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Literary news about Maria-Mercè Marçal in Lletra, Catalan literature online at the Open University of Catalonia.

< <http://lletra.uoc.edu/en/author/maria-merce-marcal> >

Maria-Mercè Marçal



Maria-Mercè Marçal

(Nou diccionari 62 de la literatura catalana)

Ivars d'Urgell, 1952 - Barcelona, 1998. Poet, novelist, translator and essayist. She completed her secondary schooling in Lleida and studied Classical Philology at the

University of Barcelona where she soon came to know other young poets (Ramon Pinyol, Xavier Bru de Sala and, later, Miquel Desclot, Jaume Medina...) with whom she would found the publishing venture "Llibres del Mall" in 1973. She married Ramon Pinyol with whom she lived for four years. In 1976, she was awarded the Carles Riba Poetry Prize for *Cau de llunes* (Den of Moons - 1977), thus making her appearance as one of the most innovative voices of the 1970s literary generation, along the lines of [Brossa](#) and [Foix](#) at their most surrealist. At the same time, her political struggle in the closing years of the Franco dictatorship took specific form when she joined PSAN (Socialist Party of National Liberation) and participated in the Assembly of Catalonia. She was teaching Catalan Language and Literature, a profession in which she continued to work. She also began speaking and writing about feminism and literature and would become one of the most solid theoreticians in the field. In 1979, she created the Feminism section at the Catalan Summer University of Prada, coordinating this until 1985 and working on numerous projects, exhibitions, and pro-independence, feminist and lesbian publications. Some of her poems were set to music by singers of the Nova Cançó (New Song) movement. In 1979 she published *Bruixa de dol* (Witch in Mourning), her second collection of poems, which was to seal her success. In 1980, she participated in the foundation of Nacionalistes d'Esquerra (Left Nationalists), but gradually moved towards purely cultural militancy working on the task of linguistic recovery. When her daughter Heura was born in the same year Marçal was to cope with her maternity alone, a crucial experience, which she elaborates in poetic form in *Sal oberta* (Open Salt - 1982) - a book dominated by the sonnet and permeated by the popular tradition in which the range of imagery extends to salt, sea and ivy (*heura*)- and also in the second part of *La germana, l'estrangera* (Sister, Stranger - 1985). The latter book recovers a brief earlier collection consisting of fifteen sestinas, *Terra de mai* (The Never Land - 1982). In 1989, her complete poetic works, including *Desglaç* (Thaw), were collected in *Llengua abolida (1973-1988)* (Abolished Tongue (1973 - 1988)). After 1994, she worked to consolidate the [women writers' collective](#) of the [Catalan PEN Club Centre](#), organising meetings, functions in homage to women writers, panel discussions, especially in the fields of poetry and essay. She also worked with the "Filosofia i gènere" (Philosophy and Gender) group of the University of Barcelona, which was coordinated by her companion Fina Birulés, and this part of her work led her to establish relations with the Italian philosopher Luisa Muraro, among others.

Running through her poetry are the signs of a passionate, free and hence risky adventure. This is based on the triple rebellion that inaugurates the poem "Divisa" in *Cau de llunes*, a collection that expresses the main thrust of her work where her thematic motifs are organised around the key question of female identity. Love, solitude, non-communication, passion, maternity, rebellion, and so on, are sub-themes. Going against everything that our culture has defined as femininity, the early collections take the moon as the privileged image of a certain feminine ideal, subverting its traditional subordination to solar light. The tension between the poetic "I", the moon and shadow -an unexplored, uncontrolled zone- appears as the basic triangular schema that in *Terra de mai* (1982) turns crisis into the momentary achievement of Utopia.

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In *La germana, l'estrangera* she embarks on a process of introspection in which she rejects or questions the traditional images of the female "I": the child killer, impostor, the guilty party, mother, daughter, lover, sister, stranger ? Shadows reflected in a fathomless mirror. Shadow, wound and blood -dammed-up blood becoming a petrified fossil. With *La passió segons Renée Vivien* (1994), a novel about the lesbian poet Pauline M. Tarn, she reveals herself as a great novelist in the creativity of her prose, the book's audacious structure and the formulation of a universe that is squarely in the tradition of Virginia Woolf and Djuna Barnes. She also translated works by Colette, Yourcenar, and Leonor Fini and, with the collaboration of Mònika Zgustová, the Russian poets Anna Akhmatova and Marina Tsvetaeva. Notable too, in the field of essay are *Contraclaror* (Against the Light - 1985), her study and anthology of [Clementina Arderiu](#), and the anthology *Paisatge emergent. Trenta poetes catalanes del segle XX* (Emerging Landscape. Thirty Twentieth-century Catalan Women Poets - 1998), which she compiled and edited with other women writers. Then again are the key articles "Rosa Leveroni, en el llindar" (Rosa Leveroni on the Threshold - 1986) and "Com en la nit, les flames" (As in the Night, the Flames - 1998), on Akhmatova and Tsvetaeva.

