

Bartolomé Hidalgo Awards Catalog



This catalog features the shortlisted finalists and the works awarded in the last edition of the Bartolomé Hidalgo Awards of the Uruguayan Book Chamber, held at the International Book Fair of Montevideo in October 2025.

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The IDA Program helps contemporary Uruguayan literature to reach new readers around the world, through non-refundable funds of up to USD 2,500 for the translation of works by Uruguayan authors into any language.

It is aimed at foreign publishers that own the publication rights of an Uruguayan work previously published in Uruguay and are trying to get support for its translation.

Developed by Uruguay XXI and the National Directorate of Culture of the Ministry of Education and Culture, the program is named after writer and translator Ida Vitale, winner of the 2018 Cervantes Prize, as a tribute to her contribution to the international renown of Uruguayan literature.

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Programa
de traducción y apoyo
a la exportación editorial

GRAPHIC STORY

WINNER



Cordón Soho

Authors: Natalia Mardero,
Lucía Álvarez

Publisher: Estuario Editora

Cordón Soho walks the thin line between youth and adulthood: bars are a second home, friends are the chosen family, and Spotify is the endless source of English-language music. Montevideo's **Cordón neighborhood is the setting for stories of friendship and (dis)love, but also a den for nocturnal, exotic and endearing characters.** Mardero draws inspiration from his 2014 novel by the same name to expand the universe of Vale, Caro, Gizmo, Pablo, and even Montevideo, who turns out to be just another character.

She is joined in the preparation of this graphic story by the writing and the attentive gazes of Lucía Álvarez, Agustina Mandacén and Nicolás Peruzzo. “Enjoying **Cordón Soho** is not limited to people of a specific age, who were born in a specific year, who live in a specific neighborhood or who listen to specific artists. It is a story about wanting, about longing, and about wanting (in its other meaning). Who hasn’t been there? The agility of the original text finds in this urumanga a perfect framework to meet (or rejoin) **a group of very relatable people. It is charming to join them through paths so Montevidean** that it would be enough to shake the book to make plane-tree stiff hairs fall from it.”

Ignacio Alcuri

FINALISTS



Fathers of La Patria

Author: Gabriel Cardozo

Publisher: Self-published

Welcome to the year 1842. The newly born nation is in crisis. The Founding Fathers of the Oriental State of Uruguay (Rivera, Lavalleja and Oribe) engage in a bloody and supernatural conflict that has plunged the country into darkness.

In this context, **a group of men embark on a long journey** in search of the Protector of the Free People, José Gervasio Artigas.



Underwater Chaos

Authors: Guillermo Giansanti,
Virginia Mórtola

Publisher: El Ministerio Ediciones

A photobook designed exclusively for reading in pairs between adult and child. If you dive into this photobook, you will find specimens of diverse origins discovered by the camera of the intrepid Guillermo Giansanti.

You will learn about the infinite number of vermin that inhabited the aquatic darkness of the Parque Rodó lake, and you will even be able to design new creatures that will challenge your imagination.

POETRY

WINNER



A Sea at Dawn

Author: Silvia Guerra

Publisher: Yaugurú / Eulalia Books

Silvia Guerra's poetry is distinguished by its complexity, its use of concrete images and abstract thought, as well as its unusual syntax and unconventional capitalization and punctuation. In her poems, Guerra imagines reality from the point of view of other beings, living or inert. Her writing opens a space where we can imagine the consciousness of other beings and “translate” it into human language. The author breaks clichés, undoes grammatical and stylistic conventions, and digs into the sands of language to find the truths that lie beneath.

FINALISTS



Soma

Author: Manuel Barrios

Publisher: Milena París.

Soma is not just a book: it is the sum of all the possible readings of these texts before they were written and after the total project has been completed. What ends here is what begins here. Through that prophecy, words speak to us about something that exceeds literature. Barrios is inspiring the future.

