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Salem Press Announces *Critical Insights:* *Roberto Bolaño*

Critical Insights: Roberto Bolaño, edited by Ignacio López-Calvo, a professor of Latin American literature at the *University of California*, explores numerous topics, including film adaptations of Bolaño's works, the relations between his poetry and his prose, and the influence of US literature in Bolaño's writing. They also approach his literature from different theoretical angles, including Marxism, historicism, and queer theory. The first two articles study the historical background and critical reception of Bolaño's works. The third offers an approach from a Marxist perspective and the fourth, a comparative study with Elena Poniatowska. The rest are topical essays that include close readings of some of Bolaño's most influential works.

This title is divided into four main sections, starting with **Career, Life, and Influence**. This section discusses Bolaño's career and certain themes of his writings in fairly broad terms, along with a biography about the man behind the literature.

Critical Contexts begins with Juliet Lynd's essay on Bolaño's opus devoted to the historical background that influenced Bolaño's writing. As Lynd explains, Bolaño's literature is deeply marked by authoritarian repression of revolutionary idealism throughout the twentieth-century and throughout the globe, but particularly in the countries where he lived: Chile, Mexico, and Spain. Her essay explores the impact of the September 11, 1973 military coup on Bolaño and his work, and examines the parallels that Bolaño himself drew between struggles with revolution, dictatorship, and democracy in Chile and in Mexico, as well as the recurring references to the Spanish Civil War and World War II as early scenarios for the battles between right and left. Next, Nicholas Birns looks at the critical reception of Bolaño's works. Bolaño's reputation, explains Birns, blossomed in the Spanish-speaking world with his receipt of the Premio Rómulo Gallegos in 1999, but, after his death, in 2003 it rapidly spread globally, especially to the English-speaking countries. In the third essay, David Lau offers a close reading of Bolaño's Rómulo Gallegos-winning novel, *The Savage Detectives*, from a Marxist-historicist theoretical perspective. Lastly, Salvador Oropesa opts for a comparative analysis of Bolaño's short novel *Amuleto* (1999) in the light of *Paseo de la Reforma* (1996), a work by the Mexican Elena Poniatowska.

Starting the section of **Critical Readings**, Ignacio López-Vicuña discusses how Bolaño's posthumous novel *Woes of the True Policeman* may be read as a work that complements Bolaño's better-known novels, in particular *2666*. Next, Brantley Nicholson argues that the trope

of much of Bolaño's most ambitious and critically acclaimed works, *Los detectives salvajes* (1998) and *2666* (2004), turns on the interplay between a hypothetical pure aesthetic that glorifies the Latin American experience in and of itself and the disarticulation of this local idealism when it enters into world systems. José Javier Fernández Díaz explores the influence of US literature in Bolaño's opus, establishing a literary map of the dialogue between these authors and texts. Rubén Medina, a founding member-along with Bolaño-of infrarealism in Mexico City in the mid-seventies, looks at the early historical moment in which Bolaño emerges as a writer, addressing his relationship to infrarealism, the neo-avant-garde movement he cofounded, and how this movement turned politics into ethics. Other essays include:

- "Roberto Bolaño's Queer Poetics" by Ryan Long
- "Why Didn't *Amberes* Embarrass Roberto Bolaño? The Reification of Anti-Realism and an Interest in Disinterestedness" by Ignacio López-Calvo
- "Liminal Spaces in Roberto Bolaño's *Una novelita lumpen* and Alicia Scherson's Film Adaptation *Il futuro*" by Traci Roberts-Camps
- "*Una novelista lumpen's* Roman Posthumous Future" by Alicia Ramos-Jordán & Marc Valesi
- "Homo Bolaños: Missing Link or the Last Dodo" by Ignacio Padilla (trans. Ignacio López-Calvo)

Each essay in *Critical Insights: Roberto Bolaño* is 2,500 to 5,000 words in length, and all essays conclude with a list of Works Cited and detailed endnotes. Also included in this volume are **Appendixes** to provide readers with additional information and opportunities for further research, including a **Chronology of Roberto Bolaño's Life**, a list of **Works by Roberto Bolaño**, an annotated **Bibliography**, biographies of the **Editors** and **Contributors**, and an alphabetical **Index**.

The *Critical Insights* Series distills the best of both classic and current literary criticism of the world's most studied literature. Edited and written by some of academia's most distinguished literary scholars, *Critical Insights: Roberto Bolaño* provides authoritative, in-depth scholarship that students and researchers will rely on for years. This volume is destined to become a valuable purchase for all literary collections.

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