

## ‘Levanto mi voz’, a publication by Fundación Banco Santander to honour the life of Carmen Conde

- ‘Levanto mi voz. Radiofonías (1967-1972)’ is the title of the new Cuaderno de Obra Fundamental published by Fundación Banco Santander.
- The volume contains the unpublished texts of Carmen Conde's interventions on Radio Nacional de España between 1967 and 1972. It includes 12 podcasts with a dramatized reading of a selection of her writings and an interview with her anthologist, Fran Garcerá.
- Over a hundred reflections reveal Conde's lyrical view of the everyday and the transcendent, including literary creation and the role of women in culture.

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Fundación Banco Santander presents a new volume of the 'Cuadernos de obra fundamental' collection dedicated to an unpublished, intimate, and highly contemporary Carmen Conde. *Levanto mi voz. Radiofonías (1967-1972)*, gathers the collaborations of the radio program 'En Voz de Mujer' as well as other radio texts broadcasted until 1972.

Born in Cartagena in 1907, Carmen Conde witnessed the Spanish Civil War, the difficult post-war years, the Transition, and the return to democracy in our country. She starred in two moments that marked a before and after in history, when she became the first full member of the Royal Spanish Academy and the first woman to win the National Prize for Literature in Poetry in 1967. Her extensive production also includes prose, theatre, and essays. In addition to her work as a teacher, she collaborated with the press and, naturally, the radio. However, she stands out for the creation of her personal archive, the Patronato Carmen Conde - Antonio Oliver, which stores, in addition to her texts, over 36,000 letters that she received throughout her lifetime. This provides us with a very deep knowledge of one of the most important intellectuals of the twentieth century.

"At the Foundation we wanted to do our bit to honour Carmen Conde and contribute to the dissemination of the work of one of the most relevant voices of the Generation of '27," says Borja Baselga, director of Fundación Banco Santander.

Conde began broadcasting on Radio Nacional de España on November 9, 1967, after winning the National Literature Prize in the poetry category. This recognition somehow legitimized her literary career, and, by extension, that of her contemporaries. As a result of the award, the author's publications intensified, as well as her collaborations with Televisión Española and Radio Nacional de España, which gave her her own space, the radio program *En voz de mujer*, where she would brilliantly entertain the mornings of thousands of listeners until 1969. Despite the ephemeral nature of the medium, the neatness with which Carmen Conde kept her writings has made it possible to rescue them and have the complete program of what was broadcasted.

The hundred or so short texts that conform the volume "show Carmen Conde's concerns about social and literary topics, although her relationship with the radio began practically from the beginning of her literary career" emphasizes Fran Garcerá, anthologist and writer of the prologue of the book *Levanto mi voz*. "This has been possible thanks to the care and perseverance of a writer with an enlightened mind, who knew how to

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preserve her cultural legacy through her archive and, in this case, to radiate her time and memory into the future."

Over the last few years, Fundación Banco Santander's '*Cuadernos de obra fundamental*' have highlighted the works of female authors who, although they had rightfully earned their place among the relevant figures of their time, had not obtained the same recognition as their male counterparts. The most recent publications include treasures such as the collection of letters between Carmen Laforet and Elena Fortún or the journalistic texts of Ana María Martínez Sagi. Within this line of work, it is worth mentioning the audiovisual project *Cartas Vivas*, in collaboration with the University of Exeter, which, from an educational and informative perspective, recovers the history of relevant women thinkers through their testimonies.

In this sense, the volume dedicated to Carmen Conde fulfils a double purpose, not only because of the publication itself, but also because of the content of the texts. In the words of Javier Expósito, head of literature at the Foundation, "we are before a Carmen Conde who raised her voice loud and clear, especially appealing to the freedom of women to create their lives in a crucial historical context. Through the radio program *En voz de mujer* Carmen Conde became a spokeswoman for many women who could not raise theirs, and only now are we beginning to fully unearth her influence and legacy".

Undoubtedly, Conde was a beacon for a generation of women writers who grew up with her works, as is the case of Ana Rossetti, writer, and poet. "For Carmen Conde," she comments, "to create is to believe and this unwavering faith in Poetry and Action, was like a sacred flame that she maintained with loving care. Her fidelity has allowed her legacy to be a living and burning torch that is given to each one of us, but, above all, to us. We must believe," she wrote, "We must create. No one can, nor should, live without Faith."

#### About Fundación Banco Santander

Fundación Banco Santander strives to contribute towards building a more equitable, inclusive, and sustainable society.

With this objective, we develop initiatives grouped into three lines of action: the promotion of culture as a tool to understand the world around us, social action to facilitate the progress of vulnerable groups and care for the environment to protect the natural heritage.

In all its programs, the Foundation strives to create collaborative networks with the third sector to address major global challenges.

More information about the Foundation can be found on our website [www.fundacionbancosantander.com](http://www.fundacionbancosantander.com) or through our Social Networks:

