

ALICIA EN LLAMAS (1969)

*(Alice in Flames)*

Clemente Padín

A fragment translated from the Spanish  
by John M. Bennett

Angerly like

the eyelids of the universe blinking  
to bless the spiderweb  
the elements glued  
to the yoke you darken.

Fire,

brandishing chaos  
winds' sad ales,  
scratches the veil of a single cry  
& the botched constellations are missing  
& the lumbering stars  
& the mill of space.

Earth,

exhausted sun - light's fountain of wind -  
feverish in air  
harassed by fogs  
the moon agrees to an eruption  
so time thunders  
its birthing manic presences.

The cold crosses its intention

mired with flashes  
scarring the grimy bark of the earth  
phosphorescing with thundering volcanos  
confessing millions of sprinklers  
all water compelled with depths  
which spill abysmally  
abyssally into the oceans.

## The vocalization of gasses

discovers its destiny of stones  
& the inflamed rivers  
& the refulgent mountains  
& the boiling lakes  
& the seas inserted with curlicues  
& the islands stripped of coasts  
& the continents gutted on the earth  
& the lustrous winds of firmaments  
& the clouds like thighs  
& the curtained rain  
& the grimy snow  
& the air's intended fog  
& the enrobed jungle  
& the needled swarm.

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For more information on this poem, visit

<https://ledibooks.com/read/the-materiality-of-modernism/section/b7cd4e49-1dfb-45d9-9652-a6e826813024>

To purchase the book by Padín where this poem appears (includes a lot of visual poetry):

[https://www.amazon.com/PAN-POSEIAS-COMPLETAS-CLEMENTE-PADIN/dp/6077796972/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?crd=3NCUHRX26DMBB&dib=eyJ2ljojMSJ9.ojcwK\\_KTvB8BcUdAxLamDA.U4iRnTUIInkcgj9PY45PkRHkqAu8uCU8n-YiD5LbAaGs&dib\\_tag=se&keywords=pan+paz+padin&qid=1771101690&srefix=pan+paz+padin%2Caps%2C125&sr=8-1](https://www.amazon.com/PAN-POSEIAS-COMPLETAS-CLEMENTE-PADIN/dp/6077796972/ref=sr_1_1?crd=3NCUHRX26DMBB&dib=eyJ2ljojMSJ9.ojcwK_KTvB8BcUdAxLamDA.U4iRnTUIInkcgj9PY45PkRHkqAu8uCU8n-YiD5LbAaGs&dib_tag=se&keywords=pan+paz+padin&qid=1771101690&srefix=pan+paz+padin%2Caps%2C125&sr=8-1)

***Other online sites involving Padín, & by searching, there are many more in Spanish:***

Performances with English subtitles:

<https://vimeo.com/855884611?share=copy&fl=cl&fe=ci>

[https://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Clemente\\_Pad%C3%ADn](https://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Clemente_Pad%C3%ADn)

2025 mailart homage to Padín, "**POESIA PARA ARMAR**" organized by Stella MarisVelasco of Argentina: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eRembGGgw2o>

Visual poetry by Padín: <https://youtu.be/pgL2RaA8IIM?si=dOt6B9MR0IKQCQI2>

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8cl6TPYZtog&list=UUJ0Ky-eYJh9kn\\_Rl\\_m\\_4Now&index=16](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8cl6TPYZtog&list=UUJ0Ky-eYJh9kn_Rl_m_4Now&index=16)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=LAv1JsMi6c>

<https://post.moma.org/the-unhappy-ambiguity-of-clemente-padin-politics-and-polysemy-in-latin-american-mail-art/>

<https://ciclolapuntadelalengua.blogspot.com/2013/09/en-programa-luis-bravo-clemente-padin.html>

<https://vimeo.com/223224381> AfterMAF performance by C. Mehrl Bennett of MENU which she discovered while in Montevideo, Uruguay, where Clemente Padín performed it. Original score is by Bartolomé Ferrando, a performer & visual poet from Valencia, Spain.

<https://www.facebook.com/reel/1142223584519865>

In tribute to Clemente Padín, a 17 sec. video by C. Mehrl Bennett from our trip to Uruguay in 2008 to attend a visual poetry symposium Padín had organized. There, at a restaurant, Padin silently & spontaneously performed "Blessing the Salad".