FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media contact: Elizabeth Baisley
ebaisley@cityofasylumpittsburgh.org
412-323-0278


_Anthology of New Cuban fiction features 16 short stories_

PITTSBURGH, PA – Jan. 30, 2014: _City of Asylum_ is pleased to announce the release of the English-language, print edition of _Generation Zero: An Anthology of New Cuban Fiction_. Originally published serially by SampsoniaWay.org, this is the first time the stories have been published in print, and is the first in a planned series of anthologies of contemporary writing from around the world.


“There are many writers currently creating canon-defying literature inside Cuba,” observed _Silvia Duarte_, Managing Editor of SampsoniaWay.org. “We invited Orlando Luis Pardo Lazo to curate a collection of short works by writers who are creating new trends in Cuban Literature.” She added, “The anthology doesn’t aim to be absolute or complete; our intent is to open a door to the Island’s newer literary movements.”

Pardo Lazo—the author of _Boring Home_ (2009), editor of the independent opinion and literary e-zine _Voces_, and a columnist for SampsoniaWay.org—chose to focus the anthology on a group of writers whose careers began in or after 2000, referred to as Generación Año Cero (Generation Zero). “These are the island’s emerging literary voices,” he stated, “Writers whose styles and topics and points of view are post-Fidel—post-revolutionary, if you will. This wasn’t a simple selection of new work by long-established writers, but rather an attempt to track the ideas and innovations happening in Cuban literature.”

**Critical Response to _Generation Zero_**

"This compilation of short stories might well say more about Cuba's reality than most news reports. Some of the island's best emerging writers reach outside Cuba through their work - even as we look in - sometimes with depth, sometimes with irreverence but always with great punch."
—Juan O. Tamayo, _Miami Herald/El Nuevo Herald_ (USA)

"Cubans no longer speak the same language...In _Generation Year Zero_, sarcasm, deterritorialization, transvestism, fragmentation, colloquialism, hybridization, adventure, and imagination are redesigning Cuban identity, recovering their power of subversion and resignifying Utopia."
“Although some may believe it’s not true, freedom of expression is never completely undermined. This has been demonstrated by this brilliant group of Cuban authors: with their stories they prove that the days of the Communist Inquisition on the island are about to end.”
— José María Ballester Esquivias, La Gaceta Intereconomía (Spain)