

The Republic of Letters

[This map includes only a small sample of the literary talent of thousands of Mexican women writers of all time.]

Dolores Castro (Aguascalientes, 1923) is a fiction writer, poet, and founder and producer at Radio UNAM. She has received many awards, such as the Mazatlán National Prize for Poetry (1980); the Ramon López Velarde Ibero-American Prize for Poetry (2013); the National Sciences and Arts Prize for Literature and Linguistics (2014); and the José Emilio Pacheco Medal for her life's work in 2016. **(1)**

Rebeca Orozco Mora (Baja California, 1956) is a fiction writer. She has penned scripts for radio and television and a play, *Zaidé*, and won the Julio Bracho Prize for the Best Experimental Theater in 1987. She also received the Antonio García Cubas Prize awarded by the National Institute of Anthropology and History (INAH) in 2006 for *Detrás de la mascara*. **(2)**

Estela Davis (Baja California Sur, 1935) is the author of books of short stories, local history, novels and other contributions, making her the most prolific author in her home state of South Baja California, even though she only began her literary production less than twenty years ago when she published *El alojamiento en Baja California Sur* (1998). She has also published *Cuando salga el sol*, *La visita*, and *Los días circulares*. **(3)**

Laura Baeza (Campeche, 1988) is a fiction writer and editor. She won at the National University Floral Games (2013) for her *Al fondo se ve el mar*. She was also awarded the Julio Torri National Prize for Short Story for her *Ensayo de orquesta* and the 2017 Gerardo Cornejo National Prize for Fiction for *Época de cerezos*. **(4)**

Ruperta Bautista (Chiapas, 1975) is a writer and translator from Tsotsil. She won the Pat O'Tan Prize for Indigenous Poetry in 2001 and the Benito Juárez Medal

in 2012. Her work appears in several anthologies, such as *Women of Chiapas. Making History in Times of Struggle and Hope* (2003) and *Laissez parler notre coeur. Poètes indiens du Chiapas* (2007). **(5)**

Elpidia García Delgado (Chihuahua, 1959) is a fiction writer and member of the Zurdo Mendieta Novel Collective. Among other awards, in 2012 she received the David Alfaro Siqueiros Fellowship for Short Story; in 2013, the IChiCult Publications Program Prize; and the Amparo Dávila Fine Arts Prize for Short Story in 2018 for her *El hombre que mató a Dedos Fríos y otros relatos*. In 2017, she won the Forcan Migrant Words competition. **(6)**

Liliana Pedroza (Chihuahua, 1976) is a writer and researcher. Among other honors, she has received the Ultra-short Story Extraordinary Prize at the 2007 Garzón Céspedes International Micro-fiction Competition, the Chihuahua Prize for Literature (2008), and the Julio Torri National Prize for Short Story (2009). **(6)**

Coral Bracho (Mexico City, 1951) is a poet and has been a member of the National System of Creators. Among other awards, she received the Aguascalientes National Prize for Poetry (1981) for *El ser que va a morir*, the Xavier Villaurrutia Prize (2003) for *Ese espacio, ese jardín*, and the Jaime Sabines-Gatien Lapointe International Prize for Poetry (2011). **(7)**

Guadalupe Nettel (Mexico City, 1973) won the Ribera del Duero Prize for Short Fiction with her *El matrimonio de los peces rojos* (2013) and the Herralde Prize for a novel for *Después del invierno* (2014). She has contributed to publications like *Granta*, *The White Review*, *El País*, *The New York Times* in Spanish, *La Repubblica*, and *La Stampa*. She is the director of the UNAM's *Revista de la Universidad de México*. **(7)**

Luisa Josefina Hernández (Mexico City, 1928) is a writer and playwright. She developed a useful system of

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analysis for work in the theater. Among other prizes, she has received the Magda Donato Prize for *Nostalgia de Troya* (1971) and the Xavier Villaurrutia Prize for her *Apocalipsis cum figuris* (1982). She is also an Emeritus Creator at Mexico's National Council for Culture (Conaculta). (7)

Margo Glantz (Mexico City, 1930) is a writer, essayist, literary critic, and academic. She delves into issues such as eroticism, migration, and memory. She is a member of the Mexican Academy of Language and has received many awards, such as the National Prize for Science and the Arts (2004) and the Xavier Villaurrutia Prize (1984), as well as a Rockefeller fellowship in 1996 and a Guggenheim fellowship in 1998. (7)

