

Discovering Azorean Writers

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Maria Luisa Ribeiro



Biography

- Maria Luisa Da Cunha Ribeiro was born in 1960 in Angra do Heroísmo, and is a famous Azorean writer and poet. Ribeiro grew up close to her family living with her mother, father, older brother, and many aunts. In 1985 at the age of 22, Ribeiro won her first winning title in a literary competition for youth. However, although she entered herself in such competitions, Ribeiro tended to keep her writing secretive and personal. This may also be attributed to the fact that she had never left her hometown of Angra, Terceira and lacked confidence attained by experiencing the outside world. She is quoted for saying that she likes to remain in the shade with her poems. Alongside her creative poetic abilities, Ribeiro is also known for writing short stories. Ribeiro can be sporadically found published in literary magazines and local Azorean newspapers.

- Às Vezes

Às vezes

Poderosas vezes

Penso no azul indecifrável

Que escorre das palavras

E me envolve

No lugar escondido do sonho.

Ninguém

Pode retirar-me deste infinito céu

Onde me perco

Sem voo

Numa imagem de relâmpago

Para acender um leque de cores

Ou uma lágrima.

- Sometimes
Powerful times
I think the blue indecipherable
Runs down the words
And involves me
In the secret place of the dream.

- Nobody
Can remove me from this
endless sky
Where I get lost
without flying
a brief image
To light a range of colors
Or a tear.

(students' translation)

Adelaide Baptista



Biography

- Adelaide Freitas, born Adelaide Baptista, was born on April 20, 1949 in Nordeste, Sao Jorge. She attended the school of Ponta Delgada before moving with her family to the United States, where she attended the New Bedford High school. In 1972 she graduated in Portuguese in the University of Massachusetts. In 1976 she did her masters in comparative literature at the University of New York City, and in 1987 acquired a PhD in North-American literature at the University of the Azores. She lives in Ponta Delgada, and worked as a Professor of North American culture and society, and North American Literature at the University of the Azores. She is married to Vamberto Freitas, a Portuguese literary critic, originally from the island of Terceira. She is a very active member of the politics of the Islands. She was elected to the regional legislative assembly by the “circle de S.Miguel” in the legislature of 1988-1992. She has also held some key positions in the PSD (Social Democratic) party, as she was in the Regional Policy Commission (1990-1992) and the Regional Council (1992-1996). She has also been the vice-chair of the Policy Committee of the island of São Miguel. Also, she was the Deputy Mayor of the town of Nordeste and president of the Azorean Institute for Social Action (1991-1996).

SORRISO POR DENTRO DA NOITE

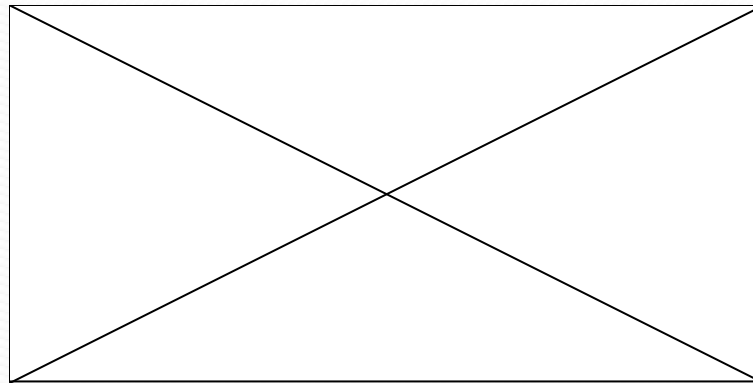
Adelaide Freitas



Adelaide Baptista wrote many novels as well as poetry, and this is one of her well known novels.

When The Island Awakens

When the island awakens
she is all novelty
swept sun
soaked Himalayan ginger
Bewitched swoon
course of water
Freshness! Humidity!
Orgasmic lightness
in the shaggy moss
A single grape
in the turned chalice
Face of a child
tattered fragment
Hurtful hook
refraction of a beam
In the captive water
Awoken island
miracle of life



Quando A Ilha Acorda

Quando a ilha acorda
toda ela novidade
sol varrido
conceia molhada
desmaio enfeitado
curso de água
Frescura! Humidade!
Leveza orgásmica
no musgo felpudo
Bago de uva
no cálice deitado
Rosto de criança
fragmento esfarrapado
Farpa dorida
refracção de raio
na água cativa
Ilha acordada
milagre da vida

Adelaide Baptista and her husband co-wrote an article called "*Women's literary contribution in the Portuguese region of the Azores*" published in 1996. This article is available online and translated in english. A link for this text can be found on <http://www.york.ca/ccars/research.html>

Vamberto Freitas



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