

*The man reaches the heaven which his eyes
find a well-balanced architecture;
He clings to memories of the obscure people of earth.
The great cherubs holding stars in their hands
Cannot completely convince him.*

**FROM THE POEM "GLÓRIA DE CÍCERO DIAS"
[GLORY OF CÍCERO DIAS]**

*An animal nervous
Meticulous
Weaves its web for thousand years
Which transforms itself with light.
A counterpoint to the forms
Of the organized city.*

*And the meticulous animal
Probes its perfection,
Animal of day and night.*

FROM THE POEM "MARIA HELENA VIEIRA DA SILVA" (1941)

*The eye responds to the lunge of the light.
The eye responds to the colour made plane.
The eye responds to the lunge of the eye.
The eye assaults with gloves.
The eye irresponds to the atomic bomb.*

FROM THE POEM "THE RESPONSIVE EYE" (1961)

*Parading seaweed mermaids fishes and galleys
And legions of men since prehistoric times
Pass before the impassive Sugarloaf Mountain.
An aeroplane pecks the rock amorously.
The Portuguese man's daughter rests on the window*

*While the neon lights study her breasts
The creek was clipped by a sky-scrapper.*

"BOTAFOGO" (1935)

*Of what breed or family are those
birds that for years have haunted the
eye and hand of Braque? [...] Birds of
permanent recreation of life, their secret
resides in the personality of the line.*

FROM THE POEM "GEORGES BRAQUE" (1965-1966)

**MURILO MENDES: POESIA COMPLETA E
PROSA [MURILO MENDES: COLLECTED
POEMS AND PROSE], 1994**

TRANSLATED BY ALESSANDRO FUNARI

FROM LEFT TO RIGHT

Murilo Mendes Beside a Painting
by Ismael Nery, 1939
Photo: Jorge de Castro

Murilo Mendes and Arpad Szenes at
the Artist's Studio, Denfert-Rochereau,
Paris, c. 1952
Photo: unknown author
FASVS Archive, Lisbon

Murilo Mendes, Rio de Janeiro, 1941
Photo: unknown author
FASVS Archive, Lisbon

Murilo Mendes with Max Bill in Zurich,
1962
Photo: Almir Mavignier

Murilo Mendes with a Portrait of
Adalgisa Nery, 1937[?]
Photo: unknown author