María Luisa Puga (Mexico City, 1944-2004) was a writer of fiction and a contributor to the *El Universal*, *La Jornada*, *La Plaza*, and *Unomásuno* newspapers. She received a fellowship from the National System of Creators in 2001 and in 1983 received the Xavier Villaurrutia Prize for her *Pánico o peligro* and in 1996 was awarded the Juan Ruiz de Alarcón Prize. (7)

Mercedes Alvarado (Mexico City, 1984) is a poet, and the author of the artistic project "Y hasta la muerte amar." She has lectured about contemporary Mexican and urban literature in Norway and has contributed to magazines like *Blanco Móvil*, *Flanzine* (Portugal), and *Monolito*, and is included in the anthologies *Púas en el alambre* (2006), *60 minicuentos* (2008), and *Antología de mujeres poetas* (2014). (7)

Rosa Beltrán (Mexico City, 1960) is a writer and professor. A member of the Mexican Academy of Language since 2014, she received fellowships from the Mexican Center for Writers and the Fulbright in 1993, the Planeta-Joaquín Mortiz Prize for *La corte de los ilusos* (1995), the Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz honor from the UNAM in 2011, and the José Emilio Pacheco Prize for Excellence in Letters in 2022. (7)

Rosario Castellanos (Mexico City, 1925-1974) was a writer, journalist, and diplomat, considered one of Mexico's most important female literary figures of the twentieth century. In 1958 she received the Chiapas Prize, for her *Balún Canán*, and two years later, the Xavier Villaurrutia Prize for *Ciudad Real*, among other awards. Several public places have been named after her, as well as a few libraries, including the library in the UNAM Center for Gender Research and Studies (CIEG). (7)

Valeria Luiselli (Mexico City, 1983) is the author of the books of essays *Papeles falsos* (2010) and *Los niños perdidos* (2016), and the novels *Los ingrátidos* (2011), *La historia de mis dientes* (2013), and *Desierto sonoro* (2019, all published by Sexto Piso). She has received three awards: The *Los Angeles Times* Book Award (2014 and 2015), the American Book Award (2018), and the Fernanda Pivano Award (2020). (7)

Enriqueta Ochoa (Coahuila, 1928-2008) was a poet. Among other awards, she was named Favorite Daughter of Coahuila in 1979. In 1994, the National Council for Culture (Conaculta) and the Municipality of Torreón created the Enriqueta Ochoa National Poetry Competition; and in 2008 she received the Fine Arts Medal. Her poems have been translated into English, French, German, and Japanese. (8)

Nadia Contreras (Colima, 1976) is a writer, academic, and workshop leader. Among other awards, she has received Honorable Mention in the contest for the Elías Nandino National Prize for Poetry (2001), the Colima State Youth Prize (2002), the Mexican Institute for Youth Poetry Prize (2003), the Salvador Márquez Gileta Competition for Fiction (2011), and the Griselda Álvarez Ponce de León Prize for her literary production (2014). (9)

Atenea Cruz (Durango, 1984) is a writer of fiction and a poet. She has received awards and honors such as the National Prize for Fantasy and Science Fiction Short Story (2017), the Beatriz Quiñones Regional Prize for Poetry (2012), and the National Fund for Culture and the Arts (Fonca) fellowship for young short story writers (2018-2019). She has been a columnist and book reviewer in many magazines. (10)

Nellie Campobello (Durango, 1900-1986) witnessed and wrote about the Mexican Revolution, in addition to being a precursor of ballet in our country. Her literary work, including *Cartucho*, has made her be considered the first modern female fiction writer of twentieth-century Mexico. (10)

Alma Mancilla (State of Mexico, 1974) has been included on the Borderlines Writer's Circle list in Edmonton, Canada (2015). Among the awards she has received are the Benemérito de las Américas Fifth National Contest for Poetry and Short Stories (2001) for her book *Los días del verano más largo*, the Gilberto Owen National Prize for Literature (2011) for *Las babas del*

caracol, and the Ignacio Manuel Altamirano National Prize for the Novel (2020) for *El libro de las brujas*. (11)

Araceli Ardón (Guanajuato, 1958) is a writer and cultural promoter. She founded and headed the Comunicación del Centro publishing house. In 1988, she received the Rosario Castellanos National Prize for Journalism and Literature from the World Association of Women Journalists and Writers. The Congress of the state of Querétaro awarded her the Junípero Serra Medal in 2006 for contributing to local cultural development, and since 2016, she has coordinated the Querétaro Center for the Arts. (12)

