



SPANIEN  
Sprühende Kreativität  
Ehregast der  
Frankfurter Buchmesse 2022



PRESS RELEASE

## Guest of Honour Canada presents GuestScroll to Spain - Guest of Honour at the Frankfurt Book Fair 2022 Frankfurt Book Fair closes with the ceremonial handover of the GuestScroll

Frankfurt, 24/10/2021. On the last day of the Frankfurt Book Fair, the current Guest of Honour traditionally bids farewell by handing over the GuestScroll to the Guest of Honour of the coming year. At a festive ceremony in the Festhalle of the Fair today (24 October), Caroline Fortin presented the GuestScroll to Maria José Gálvez, Director General of Books and Reading Promotion of the Spanish Ministry of Culture and Sport, on behalf of the Guest of Honour Canada 2020/2021.

In 2019, Canada had entered a poem by Georgette Leblanc in the GuestScroll, which is extended each year with a short literary contribution by the following Guest of Honour. After the guest role was not used last year due to the pandemic, it was now supplemented by the Spanish contribution. Spain presents itself with texts by its three most important authors: **Antonio Gamoneda**, **Ana María Matute** and **Maria Zambranom** - all three winners of the Cervantes Prize, the highest recognition for Spanish and Latin American writers. The excerpts are taken from their speeches at the respective award ceremonies.

*El libro lleva consigo la voluntad de crear  
placer, lleva consigo efectos en los que algo  
hay que se asemeja a una salvación, a una  
interrupción del dolor. Toda poesía, incluida  
la que se deriva del sufrimiento, de la  
crueldad o de la injusticia, está orientada a la  
creación de una forma de placer.*

**A. Gamoneda**

*El tiempo en el que yo inventaba era un  
tiempo muy niño y muy frágil, en el que yo me  
sentía distinta: era tartamuda, más por miedo  
que por un defecto físico. Y traigo esto a  
cuento para explicar mi extrañeza, mi entrega  
total, absoluta, a esto que luego supe se  
llamaba Literatura. Y que ha sido, y es, el  
faro salvador de muchas de mis tormentas. A.*

**M. Matute**

*Todo El Quijote es una revelación humana,  
mas no demasiado todavía, que también en  
esto se encuentran, novela y protagonista en  
el lugar y momento del alba. No podía ser de  
otra manera en ese personaje que padece el*



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*sueño de la libertad, ese sueño que, en cierta  
hora, tan incierta, se desata en el  
hombre. **Maria Zambrano***

Before handing over the GuestScroll, the Canadian author **Dany Laferrière** and the Spanish novelist and poet **Manuel Vilas** had exchanged views in a literary conversation. At the end of the event, the quintet Spanish Brass set the mood musically for the new guest country. The event was moderated by journalist Shila Behjat.

**Juergen Boos**, Director of the Frankfurt Book Fair, explained: "Canada's Guest of Honour appearance was special in many ways: it was the first appearance by a Guest of Honour that spanned a two-year period due to the pandemic. 2020: The first all-digital appearance by a country. And now, this year, the first hybrid virtual and presence appearance. During this time, we have come to know a country with an exciting, unique diversity: "Singular Plurality - Singulier Pluriel" in accordance with Canada's motto, we have heard a multitude of voices over the last few days that have brought us closer to the country's cultural richness, its diversity and contradictions. We have seen a remarkable pavilion that skilfully stages virtuality and presence, and Canada's landscapes in an artful course. From the far north, we now look to southern Europe, to Spain: a country whose sparkling creativity, "Spilling Creativity - Creatividad desbordante" is also expressed in a multitude of languages. Once again, we thank the Spanish Guest of Honour Committee for agreeing to postpone its appearance at the Frankfurt Book Fair by one year. And we can look forward to a country whose multilingualism is still largely unknown to many German readers.

**Caroline Fortin**, Chair of Canada FBM2021, looked back positively on the Canadian Guest of Honour appearance: "At the closing event of the Frankfurt Book Fair in October 2019, I said that Canada would surprise the international publishing world. Two years later, I can confidently say 'mission accomplished' - and I don't mean the global pandemic that hit us and pushed back our Guest of Honour plans by a year! In 2021, Canada FBM2021 has now been given the opportunity to present Canada's Guest of Honour Pavilion and also develop a virtual counterpart to it - the first of its kind in the history of the Frankfurt Book Fair. Canada's official literary delegation of authors and illustrators was presented through virtual and interactive formats as well as live performances and discussions on stage. Accessible to a wide audience, yet intimate, this literary experience has brought the richness of Canadian literature into the spotlight - and will undoubtedly have long-term benefits for the Canadian publishing industry."

**Maria José Gálvez**, Director General of Books and Reading Promotion at the Spanish Ministry of Culture and Sport, was delighted to accept the GuestScroll. She said, "Three decades after our first Guest of Honour appearance, expectations are high for us too. We want to present ourselves even bigger and more diverse. We want to open a window to the world in Frankfurt, to present the creativity and diversity of Spanish culture and literature and to deepen the cultural ties between the two countries."

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## **PRESS MATERIAL**

You can download the comprehensive press kit for the launch press conference [here](#).  
High-resolution images are available [here](#). Further information on the guest of honour appearance and the authors can be found at [spainfrankfurt2022.com/en](http://spainfrankfurt2022.com/en).

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## **PRESS CONTACT**

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