



INTERNATIONAL SURREALIST EXHIBITION

2257 North Janssen Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60614

usa

11th September 1975

Dear Edouard Jaguer,

I am responding with some delay to your splendid & detailed letter of the 31st of July, with its encouraging "talismanic" first page: this delay is caused by the fact that much pertaining to our exhibition is still "up in the air," and I had hoped to be able to inform you as thoroughly as possible of all important details such as the publication of the catalogue, date of the opening, etc. But alas! all of these problems yet remain, and although generally the project for the exhibition is proceeding very well, certain important aspects (most notably the character of the participation of the surrealists in France) remain in question.... To arrive at a satisfactory solution to these various difficulties we have had to delay once again the opening, so that we still do not have an exact opening date!

But first I must tell you, as you must already have learned from Ludwig Zeller and Susanna Wald, that we have received the wonderful parcel of works by the participants in Phases, which all of us have found superb. We hope that the unavoidable additional delay will perhaps facilitate an even greater participation by the friends of Phases. You mention, particularly, the possibility that Suzanna Besson and Carlos Revilla might each send a painting (or perhaps more than one?), and that it might be possible to secure the loan of a work by Enrico Baj* from a collector here: these possibilities are of course very desirable for us. If there is any possibility, also, of obtaining something by Irena Dedicova, Fabio de Sanctis, Robert Guyon, G-H Morán, Lacomblez, Mayo, Perahim, or any ~~of the~~ additional works by those of whom you have already sent some pieces, everything would be extremely welcome. I am also curious as to what has become of Guido Biasi, whose exhibition in N.Y. in 1963 I visited with Claude Tarnaud.... I am also eager to know the gallery from which we might borrow one or more works by Ivan Tovar.

The "difficulties" to which I allude in the opening paragraph above are vague enough, and we are far from understanding what is at their source. But we have just learned, in the last three weeks, that very few --- if any --- of the painters associated with the Bulletin de Liaison were informed of our project for the exhibition, in spite of the fact that we had been in close communication about this project with V. Bounoure & J.L. Bédouin since the very beginning, and had received their warm approval & support. We do not know the source of this incredible negligence --- if that is what it is, which seems to be the case --- but the consequence is that none of the surrealist painters living in France have had any time to organize even a modest participation in this exhibition. It is at the urging of Elisa Breton that we have decided to delay once more, in the hope that this deplorable situation can be rectified soon.

* and Alechinsky

I have very much appreciated all of the information on various painters in your letter. I will of course let you know if anything results from our efforts to contact and invite Klapheck, Luca, Silbermann, Marencin et al. Meanwhile, contrary to the peculiarity of the situation of the surrealists in Paris, other developments elsewhere have been very promising. You probably know that the problems regarding the Portuguese participation have been wholly solved, ^{Seixas} and that Mario Cesariny and Cruzeiro^A have arranged to send thirty collective works, that Cesariny himself will be visiting with us in Chicago, and that a Portuguese foundation has proposed bringing the exhibition to Lisbon after it closes in Chicago! (There also exists the possibility of re-opening the exhibition, or at least a large portion of it, in San Francisco, and perhaps elsewhere in the U.S.: I shall ask the Zellers about the possibility of the exhibition appearing also in Toronto.) Also, through Jun Ebara we have finally succeeded in establishing contact with Shuzo Takiguchi, who has already arranged for several Japanese surrealists (some living in Japan & some elsewhere) to send us many fine pieces. Conroy Maddox has sent us a number of his collage-paintings, and has arranged for several younger British surrealists to send some works.... Most recently, Penelope & I visited with Gerome Kamrowski, who lives five hours' away from us in Ann Arbor, Michigan, and who has been quite a "recluse" for the last 25 years, but still very productive & in general sympathetic, though slightly "conservative" as a result, I think, of his provincial isolation. He has been constructing a massive wood & metal "Wind Menagerie" outdoor mobile construction, a section of which he has agreed to set up (or let us set up following his instructions) at the exhibition. In addition, he has tentatively agreed to loan us two works that he owns (as well as several of his own paintings, of course): a work from the mid-40s by Esteban Frances, and a collaborative painting by Kamrowski with William Baziotes & Jackson Pollock....

I do not know if I mentioned earlier that the proprietor of a small gallery here specializing in Haitian primitives has offered to loan us many fine works.

All of us are very pleased that you have been able to include so many of our texts and drawings & reproductions in the forthcoming Phases, the publication of which we are all naturally awaiting with great anticipation. When is Phases scheduled to appear? ARSENAL #3 is completed except for the final details of the layout, and will appear before the opening of the exhibition. We want to include an advertisement for PHASES in this issue --- a full page or half-page, whichever you prefer --- and to invite your full participation beginning with the next issue, which will appear with less delay than the third (we hope). There is also the likelihood, in the near future, of an anthology on "international surrealism" today, on the general plan of the CITY LIGHTS ANTHOLOGY, but this time wholly devoted to surrealism, and on which we very much want your close collaboration. I shall keep you informed of all developments on this possibility....

We are arranging to have available, on sale, at the exhibition, a large variety of surrealist books & publications, mostly in English, of course, but also several in Spanish (a large Spanish-speaking population lives in Chicago), and some in French. We would like a number of the new issue of Phases, and several other publications if you would care to arrange to have them sent to me (if you'd like, we could send payment in advance).

"Tir de barrage" is quite admirable; I have made several copies of it to send to several friends across the country, to familiarize them with the background of the relation between Phases and the surrealists. If it is possible to obtain back issues of Phases and its sister publications, I would love to have them.... All of our friends here are convinced that great things will come of these preliminary liaisons between us, which have already --- & it is only beginning! --- proceeded on a deeply moving comradely basis, signaling a marvelous promise....

Hurriedly, once again --- soon I hope to have a few moments to be able to write to you more leisurely about so many things! --- & with warmest fraternal greetings,

Franklin Rosemont

Also, could you please send me the text "La benediction de l'un veut l'autopsie de l'autre"? And I would very much like one or two (more) examples of the "surrealist intrusion" (epitaphic stationery) --- Merci beaucoup!

P.S. - Does there exist a text of the "message des surrealistes aux intellectuels polonais"?