

A DIFFERENT SEPT. 11

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GROUP THAT BOMBED SPAIN WILL BE IN NEW YORK CITY

Before America's 9/11, there was another one in Santiago, Chile when the dictator Augusto Pinochet used Hawker Jets to bomb the Presidential Palace (*La Moncada*) on September 11, 1973 to remove the democratically elected President Salvador Allende. As a counter reaction to the bombing, **Casagrande**, an underground literary organization of young poets born during Pinochet's 17-year regime, rented a helicopter and dropped 100,000 poetry leaflets on the Presidential Palace on March 23, 2001. The group followed with similar poetry bombings in Dubrovnik, Croatia and Gernika, Spain -- both cities bombed in the past during military conflicts. They will be in New York City from October 14 to 18, 2004 to investigate the possibility of bombing the World Trade Center site with poetry in response to the terrorist attack on September 11, 2001.

In addition, a major benefit reading will be held for Casagrande on October 16, 2004 at 8 pm at The New School, Tishman Auditorium at 66 West 12th St., New York City. The poetry reading called *A Different September 11* will feature American and Chilean poets Martín Espada, Yusef Komunyakaa, Raúl Zurita, Mark Doty, Cecilia Vicuña, Marie Ponsot & Cristóbal Bianchi. Tickets are \$5 and the event is sponsored by *Rattapallax*, New School Graduate Writing Program, LouderArts & *Terra Incognita*.

Former Chilean exile and writer Ariel Dorfman writes, "The resemblance I am evoking goes well beyond a facile and superficial comparison -- for instance, that both in Chile in 1973 and the States today, terror descended from the sky to destroy the symbols of national identity, the Presidential Palace in Santiago, the icons of financial and military power in New York and Washington. No, what I recognize is something deeper, a parallel suffering, similar pain, a commensurate disorientation, echoing what we lived through in Chile as of that September 11." Dorfman wrote the play, *Death and the Maiden*, which was made into a film directed by Roman Polanski and starred Sigourney Weaver and Ben Kinglsey.

Cristóbal Bianchi of Casagrande adds, "The purpose for the poetry bombings is to replace the repetitive destructive images most people have in their heads with an alternative and positive metaphor." Casagrande is also investigating several cities bombed during World War II including Dresden, Germany and either Hiroshima or Nagasaki, Japan. Before bombing any city, the group obtains permission and support from the host city.

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Martín Espada won the American Book Award and author of *Alabanza: New and Selected Poems*; **Yusef Komunyakaa** won the Pulitzer Prize and a Bronze Star for his service in Vietnam; **Raúl Zurita** was the former poet laureate of Chile and tortured by Pinochet; **Cecilia Vicuña** is a leading poet and artist; **Mark Doty** won the National Book Critics Circle Award and T. S. Eliot Prize; **Marie Ponsot** also won the National Book Critics Circle Award and teaches poetry at Columbia University; **Cristóbal Bianchi** received the Pablo Neruda Creative Writing Scholarship and runs Casagrande. Idra Novey will host the event.

For more information, please visit www.rattapallax.com. Streaming video of previous poetry bombings are available online.

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