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Post-Frankfurt Return to Earth: Carmen Boullosa in Texas This Week

By [Will Evans](#) on October 20, 2014 in [Uncategorized](#)

COPIES OF TEXAS HAVE LANDED!!



If you are a subscriber or have preordered a copy of *TEXAS: THE GREAT THEFT*, your copy is in the mail (and if you live in Dallas, you should receive no later than Tuesday the 20th). The bookstores where Carmen is reading in the next week will all have copies onsale by the end of this week (that is: [Brazos Bookstore](#) in Houston; [The Twig Book Shop](#) in San Antonio; and [McNally Jackson](#) in NYC; and they're already onsale at [The Wild Detectives](#) and will be available at the [Texas Book Festival](#) in Austin all weekend).

Reminder, Carmen will be reading in Dallas TWICE this week, once Tuesday night at the Mexican Consulate in honor of the Mexico Institute's 31st annual Day of the Spanish Language Celebration, and on Wednesday night at the Wild Detectives at 7pm.

The poster features a header with logos for The Mexico Institute, SRE (Secretaría de Relaciones Exteriores), the Mexican coat of arms, and Deep Vellum. The main text reads: 'PRESENT XXXI ANNUAL CELEBRATION OF THE DAY OF THE SPANISH LANGUAGE'. To the right is a small illustration of a person reading. On the left is a book cover for 'TEXAS THE GREAT THEFT' by Carmen Boullosa, showing a map of Texas with a green and red color scheme. The author's name 'CARMEN BOULLOSA' is written in a large, elegant script. Below this, the event details are listed: 'October 21, 2014 | 6:30 PM', 'Consulate General of Mexico', and '1210 River Bend Drive, Dallas TX 75247'. A note states: 'This program is free and open to general public. Mrs. Boullosa will present her new novel in English and Spanish. www.carmerboullosa.net'. The footer contains the contact information: 'Information | themexicoinstitute@themexicoinstitute.org'.

Deep Vellum presents **Carmen Boulosa - Discussion and Signing** *Wednesday, 7:00 pm*

OCTOBER
22



A writer in the tradition of Juan Rulfo, Jorge Luis Borges, and Cesar Aira, Carmen Boulosa shows herself to be at the height of her powers with her latest book, *Texas: The Great Theft*. Praised all across the Spanish-speaking world—from Mexico to Argentina to Spain—upon its release in 2013, *Texas* now reaches English in Words Without Borders-editor and Granta-contributor Samantha Schnee's astonishing translation.

Texas: The Great Theft is the first book to be published by Deep Vellum. It will be followed by a full roster of nearly a dozen more books in 2015. Its home on the web is <http://deepvellum.org/>
<https://www.facebook.com/events/263956373751987/>

And don't forget to catch Carmen across Texas all week!

- Tue. Oct. 21 – [Consulate General of Mexico](#) – Dallas, TX – 6:30pm
- Wed. Oct. 22 – [The Wild Detectives](#) – Dallas, TX – 7pm
- Thu. Oct. 23 – [The Twig Book Shop](#) – San Antonio, TX – 7pm
- Fri. Oct. 24 – [Brazos Bookstore](#) – Houston, TX – 7pm
- Sat. Oct. 25 – [Texas Book Festival](#) – Austin, TX – 4:15pm

In fun Dallas news, just after receiving the cartons of books Friday morning, I delivered books to Joel Garza's Senior AP Lit class at [Greenhill School](#), who will be reading the book the next two weeks, and who will be receiving a visit from Carmen herself Tuesday morning to discuss the themes of the book:



On the note of books, effective November 1, Deep Vellum will be distributed to the publishing trade by [Consortium Book Sales & Distribution](#). This means stores can order Carmen Boullosa's *TEXAS: THE GREAT THEFT* to receive copies ahead of its December publication date (the warehouse will receive its copies mid-week this week).



Readers, you may ask what this note about distribution means for you. The answer, in short, is that being distributed by Consortium means not only are our books available to a wider bookstore & retail audience (from Amazon & B&N to your favorite local indie), but we also share distribution with some of our favorite independent publishers, like [Akashic Books](#), [Open Letter Books](#), [Coffee House Press](#), [And Other Stories](#), [New Vessel Press](#), & more. Consortium is an independent distributor for independent publishers based in Minneapolis (dear, beloved, uber-literary Minneapolis, home to so many good publishers and readers). We are in good company, and this distribution arrangement means that YOU can get your hands on the best books easier than ever before. Indie style. Literary style.

We've had some pretty amazing press news as of late too!!

