Manuel Ramos Otero is one of the most important Hispanic Caribbean writers of the late 20th century and Puerto Rico's first major openly gay writer. Deeply innovative in both themes and form, Ramos Otero's work spans a wide range of genres, including the essay, novel, short story, and poetry. Through his publishing and organizing efforts, Ramos Otero also made important contributions to building New York's Latino literary community. He died in 1990 of AIDS-related complications at the age of 42.