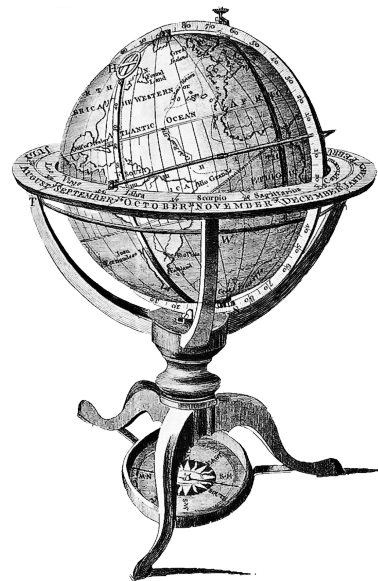


Os Lusíadas: A Epopeia Viva

A Collaborative Translation and Inter-Arts Adaptation of “**Os Lusíadas**” by **Luís Vaz de Camões** in Commemoration of the Poet's 500th Anniversary.

**Metida tenho a mão na consciência,
e não falo senão verdades puras
que me ensinou a viva experiência.**

- Luís de Camões



OUTLINE

Project Objective: To bring to life *Os Lusíadas* (1572) by Luís de Camões (c. 1524 — Lisbon, 10 June 1579 or 1580) on the occasion of the 500th anniversary of the poet's birth.

A free, (partially) online seminar spread out over the duration of 2024/2025 which will include multiple in-person workshops, performances and exhibitions at various locations in Portugal and abroad.

Artistic representations of Camões' vision will encompass the first 400 years of Portugal's illustrious history, alongside the seafaring adventures of Vasco de Gama, Camões himself, the imagined convocations of the Olympian gods and goddesses, as well as events and perspectives of the journey not mentioned or included in the epic, which is to say, the unwritten story of Portugal's history, the vision of discovery imagined by Portuguese women and children and earliest settlers, Moors, Jews, African tribespeople, Indian Hindus, Chinese Buddhists and Confucianists from along the coastal ports of Africa and India and China, and beyond.

The project aims to combine the creation and exhibition of paintings, sculptures, translations, videos, original writings, book designs, theatrical re-enactments, experimental sound recordings and multimedia projections, as part of its installation to take place in the fall of 2025.

Participating translators and artists will include current and former faculty and students at various universities in Portugal and around the world, individuals responding to our public call, as well as invited guests. The idea is to celebrate the literary richness of the epic by providing visual and artistic interpretations that bring it to life.

The course will be divided into 10 units, corresponding to the 10 cantos of *Os Lusíadas*. Each will last approximately 4 weeks and consist of 2-4 sessions, where participants will be introduced to various guest speakers and encouraged to participate as co-creators in multiple workshops.

The emphasis of the course will be on bringing the epic to life. Artists and writers will be invited to freely interpret themes and episodes from *Os Lusíadas*, to add scenes not included in the original, to imagine and create their own personalised versions of *Os Lusíadas*, to write and enact screenplays and theatrical pieces, compose songs, poems, letters and essays, and create drawings, paintings, and sculptures, together with new hybrid art forms.

All roads are open and no previous experience is necessary.

The project aims to combine the creation and exhibition of paintings, sculptures, translations, videos, original writings, book designs, theatrical re-enactments, experimental sound recordings and multimedia projections, as part of its ongoing and culminating exhibitions. The totality of the endeavour will include:

- * Translation and collaborative writing initiatives;
- * Art workshops (poetry, scriptwriting, painting and drawing, sound, music, dance, theatre, puppetry, animation, film, sculpture, installation);
- * Historical research involving art, myth and history;
- * External collaboration and the introduction of special guests, from international scholars, publishers and producers, to various artists and educators working in English and Portuguese.