Thank you to my friends at Brazos Bookstore for writing a very nice profile of Deep Vellum in the leadup to our first event together, Carmen Boullosa's reading at their store next Friday, October 24. And plus, this profile has one of the best titles I've yet heard, "[The Depths of Deep Vellum](#)." Here's a snippet:

Now, Deep Vellum is on the verge of releasing its first title, [TEXAS: THE GREAT THEFT](#). It's the most recent work from Carmen Boullosa, an author that Robert Bolaño once called "Mexico's greatest woman writer." Unsurprisingly, Post and Open Letter played an integral part in bring this book to Evans' attention. They passed on the title, but they made sure that Evans knew about it, thinking it would be a perfect fit for Deep Vellum. They were right. It's a more than fitting first title for a small press in the Lone Star State.

Over the weekend, the [Dallas Morning News](#), our daily newspaper, ran [Mercedes Olivera's](#) profile of Deep Vellum with a short interview with Carmen talking about TEXAS and her upcoming readings in town. You can click the picture below to access the article online as well:

Dallas Morning News

dallasnews.com

\$1.50

Dallas, Texas, Saturday, October 18, 2014

dallasnews.com

OBITUARIES/METRO

Saturday, October 18, 2014

7B



File: The Associated Press
Hansen Transfer in Seattle has won multiple pop

Transfer ionary

and the Manhattan Transfer," he said in a statement. "It's comprehensible to think of a world without him."

Hanser first formed Manhattan Transfer in 1969 with In Dickins, Marty Nelson, the Pustilli and Pat Rosali. The group disbanded and Hanser set some of the band's new members as a taxi driver in New York City. He met a singer while driving who introduced him to Siegel, and also met Mason while driving.

Hanser was born in Troy, N.Y. He is survived by his wife, Barb Semet Hauser, his daughter, and his daughter.

The Manhattan Transfer moved to continue its ongoing tour despite Hauser's death.

The Associated Press

Novel shows Texas in infancy

It may be historical fiction, but many of the events in Carmen Boulosa's latest book seem as if they just happened yesterday.

Texas, *The Great Theft* takes us back to 1859, in the years following the Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo in 1848, which ended the U.S.-Mexican War. Tensions were high as one culture displaced another. Bandits were commonplace, and so was legal chicanery.

Many Mexican landowners who had been given land grants centuries ago by the Spanish crown lost them in legal schemes or in English-speaking courts where Spanish documents were not recognized. This caused one landowner, Juan Nepomuceno Cortina, to fight back as best he could — with his own army.

This is the setting and framework for Boulosa's novel, which is built around a real-life incident between a Texas sheriff and a wealthy Mexican landowner. It's a story that shows the foundation of many border issues today.

But it also takes us back to a special moment in the history of the Lone Star State, just as it was being born. Boulosa said in a phone interview this week.

"Both countries lost something, not just Mexico," she said.

In European newspapers back then, Texas was portrayed as a land of equality in order to attract immigrants.

"People dreamed about Texas, where everyone coexisted in harmony," she said.

"We all failed. We all lost."



MERCEDES OLIVERA
mercedesolivera@ymail.com

And so the book raises an interesting question: What would have happened to Mexico if it had not lost Texas?

Although the novel is written from a Mexican perspective, Boulosa understands both cultures and histories well. She's married to Pulitzer Prize-winning historian Mike Wallace and divides her time between New York City and Mexico City.

Boulosa, 60, is considered today as one of Mexico's leading novelists, poets and playwrights, and her works have been translated into eight languages. She will read from her novel on Wednesday evening at the Wild Detectives bookstore in the Bishop Arts District in Dallas.

Her book is publisher Deep Vellum's initial offering as it launches this year. Will Evans said he jumped at the opportunity to publish it.

"We don't have many authors, if any, in America who write with Carmen's unique style and psychological insight," he wrote in an email.

Boulosa's book has received wide praise in the Spanish-speaking world since it was published last year, but it had yet to be translated into English.

"I thought Texas was the perfect book to introduce Deep Vellum and its mission to readers, reviewers, writers



Deep Vellum's Will Evans says he jumped at the opportunity to publish Texas, *The Great Theft*, which hadn't previously been translated into English.

and scholars all across our amazing state," Evans said.

Evans' mission stems from his own interest in Russian literature and the lack of contemporary English translations in the U.S. literary market. Only 3 percent or less of the nearly 200,000 books published in the U.S. are original work translations, he said.

Cultures reveal themselves and communicate through literature.

Evans set up his publishing house as a way of putting people in the world "in dialogue with each other."

