Robin Myers Wins the 2026 Queen Sofía Spanish Institute Translation Prize

The Queen Sofía Spanish Institute celebrates excellence in literary translation and examines the future of human creativity in the age of artificial intelligence.

- **Robin Myers** receives the $10,000 Translation Prize for her translation of *We Are Green and Trembling*, by Argentine author Gabriela Cabezón Cámara.
- **Madeleine Arenivar** is recognized as runner-up for her translation of *Carnaval Fever*, by Ecuadorian author Yuliana Ortiz Ruano.
- Leading literary translators and an artificial intelligence expert explore the future of human literary translation in a roundtable discussion.

New York, November 19th, 2026 — The Queen Sofía Spanish Institute (QSSI) celebrated its annual Translation Prize Award Ceremony last night, announcing Robin Myers as the winner of the **2026 Queen Sofía Spanish Institute Translation Prize** and Madeleine Arenivar as runner-up.

The ceremony took place at Espacio de Culturas at New York University, bringing together translators, publishers, academics, and members of New York's literary community.

The evening featured remarks by **Pedro Calvo-Sotelo, Consul for Cultural Affairs at the Consulate General of Spain in New York**, and **M. Begoña Santos, President and CEO of the Queen Sofía Spanish Institute**. Reflecting on the art of literary translation, M. Begoña Santos, drew a parallel with the Spanish Renaissance, recalling Garcilaso de la Vega's praise of Juan Boscán's translation of The Book of the Courtier and his belief that "it is as difficult a thing to translate a book well as to write it anew." Santos also highlighted the broader cultural significance of translation, noting that "Boscán, by the act of translating, acted as a cultural and linguistic intermediary."

2026 Translation Prize Winner: Robin Myers

Robin Myers received the $10,000 Translation Prize for her English translation of *We Are Green and Trembling*, by Gabriela Cabezón Cámara, published by New Directions Publishing.

The novel, inspired by the life of Antonio de Erauso, explores the complexities of Spanish colonialism, identity, gender, and humanity's relationship with the natural world. The novel also received the 2025 National Book Award for Translated Literature, further underscoring the international recognition of both Cabezón Cámara's work and Myers's translation.

The Reading Committee praised Myers's translation, describing the work as: "An extraordinary novel, spirited and generous, presented in an English translation that is a work of art unto itself."

Unable to attend the ceremony in person, Robin Myers was represented by **Christopher Wait, her editor at New Directions Publishing**, who accepted the award on her behalf.

Runner-up: Madeleine Arenivar

Madeleine Arenivar was recognized as runner-up for her translation of *Carnaval Fever*, by Yuliana Ortiz Ruano, published by Soft Skull Press. Madeleine Arenivar attended the ceremony and accepted her award in person.

Highlighting Arenivar's linguistic creativity and sensitivity, the jury noted: "She finds a deceptively easy-going, big-hearted English to keep pace with the book's wide-eyed, street-smart style. In her hands, when it comes to language, there are no problems—there's only joy."

"Creativity in Times of Crisis: AI & the Future of Human Literary Translation"

The evening also featured a roundtable discussion titled **"Creativity in Times of Crisis: AI & the Future of Human Literary Translation,"** addressing one of the most pressing questions facing the literary and publishing industries today: the impact of artificial intelligence on the future of literary translation.

The conversation brought together Heather Cleary, Chair of the 2026 Translation Prize Reading Committee and winner of the 2024 QSSI Translation Prize; Smaranda Muresan, an expert in artificial intelligence and natural language processing at Columbia University; Gwendolyn Harper, runner-up of the 2025 QSSI Translation Prize; and Madeleine Arenivar and Christopher Wait.

Bringing together literary and scientific perspectives, the discussion explored the challenges and limitations of artificial intelligence in literary translation, examining the role of human creativity, cultural understanding, linguistic sensitivity, and artistic judgment in an increasingly technology-driven world.

Special Announcement: A Poetry Translation Prize in 2027

During the ceremony, renowned Mexican poet, publisher, and literary translator Jeannette Lozano Clariond, founder of Vaso Roto Ediciones and Spanish-language translator of 2026 Nobel Laureate in Literature Anne Carson, announced a special QSSI Poetry Translation Prize for 2027.

The award will commemorate the centenary of Spain's Generation of '27, one of the most influential literary movements in Spanish literature, whose members included Federico García Lorca, Rafael Alberti, Luis Cernuda, and Vicente Aleixandre.

2026 Queen Sofía Spanish Institute Translation Prize Shortlist

The five finalists for this year's Translation Prize reflected the richness and diversity of contemporary Spanish-language literature:

- *The Dance and the Fire*, by Daniel Saldaña París, translated by Christina MacSweeney, published by Catapult.
- *We Are Green and Trembling*, by Gabriela Cabezón Cámara, translated by Robin Myers, published by New Directions Publishing.
- *Cautery*, by Lucía Lijtmaer, translated by Maureen Shaughnessy, published by Charco Press.
- *Carnaval Fever*, by Yuliana Ortiz Ruano, translated by Madeleine Arenivar, published by Soft Skull Press.
- *Galápagos*, by Fátima Vélez, translated by Hannah Kauders, published by Astra House.

Through its annual Translation Prize, the Queen Sofía Spanish Institute reaffirms its commitment to promoting Spanish-language literature internationally, recognizing the essential contribution of literary translators, and fostering cultural exchange and mutual understanding across linguistic and geographical boundaries.

About the Queen Sofía Spanish Institute

The Queen Sofía Spanish Institute is a New York-based nonprofit corporation founded in 1954 by a group of American Hispanophiles, who sought to stimulate American interest in the art, culture, customs, language, literature and history of Spain and the Spanish-speaking world. Today, the QSSI keeps this vision current by striving to share the contributions of Spanish-speakers to the United States and by showcasing the excellence of the Spanish-speaking world in numerous fields so that lasting ties of friendship may be formed, mutual understanding promoted, and bonds of peace strengthened.

PHOTOS:
https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1bDsnl8ECVpvaHbWITxj6gSVzVzC8LV1H?usp=sharing

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