

15th March 1977

Dear Edouard Jaguer,

A few hurried postscripts to my last letter:

I have a postcard from Guy Ducornet saying that he is sending you --- perhaps by now you have already received them --- translations of "Freedom of the Marvelous" and "End of the 'American Way of Life.'" I am also asking him to translate a few poems by several of the adherents of our group, and to send them to you, so that you will have "on hand" a selection, from which you could choose one or two or more for inclusion in the next issues of PHASES, depending on the space etc. Similarly, I will be sending you some photographs of works by different friends in or very near our group....

We have just received, from Ludwig Zeller & Susana Wald, a copy of your splendid volume, la nuit est faite pour ouvrir les portes, as well as a copy of the catalogue of the Toronto exhibition of works by Anne Ethuin, and their booklet of translations of poems by Jehan Mayoux.

We are preparing ARSENAL #4, in which we would like to include a number of texts by & about Jean-Pierre Duprey, whose work is very little known here. (To the extent that he is known here at all, it is through various essays by Alain Jouffroy, who is fond of likening Duprey to idiots such as Allen Ginsberg; I wonder, incidentally, if it is known in Europe that Ginsberg, aside from his adoption of every abject fashion in commercial mysticism, has always been & remains an active campaigner for the Democratic Party.) I have thought it would be appropriate to include the marvelous text "Reincarnation," and perhaps one or two other of Duprey's texts, as well as a selection of photographs of his sculptures. In addition, I would like to publish André Breton's essay from the Anthology of Black Humor, and, as a complementary study, your text on Duprey's sculpture --- the preface to a Duprey exhibition. What do you think of this "plan" for a presentation of Jean-Pierre Duprey? I must mention that I do not have a copy of your text on Duprey, which I know of only through bibliographical references. Also, we do not have very many good photographic reproductions of his sculptures, & I hope it might be possible for you to assist us in this regard. I would also like to know if Jaqueline Duprey is still "around," and whether or not you think she might be interested in hearing from us, in seeing copies of our publications, etc.

I am sending you, by sea-mail, a copy of the catalogue of a recent retrospective exhibition of works by Gertrude Abercrombie, one of the most curious and moving figures in the strange history of "art in Chicago." Although she is herself white, she was extremely close to the greatest black musicians of the "bebop" period: Charlie Parker and Dizzy Gillespie were guests, for short & sometimes extended periods, at her home, and the entire Modern Jazz Quartet lived in the second floor of her home for a year or two. Unfortunately the catalogue did not reproduce her best works; but it does give at least some idea of her work, and is interesting also because it includes a Preface by Dizzy Gillespie....

Are you considering the possibility of collecting all, or a large number, of the essays you have written over the years, into a volume? This would seem to be particularly useful inasmuch as the first series of PHASES is so difficult to obtain. I should think that there would be a French publisher interested in such a project. I would be curious to know, in this connection, if you think there might be a possibility of interesting a publisher in France (or Belgium, or anywhere in the French-speaking world) in a volume of poems and/or texts, etc., by the surrealists in the U.S. Such a compilation might serve a useful purpose today, especially in view of the peculiar & myopic insular national-chauvinism typified by the poor fellows of the lamentable "B.L.S."

I do not know if I sent you the enclosed clipping, chronicling yet another of our interventions....

Surrealist greetings,

Franklin Rosemont