Héctor Hernández Montecinos



Clotilde Rospide's notebook From modernism to baroque

Author: Roberto Echavarren

Publisher: Pez en el Hielo

I perfectly remember the October afternoon when Roberto Echavarren told me that he had found a notebook of verses written by a certain Clotilde Rospide (1892-1944). **The sun shyly filtered through the skylight, and the dog circled restlessly** among the books, the Indonesian tapestries and the porcelain vases, while Roberto talked to me, with growing enthusiasm, about his discovery, about this poet, of Basque ancestors like himself, who bridged his own poetry with that of his distant masters of early 20th century modernism, and illuminated the later Hispanic-American baroque. This is clear, as an editorial gesture, in the subtitle chosen later by Roberto, in which Rospide appears as a link that goes backward, to the Golden Age, in a recovery that takes on singular interest at the moment in which time recedes, and makes it turn to the future, to the so-called neo-baroque that marked a fundamental part of the best Latin American poetry and crystallized in the Medusario exhibition (1996; 2010; 2016). Rospide appears as a voice forever young, always surprising. There is something dismal that expresses itself naturally, a slight dislocation of the lens, a suspicion that implants itself in the reader and blooms only if one takes care to water it.

Francisco Álvarez Francese

HISTORY

WINNER

In the period of authoritarianism (1968-1973), the topic of the “internal enemy” infiltrated in political parties, education, trade unions, culture, churches and the family, became a fixed idea of the right wing. This concern produced efforts to expose the threat to the social and political order and fostered the use of war metaphors, which created an atmosphere of permanent confrontation. Rulers and non-state actors claimed that Uruguay was at war, and so justified discursive, legal and repressive outbursts.

This book deconstructs the idea of “war”, maps the disputed territories, the weapons used in that struggle and the groups that carried it out. Based on the analysis of valuable documentation, mostly unknown until now, the book proposes a journey through the positions and actions promoted by leading figures of conservatism and the right. But above all, it delves into the paths of anti-communist disseminators and promoters of lesser-known social and political organizations.

The research shows that the protagonists of these pages fought in the political, labor, trade union, cultural and moral fields, trying by various means to distance broad social sectors from the influence of the leftists in the process of growth and expansion. The book relativizes the idea of the 1973 coup d'état as an inevitable outcome or dead end, favoring the hypothesis of the coup as an opportunity for deep and lasting changes.



Winning the War. Culture, Society and Politics in Authoritarian Uruguay (1967-1973)

Author: Magdalena Broquetas
Publisher: Ediciones de la Banda Oriental.

FINALISTS



Prison and reformatory. The construction of a modern penitentiary system in Uruguay

Author: Daniel Fessler

Publisher: Fundación de Cultura Universitaria.

Prison and Reformatory analyzes the process of construction of what could be called a modern penitentiary system. The inquiry begins from the first demands for the creation of a public prison, shortly after the Uruguayan State was formed, and the criticisms of the conditions of the confinement spaces that were largely inherited from the colonial period. A process in which the first projects would appear in the mid-nineteenth century, followed by studies on the prison situation and proposals for the ideal model based on large cellular isolation systems.

The book studies the inauguration of the first penitentiary located on Miguelete Street and the precarious habilitation of a correctional building, which would soon be affected by operational problems. Despite the sensitivity it aroused and the mobilization of the Montevideo society, the research shows how the opening of a women's prison remained on the periphery of the penitentiary reform.

Finally, it reveals how the law of February 6, 1902, that changed the destiny of the work under construction in Punta Carretas would set the agenda of the penitentiary system for the first decades of the 20th century. The law would stipulate the inauguration of a new prison, the habilitation of the old radial building as Correctional Prison and the construction of the Educational Colony for Boys (currently Colonia Berro) in Suárez as an agrarian reformatory for male children and teenagers.

FINALISTS



***The Fabrique of May 68,
1968-1974: The Making of
an International Event in
Uruguay***

Author: Camille Gapenne
Publisher: Crítica.

In 1968, student protests broke out on all continents, constituting a global event. In Latin America, in addition to Uruguay, young people mobilized massively in Brazil and Mexico. The demonstrations with the greatest impact, however, were those that took place in the streets of Paris. Why? How?

This book analyzes of the construction of the French May in the Uruguayan written media, from its outbreak until the beginning of the Uruguayan dictatorship. Starting with the daily press and moving on to the weekly Marcha, the study covers a constellation of magazines, notebooks, fascicles and books. Out of there emerges a meditation on the concept of event as an accumulation of mediatized representations forming a scaffolding of changing meanings over time.

