SOÑO DUNHA SOMBRA
SUEÑO DE UNA SOMBRA – DREAM OF A SHADOW

Illustrations by XOSÉ COBAS

Epilogue (in English, Galician and Spanish) by MANUEL RIVAS

Hardcover. Band on jacket. 29 x 23,5 cm. 40 pages. €23.00.
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"The House of the Dream of a Shadow is an ark. The fertile gaze of Xosé Cobas, the honest hand, has led us into that open body. We are in the belly of the house. In the amniotic fluid of dream and shadow. It is a book that changes our way of seeing, that conjures away the syndrome of abandonment. It engages us so deeply that we can do nothing but inhabit it."

[Excerpt from the epilogue by Manuel Rivas]

After almost forty years giving shape and colour to the texts of great writers, Xosé Cobas tackles his first solo book, his most personal work.

From the very flyleaves of this wordless book, "Dream of a Shadow" begins in absolute darkness, gradually making its way towards the light that illuminates a door, progressively leading readers into an old, silent house inhabited only by a magpie that occasionally appears in the light or darkness of the rooms. 'The bird stands for every absence. It is the link between the here and the beyond. And it also embodies the logic that rules life in the House of the Dream of a Shadow: the logic of astonishment', explains Manuel Rivas in a vibrant epilogue that reflects on existential philosophy, pictorial analysis and literary inspiration.

The variety of perspectives—the zoom effect, the high and low angles that configure the images like frames from a film—and the richness of nuances achieved—textures, volumes, reflections, atmospheres—in the representation of each scene, show both the meticulous visual structure of the work and the technical mastery of the author. Thus, Xosé Cobas—whose career stems from painting—is one of the few contemporary illustrators who works with oil, in this case on primed cardboard. We are therefore looking at a book whose originals—reproduced with a camera, hence the complexity of the printing process—are authentic works of art that invite the reader to linger over them, contemplate them, return to them to appreciate their nebulous atmosphere shrouded in mystery, to explore the darkness softened by shadows.

"Dream of a Shadow" is the culmination of twelve years of creation in which its alchemist has nourished these pages with such select references as "In Praise of Shadows" by the novelist Junichiro Tanizaki, the work of the hyperrealist painter Richard Estes, the melancholy of Edward Hopper, the impressionist Claude Monet and the Baroque tenebrists, as well as cinematic influences and even the language of comics. All of this is reflected in the perfect layout of the architecture, the elegance of the framing, the sensitivity in the details; and it also shows the emotion in the tribute to a building with more than 150 years of history, the memory, the authenticity of an intimate space, the journey that transports us from the mists of time to the light of tomorrow.

- **Theme:** art, light, shadow, darkness.
- **Recommended age:** over 8s.
- **Highlights:** silent book, painting, cinema, architecture, philosophy; time, silence, emotion, memory; by the illustrator of "Hija de las olas", "El pintor ciego", "Cuadros de una exposición", "Memorias de un niño campesino" and, in Galician, "Azucre", "Galego, á beira do mar" (Kalandraka).
- **Book advance:** https://issuu.com/kalandraka.com/docs/sonho-dunha-sombra

Xosé Cobas

(Logrosa, Negreira, 1953)

He began his career as an illustrator in the daily press. In the late 1980s, he focused on illustrating children's and young adult books, which he combined with his work as a graphic designer at the Provincial Deputation of A Coruña. He has illustrated more than two hundred titles. His work has been exhibited in galleries in Spain, Europe and Latin America. He has received the Gourmand World Cookbook Award for the best book on gastronomy in Spanish, the Fetén Award for the best illustrated theatre book, the Díaz Pardo and Neira Vilas awards, and has been selected for The White Ravens list.

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