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Who I Am and Why I Write

Maria-Mercè Marçal

I can't give a detailed account of the years that separate that little girl from the woman who's trying to answer the double question of "who I am and why I write". Some landmarks appear schematically in the biographical note at the end of this publication. At first glance, I am seduced when I see, in the mirror of my verse, of my books, the reflection of a snake and its changes of skin: mutations that speak and yet remain mute. The snake is perhaps the one that my mother used to say was up there in the attic, her intention being to prevent me from climbing up there on a ladder that was too shaky. I stealthily climbed up to two or three rungs before the top and saw it, saw the snake and how it was awakening and, in my terror, I rushed all the way back down the ladder. Only to go back, again and again, without being able to stop myself. Temptation or challenge, transgression and need: writing. The snake-inhabited attic was there in the house where we went to live when we left the farm, the seeds of that first move. The first metaphor perhaps.

[With the words *mudes que parlen i alhora resten mudes*, Marçal is playing with the double sense of *mudes*, which as a noun means "changes" and, as an adjective, "mute" in the feminine form, so that she is also suggesting mute women that speak but still remain mute ` translator's note.]

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A selection of texts

Text



WEB: Un dels Dotze sentits

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Marçal és una dels dotze poetes antologats al CD-ROM *Dotze sentits. Poesia catalana d'avui*.

http://www.iaa.upf.edu/dotze_sentits/entrada.html



WEB: Fundació Maria-Mercè Marçal

Espai oficial de la Fundació Maria Mercè-Marçal: inclou textos i biografia.

<http://www.fmmm.cat/>



WEB: Barcelonareview: Desglaç

Sel·lecció de 10 poemes de Desglaç

http://www.barcelonareview.com/46/c_mmm.htm



WEB: Google Books: Maria Mercè Marçal

Selecció de les obres de l'autora a Google Books

http://books.google.com/books?as_q=maria+merc%C3%A8+mar%C3%A7al&num=10&hl=ca&btnG=Cerca+amb+Google&as_epq=&as_oq=&as_eq=&as_brr=0&lr=&as_vt=&as_auth=maria+merc%C3%A8+mar%C3%A7al&as_pub=&as_drrb=c&as_miny



WEB: "Divisa"

Poema de Marçal al web *Poesiacatalana.com*.

<http://www.poesiacatalana.com/marsal.html>



WEB: Magisteri Teatre-Mag Poesia

Diversos poemes de Marçal pensats per a l'escola.

<http://www.mallorcaweb.com/mag-teatre/marcal-nins/>



WEB: Selecció de poesia catalana

Set poemes de l'autora. Dos ("Divisa" i "Dues dents han deixat...") amb traducció a l'anglès.

<http://www.uoc.edu/lletra/especials/folch/marcal.htm>



WEB: Selecció de poemes

Sis poemes de l'autora al web *Viu la poesia*.

http://www.viulapoesia.com/membrespocio/arxius/lletra/mmamarca_index_poemes.html



WEB: "Divisa" (Motto)

Marçal's poem online at *Poesiacatalana.com*.

<http://www.poesiacatalana.com/marsal.html>



WEB: Magisteri Teatre-Mag Poesia

Several poems by Marçal with schoolchildren in mind.

<http://www.mallorcaweb.com/mag-teatre/marcal-nins/>



WEB: Selection of Catalan Poetry

Seven poems by Maria-Mercè Marçal. Two of them ("Divisa" and "Dues dents han deixat..." (Two Teeth Have Left ?)) are translated into English.

<http://www.uoc.edu/lletra/especials/folch/marcal.htm>

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VIDEO: Cançó del bes sense port

Interpretació de Miguel Poveda de la Cançó del bes sense port

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A8XhmdlhFzo>



VIDEO: Homenatge i recital

Recital de poesia de Maria-Mercè Marçal a càrrec de Montserrat Carulla i Joel Joan

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WYPOi63W7Z8>

Bio-bibliography

Biography



WEB: A la Hiperenciclopèdia

http://www.enciclopedia.cat/fitxa_v2.jsp?NDCHEC=0040040



WEB: Fitxa al "Qui és qui a les lletres catalanes"

<http://cultura.gencat.net/ilc/qqq/FitxaAutors.asp?nom1=mar&nom2=&cerca=Cerca&quinform=form1&NRegistre=3&idregistre=2083>



WEB: A la Viquipèdia

Biografia, obra i enllaços sobre l'autora al web de l'enciclopèdia lliure.

http://ca.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maria_Mercè_Marçal_i_Serra