The construction of these stories involves a multitude of actors who form networks that produce and exchange information. Their spread at the international level is therefore not a mere distance to be covered: it is a succession of cuts and resignifications conditioned by the structure of the media and by the context of reception. Indeed, local media and readers are much more than passive receivers of information produced abroad. They fully participate in the reinterpretation of the event in relation to the local context: the growing authoritarianism of the government, the intensification of political conflict and the debates on the “ways of the revolution”, conditioned by the Cuban events.

In *The Fabrique of May 68*, Camille Gapenne proposes an exhaustive cultural and political scan of how this historical fact was constructed as an international event, exposing the global dialogues and interconnections, on both sides of the Atlantic Ocean, in one of the most fervent periods of the 20th century.

CHRONICLE AND JOURNALISTIC RESEARCH

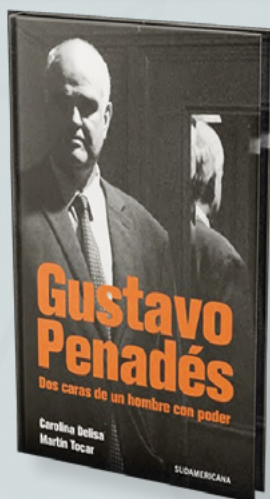
WINNER

Gustavo Penadés was a politician with an impeccable career. With a leading parliamentary activity and a wide presence in the media, he enjoyed the respect of his co-religionists and his adversaries. However, his fate changed drastically on Tuesday, March 28, 2023, when a trans woman publicly accused him of pedophilia and sexual exploitation.

This controversial statement, which was followed by more than a dozen complaints, **triggered a whirlwind of news, opinions and revelations that kept public opinion on edge**, and locked the respected senator in jail where he awaits trial, claiming he is not guilty of any crime. This book tells the story from all points of view. From a deep and careful investigation –more than a hundred people consulted and access to a wide range of documentary sources and reserved files–, the authors shed light on the life of Penadés and a murky web of causes and consequences.

The successful and praised political rise in parallel with a private life in which stigmatization coexisted with abuse and concealment. The lives of people forever affected by his actions. The secondary actors of a dark environment of exploitation that we know exists but prefer not to see.

Several protagonists of this story are revealed for the first time in this book, providing key information to understand the secrets behind appearances.



Gustavo Penadés: Two Faces of a Man of Power

Author: Carolina Delisa and
Martín Tocar
Publisher: Sudamericana.

FINALISTS



Fifteen hundred days in jail by mistake

Author: Mauricio Sabaj
Publisher: Planeta.

This is a first-hand portrait of life in the largest prison in the country, the true Dante's hell in the self-complacent Oriental Republic of Uruguay. Appealing to the best weapons of journalism, Mauricio Sabaj reconstructs the story of Jonathan Farías, a young Uruguayan forced to spend 1500 days in the Comcar prison for two robberies in which he was not involved. It is fast to say, but it is a slow Odyssey for a person's life. Very slow. And it leaves scars that last forever.

With a breakneck pace and a concise and stripped-down style, Sabaj not only introduces us to Farías' life, but also to that of his family and friends, a world of eternal postponements and daily injustices.

Apart from delving into the tragic fate of Farías, **the book has the merit of raising several major issues that should be part of political debates**, but are still absent: can a democracy survive with a justice system that is unjust, inefficient and ultimately does not work? Can we aspire to a better society if we continue to maintain huge pockets of arbitrariness and negligence in the eyes of all? Who pays these bills?

Like a dog of prey, like the best journalists, Sabaj does not let go of the story until the end, when the State wanted to repair the damage done, even though it was already too late.

FINALISTS



Disobedient and Recovered

Author: Daniel Gatti

Publisher: Fin de Siglo

“Mothers, grandmothers, children, husbands, wives of the kidnapped, murdered, disappeared, recovered, reappeared: all are damaged by the military dictatorships of the region”, says Daniel Gatti, author of this indispensable book, himself the son and brother of a disappeared. In the itinerary of the damage he traces, Gatti includes the children and grandchildren of the repressors, the disobedient who dare to break the oppressive and violent family bond and add their voice to the denunciations of the horrors. The testimonies and the exhumed stories show the similarities of the dramas (the same wounds, the same outrages, the same doubts, the same determinations) of the victims of “one side and the other”. Both sides (as the text inevitably shows) are moving together towards the recovery of dignity, the main component of identity.

