Augusto de Campos (born in 1931) is considered by many to be Brazil’s finest living poet. He is also a leading translator, especially of inventive originals; a literary critic, primarily of national and international poetry; and a musical critic, of both popular and avant-garde varieties. Campos is one of the São Paulo poets who formulated the mid-century vanguard movement of poesia concreta (concrete poetry) which featured verbivocovisual ideograms. After the close of the movement per se c. 1967, his own output has maintained the visual and minimalist orientations of concrete art. Since the 1960s he has been a prominent figure in material poetry and experimental lyric, not just in Portuguese-language circles but worldwide. Translations of his texts have been appearing since around 1970 in North America, the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Argentina, and elsewhere. He has published numerous digital versions and animations of texts on the internet at http://www2.uol.com.br/augustodecampos/home.htm.

C. A. P.
“o quasar” (1975)

“pó do cosmos” (1981)

“Cosmic Dust”

Translated by Marco Alexandre de Oliveira.
quand
oeu
sabia
fazer

poesia
ningu
em me
dizia

agoraq
ueeu
cansei

dizemq
ueeu
sei

“pós-soneto” (1991)

post-sonnet

when i
knew
how t
do

apoem
noon
esaidso
no

what
i'm
thro

ugh they
say that
ido

Translated by Charles A. Perrone.
“axel’s site” (2000)

intraução: axel’s site
dezembro 2000
augusto de campos
do nada        do ninguém
inascível     nasce
o difícil     fáci
I             que me ex
pulsa         outra vez
ao            im
possível      fim
do vácuo      do vício
e reverte     ao início
 do ninguém do nada

“ad marginem” (1986)

from nothing  from no one
unbirthable  is born
the difficult  facile
ness
pels me
again
im
to the
end
possible
of the void
of the vice
and forces me
to begin
from no one
from nothing

Translated by Charles A. Perrone and the author.
“ferida” (2001)

Translated by Charles A. Perrone and the author.
des
aprender
de uma vez
todas as línguas
em -al em -ol em -ão
em -ego em -im em -ano
em -ês
poesia
não tem
porquês

esquecer
esquecer
esquecer
emudecer
desumanô

para vol
ver a ser
no nano
universo
da minha
a mudez

humano

“desumano” (2004)

from Outro. Perspectiva, 2015..
Translated by Charles A. Perrone and the author.

do not forget to begin again in the same universe of my own muteness, to be human forever in all languages in each in-ish in-an in-seek because no poetry has no disengage.
“humano” (2014)

Translated by Charles A. Perrone and the author.