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*For immediate release January 29, 2012*

### **Poet pays homage to Federico García Lorca in her new collection**

PITTSBURGH—The University of Pittsburgh Press has just released Nathalie Handal's new volume *Poet in Andalucía*—a unique recreation, in reverse, of Federico García Lorca's *Poet in New York*, considered one of the most significant books ever published about New York City.

Lorca lived in Manhattan from 1929 to 1930, and the poetry he wrote about the city was posthumously published in 1940. Eighty years after Lorca's sojourn from Spain to New York, Handal, a poet from New York, went to Spain to write *Poet in Andalucía*.

"Lorca left as part of his legacy a longing for homeland. My own longing stretches across four continents, due to life made exilic by the political turmoil in the Middle East," Handal said. "His poems are about discovering a lost self. My poems confront that same loss, and resonate with that same yearning for a sustaining place."

*Poet in Andalucía* explores the persistent tragedy of otherness, but it also acknowledges a refusal to remain in that stark darkness, and it searches for the possibility of human coexistence. "Lorca said, 'Lo que más me importa, es vivir.' On this journey, I discovered peace is there if we want to find it, because as was true for Lorca, what people want most is to live," said Handal.

A writer for *Rattapallax Magazine* said, "Handal's brilliant new volume—about Spain, about the Middle East, about shared destinies and hopes—touches me deeply: it reminds us of what's inconsolable, of what's multiple, of what's irreducible, and what's simultaneous." Alice Walker praised Handal's work as "poems of depth and weight and the sorrowing song of longing and resolve."

Handal is the author of numerous books including *Love and Strange Horses*, 2011 Gold Medal Independent Publisher Book Award winner; and coeditor of *Language for a New Century: Contemporary Poetry from the Middle East, Asia & Beyond*. Her work has appeared in *The Guardian*, *Virginia Quarterly Review*, and *Guernica Magazine* among other publications. She is a Lannan Foundation Fellow and an Honored Finalist for the Gift of Freedom Award.

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*Poet in Andalucía* by Nathalie Handal is published by the University of Pittsburgh Press  
144 pp. • 6 x 9 • ISBN 9780822961833 • Paper \$16.95