ACADEMIC DIVULGATION

WINNER



Austerity or Barbarism

Author: Mauricio Lima

Publisher: Estuario Editora.

This set of essays challenges our vision of the contemporary world. At a time when civilization based on fossil fuels is faltering, this book invites a profound reflection on our relationship with nature, energy and the future we imagine for the next generations.

Through personal memories, ecological scientific analysis and a prose that combines intuition and science, the author leads us through landscapes where infinite growth collides with the physical limits of the planet. With a critical but not defeatist view, Lima invites us to an exercise of attention and responsibility: to recognize the signs of change, to connect with other forms of life and to understand the political and social challenges that will define the world we inhabit.

Austerity and Barbarism does not imply an apocalyptic warning, but rather an invitation to view things differently, to imagine alternative futures and to actively engage in the construction of a more livable future.

FINALISTS



Indian cerritos. Archaeology and History of a Native People of Uruguay

Author: José López Mazz

Publisher: Ediciones de la Banda Oriental

This book aims to address, in the history and geography of Uruguay, an indigenous cultural tradition that has existed for five thousand years. The cerritos, or mounds, are structures made of earth and other materials that had different functions: domestic, ceremonial, funerary, agricultural. Based on rigorous research, it is possible to understand behaviors and cultural traits that give physiognomy to these primitive peoples.

It also includes information on the Güenoas/Minúan groups as historical descendants of the pre-colonial cerritos builders. And, from the 14th century onwards, the newly arrived Guaraní groups are identified as the last occupants of the mounds.



Preserved Food II

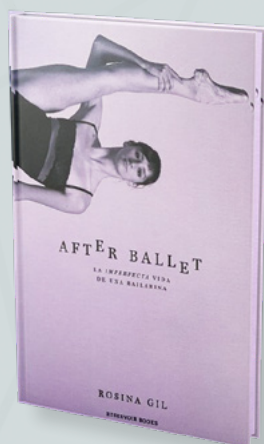
Author: Mauricio Pizard, Joaquín Pastorino (Garage Gourmet)

Publisher: Grijalbo

Preserved Food II is a glossary of foods to be preserved (mainly in jars). A catalog of products, ideas and recipes to prepare with the foods of the four seasons, from the most traditional to the most original, explained in a simple and safe way. It is a map where you can follow the route or, better yet, explore other paths, looking for inspiration to experiment and personalize preserves. At garage gourmet, our goal is to further spread the desire to engage with food in a more authentic way, growing, cooking and enjoying homemade food, and rescuing procedures and methods that value the local and artisanal. When food is a biological, environmental, political and cultural act, cooking homemade food is to be activists from the kitchen.

TESTIMONIES, MEMOIRS AND BIOGRAPHIES

WINNER



After Ballet

Author: Rosina Gil

Publisher: Reservoir Books.

Throughout my life, creating has been something **inevitable** and fundamental. My humble beginnings in a dysfunctional family meant that, from a tender age, I generated worlds much more beautiful than those around me. My father: plastic artist, anti-system, with an overflowing talent, but absent. My mother: agricultural engineer, a woman with her feet on the ground, highly intelligent and pragmatic, a real fighter. These two genetic universes created a very particular mix. Although my essence is rebellious and full of energy, I was always attracted to discipline, as it helped me to combine wild strength, exuberant creativity, with the rigor of ballet, which I began to study at the age of eight. This discipline forged my personality, full of resilience and determination. Always supported by my grandmother, who since my childhood lovingly pushed me to do more. My insatiable curiosity, my questioning spirit, and my constant desire to grow have shaped my dance through life. A nomadic life: I lived in five countries, in many of their cities; moving houses, loves, jobs; classical ballet, contemporary dance, circus, acting and rock and roll. I am no longer the same woman who can be pigeonholed in the structure of classical, I celebrate and appreciate that, but it is time to reclaim my power as a creative artist and focus my energy on what is my true desire today.

