

## **CASAL, LOURDES (1938–1981)**

Writer, activist and intellectual, Lourdes Emilia Irene de la Caridad Casal y Valdés was born into a middle-class family of privilege in Havana, Cuba. At the Catholic University of Villanueva, she earned a degree in chemical engineering while honing her skills as a student activist in the Student Revolutionary Directorate. Counterrevolutionary activities followed and forced Casals into U.S. exile. She completed a doctorate at the New School for Social Research, and joined the faculty at the City University of New York, and later Rutgers University. In 1969 she co-founded the Institute of Cuban Studies, contributed to the magazine *Nuevo Generación*, and helped found the Antonio Maceo Brigade. Among her early publications are *El caso Padilla* (1971), and *Los fundadores: Alfonso y otros Cuentos* (1973). In 1974 she published *The Cuban Minority in the United States*. Four years later, Casals participated in the Dialogue, a meeting between members of the Cuban government and a group of exiles that led to the release of political prisoners, family reunification, and travel agreements. Her last book, *Palabras juntan revolución*, received a posthumous award by Casa de las Américas in Cuba.