WEB: The author in the Catalan Encyclopaedia

<http://www.grec.cat/cgibin/hecangcl2.pgm?&USUARI=&SESSIO=&NDCHEC=0040040&PGMORI=E>



VIDEO: Poetes maleïts. Maria Mercè Marçal

Documental de TVC sobre l'autora amb representacions dels seus poemes i imatges personals.

http://www.edu3.cat/Edu3tv/Fitxa?p_id=42638&p_ex=maria%20merc%20mar%E7al



WEB: The author in the Who's Who of Catalan Literature

<http://cultura.gencat.net/ilc/qqq/FitxaAutorsuk.asp?nom1=mar%E7al&cercauk2=Search&quinform=form1&NRegistre=2&idregistre=2083>



WEB: In Wikipedia

Bio-bibliographical note and links on the author in the free encyclopaedia.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maria_Mercè_Marçal

Bibliography



WEB: Què hi ha a la Biblioteca de Catalunya

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http://cataleg.bnc.cat/search*cat/?searchtype=a&searcharg=Mar%C3%A7al+Maria+Merc%C3%A8&sortdropdown=-&searchscope=13&searchscope2=13&SORT=D



WEB: Què hi ha a les biblioteques universitàries catalanes (CCUC)

http://ccuc.cbuc.es/search*cat/a?SEARCH=Mar%C3%A7al+Maria+Merc%C3%A8&sortdropdown=-&searchscope=23



WEB: Què hi ha a les biblioteques públiques

<http://argus.biblioteques.gencat.cat/iii/encore/search/C|SMar%C3%A7al+Maria+Merc%C3%A8%7COrighresult|U1?lang=cat&suite=pearl>



WEB: Articles de l'autora (Traces)

<http://traces.uab.cat/search?f=author&p=Mar%C3%A7al%20Maria%20Merc%C3%A8&sc=1&ln=ca>



WEB: Per comprar-ne llibres

<http://www.llibres.cat/ca/detall-autor/marcal-i-serra-maria-merce>



WEB: Articles sobre l'autora (Traces)

http://traces.uab.cat/search?ln=ca&p=Marçal%2C+Maria+Mercede&f=keyword&action_search=Cerca&c=Traces+%3A+base+de+dades+de+llengua+i+literatura+catalanes&sf=&so=d&rm=&rg=10&sc=1&of=hb



WEB: Works in the Biblioteca de Catalunya

http://cataleg.bnc.cat/search*eng/?searchtype=a&searcharg=Mar%C3%A7al+Maria+Merc%C3%A8&sortdropdown=-&searchscope=13&searchscope2=13&SORT=D



WEB: The author in The European Library

<http://search.theeuropeanlibrary.org/portal/en/search/%28%22creator%22+all+%22mar%C3%A7al+maria+merc%C3%A8%22%29.query>



WEB: The author in the Congress Library (US)

<http://catalog.loc.gov/cgi-bin/Pwebrecon.cgi?DB=local&PAGE=First>



WEB: The author in the COPAC Catalogue (UK)

<http://copac.ac.uk/search?&au=Maria+Merc%C3%A8+Mar%C3%A7al>

Comments on the author

Criticism



WEB: Pàgina de l'AELC

Biografia, informacions, publicacions.

<http://www.escriptors.com/autors/marcalmm/>

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WEB: L'autora al Corpus Literari Ciutat de Barcelona

Biografia, enllaços i transcripció d'articles sobre Marçal.

http://www.ducros.biz/corpus/index.php?command=show_news&news_id=3450



WEB: Comitè d'Escriptors del PEN

Pàgina del Comitè d'escriptors del Centre Català del PEN, creat per M. Mercè Marçal.

<http://www.pencatala.cat/comites/escriptors>



WEB: AELC Website

Biography, information, publications on the page of the Association of Catalan Language Writers.

<http://www.escriptors.com/autors/marcalmm/>



WEB: Maria-Mercè Marçal in the City of Barcelona Literary Corpus

Biography, links and transcription of articles on this author.

http://www.ducros.biz/corpus/index.php?command=show_news&news_id=3450



WEB: PEN Women Writers' Committee

Page of the Catalan PEN Club Centre Women Writers' Committee, which was created by Maria-Mercè Marçal.

http://www.pencatala.cat/comites/comite_descriptores/index.php

Miscellaneous



PDF: "Marçal, dins la cambra pròpia"

Article d'Andreu Gomila sobre el volum de proses *Sota el signe del drac*, a l'*Avui* (27/05/04).

<http://www.traces.uab.es/tracesbd/avui/av02657.pdf>



WEB: "Amb l'ànima sense vels"

Exposició sobre Maria Mercè Marçal a Ivars d'Urgell.

<http://cat.lleida.com/exposicions/exposicio.html?exposicio=1230>



WEB: "Auca de Maria Mercè Marçal"

Auca escrita per Joan Vilamala al web La paret de les auques.

