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# DROPOUT

by Camilo Roldán

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In 1971, Lee Lozano wrote, “IDENTITY CHANGES CONTINUOUSLY AS MULTIPLIED BY TIME. (IDENTITY IS A VECTOR.)” Throughout his first full-length book of poems, poet Camilo Roldán, who has taken the late artist Lozano as a sort of spirit guide, appears to challenge identity to the point of crisis. The poems in *Dropout* cover seven years of the author’s life in New York City. Roldán has since left the US for Colombia, where he has found work as a translator in Bogotá. The contrast between cultures and dialects and an increasingly intimate engagement with intertextuality and the diverse contingencies of language may have given him the perspective to look back across a relatively short time span to compose this extraordinary book. *Dropout* is distinctly the work of a bilingual writer intent on foregrounding intertextual relationships as a kind of interlingual liminality. A preoccupation with translation as authorship, and conversely, authorship as translation, wends its way through mistranslations, ekphrasis, mixtures of English and Spanish, collage poems, citations, glosses, and the ephemeral tracings of a reader’s own ever-changing identity vector.

**Camilo Roldán** is a Colombian-American poet and translator born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin and currently living in Bogotá, Colombia. His poems and translations have appeared in various print and digital magazines in the US and Colombia. He is the translator of the chapbook *Amilcar U., Nadaísta in Translation* (These Signals Press 2011), co-author of the chapbook  $\Delta$  [*delta*] with Douglas Piccinnini and Cynthia Gray (TPR Press 2013), and author of the chapbook *La Torre* (Well Greased Press 2015). His translation of Amílcar Osorio’s *Vana Stanza* is forthcoming from Elis Press. *Dropout* is his first full-length book of poems.

**Ornithopter Press** is an independent publisher of poetry by authors who offer exceptional counterpoints to the literary mainstream. *Dropout* is available at: [www.ornithopterpress.com](http://www.ornithopterpress.com)