ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks to my grandfather
a forgotten icon to be reborn one day

To my elder son, uprooted before harvest
a void filled with rage and tenderness

To Marta, Miguel, Mariana and their little sprouts
who carry on my blood and instill my breath

Thanks to those old-fashioned abstractions
Family…..honor…..courage…..decency

To enduring loves and to others now faded
to those who back me and to those in front

Thanks to a revolution
that expanded two-thirds of my time
with successes and flaws, which are also mine

To this salty island
swept by hurricanes, licked by the sea
used to put up with, yet rebellious
the homeland sculpted by my ancestors
broken and reshaped again and again

And thanks to my Havana, graceful and crumbling
waiting for this body, already fulfilled
meant to breed new lives
and mourn the same deaths

—Mario Coyula Cowley
Havana, summer, 1996

Mario Coyula Cowley (Havana 1935–2014) was a Cuban architect, urban designer, critic and professor. For full biography, see http://mariocoyula2014.wordpress.com/authored-publications/