

ABOUT THE AUTHOR, RAFAEL FLORES MONTENEGRO

An Argentinean writer living in Spain since 1979, Rafael Flores Montenegro could be one of the characters drawn from his own literary creations, a body of work encompassing **poetry, short stories, novels and essays** written with a great creative sensibility. A tireless student of the world and human condition through language and images, his writings range from the rational to the absurd, from fantasy to dreamlike. These are texts we can make our own in a flash or simply admire from a distance, but they never fail to move us.

He has shared his insights in the various literary workshops he has given in Madrid since 1990, as well as any number of conferences held at universities and cultural institutions on both sides of the Atlantic.

His literary work doesn't shy away from his life experience as an active militant in Argentina and subsequent exile in Spain during the 1970s and 1980s. His writing during this period bears an impassioned witness that is impossible to dismiss. His arguments display an unwavering conviction in tenacious defense of a better life for the most disadvantaged classes, in favor of human rights and against social injustice. A commitment that is revealed to the reader subtly and with a masterful literary flair that distances it from a mere direct accusation, making it more effective for his purposes.

At the same time he has enthusiastically devoted himself to **spreading the word about tango**, which he explores with an emotional gravity to match his literary flair.

"We begin with the tango 'Nel Mezzo del Cammin di Nostra Vita', back in the 1980s. Publications, books, radio, shows, recordings, dance sessions of all kinds -from those held in alternative spaces right up to the ones that took place at the Ritz Hotel-, television documentaries, conferences... Since that time, we felt that 'the tango was making its comeback heard'."

He has published several books on tango in Spanish, but also translated into Italian, German, French, Vietnamese, and now English. He contributes regularly to the specialist press and magazines, both Spanish and Latin American.

Since the late '80s, he has shared his knowledge and research about tango culture over the Spanish radio airways, collaborating with various broadcasters for over 30 years: Radio Cadena Española, RNE Radio 4, Onda Madrid, Radio Voz and RNE Radio 5 until September 2018. He is equally involved in giving lectures at conferences and organizing seminars and workshops. In addition to his work as musical director for singers and dancers, he collaborates on the release of recordings and compilations of classic older pieces.

He possesses one of the most complete musical, film, and literary collections about tango and folklore that we can find. He has been collecting his materials from a wide variety of sources encountered throughout his extensive career of research, the fruits of his embrace of a life lived investigating and learning.

"Taking the existence of the tango into account is unavoidable for understanding the 20th century."

The movies indicate that and giving exposure to the style of dancing arm-in-arm -a fundamental discovery of the tango world- in turn was incorporated into other contemporary genres. It is unavoidable when speaking of Madrid, Barcelona, Milan, New York.... not just Buenos Aires and Montevideo.

The tango is no stranger to the central phenomena of modern times: migrations, cultural blends, globalization, styles and fashions, and inventions to be grateful for like records and photography. It knows about our impulse to live beyond all restrictions, our finite lifespan, the desires to raise ourselves up from the mud from which we are made.

Perhaps, without overstating the case, it embodies the genuine contemporary written poetry of the street."

He received the 1997 SADAIC prize for promotion of Argentinean music and literature in Europe.

