



ARSENAL

SURREALIST SUBVERSION

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Cher Edouard,

Merci beaucoup pour le texte sur Isadora, and for your letter of the 31st of March -- which has just arrived, moments ago -- with its "big" nouvelle" on the forthcoming exhibition in Lyon...

This exhibition does indeed sound interesting, impressive, important, and we would like to participate in it as fully as possible. If the only difficulty in the way of our participation is that you cannot arrange to pay for the shipment of our works, then this is not an insurmountable problem; I am sure that we could arrange, here, to ship a number of good-sized works, at our own expense. I propose this: that we send you one or two works each by Robert Green, Tristan Meinecke, J. Karl Bogartte, Penelope & me. We can ship them air-freight, in a crate that could be re-used, eventually, for their return. (I am also keeping in mind, however, that before too long our comrades in Ireland will be organizing their exhibition there, & that the works that we send to Lyon can be forwarded to Ireland, & then returned to us from there.)

I do also like the charming idea of a "grand vitrine" devoted to ARSENAL; well before the opening you will have some additional publications for this display....

For the poetry-recording: I think this can be taken care of easily; but unless there is some reason not to, I would like to include Joseph Jablonski among the poets from the USA... * If it is a question of restriction on time, please let me know & we can arrange to get all of us into whatever time is allowed....

In the case of Green, if you would prefer a sculpture, the piece reproduced in The Octopus-Typewriter would be perfect, I think: it is not too large (it stands a little over four feet high), & is so made that it could be hung on the wall, if necessary....

All of us here are very familiar with "last-minute" arrangements, and can act effectively in all haste; if you assent to the proposal above, regarding our participation in this exhibition, we can have everything to you in a matter of days.....

Our friend Joel Williams has made us many hundreds of the enclosed ribbons (he works at a ribbon-printer, and makes these in "odd moments"

* Also, if possible, Jayne Cortez....

when his employer is elsewhere). They are appropriate as "book-marks," in any case; & if you are agreeable to the idea, we could send to you as many as you would need to be included in each copy of the catalogue of the Lyon exhibition....

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And now I must ask you about Boris Rybak! On Saturday, at a curious book-warehouse here, I came across his volume, Psyché Soma Germen, & which I have very much enjoyed "leafing through," noting -- in the course of a highly technical exposition of new discoveries in biology & cybernetics -- his numerous "passing references" to the Cathars, the troubadours, the Albigensians, William Blake & Antonin Artaud.... I know his name, of course, from the early series of PHASES, and from EDDA & BOA. Are you still in touch with him?

* * *

I spoke at some length with Nancy Joyce Peters yesterday. She and Philip have had an interesting week with David Gascoyne; they took him on a little expedition to the Muir Woods, and to the Giant Redwoods -- and he also gave a poetry reading at the City Lights Bookshop. He is still very much, in Nancy's words, "a man on the brink," but evidently quite "radiant." He is also very complimentary regarding our surrealist activity here, & I think he will be among the contributors to FREE SPIRITS, if not ARSENAL. His manuscript of the "Premier Manifeste Anglais du Surréalisme" seems to be long lost, but we are thinking of bring out a version in English (you know it has only appeared, in excerpts, in French -- in Cahiers d'art, 1935)....

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Are you including anything of Clarence John Laughlin in the Lyon exhibition??? Gerome Kamrowski??? Onslow-Ford lives not too far from Philip Lamantia and Nancy Joyce Peters; but of course he is very hostile to surrealism today, & wants nothing to do with any of us.... And is anyone from Portugal to be included in this exhibition? Asia?

* * *

I hope you will send me a copy of your book on Remedios!

* * *

MELMOTH No. 2 arrived; vastly worse, of course, than the first -- a wretchedness absolute & intolerable! Alas, poor England!

But here, at least, everything is roaring ahead!

with surrealist greetings,

Franklin Rosemont

P.S. - You never sent me BRAISES POUR E. F. GRANELL par Claude Tarnaud !!!

PHASES Archives Édouard et Simone Jaguer