Emma Godoy (Guanajuato, 1918-1989) was an essayist, fiction writer, and poet. She was the honorary president of the Pan-American University Philosophic Athenaeum and a member of the International Academy of Philosophy of Art. Among the awards she received were the International Sophia Prize (1979), the Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz Prize given by the Mexican Athenaeum of Women, and the William Faulkner Prize given by the University of Virginia. (12)

Benita Galeana (Guerrero, 1903-1995) was a feminist writer, suffragette, union organizer, and activist for women's and workers' rights. As a Communist, she fought for the eight-hour day, equal wages, and the creation of child care centers. Her home is now the Center for Women's Studies and the Social Struggle. She authored two autobiographical works: *Benita* and *El peso mocho*. (13)

Reyna Grande (Guerrero, 1975) crossed the border without papers to live in Los Angeles with her father. She was the first in her family to receive a college degree (from the University of California). She has received, among other honors, the American Book Award, the Aztlán Literary Award (2006) for *A través de cien montañas*, and the Luis Leal Award for Distinction in Chicano/Latino Literature for 2015. She is a member of the Macondo Writers Workshop, founded by Sandra Cisneros (Texas). (13)

Ilallalí Hernández (Hidalgo, 1981) is a fiction writer and editor. As a freelance editor, she manages cultural projects at the binational magazine *Literal Latin American Voices*. She won the Hidalgo State Youth Institute literary prize for 2001 and the Ricardo Garibay Short Story Competition in 2006. In 2008, she enjoyed a Mexico-Colombia artistic residence with support from the National Fund for Culture and the Arts (Fonca). (14)

Margarita Michelena (Hidalgo, 1917-1998) was a poet and essayist. She was a founder of the daily paper *El Cotidiano*, the editor-in-chief of *El Libro y el Pueblo*, *Respuesta*, *La Cultura en México*, and *Cuestión*; an editor at *Novedades* and *Excelsior* dailies; a scriptwriter at the XEW radio station; and a host on XEMX Radio Femenina. She contributed to *América*, *Casa de la Cultura*, *Estaciones*, *Examen*, and *México en la Cultura*. She translated Raymon Aron, Baudelaire, Nerval, and Proust. (14)

María Refugio Barragán Carrillo (Jalisco, 1843-1916) published a series of works: *Celajes de Occidente* and *La hija de Nazaret* simultaneously in 1880; and the novels *Liberatinaje y virtud o el verdugo del hogar* (1881), *Premio del bien y castigo del mal* (1884), and *La hija del bandido o los subterráneos del Nevado* (1887), her most popular work. (15)

Concha Urquiza (Michoacán, 1910-1945) was a poet and professor of history and literature in San Luis Potosí. She was a militant of the Communist Party and contributed to the magazines *Ábside*, *Aula*, *Juventud*, *Labor*, *Logos*, *México al Día*, *Rueca*, and *Saber*. (16)

Leticia Herrera Álvarez (Michoacán, 1954) is a playwright, fiction writer, and poet translated into several languages. She was named author of the year by the Universum de Italia publishing house and has been included in *Globus*, the international anthology of end-of-millennium poets (1999). She has written creative scripts and adaptations of classic works for radio and television and received multiple prizes for poetry and fiction. (16)

Alejandra Atala (Morelos, 1966) is a fiction writer and poet. She has been giving workshops, lectures, and diploma courses since 1995. She was the coordinator of the Morelos State Cultural Institute's Publishing Fund and has contributed to *El Nacional del Sur*, *La Otra*, *La Jornada Semanal*, *Textual*, and *Voz de la Tribu*. She is the creator and host of the literary radio program "Vuelo entre líneas" and won the Medal of Honor for Culture in 2016 awarded by the Morelos State Congress. (17)

Adelaida Martínez Aguilar (Nayarit, 1870-?) was a teacher, writer, and poet. In 1886, she was awarded her degree as a primary school teacher and was sent to work in her hometown, Santiago Ixquintla, Nayarit, where she taught and gave piano lessons. Beginning in 1893, she wrote poetry in the local newspaper, *El Fonógrafo* under the pseudonym Celia. Leasureana Wright de Kleinhans mentions her in *Mujeres notables mexicanas* (1910). (18)

Iliana Hernández Partida (Nayarit) published a collection of poems, *Apuntes para La Malquerida de Gabriel Figueroa*, and some of her short stories and poems have been included in *Poemas, cuentitos y cuentotes* (2014), *Viaje a la oscuridad* (2015), and *Outrage: A Protest Anthology for Injustice in a Post 9/11 World* (2015). (18)

