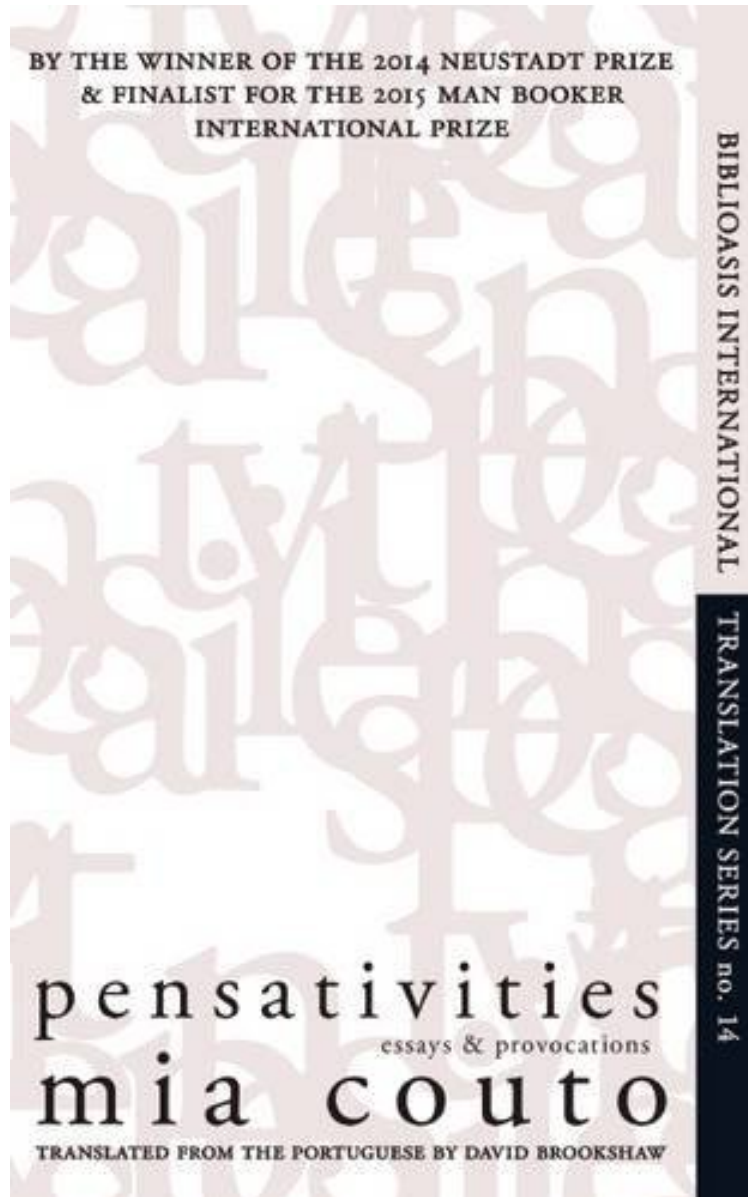


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Pensativities: Selected Essays (Biblioasis International Translation Series)

Mia Couto

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Mia Couto : Pensativities: Selected Essays (Biblioasis International Translation Series) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Pensativities: Selected Essays (Biblioasis International Translation Series):

"One of the greatest living writers in the Portuguese language."—Philip Graham, *The Millions* "Subtle and elegant."—*The Wall Street Journal* "At once deadpan and beguiling."—*The Times Literary Supplement* "To understand what makes Antão 'Mia' Emílio Leite Couto special—even extraordinary—we have to loosen our grip on the binary that distinguishes between 'the West' and 'Africa.' Couto is 'white' without not being African, and as an 'African' writer he's one of the most important figures in a global Lusophone literature that stretches across three continents."—*The New Inquiry* "What would Barack Obama's 2004 campaign have looked like if it unfolded in an African nation? What does it mean to be an African writer today? How do writers and poets from all continents teach us to cross the savannah, the barren places where we're forced to walk within ourselves? Bringing together the best pieces from his previously untranslated nonfiction collections, alongside new material presented here for the first time in any language, *Pensativities* offers English readers a taste of Mia Couto as essayist, lecturer, and journalist—with essays on cosmopolitanism, poverty, culture gaps, conservation, and more. Mia Couto, an environmental biologist from Mozambique, is the author of twenty five books of fiction, nonfiction, and poetry. His work has been translated into twenty languages worldwide. In 2007 he was the first African author to win the Latin Union Award for Romance Languages, in 2013 he was awarded the €100,000 Camões Prize for Literature, and in 2014 he received *World Literature Today's* \$50,000 Neustadt Prize for Literature.

Praise for *Pensativities*—"The essays of *Pensativities* ... confirm Couto's status as a public intellectual."—*The Guardian* "Remarkable ... If his recent Neustadt Prize is any indication, [Couto] is a presumptive Nobel Prize-winning writer that we ... should be reading."—*National Post* "For [Mia Couto], the postcolonial project is not primarily political or economic; it is humanistic in nature, and literary in its means. Its aim is to reconcile history and myth, past and present, subject and object. It brings together black and white, male and female, Africa and the West, young and old, the city and the bush... When reading Couto, it sometimes seems that it is not only the fate of Mozambique or even Africa that is at stake, but that of the whole world."—Ryu Spaeth, *Music Literature* "If there is an overarching drive that threads the collection together, it's Couto's commitment to recognize history's numerous flaws, and to use this history to embrace a diverse future, full of 'hybridities' of both self and cultural environs ... A fine writer who deserves a wide North American audience ... [Couto] is a constant witness to a country—flush with nouveau riche and mass poverty—trying to figure out its place in both Africa and the world."—*Numero Cinq* "[Having] helped birth ... the global literary scene's love affair with African fiction, Couto is a polymath who not only sustains a lively scientific career but is also a former political activist once deeply involved in the fight for his country's independence."—OZY