

(copra, coffee or cocoa – all the same)
 I hear steps in the calculated
 socope rhythm,
 the feet-roots-from-the-earth
 while the chorus
 insists with a lament
 (lament or protest – all the same)
 dragging itself continuously
 until it explodes
 in a strong longing for liberty.

Translated from the Portuguese by Julia Kirst

Landscape

Nightfall . . . grass on the back
 of the gleaming black man
 on his way to the yard.
 Grey parrots
 explode in the palm trees' comb
 and cross each other in my childhood dream,
 in the blue porcelain of oysters.
 High dream, high
 like the coconut tree along the ocean
 with its golden and firm fruits
 like obstructed stones
 oscillating in a tornado's womb
 ploughing the sky with its mad
 plumes.
 In the sky the severe anguish
 of revolt passes by
 with its claws its anxieties its certainties.
 And an image of rustic lines
 takes over the time and the word.

Translated from the Portuguese by Julia Kirst

Roça

The night wounded
 by a sharp spear
 of rage
 bleeds in the woods.
 Dawn also bleeds
 in its own way:
 the dawn bell
 awakens the cleared yard.
 The overseer begins
 to assign tasks
 for another day of work.

The morning still bleeds:
 you cut the banana tree
 with a silver axe;
 hoe the bushes
 with an axe of anger;
 open the coconut
 with an axe of hope;
 cut bunches of andim
 with an axe of certainty.

And at sunset you return
 to the slave quarters;
 the night sculpts its cold lips
 on your skin.
 And you dream about a future
 of a free life,
 that your action
 will bring about.

Translated from the Portuguese by Julia Kirst

1959), *Antologia de terra portuguesa - Angola* (Lisbon), *Poesia angolana* (Lisbon, 1962), *Poetas e contistas africanos* (São Paulo, 1963), *Mákua 2-antologia poetica* (Sá da Bandeira, 1963), *Mákua 3* (Sá da Bandeira, 1963), *Antologia poética angolana* (Sá da Bandeira, 1963), *Contos portugueses do ultramar - Angola*, Vol. 2 (Porto, 1969) and *No Reino de Caliban* (Seara Nova, Lisbon, 1976). Her posthumous books are *Poemas* (Edições Imbondeiro, Sá da Bandeira, 1966) and *Tempo de Chuva* (Lobito, 1973).

Maria Eugénia Lima (Maria Eugénia Pimentel Lima Silva) (Angola) b. 22 October 1935; coloured. Educated in Angola and Portugal, her writings have been published in Portuguese and Angolan newspapers and journals. In 1964 she published *Entre a pantera e o espelho* (Tipografia Nunes, Porto, 1964), *Binómio do sangue* (poems) and *A Cidade às escuras*, a play set in Angola in the late nineteenth century. She is represented in Manuel Ferreira's *No Reino de Caliban* (Seara Nova, Lisbon, 1976).

* **Lindiwe Mabuza** (South Africa) b. 1938 in Newcastle, Natal Province. She obtained a BA from the University of Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland, Roma; an MA in American Studies (1968) from the University of Minnesota, and another in Literature from Stanford University. She has taught at Ohio University and the University of Minnesota. Her poems have appeared in South African and American journals. Selections of her work have been published in Anta Sudan Katara Mberi and Cosmo Pieterse (eds), *Speak Easy, Speak Free* (International Publishers, New York, 1977), Barry Feinberg (ed.), *Poets to the People* (Heinemann Educational Books, London, 1980) and *Malibongwe*. Her collection of poems, *Letter to Letta* was published by Skotaville Publishers, Johannesburg, in 1991. She has been an ANC Representative to the USA.

Rachida Madani (Morocco) b. 1953 in Tangier. In 1981 she published her volume of poems, *Femme je suis* (Inéditions Barbare, Vitry, 1981). She currently lives in Tangier.

Zindzi Mandela (South Africa), daughter of Winnie and Nelson

Mandela. As a teenager she published two volumes of poetry, *Black As I Am* (Guild of Tutors Press, Los Angeles, 1978) and *Black and Fourteen*. Some of her poems have appeared in such anthologies as *If You Want to Know Me* (Friendship Press, New York, 1978) and Frank Chipasula's *When My Brothers Come Home: Poems from Central and Southern Africa* (Wesleyan University Press, Middletown, Connecticut, 1985).

Joyce Mansour (Egypt) b. 1928 in London, England. After a brief stay in Egypt she lived in Paris where she was a leading member of the contemporary surrealist movement until her death in 1986. Her poetry books include *Rapaces* (Seghers, Paris, 1960), *Carré Blanc* (Soleil Noir, Paris, 1965) *Phallus et momies* (Daily-Bul, Paris, 1969), *Jasmin d'hiver* (Fata Margana, Paris, 1982), *Flammes immobiles* (Fata Margana, Paris, 1986) and *Prose & Poésie: Oeuvre Complète* (Actes Sud, Arles, 1991). A widely anthologised poet, she appears in *The Penguin Book of Women Poets* and *Women Poets of the World from Antiquity to Now*.

* **Maria Manuela Margarido** (São Tomé e Príncipe) b. 9 November 1925 at Roça Olimpia on Príncipe Island; coloured. She studied film and theology in Lisbon where she was a participant in the students' cultural programs in the Casa dos Estudantes do Império (CEI). Arrested by the Polícia Internacional de Defesa do Estado (PIDE) in 1962, she has since lived in Paris, working for the Secretariat-Library of the Institute of Portuguese and Brazilian Studies at the Sorbonne. In 1957 she published *Alto como o silêncio* (Publicações Europa-América, Lisboa, 1957), a book of poems. Her poems have been published in such reviews and anthologies as *Mensagem* (CEI, Lisbon), *Estudos Ultramarinas* (Lisbon, 1969), *Poetas de São Tomé e Príncipe* (CEI, Lisbon, 1963), *Poetas e contistas africanos* (São Paulo, 1963), *Nova soma da poesia do mundo negro* (Présence Africaine, No 57, Paris, 1966) and *Women Poets of the World*.

Annette M'Baye d'Erneville (Senegal) b. 1927; Sokhona. An important radio personality, journalist, cultural activist, and co-