Elsa D. Solórzano (Nuevo León, 1960) has published short stories, novels, and poetry. She received an honorary mention in 2011 for her novel *En tierra ajena*. Among her prize-winning short stories are “La muñeca de trapo” (2012) and “Números romanos” (2018), and in 2020, she was given the Juan Rulfo Parchment award. (19)

Gabriela Riveros Elizondo (Nuevo León, 1973) is a writer of fiction. She won the UDEM Contest for Short Story Writing (1993) and the Deutsche Welle Literary Prize (1995) for her radio-drama *Ven por el chile y la sal*. Her books *El encargo de Fernanda* and *Mi hermano Paco* won her the Castillo de la Lectura Prize for Children’s Literature in 2000 and 2001. (19)

Clyo Huitzilín Mendoza Herrera (Oaxaca, 1993) is a writer and poet and was awarded a National Fund for Culture and the Arts (Fonca) fellowship (2015-2016). In 2017, she won the prize for poetry at the Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz International Literature Competition, the youngest writer to have won it. With support from the Antonio Gala Foundation, she enjoyed a residence in Córdoba, Spain. (20)

Irma Pineda Santiago (Oaxaca, 1974) is a poet and translator of Zapotec. She has participated in international literary conferences such as the Congress on Orality and Literature, the World Poetry Festival in Venezuela, and the International Poetry Festival of Medellín. She was the president of the Association of Writers in Indigenous Languages and has been included in anthologies such as *Guie’ sti’ diidxazá/La flor de la palabra* (UNAM, 1999) and *Los 43: poetas por Ayotzinapa* (2015). (20)

Elena Garro (Puebla, 1916-1998) was a scriptwriter, journalist, and fiction writer. She won four of Mexico’s most important prizes: the Xavier Villaurrutia Prize in 1963 for *Los recuerdos del porvenir* (*Recollections of Things to Come*); the Grijalbo prize in 1981 for *Testimonios sobre Mariana* (*Testimonies about Mariana*); the Colima Fine Arts Prize for Published Fictional Works, in 1996; and the Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz Prize in 1996. (21)

Lola Ancira (Querétaro, 1987) is a writer of fiction, editor, and model. She edits the digital magazine *Zarzamora* and is a contributor to *Yaconic*, *Panóptico*, *Tierra Adentro*, *El Cultural*, and *La Jornada Semanal*. Some of her short stories have been published in the magazines *Proyecto Neurosis*, *Onomatopeya*, and *La Testadura Literaria* and have been included in different anthologies. (22)

Sara Uribe (Querétaro, 1978) is a poet and the director of the Tampico Historical Archive. She won the Tijuana National Prize for Poetry (2005) and has been a contributor to the magazines *Blanco Móvil*, *Saloma Letras entre Ríos*, *Shearsman*, and *Tierra Adentro*. (22)

Mariel Turrent Eggleton (Quintana Roo, 1967) is the co-founder of the Malix Editores publishing house. Among the awards she has received are the Eight Deer King Prize for the best poem of the year, given at the Tenth International Conference of Women Poets Mexico, 2002, and the Juan Domingo Argüelles Prize for Short Story of 1999. (23)

Carolina Toro (San Luis Potosí 1976) is an announcer and fiction writer and an active member of the Michoacán Writers’ Society. She produces a program on aural literature, “Letra Viva,” for the radio. Her book of short stories *La sombra de las cornisas* won the Manuel José Othón Prize for fiction in 2016. (24)

Inés Arredondo (Sinaloa, 1928-1989) was one of the country’s most brilliant short story writers, translators, and art critics. She dealt with issues that were delicate for Mexican society, questioning traditional roles and values. Born in Sinaloa, she was awarded the Xavier Villaurrutia Prize in 1979, as well as other important honors. (25)

Patricia Carrillo Collard (Sinaloa, 1972) is a co-founder of the Alternatives and Skills group and collaborates in the Gendes Council, an organization that works on the issue of masculinities. She writes children’s stories; her book *Nadie que me comprenda* won the Gilberto Owen National Prize for Literature in 2015. (25)

Dina Grijalva (Sonora) is a writer, researcher, and professor who has published several books of essays and mini-fiction. She has been translated into Mixteco, Zapotec, Mixtec, and French. Since 2008, she has been a writer and promotor of mini-fiction. In 2010 she received her doctorate in letters from the UNAM with a dissertation about the fiction of Inés Arredondo and Luisa Valenzuela. (26)

