

## Editor's Note

Victor K. Mendes

The first section of *A Repertoire of Contemporary Portuguese Poetry* encompasses nine poets as critically read by a younger generation of critics. As for some orchestras or theater companies, parts of this repertoire could be different in different circumstances, but any convincing alternative list of poets would have to overlap, at least partially, with the one presented here. Starting with authors publishing since 1961 and ending with those who debuted in the 1980s, this is a relatively cautious sequence, in the sense that it leaves for another opportunity poets with more recent publishing careers, some of them already highly acclaimed, like the winner of the 2008 Poetry Prize awarded by the Portuguese Association of Writers, Ana Luísa Amaral.

1961 was the complex year of the first books by Ruy Belo and Herberto Helder; the group *Poesia 61*, with Luiza Neto Jorge among its five members, was also launched. In brief, the modernist Fernando Pessoa's posthumous influence on twentieth-century Portuguese poets would start being seriously challenged over the following decades. The poets publishing consistently at least since the 1970s, an outstanding decade of Portuguese poetry for different generations, include Vasco Graça Moura, António Franco Alexandre, João Miguel Fernandes Jorge and Nuno Júdice. Two poets who debuted in the 1980s, Fernando Pinto do Amaral and Adília Lopes, complete this short repertorial list of nine.

In the second section of this volume, among other articles and reviews, the two major figures of Portuguese poetry, Luís de Camões and Fernando Pessoa, are revisited. The renowned translators Landeg White, Richard Zenith and Alexis Levitin gave us this time their versions of some poems by Camões, Ruy Belo and Herberto Helder. We kindly invite you, dear reader, to return to some of these poets once in a while, in English, in Portuguese, or in both. These artists are among the most compelling that the “language of Camões” has to offer.