

Muriel Ruykeser, from *The Life of Poetry*, 1944

Contributed by [Mallory Cohn](#)

Source: *The Life of Poetry*

“Now we turn to memory, we search all the days we had forgotten for a tradition that can support our arms in such a moment. If we are free people, we are also free to choose our past, at every moment to choose the tradition we will bring to the future. We invoke a rigorous positive, that will enable us to imagine our choices, and to make them.”