

Songs in the Sun

स्वप्न सूर्य



■ Edited by Irene Silveira Almeida ■



Silvia Bragança, an artist, painter, and poet, born on October 4, 1937, in Goa, obtained a degree in Pedagogical Sciences from the Arts Faculty of Lisbon University, and completed her Bachelor's Degree in Painting at the Superior School of Fine Arts in Lisbon in 1966. Silvia was also recognized in the Contemporary Dictionary of Portuguese Art. In 1983, she met Aquino de Bragança, a pivotal figure in the first years of independent Mozambique.

Born in Goa, in 1924, Aquino was a journalist, professor and a key diplomat for Mozambique. Silvia married him in 1984. Aquino died on October 19, 1986 in a plane crash in Mbuzini, South Africa, which claimed the life of the first President of post-liberation Mozambique, Samora Machel, for whom Aquino was a spokesman and peace negotiator. Thereafter, Silvia dedicated herself to teaching and research in culture in Portugal, Mozambique and Goa. She produced a number of works, including books on art, for both students and teachers. Since Aquino's death, Silvia has worked towards upholding his life and legacy, and penned his biography *Aquino de Bragança: Batalhas ganhas, sonhos a continuar* (2009) followed by the English version, *Battles Waged, Lasting Dreams* (2011). Her publications also include poetry: *A quem a minha vida, a vida deu?* (1998) and *Sonho da Lua* (2015). Besides being an artist, with workshops and exhibitions in Mozambique, India and Portugal, Silvia Bragança also led educational projects with children, taught at the Faculty of Education and collaborated with the National Museum of Art. She passed away in Goa in 2020.

Songs in the Sun, a poetic recreation inspired by Silvia Bragança's work, spans six languages: Portuguese, English, French, Hindi, Konkani, and Marathi.

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