

## MAMMOTH PUBLICATIONS

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Xánath Caraza's first book-length collection *Conjuro: Poems* will be published by Mammoth Publications, a literary press. Caraza combines Spanish, English, and Nahuatl (language of the Aztecs) to create a continuous spell of verse. Caraza's writing derives from her awareness of Indigenous thought: words are tangible objects, not abstractions, and capable of influencing physical reality's web of interactions. The poet's connection to her heritage energizes the reflections set in Veracruz, Spain, Paris, Chicago, and Kansas City, her present home. Caraza is a dynamic performance poet as well as a skilled writer. This debut collection establishes her as a major voice of 21<sup>st</sup> American letters.

"A decisively Amerindian song breathes through the pages of Xánath Caraza's *Conjuro*, a charitable book of invocation, incantation, lamentation and healing. Caraza's poems are the antidote to our troubled times: they reach toward ancestral spirit and woman-strength, they collect wisdom from the natural and experiential landscapes, they reorient language away from duplicity and back to the "oral traditions of the heart." A truly moving, and spellbinding, debut."

**Rigoberto González**

"What makes Xánath Caraza an outstanding author is not where she's from or who her friends are. My personal feelings set aside; it's the words and sounds she puts on paper that make her a poet worth experiencing. Caraza is powerful both when read and listened to live. The sound of her voice and her presence when she reads her work are astonishing."

**Mercedes Aguirre Sullivan**

**Xánath Caraza** is a traveler, educator, poet and short story writer. Originally from Xalapa, Veracruz, Mexico, she has lived in Vermont and Kansas City. She has an M.A. in Romance Languages. She lectures in Foreign Languages and Literatures at the University of Missouri-Kansas City. Her chapbook *Corazón Pintado: Ekphrastic Poems (2012)* is from TL Press. She won the 2003 Ediciones Nuevo Espacio international short story contest in Spanish and was a 2008 finalist for the first international John Barry Award. Caraza is an advisory circle member of the Con Tinta literary organization and a former board member of the Latino Writers Collective in Kansas City. She has taught in Mexico, Brazil, China, Spain and the US. Caraza is currently working on a collection of ekphrastic poems with the artist Juan Chawuk and another collection, *First Friday in Kansas City: Short Stories, Flash Fiction and Poetry*, forthcoming from Mouthfeel Press in 2013.