NOTE: This group will include Saúl Jiménez-Sandoval (President of Fresno State University and Ph.D. Professor of Spanish and Portuguese); Diniz (*Dennis*) Borges (Director of the Institute for Portuguese Beyond Borders at Fresno State University); Fernando António Baptista Pereira (Portuguese Art Historian and former President of The Faculty of Fine Arts – FBAUL of Lisbon University); Sam Abercromby (Painter); Ilídio Salteiro (Painter, Curator, Emeritus at FBAUL) Dominic J. Jaekle (Publisher of Tenement Press in the UK); Suresh Nampuri (Director of the Já International – English Theatre in Lisbon); Mick Greer (Professor in Theatre Arts (FLUL of Lisbon University) and professional actor; Portuguese Poetry Scholar Jeronimo Pizarro (Portuguese Translator, Critic and Editor); Fernando Fadigas (Audio/Sound Technician/Artist, CIEBA-FBAUL), Clara Bonet Ponce (Renaissance Theatre, Catholic University of Valencia), Nathan Brown (Centre for Expanded Poetics, Concordia University, Montreal), Julián Zapata (Toronto Metropolitan University), and many more.

To commemorate Camoes' 500th birthday our project will involve as many as 500 collaborators from Portugal and abroad.

All contributors will retain copyright of their work and be credited for their contributions.

To prepare for this course participants should read *Os Lusíadas* in the original Portuguese or in an available translation. Links to Portuguese and English versions can be downloaded here:

- <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Ph7D3kIGoiUQcJjV2PXfFaKSQ88idfqd>
- <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1-hZ6-ukLB3PJep4OZqeSczp5emR-msUI>

(A link to brief outlines of each Canto):

- <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1VACyUASNQKzx0wQhtaTIgVqT22bFohbYhK4u-Cgyo9A/edit?usp=drivesdk>

The seminar will provide a basis for the development of the project.

Project Description

1. Collaborative Translation / Artistic Creation

Participants will collaborate on a translation of *Os Lusíadas* in English without rigidity, create artworks in or combining any medium (text, video, painting, theatre, dance etc) representing significant moments of the Epic: i.e, Camões' dedication of the epic to King Don Sebastian, the arrival of Portuguese navigators in India, the encounters with gods and mythological beings, the challenges faced during the journey, and others.

2. Dissemination.

Beyond on-site exhibitions and performances scheduled throughout the year (2024-2025), a selection of the videos, texts, photographs of the texts, artworks in progress and a culminating event will be prepared for sharing online through our sponsors' websites.

Excerpts from our translations, along with English translations in the common domain, will be combined with images of the artworks and creative responses to the texts by seminar participants and published in book form. The book will be available at our culminating event in 2025, in bookstores and online.

Our resources will be available for pedagogical purposes, including seminars in English, Portuguese, translation studies, and the various arts and humanities to which these initiatives are related.

3. Public Display

Live and recorded performances, projections, installations, readings and a book launch will be presented publicly – locations to be decided.

4. Budget and Financing

Production costs will include art materials, book publishing, marketing and expenses related to the public screenings and exhibitions, travel expenses for special guests, and course facilitation.

5. Project Benefits

Celebration of Camões' work and Portuguese culture.

Integrated Arts and Humanities Research

The Development of New Ideas about Discovery

Re-Imagining the Relationship between Art, Myth and History

Inclusion of a large number of participating Portuguese and International artists, translators, and students.

International promotion and development of Anglo-Portuguese studies.

Access to Camões' work for a wider audience, including students, the general public, and people interested in art, literature and culture around the world.

The celebration of the immortality of art.

Promotion of the idea of Decolonization as Art.

Bibliography

[A Epopeia Viva: Art & Translation](#)

The project's overall aim is to inspire the creation and exhibition of drawings, paintings, sculptures, songs, poems, translations, videos, original writings, collaborative writings, book designs, theatrical re-enactments, experimental sound recordings, and multimedia adaptations, together with new hybrid art forms, as part of its ongoing workshops, exhibitions and culmination installation in the fall of 2025.