



Martinete of Rey Sombra

Raúl Quinto

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"He (Raúl Quinto) places himself between Marguerite Yourcenar and Éric Vuillard, and with this strategy he raises a novel that, despite its brevity, makes a tremendous noise when it falls on the table" -

Álvaro Colomer, *Cultura/s de La Vanguardia*

On 30 July 1749, under the reign of Ferdinand VI and by order of the Marquis of Ensenada, the mass arrest of the Spanish Gypsy population took place in what has come to be described as a failed extermination project: **the Great Round-up**.

"Martinete del rey sombra" recreates this forgotten episode, following the experiences of these gypsies from the night of their arrest until the amnesty granted eighteen years later, through improvised prisons, slave labour in the arsenals and houses of mercy, isolation, torture, illness, shipwrecks, mutinies and escape attempts; and, at the same time, it takes us into the life of the Court of the first Spanish Bourbons, offering a tapestry of political intrigues, scandalous luxuries and personal tragedies through a series of biographies as hallucinatory as they are meticulously documented.

A reflection on how history and oblivion are constructed in which Raúl Quinto once again breaks the limits of literary genres to tell what is never told.



Raúl Quinto was born in Cartagena in 1978. He holds a degree in Art History from the University of Granada and currently lives in Almería, where he teaches.

He was one of the coordinators of the José Ángel Valente Poetry Faculty and has collaborated as a critic in publications such as Quimera.

He is a versatile writer and for his poetic work (notably *"La lengua rota"*, *"Sola"*, *"Hijo"* and *"Ruido Blanco"* – La Bella Varsovia) he has received the *Andalucía Joven Prize* and the *Francisco Villaespesa International Poetry Prize*.

His narrative texts include *"La Canción de NOF4"*, an essay for which he received the *Alfonso X Prize for Literature*, and his latest title, the novel *"Martinete del Rey Sombra"*, critically acclaimed and winner of the *Cálamo 2023 Prize*, both published at Jekyll & Jill.