Life inspires me to create and generate emotions. When I carry out a project, I always ask myself what it will generate in the person who sees, hears, or reads it, and in me. I want it to change me, to transform me and, if possible, to heal me too.

FINALISTS



Todos detrás de Momo

Author: Gustavo Espinosa

Publisher: Estuario Editora.

“**Gustavo Espinosa**, narrator and poet, offers us a detailed and rigorous analysis of this iconic album by the thirty-three-year-old duo, music that for different reasons has been present since very early in his life. Leaving aside his personal relationship with the album, he devotes himself to interpreting its historical and musical context, its structure, aesthetic choices and decisions, as well as the interpretation of the songs. The complexity of **Todos detrás de Momo** deserved a kind of approach that, like the one chosen by the author, would highlight, with patience and love, its rarity and originality, intact to this day. I am sure that those who listen to the album again during or after reading this book will see how it opens up a plethora of new details and meanings.”



Magic Time

Author: Ana Típa

Publisher: Estuario Editora.

An original, meticulously detailed and very personal reading by the Uruguayan filmmaker Ana Típa about one of the fundamental records in the history of Uruguayan music: Magic Time, by Opa.

The social and cultural life of La Comercial neighborhood where the Fattoruso brothers and Ringo Thielmann grew up is reconstructed in an enlightening way to understand the trio’s relationship in the United States, their relationship with Aírto Moreira, the collaboration with Ruben Rada (a very important figure in this album) and other people who were part, in one way or another, of this milestone record.

A painstaking investigation that includes revealing interviews with several main characters; a study that sheds new light, with rigor, an intelligent eye and a clear prose, on this foundational album by the legendary trio.

NARRATIVE

WINNER



In this land

Author: Lalo Barrubia
Publisher: Criatura Editora.

A woman chooses a piece of land in a remote place to build her house. There she sets her tent and, with her own hands and without experience, begins the construction.

As we read, we witness the symbiosis that is created between body and ranch and nature, how they mutually transform each other to achieve a new organism in a land full of their own stories.

This novel is, if you will, the manual for the building of a house, but it is also a spiritual survival guide for someone who builds his identity with shovels and planks of wood.

In this Land is an introspective novel that flirts with fantastic literature and noir; it is a mature and perennial novel, the sublimation of Lalo Barrubia's great work.

"The wells, in a sandy soil like this, can only be made with bare hands. To build my house with my bare hands. There are people who do not even imagine that the world is full of other human beings who build their houses with their hands."

FINALISTS



Common Hawthorns, Private Parties

Author: Mercedes Estramil
Publisher: Hum.

A boy named after a town who steals in the wrong place, a patient pedophile, narcissistic writers' duels, ex-partners who still love each other, frivolous friendships, filial tragedies, deep hatreds. The inner Uruguay of roads, rivers and lost towns, and the broad beaches of sun and sea, where city dwellers dream of paradise, appear here in the colors of hell.

In Common Hawthorns, Private Parties, the impeccable detail of geographies and characters takes the reader (with deceptive tranquility and intentional crudeness) into a world of primal emotions that is first denied and then recognized, or the other way around. Estramil's incorrect voice exhibits (cynically, shamelessly, and sometimes mercilessly) scenarios of vacations and escapes, fear and neglect, abandonment and forgiveness. The delirious interior that prevailed in *Irreversible*, the caustic "heroines" of *Hispania Help* and *Washed Tombs*, and the cutting psychopathy of *Mordida* are amplified in these fifteen stories with Mercedes Estramil's signature.



Raids

Author: Sebastián Mederos
Publisher: Pez en el Hielo.

A hard, smelly and musical book. A way of thinking about the end of an analysis and killing the father. A moving and candid book that exposes the writer to make a cartography of his phantasmagoria.

More than a narration, this book is an investigation from the bowels in search for the traces of the father. An instrument such as the bandoneon turns into a sinthome. A singular mark that finally accommodates the father by bidding him farewell.

Jorge Bafico



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Uruguaya
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Uruguay XXI
PROMOCIÓN DE INVERSIONES,
EXPORTACIONES E IMAGEN PAÍS



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