Gabriel García Márquez

García Márquez is the primary and most excellent of the writers of the Generation of the Boom who promote Magical Realism (*lo real maravilloso*). His distinct tendencies are: historicity, temporal and spatial transpositions, cultural simultaneity, imagination leading to fantasy; stylistic and structural innovation and experimentation. In short, he fuses verosimilitud with what appears to be fantastic--but fantastic only for an audience not accustomed with the extraordinary (*maravilloso*) nature of Latin American life, history, and reality.

(Note: Bold type represents universal masterpieces.)

1927
6 March: Gabriel José García Márquez born in Aracataca, Colombia (Magdalena province). Mother: Luisa Santiago Márquez; father, Gabriel Eligio García…, telegraph operator, then homeopathist.
Lived with grandparents: *el coronel* Nicolás Márquez Iguarán (Papalelo) and his grandmother, Tranquilina Iguarán Cotes; GGM’s grandparents arrived in Aracataca when the United Fruit Co. began banana operations there.

1936
Grandfather dies.
Gabriel (Gabo) moved to Barranquilla, where his father tried to set up a pharmacy, but failed; he began school in Barranquilla.

1936-19xx
Period of family poverty.
1939  Suffers malaria and is male head of house when he father leaves to find work away from Baranquilla; mother and seven siblings depend on him.
GGM: self-described timid youth.
Influential authors: William Faulkner, Rómulo Gallegos, Las mil y una noches, Robinso Crusoe, La isla del tesoro, El conde de Montecristo. Don Quijote (he read it while doing his "necessities" on the toilet).

1946  Finishes his "bachillerato" and fails to finish writing his first novel.

1947-1954  Studies law and lives as journalist in México, France and Spain.

1947  Enrolls in School of Law and Political Science in National University in Bogotá.
Publishes his first short story: “La tercera resignación”.

1949  Moves to Cartagena.
Writes for newspaper El Universal
Studies law; then quits university studies against parents' wishes.
Gains reputation as writer on Colombia’s Atlantic coast.

1950  Moves to Barranquilla; writes column for El Universal; meets writers; uses pseudonym “Séptimus”.
On trip to Aracataca with mother, GGM rediscovers Macondo, a United Fruit Co. banana plantation near Aracataca.

1951  Writes as newspaper stringer for the daily El Heraldo (Barranquilla)
Literary friends (y los de parranda): Germán Vargas Cantillo, Alfonso Fuenmayor, Álvaro Cepeda Samudio, Meira Delmar.
Autores favoritos: Jorge Luis Borges, Julio Cortázar, Felisberto Hernández, Arturo Barrea.
Writes La hojarasca (Leaf Storm).

1954  Returns to Bogotá: writes for newspaper, El Espectador.

1955  Publishes La hojarasca.
Publishes story: “Isabel viendo llover en Macondo” (source for 100 años de soledad).
Associates with Communist Party.
Enrolls in film school in Rome.
Dictator Rojas Pinilla closes newspaper El Espectador.