<http://www.auques.cat/textos.php?auca=marsal>



PDF: L'arxiu de l'autora a la BC

Les hereves de l'escriptora fan donació a la Biblioteca de Catalunya dels documents que Marçal va usar en la seva tasca creativa.

<http://www.bnc.es/fons/inventaris/smanuscrits/marcal/marcal.pdf>



WEB: Dibuix-homenatge

Pàgina amb una imatge feminista acompanyada de mots de Marçal, i poemes de diversos autors.

<http://cortina.4mg.com/altri.htm>

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WEB: La pasión según Renée Vivien

Breu ressenya de la traducció al castellà d'aquesta obra de Marçal.

<http://www.seix-barral.es/fichalibro.asp?libro=475>



PDF: "Marçal, dins la cambra pròpia" (Marçal, in a Room of Her Own)

Article by Andreu Gomila on the book of prose writings *Sota el signe del drac* (Under the Sign of the Dragon), in *Avui* (27 May 2004).

<http://www.traces.uab.es/tracesbd/avui/av02657.pdf>



WEB: "Amb l'ànima sense vels" (With the Soul Unveiled)

Exhibition on Maria Mercè Marçal in Ivars d'Urgell.

<http://cat.lleida.com/exposicions/exposicio.html?exposicio=1230>



PDF: The Maria-Mercè Marçal Archive at the Library of Catalonia

Marçal's heiresses have donated a comprehensive collection of personal and working documents to the Biblioteca de Catalunya (Library of Catalonia).

<http://www.bnc.es/fons/inventaris/smanuscrits/marcal/marcal.pdf>



WEB: Drawing-Tribute

Page with a feminist illustration accompanied by Marçal's poem "Divisa" along with poems by different writers.

<http://cortina.4mg.com/altri.htm>



WEB: La pasión según Renée Vivien (Passion According to Renée Vivien)

Brief review of the Spanish translation of this book by Marçal.

<http://www.seix-barral.es/fichalibro.asp?libro=475>

Comments



VIDEO: La poesia de Maria Mercè Marçal

Vídeo col·loqui sobre l'autora durant l'acte celebrat el 20 de juny de 2008 a l'Auditori del Palau de la Generalitat.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IDNhBLN0yuk&feature=related>



VIDEO: "Maria-Mercè Marçal o les raons de la literatura"

Conferència a càrrec de Vicent Alonso durant l'acte celebrat el 20 de juny de 2008 a l'Auditori del Palau de la Generalitat.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ac3a1kkB3j8>



WEB: "Cap a l'ordre simbòlic femení..."

Article de Lluïsa Julià a l'arxiu de textos de l'AELC.

http://www.escriptors.com/?q=publicacions_atextos_vivienr

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PDF: "Marçal per escoltar"

Crítica a l'*Avui* del llibre i CD amb poemes recitats per Cinta Massip i musicats per Toti Soler (03/07/03).

<http://www.traces.uab.es/tracesbd/avui/av00968.pdf>



WEB: Maria Mercè Marçal i la sexualitat

Anàlisi d'una selecció de poemes de l'autora i la seva relació amb la sexualitat femenina per Mado Martínez Muñoz.

<http://www.ucm.es/info/especulo/numero32/mercemar.html>



WEB: "Cap a l'ordre simbòlic femení..." [Towards a Female Symbolic Order ?]

Article by Lluïsa Julià in the AELC (Association of Catalan Language Writers) archive of texts.

http://www.escriptors.com/?q=publicacions_atextos_vivienr



PDF: "Marçal per escoltar" (Marçal for Listening)

Review in *Avui* of the book and CD with poems recited by Cinta Massip and set to music by Toti Soler (3 July 2003).

<http://www.traces.uab.es/tracesbd/avui/av00968.pdf>

Comments



PDF: Album of the Catalan PEN Club Centre.

Album from the event that the Catalan PEN Club Centre organised in homage to Maria-Mercè Marçal in 1998.

<http://lletra.uoc.edu/uploads/lletra/noms/mmamarca/pdf/marcal.pdf>



WEB: Activitats per a nivells inicials de llengua

Dos poemes al web *Viu la poesia* amb propostes senzilles

http://www.viulapoesia.com/membrespocio/arxiu/lletra/mmamarca_index_props_inici.html



WEB: Activitats per treballar poemes

Sis poemes amb propostes al web *Viu la poesia*.

http://www.viulapoesia.com/membrespocio/arxiu/lletra/mmamarca_index_props.html



WEB: Interaccions multimèdia

El web *Viu la poesia* presenta activitats interactives de dos poemes.

http://www.viulapoesia.com/membrespocio/arxiu/lletra/mmamarca_index_interac.html