With the number of international conflicts escalating around the world today, that seems like a much-needed effort.

In Frankfurt news, this was my third time attending the Frankfurt Book Fair, and by far the most rewarding fair I've had yet. One of the highlights of the Fair consisted of making my first in-person offer for two books by a remarkable author I'll tell you about once the deal terms are finalized (another unbelievably great author expanding the global vision of our editorial mission, and yet another example of one of the world's greatest authors who will appear in English translation for the first time through Deep Vellum). Other highlights of the Fair included spending a great deal of time with Eduardo Rabasa of **Sexto Piso**, one of my favorite Mexican indie publishers (along with **Almadia** and **Ediciones Era**), and the ladies from the **Pontas Agency**, who had a breakthrough hit at the Fair with huge international sales for Milena Busquets's **THIS TOO SHALL PASS**, and from whom I've

bought Fiston Mwanza Mujila's TRAM 83 and Leila S. Chudori's HOMECOMING. Another highlight was meeting the legendary agent [Andrew Wylie](#) for the first time at the [Suhrkamp](#) party, and then meeting renowned author and editor at Italy's [Adelphi](#) publishing house, [Roberto Calasso](#), the same night as well. A wonderful experience, as always. Attending the Frankfurt Book Fair provides me the inspiration and energy to last me through the year, inspiring me to dream big, to publish the best authors possible, and to build a committed readership of literary works. I love going to Frankfurt! Plus now I have an insane amount of reading and prep work to do to get ready to publish the books I heard about at this fair (and the books I've heard about in fairs past that are now making more and more sense for my list...).

Plus, this year's Frankfurt trip was twice as nice since I got to see not only one of my translators (Roland Glasser, who lives in London & who'll be translating TRAM 83), but I got to see two Deep Vellum authors as well. I flew in to Holland the weekend before the book fair and got to meet with Ilja Leonard Pfeijffer, who lives in Genoa, Italy but who just so happened to be in Holland the weekend before Frankfurt, so we met up in Leiden at the only bar that still allows you to smoke indoors in Leiden (or perhaps all of Holland, the Dranklokaal WW, a bar that Peter of [De Arbeiderspers](#), Ilja's Dutch publisher, and I commiserated about meeting Ilja inside, coming out reeking of smoke, and which also happens to be just around the corner from Ilja's Dutch flat).



Will Evans & Ilja Leonard Pfeijffer in the legendary anarchist bar WW Dranklokaal in Leiden, Netherlands

I was also thrilled that my dear friend Mikhail Shishkin was attending the book fair to meet with his German publishers (DVA) and to read at the fair itself. For the second time in my three years of going to Frankfurt, I met up with Shishkin at his dinner with his German publishers (and thanks be to their entire team for letting me join them, and for cultivating Shishkin's oeuvre so well over the years, and for sharing such an awesome author with us!).



Mikhail Shishkin & Will Evans in Frankfurt, Germany

Look forward to seeing you all at Carmen's readings across Texas this week, please don't forget to [preorder](#) or [subscribe](#), orders are shipping now as they come in. And copies of TEXAS will be in stores across the world December 2, just in time for your holiday wishlists!!



ORDER CARMEN BOULLOSA'S
TEXAS
THE GREAT THEFT

DEEPEVELLUM.ORG/ORDER

For more information on Deep Vellum Publishing please visit deepvellum.org



LOOSELY BASED ON THE LITTLE-KNOWN 1859 MEXICAN INVASION OF THE UNITED STATES, KNOWN AS THE CORTINA TROUBLES Carmen Boullosa's newest novel *Texas* is a richly imagined evocation of the volatile Tex-Mex borderland, wrested from Mexico in 1848. Boullosa views the border history through distinctly Mexican eyes, and her sympathetic portrayal of each of her wildly diverse characters—Mexican ranchers and Texas Rangers, Comanches and cowboys, German socialists and runaway slaves, Southern belles and dance hall girls—makes her storytelling tremendously powerful and absorbing. With the Mexican-American border such a front-burner concern today, this novel that brilliantly illuminates its historical landscape is especially welcome. *Texas* is Boullosa's fourth novel to appear in English.

2919 Commerce St. #159 · Dallas, Texas 75226 · deepvellum.org



About Will Evans

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Deep Vellum Publishing is a not-for-profit literary publisher that seeks to enhance the open exchange of ideas among cultures and to connect the world's greatest untranslated contemporary writers of literature and creative nonfiction with English-language readers for the first time through original translations, while facilitating educational opportunities for students of translation in the Dallas community, and promoting a more vibrant literary community in north Texas and beyond.

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