

THE SACRED AND THE BEAST: THE ZOOPOETICS OF MURILO MENDES AND TRISTAN TZARA (1930 – 1959)

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ABSTRACT: The present research undertakes a critical interpretation of the animals in Murilo Mendes' and Tristan Tzara's oeuvres published from 1930 to 1959. These beasts, led by a lyrical subject that sometimes invoke animals, and sometimes evoke them, are either folkloric or figurative. Mendes and Tzara craft an animal-centred poetic style, giving way to what I call an *ecocentric* panorama over culture. Therefore, I aim to investigate the role and representation of these animals, approaching and contrasting to the form of the western literary canon, and to analyse how Mendes' and Tzara's poetics (re)shaped cultural imaginaries in their countries. Making use of theoretical frameworks developed in Brazil and Eastern Europe, I intend to underpin a comparative study that investigates a body of work through an overview from outside the Western axis.