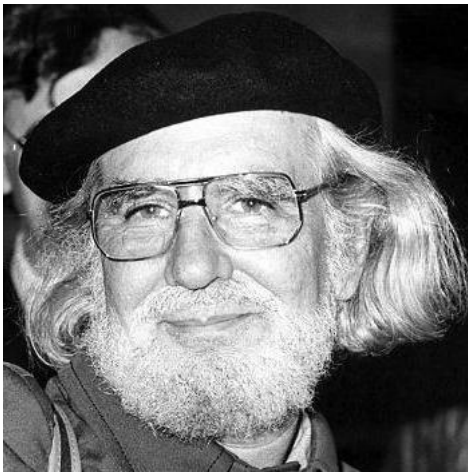


# Vilar Creative Agency



## Nicaragua Ernesto Cardenal

*2009 and 2007 Nobel Prize Nominee, 2009 Iberoamerican Pablo Neruda Award  
2008 International Poetry Award Mexico, 2004 Nicolas Guillen Award*

Ernesto Cardenal, b.1925, widely acknowledged as Latin America's greatest living poet and twice nominated for the Nobel Prize, continues to craft works of striking beauty with his latest *The Origin of Species* (TTUP, 2011), recently featured on Charlie Rose and PBS Newshour. The author of more than thirty-five books, many of which have been translated into multiple languages, Nicaraguan poet Ernesto Cardenal was ordained as a Roman Catholic priest in 1965.

His studies with Trappist monk Thomas Merton and his involvement with the Sandinista movement in his home country have informed his writing and political activism. He lives in Managua, Nicaragua, where he is vice president of Casa de los Tres Mundos, a literary and arts cultural organization. Cardenal is recognized as one of the most urgent and eloquent voices in a country of poets and revolutionaries, a cultural icon whose life and writings have altered history, and a major, if not the major, living poet of The Americas.

At the moment, his life memoirs and two new books of poetry are being edited. Also a book of poetry by children with cancer, edited and introduced by Cardenal (a result of his poetry workshops with them) is in the making.

*Cardenal is a major epic-historical poet, in the grand lineage of Central American prophet Rubén Darío.*

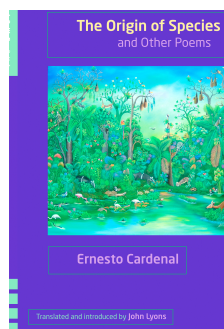
— **Allen Ginsberg**

*Cardenal epitomizes what makes literature live in Central America today.*

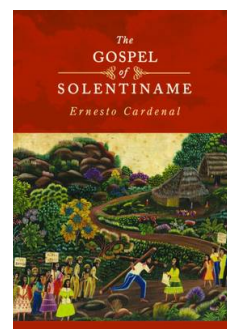
— **Booklist**

*One of the most influential (and controversial) poets of his generation.*

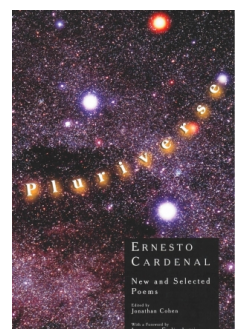
— **Robert Hass**



The Origin of Species, 2011



The Gospel of Solentiname, 2010

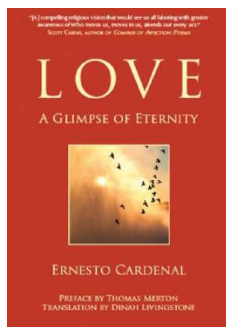


Pluriverse, 2009

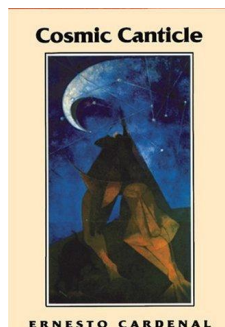
*Friedenspreis des Deutschen Buchhandels, 2003 Presidential Honor Medal Italy  
2003 Orden Jose Marti Cuba, 1982 Orden Ruben Dario Nicaragua  
1985 Knights Order, Arts and Letters, Government of France  
1972 Christopher Book Award*

### **From the Poetry Foundation:**

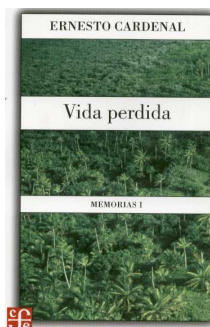
Ernesto Cardenal is a major poet of the Spanish language, well known in the United States as a spokesman for justice and self-determination in Latin America. Cardenal, who recognizes that poetry and art are closely tied to politics, used his poetry to protest the encroachments of outsiders in Nicaragua and supported the revolution that overthrew Somoza in 1979. Once the cultural minister of his homeland, Cardenal spends much of his time as "a kind of international ambassador," noted Richard Elman in the Nation. Victor M. Valle, writing in the Los Angeles Times Calendar, cited Cardenal's statement, "There has been a great cultural rebirth in Nicaragua since the triumph of the revolution. A saving of all of our culture, that which represents our national identity, especially our folklore." Literacy and poetry workshops established throughout the "nation of poets," as it has been known since the early twentieth century, are well attended by people whose concerns had been previously unheard. Most workshops are led by government-paid instructors in cultural centers, while others convene in police stations, army barracks, and workplaces such as sugar mills, Valle reports. In these sessions, Romantic and modern poetry is considered below standard; Cardenal also denigrates socialist realism, which he said, "comes from the Stalinist times that required that art be purely political propaganda." The "greatest virtue" of Cardenal's own poems, stated a Times Literary Supplement reviewer, "is the indirectness of Cardenal's social criticism, which keeps stridency consistently at bay." In addition, said the reviewer, Cardenal's poems "are memorable and important both for their innovations in technique and for their attitudes." In this way, they are like the works of Ezra Pound, whose aesthetic standards Cardenal promotes.



Love - A Glimpse of Eternity, 2006



Cosmic Canticle, 2002



Memorias (3 volumes)

*One of the world's major poets.*

— **Choice**

*Cardenal's poetry is impure, defiantly, in that it unites political ugliness and the beauty of imaginative vision.*

— **Robert Bly**

*[Cardenal is a] kind of international ambassador.*

— **Richard Elman, in the Nation**