

Raúl Zurita

Raúl Zurita, poet, born in Santiago de Chile in 1950. He studied engineering at the Federico Santa María University in Chile. On September 11, 1973, the date of the military coup in Chile, he was arrested and held prisoner, an event that shaped his life and work. In 1979 his book *Purgatorio* released which caused a great stir in Latin-American poetry. This initial book was followed by, among others, *Anteparaíso* (1982), *Canto a su amor desaparecido* (1985), *El día más blanco* (1999), *La Vida Nueva* (1994, 2018), *INRI* (2003), *In Memoriam* (2007), *Las ciudades de agua* (2007), *Cuadernos de Guerra* (2010), *Zurita* (2011), *Tu vida rompiéndose* (2015), *Son importantes las estrellas* (2017). In 1979 he formed with other artists the *Colectivo de Acciones de Arte*, who created political art against Augusto Pinochet's dictatorship. In 1982 he wrote in the sky over New York fifteen verses from the poem *La Vida Nueva*. In 1993, bulldozers traced the phrase "ni pena ni miedo" on the Atacama Desert. Finally, in 2024 he projected the 22 phrases of his poem *Verás* onto a cliff facing the Pacific. He has received Guggenheim and DAAD fellowships, as well as numerous awards, including the Pablo Neruda Award (Chile, 1998), the National Literature Award (Chile, 2000), the José Donoso Ibero-American Literature Award (Chile, 2017), the Alberto Dubito Lifetime Achievement Award (Italy, 2018), the Kumaran Asan World Prize for Poetry (India, 2018), the Reina Sofía Ibero-American Poetry Award (Spain, 2020), and the Federico García Lorca International Poetry Award (Granada, 2022). He holds Honorary doctorate from Universidad de Alicante (Spain), Santa María University (Chile) and La Frontera University (Chile). In 2018 he was awarded the Jaime Castillo Velasco Human Rights Prize (Chile), and in 2020 the Human Rights International Prize (Uruguay). His works have been translated into various languages.