

## THE LATEST STATEMENT OF THE CHICAGO SURREALIST GROUP

The following declaration, drawn up hurriedly as the ignoble auction of the remains of André Breton's estate draws near, expresses the views of the Surrealist Group in Chicago and a few of our out-of-town comrades who happened to be in close touch at the time. Other participants in the Surrealist Movement in the U.S. who wish to add their signatures should let us know as soon as possible.

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Once more on the impending auction of the André Breton Estate and the proposed "Breton Museum"

## WHO WILL EMBALM THE EMBALMERS?

**DID YOU KNOW** that the academics of the *Melusine* mailing list—who pretend to report on everything having to do with surrealism—have concealed from their subscribers the fact that, with one or two minor exceptions, not one surrealist has signed the comic petition addressed to the French Minister of Culture and the President of the Republic by the so-called "Breton Committee"?

**WHY HAVE THEY SUPPRESSED** the collective declaration, "Surrealism Is Not For Sale!" sent to them many weeks ago by the Surrealist Movement in the United States?

**CAN YOU IMAGINE** any surrealist, anywhere, asking the State to finance any sort of museum? We are thinking in particular of those who actually knew André Breton and enjoyed his confidence: Sarane Alexandrian, Enrico Baj, Jean Benoit, Guy Cabanel, Jorge Camacho, Her de Vries, Hervé Delabarre, Gabriel Der Kevorkian, Nicole Espagnol, Georges Goldfayn, Georges Gronier, Jean-Pierre Guillon, Robert Guyon, Radovan Ivšić, Ted Joans, Alain Joubert, Gerome Kamrowski, Konrad Klapheck, Jacques Lacomblez, Annie Le Brun, Elisabeth Lenk, Sergio Lima, Mary Low, Conroy Maddox, Mimi Parent, Bernard Roger, Penelope and Franklin Rosemont, Georges Sebbag, Francois-René Simon, Michel Zimbacca, and several others.

**FROM WHAT FOG AND GLOOM**, meanwhile, did the self-proclaimed "André Breton Committee" emerge? Who are these gentlemen who so modestly have conferred upon themselves that prestigious title? What are their qualifications? Only one among them, it so happens, has ever raised his voice in Breton's defense before the announcement of the infamous auction provided an opportunity to advertise themselves so shamelessly. So far, the Committee has shown only its talent for media manipulation and misrepresentation.

**IS IT NOT REVEALING** that, in their eagerness to enlist the aid of surrealism's irreducible enemies (politicians, senile and neo-Stalinists, *littérateurs*), the Committee has categorically refused to acknowledge that all of Breton's surviving friends and comrades, as well as the younger surrealists throughout the world, are totally opposed to the Committee's exercise in appropriation, which has no other aim than to render surrealism inoffensive?

**BY WHAT RIGHT** do they falsely portray André Breton as a rich collector, shrewd merchant, pandering author, chauvinistic poet? Don't they know that such "portraits" are nothing but lies?

**AND WHAT CAN ONE EXPECT** of these obsequious and self-aggrandizing "Palcontents" (to use Alfred Jarry's term)—who have spread so much misinformation about the author of *Nadja*, and manifested their complete contempt for Breton's friends and for all surrealists, past, present, and future—should they manage to gain control of a "Breton Museum," a "Breton Temple," a "Breton Mausoleum": if, that is, the French government provides the indispensable funds and metal detectors?

**WHO** will embalm the embalmers?

**WE INVITE** all those who would like a true idea of the poet's thought, and of the sense that he intended to give to surrealism, to read or reread "The Disdainful Confession," and to recall, in the face of the recuperators of every stripe, that today as yesterday,

## SURREALISM IS THAT WHICH WILL BE!

April 2003

**For THE SURREALIST GROUP IN CHICAGO:** *Gale Ahrens, Jennifer Bean, Jen Besemer, Dennis Cooper, Guy Ducornet, J. Allen Fees, Beth Garon, Paul Garon, Robert Green, Jan Hathaway, Joseph Jablonski, Don LaCoss, David London, Mary Low, Tristan Meinecke, Anne Olson, Ruth Oppenheim-Rothschild, David Roediger, Franklin Rosemont, Penelope Rosemont, Mark Rosenzweig, Louise Simons, Tamara Smith, Debra Taub, Joel Williams. **For THE SURREALIST GROUP IN PORTLAND:** *Andrew Daily, Sarah Frances, Brandon Freels, Morgan Miller, and M.K. Shibek.* **For LES LOUPS SONT FACHES (Paris):** *Eric Benveniste.**