1956  Finishes writing El coronel no tiene quien le escriba.

1957  Travels through eastern Europe (behind Iron Curtain).
Publishes articles on “90 Days Behind the Iron Curtain”
Travels to London.
Travels to Caracas, where he lives in exile and writes for Momento.
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| 1958 | Publishes *El coronel no tiene quien le escriba* (1st novel)  
      | Writes for *Elite* and *Venezuela Gráfica*  
      | Joins revolt against dictator Pérez Jiménez.  
      | Marries Mercedes Barcha. |
| 1959 | Travels to Cuba.  
      | Returns to Bogotá as correspondent for Prensa Latina (Cuban press organization). |
| 1960 | Returns to Cuba.  
      | Travels to NY as reporter; resigns from Prensa Latina; moves to México City.  
      | Receives literary prize for *La mala hora* (The Evil Hour) |
      | Publishes *Los funerales de la mamá grande* and *La mala hora*.  
      | Joins public relations firm of Walter Thompson.  
      | Writes filmscripts (the first is based on story by Juan Rulfo: “The Golden Rooster”). |
| 1962 | Writes *Cien años de soledad*.  
      | Publishes *Cien años de soledad* (2nd novel) in Buenos Aires. With this novel García Márquez assures his place as the premier Latin American writer of "magical realism" and the writers of the "new novel" in the "Generación del Boom".  
      | Wins Rómulo Gallegos Prize in Caracas.  
      | Meets Vargas Llosa. They are friends until the 1980's, when García Márquez maintains his progressive sociopolitical views while Vargas Llosa becomes a neo-liberal.  
      | (October) Moves his family permanently to Barcelona (1967-1975); lives on Caponata Street in Sarriá; befriends many Spanish writers including Carlos Barral, the great publisher (Seix-Barral). |
| 1967 | (June) Publishes *Cien años de soledad* (2nd novel) in Buenos Aires. With this novel García Márquez assures his place as the premier Latin American writer of "magical realism" and the writers of the "new novel" in the "Generación del Boom".  
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| 1970 | Publishes collection of articles: *Relato de un náufrago*. |
| 1971 | Honorary doctorate from Columbia University (NY). |
| 1972 | Literary prize for publication of *La increíble y triste historia de la candida Eréndira y de su abuela desalmada* (Innocent Erendira; short stories).  
      | He gives prize over to MAS (socialist movement). |
| 1974 | *Chile, el golpe y los gringos* (progressive reportage about Chile and the American involvement in Pinochet's right-wing military golpe de estado) |
| 1975 | Publishes *El otoño del patriarca.* (3rd novel)  
      | Publishes complete stories from 1947-1975: *Todos los cuentos*.  
      | Moves family to México City. |
1976 Travels to Cuba; becomes more active politically; befriends Fidel Castro. Publishes new collection of journalistic writing.

1980 Columnist for El Espectador again in Bogotá; writes for El País (Madrid).


1982 Receives the Nobel Prize for Literature. Judge for International Film Festival in Cannes, France. Publishes screenplay script, El secuestro (guión).

1983 Interviews head of M-19, Jaime Bateman. Publishes journalistic reportage about Colombian guerrilla war, El asalto: el operativo con el FSLN se lanzó al mundo. Pres. Belisario Betancur offers him guarantees for safe return to Colombia, to which he returns.

1985 Publishes El amor en tiempos del cólera (5th novel).
1989 Publishes El general en su laberinto (Mondadori, 287 pp), novel about Simón Bolívar’s last days in Colombia.

1992 Doce cuentos peregrinos (short stories from his early career)

1994 Del amor y otros demonios (short stories).

1997 Noticias de un secuestro (first-rate journalistic reportage about a real kidnapping in Colombia)

2002 Vivir para contarla (first volume of his autobiography; Mondadori, S.L. and Knopf)

2003-2007 GGM: ill health, lives in Mexico City, writes the final volumes of his autobiography.

2007 International film premiered: Love in the Times of Cholera based on García Márquez’s novel of the same name (see: 1985).

2008 English language biography titled Gabriel García Márquez: a Life (642 pp; 2008; Knopf) by Gerald Martin, a British scholar and professor in the Center for Latin American Studies at the University of Pittsburgh. This major biography was reviewed in the New York Times Book Review (June 7, 2009, pp. 1 and 7) by Paul Berman. The review was important but mostly negative. According to the Martin, the key to understanding García Márquez is the latter’s early visit to Aracataca and the author’s immersion in the narrative mode of Magical Realism. Berman disagrees strongly with Martin. Berman thinks García Márquez’ works are rooted in and an extension of traditional
Spanish and Latin American baroque modes of thought and style. (I agree more with Berman than with Martin, but you should evaluate both perspectives.)

For a wonderful photo of García Márquez with Carlos Fuentes in 2008, see: => FIL.

2014 GGM died in Mexico City; from Wikipedia: “On 22 April, the presidents of Colombia and Mexico attended a formal ceremony in Mexico City, where García Márquez had lived for more than three decades. A funeral cortege took the urn containing his ashes from his house to the Palacio de Bellas Artes, where the memorial ceremony was held. Earlier, residents in his home town of Aracataca in Colombia's Caribbean region held a symbolic funeral”

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