



Monday, February 2nd, 2015
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**VAEA launches new Literature Program: *The Teresa de La Parra Literati Series*
with 2015's first event *Encounter with Words, the Female Voice in Literature*
at the Instituto Cervantes New York**

The Venezuelan American Endowment for the Arts (VAEA) as part of VAEArts Talks, launches a new literature program titled *The Teresa de la Parra Literati Series*. This program, starting in 2015 will have a special focus on American and Venezuelan literature. Matilde Daviu, a Venezuelan writer and avant-garde art and literature professor will direct the program.

Encounter with Words, the Female Voice in Literature, which will take place Tuesday February 24, 2015 at 7pm at the Instituto Cervantes New York. Participating speakers: Alejandro Varderi, Rosanne Wasserman, and Carol Prunhuber will share their perspective on the subject and the importance of the female voice in literature while VAEA's Literature Director, Matilde Daviu, moderates the discussion.

VAEA's bi-national initiatives have supported the work of many young and emerging artists throughout the years and with this new program we aim to promote an interesting dialogue between authors from both Venezuela and The United States that will both support the work of the authors as well as generate a rich and dynamic discussion about their similarities and differences.

For this special occasion, VAEA has partnered with the Instituto Cervantes New York. This vibrant non-for-profit organization shares VAEA's mutual goal to promote Hispanic-American culture offering a wide-ranging program of cultural and arts activities showcasing the best in literature, film, music, theater, dance, visual arts and thought from Spain and Latin America.

About The Program...

VAEArts Talks: *The Teresa de la Parra Literati Series*.

Encounter with Words, the Female Voice in Literature.

Date: Tuesday February 24th, 2015 | 7pm

Location: Instituto Cervantes Auditorium, 211 East 49th Street, New York, NY 10017

Biographies

Speakers:

Carol Prunhuber

Prunhuber was born in Caracas, Venezuela. In 1982, she met Yilmaz Güney at the Cannes Film Festival, the Golden Palm winner and Kurdish film director from Turkey who introduced her to the Kurdish cause. In 1983 she met Abdul Rahman Ghassemlou, Iranian Kurdish



leader. She traveled to Iranian Kurdistan via Baghdad with the French agency Gamma TV in 1985 to film the struggle of the Kurds in Iran. She has written *The Passion and Death of Rahman the Kurd: Dreaming Kurdistan*, which has been published in English, Spanish (2008), Turkish and Kurdish. She has written: *Agua, silencio, memoria y Felisberto Hernández* (Caracas, 1986) and *Femmes: Les Grands Mythes Féminins à travers le Monde* (Paris, 1987) published in the USA as *Women: Around the World and Through the Ages* (1990).

Alejandro Varderi

Alejandro Varderi was born in Caracas, Venezuela, and lives in New York City. He has co-edited the anthologies *Ettedgui: arte información para la comunidad* (1985) and *Bridging Continents: Cinematic and Literary Representations of Spanish and Latin American Themes* (2005). He is the author of the novels *Para repetir una mujer* (1987), *Amantes y reverentes* (1999, 2009), *Viaje de vuelta* (2008) and *Bajo fuego* (2013). His books of essays include: *Estado e industria editorial* (1985), *Anotaciones sobre el amor y el deseo* (1986), *Severo Sarduy y Pedro Almodóvar: del barroco al kitsch* (1996), *Anatomía de una seducción: reescrituras de lo femenino* (1996, 2013), *A New York State of Mind* (2008) and *Los vaivenes del lenguaje: literatura en movimiento* (2011). He is professor of Hispanic Studies at CUNY.

Rosanne Wasserman

Rosanne Wasserman's poems have appeared in print and online, as well as in the Best American Poetry annual series. Her articles on Pierre Martory, James Schuyler, and Ruth Stone have appeared in *American Poetry Review*. She and Eugene Richie are co-editors of *John Ashbery's Collected French Translations* (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2014). Her poetry books include *The Lacemakers* (1992), *No Archive on Earth* (1995), and *Other Selves* (1999), as well as *Place du Carousel* (2001) and *Psyche and Amor* (2009), collaborations with Richie, with whom she runs the Groundwater Press. She teaches at the United States Merchant Marine Academy, Kings Point, New York.

Matilde Daviu

Matilde Daviu is a notable Venezuelan writer whose artistic and literary career has developed both in Venezuela and abroad. Daviu is mostly acclaimed as a short story writer. She published her first book of short stories *Maithuna* (1978, Monte Avila Editores), then *Barbazucar and Other Stories* (1979), *El juego infinito* (2005). She has won literary awards and her writings have been translated to other languages. Amongst her most prestigious translators are Magda Bogin, Margaret Carson, Ronald Christ and Eugene Richie, who co-edited and co-translated a volume of all the stories in her 2005 collection, *The Infinite Game* (2005, Criteria Editorial, Caracas). While in New York City from 1981-1991, she was founder of the Association of Latin American Writers (1987). Her writings have been published in literary journals such as *Nimrod* and *Bomb Magazine*, *The Sienese-Schredder* and others in Venezuela and USA. As an Associate professor at the Universidad Metropolitana in Caracas, while teaching *Avantgarde Literature and Art* she organized the literature series *Café con Letras*, and the essay contest *Abrapalabra*. Matilde Daviu's



scholarly and creative publications include reviews, essays on art and culture, interviews, fiction, poetry, and artistic collaborations.

Teresa de la Parra

Born on October 5, 1889, Teresa de la Parra is amongst the most remarkable Venezuelan novelist of the 20th Century. She was an independent woman who rebelled against the limited expectations for women of her class. Her literary career developed in three distinct moments. Her first forays were few short stories of fictional and fantastical themes, amongst which story *Mama X* earned first prize in a literary contest held in Ciudad Bolivar. Here, two major novels were born: *Iphigenia* (1924), which delves into the drama of a woman of society of the early 20th Century in Latin America, while exploring for the first time in the Venezuelan narrative, the world and sensibility of a woman. In *Memories of Mama Blanca* (1929), we find a family chronicle that rescues and recreates, with outstanding simplicity, the voices and the language of the Venezuela of her time. She evokes a world forever lost: the Creole aristocracy while recreating the atmosphere of her childhood, showing characters and customs in the atmosphere of a sugar cane plantation.

About The Venezuelan American Endowment for the Arts...

The Venezuelan American Endowment for the Arts, VAEA was founded on June 13, 1990 in New York with the mission of strengthening the ties of friendship between the United States of America and Venezuela through bi-national cultural and social programs.

About Intituto Cervantes New York...

Instituto Cervantes New York is a doorway to the cultures of the Spanish-speaking world. It started operating as a cultural non-profit in 1994. Since then it has been a vibrant center of culture, learning and social life in Manhattan, offering Spanish courses for all levels and an ambitious cultural program that provides the latest cultural manifestations of the Spanish-speaking world.