voices is thus an editorial project that convokes us around the exploration of different forms of dialogue. As such, it embraces all that its guiding principle involves: a constant reflection on the meaningful relationships that arise between distant voices; the recognition of “otherness”, of singularity and difference as the point of departure for true correspondences to occur; the problem of translation, which faces us with the challenge of transcending linguistic and cultural frontiers in order to meet in the shared soil of human experience, beyond similarities or common origins; the consideration of a different paradigm to give unity to a book of poetry beyond a thematic or formal criteria (a gesture that reveals the same wish to create a more genuine ground for encounter); in other words, at the core of *Corresponding Voices* is the willingness to reproduce the “dialectics of delay”, as Pedro named it taking on Derrida’s concept of *différance*, the conditions under which the act of communication takes place, in a dynamics of “receding and emerging meanings”.

This dialectics of delay plows widely through Pedro's thought, life and creation. In his extraordinary capacity for association, he could register this movement across different cultural, artistic and philosophical manifestations. He could find correspondences, for instance, between Derrida's idea of deferred meanings and tango dance, whose soul he captured under the poetics of proximity, the art of "retentive delivery", the constant postponement of that which is near, wanting... Or even with Zen philosophy and the principle of detachment as the path to happiness, of renunciation as a means to avoid suffering; of humor as a liberating force that restores inner harmony; and from there to the French philosopher Simone Weil, and her ideal of beauty as a form of distance: amor fati, the experience of desire as a kind of fate: the wonder of the sea, which doesn't have a future, but is full of horizon...

With this special edition of *Corresponding Voices* we want to pay tribute to Pedro's legacy. We have convoked past poets for the first time around a common thought: the celebration of Pedro Cuperman's existence; his intellectual, personal and artistic inheritance. In doing so, the series retakes its guiding principle in a different manner: the idea of correspondences operates here at its most genuine and interpersonal level, where dialogue fully becomes a unifying theme and practice. In Pedro's absence, we would like to continue sharing the beauty of his mind, not as something we miss, not as something we lost, but as a reality that we can always experience and enjoy in the proximity of our desire.

The book wants to be then an "imaginary space, the place without place where anything may occur and transfigure", as the Jewish poet Edmond Jabès said. We hope that in this space the reader may have the chance to participate of Pedro's literary mind in dialogue with the poets, who found the word to evoke it, and to bring us together once more around Cuperman's feast.

Libertad Garzón