

Esta bruma insensata

This Foolish Haze



UK panel's choice Year 2020

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Based in a ramshackle house on the outskirts of Cadaqués, Simon Schneider works for a highly successful author who goes by the name Gran Bros and lives hidden away in New York. Simon is a Hokusai, that is to say a distributor of quotes for other writers, among whom, although he has no idea of it, is the great Thomas Pynchon. One afternoon Simon, who has had a mental block when trying to remember a sentence about infinity, sets out from his home on a long walk in search of the lost quotation. A novel about the inextinguishable energy that stems from absence and the tension between faith in writing and the radical rejection of this same thing. Enrique Vila-Matas, one of the best writers of the current era, shines a light on the paradox that the only possible originality has its source in the art of quotation in a lucid and dazzling battle of wits between two approaches to understanding literary creation.

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Additional information Prizes and reviews:

'a Catalan writer who has established himself... as arguably Spain's most significant contemporary literary figure.'
(The New Yorker) 'Vila-Matas's work is playful and funny' (Colm Toibin, The Telegraph).

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