Josefina Vicens (Tabasco, 1911-1988) was awarded the Xavier Villaurrutia Prize in 1958 for her first novel *El libro vacío*. She was a prolific film scriptwriter and journalist, writing in the pages on bullfights, politics, and film criticism. She fought for women to have equal conditions on the job, in society, and politics. (27)

Sue Zurita (Tabasco, 1985) published *El viaje de los colibríes* in 1985, and, in 2016, *Buenas noches desolación*. In 2017, she founded the Kookay publishing house, where she published the anthology *Cuentos cortos para tardes largas*. She has participated in international book fairs like those in Monterrey, Guadalajara, Chiapas-Central America, and Mexico City's central Zócalo Square. (27)

Carmen Alardín (Tamaulipas, 1933-2014) was a poet and contributor to the print media. From 1996 to 2000 she edited the magazine *Armas y Letras* (Arms and Letters), published by the Nuevo León Autonomous University. She received the Xavier Villaurrutia Prize in 1984 for her poetry, and the Medal for Civic Merit in 1989 for coordinating workshops for children and adults in public libraries and poor neighborhoods. (28)

Cristina Rivera Garza (Tamaulipas, 1964) has been recognized for *Nadie me verá llorar* (*No One Will See Me Cry*) (1999). Among her awards are the Anna Seghers Prize for Latin American Literature (2005) and two Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz Prizes: one in 2001 for the aforementioned book and a second in 2009 for *La muerte me da*, as well as the Roger Caillois Prize for Latin American Literature (2013). (28)

Karen Villeda (Tlaxcala, 1985) is a poet and net-artist. Among the awards she has received are the Elías Nandino National Poetry Prize (2013), the Juan de la Cabada Prize (2014) for *Cuadrado de cabeza*, the José Revueltas Prize (2017), and the Ignacio Manuel Altamirano prize (2020) for *Anna y Hans*. She is a contributor to the third volume of MIT's *Electronic Literature Collection*. Her poems have been translated into Arabic, French, English, and Portuguese. (29)

Olivia Teroba (Tlaxcala, 1988) is a writer of fiction. She received fellowships from the Tlaxcala State Stimulus Program for Creation and Artistic Development in 2013, from the Foundation for Mexican Letters (2015-2017), and from the National Fund for Culture and the Arts (Fonca) (2018-2019). She participates in the Osa Menor publishing project and has received the Beatriz Espejo Prize for Short Story (2013), the Emmanuel

Carballo Prize (2018) for essay, and the Edmundo Valadés Latin American Prize for Short Story (2017). (29)

Fernanda Melchor (Boca del Río, Veracruz, 1982) is a writer and translator. Among the awards she has won is the Prize for an Essay about Lynching (2002); the Hunting for Letters prize (UNAM, 2007); the Dolores Guerrero National Prize for Chronicles (2011); the Pen Club Prize for excellence in journalism and literature (2018) for *Aquí no es Miami*; and the House of Cultures of the World Prize for Literature for *Temporada de huracanes* (Berlin, 2019). (30)

Magali Velasco Vargas (Veracruz, 1975) is a researcher, academic, and writer. She has won Chile's International Young Americanists International Prize (2003) for an essay, and the Juan José Arreola National Prize for Short Story (2004). She is the author of books of short stories, essays, and literary criticism and has taught at the Ciudad Juárez Autonomous University and the Veracruzana University School of Spanish Letters. (30)

Marisol Ceh Moo (Yucatán, 1968) is a Mayan poet, essayist, fiction writer, and chronicler. Among the honors she has received are the Nezahualcōyotl Prize for Literature in Mexican Languages (2014), the Indigenous Literatures of the Americas Prize (2019), and being made an honorary member of the Alfredo Barrera Vázquez Chair in recognition of her academic merits. She gives workshops on literary creation among Maya speakers. (31)

Rita Cetina Gutiérrez (Yucatán, 1846-1908) was a teacher, poet, and feminist. As an advocate for secular education and education for women, she founded the Scientific and Literary Society and was recognized for her advanced ideas about women's education and her participation in Mexico's social, cultural, and professional life. She contributed to publications such as *La Biblioteca de Señoritas*, *El Repertorio Pintoresco*, and *El Recreo del Hogar*. (31)

Silvia Gurrola (Zacatecas, 1966) is a teacher with studies in Gestalt psychotherapy, which determines the nature of her novels and her characters' profiles. In 1992, she became a feminist, which is central to her work. In 1994, she traveled to Mozambique and began working with international organizations like Doctors Without Borders. This inspired her to write her first novel, *La dignidad encarnada* (2014). (32) ■■■