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0521619874 - Surrealist Collage in Text and Image: Dissecting the Exquisite Corpse

Elza Adamowicz

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Elza Adamowicz presents an analysis of surrealist collage, both as a technique of cutting and pasting ready-made material, and as a subversive and creative strategy. She considers verbal collage, pictorial collage, and the hybrids they generate, and discusses the works of Max Ernst and André Breton, as well as those of Aragon, Brunius, Eluard, Hugnet, Magritte, Péret, Styrsky and others. Focusing on the recycling of art-historical icons, the parodic reworking of narrative clichés, the *dépaysement* concept of defamiliarisation of the banal, or the relations between part-bodies and totalities, she offers close readings of individual collages, and links specific aspects of collage practice to central issues of surrealist aesthetic and political thought. Throughout this well illustrated study Adamowicz confronts the 'monstrous' nature of collage, grounded on excess and composed of irretrievable fragments and hovering signs.

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# Surrealist collage in text and image

Dissecting the exquisite corpse

ELZA ADAMOWICZ

*Queen Mary and Westfield College*

*University of London*



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QUELLE EST LA PLUS NOBLE CONQUETE DU COLLAGE?

C'est l'irrationnel. C'est l'irruption magistrale de l'irrationnel dans tous les domaines de l'art, de la poésie, de la science, dans la mode, dans la vie privée des individus, dans la vie publique des peuples.

Max Ernst, 'Au-delà de la peinture' (1936)

Le collage est peut-être une technique, l'amour aussi, vous savez, ou le suicide.

Louis Aragon, *Ecrits sur l'art moderne*

## Contents

	<i>List of illustrations</i>	page xi
	<i>Acknowledgements</i>	xiii
	<i>List of abbreviations</i>	xiv
1	Beyond painting	I
2	Cutting	26
3	Pasting	43
4	Cocking a snook	64
5	Between Fantômas and Freud	98
6	Masking	129
7	The future of statues?	159
8	An impossible mosaic	185
	<i>Notes</i>	196
	<i>Bibliography</i>	215
	<i>Index of surrealist collages</i>	229
	<i>Index</i>	245

## Illustrations

1	Max Ernst, advertisement for exhibition <i>La Mise sous whisky marin</i> (1921). © Gallimard, Paris	page 2
2	Max Ernst, <i>Rêves et hallucinations</i> (1926). © Musée d'Unterlinden, Colmar. Photo O. Zimmermann	27
3	André Breton, 'POÈME' (c.1924). © Gallimard, Paris. By kind permission of Elisa Breton	51
4	René Magritte, <i>L'Esprit et la forme</i> (c.1928). Courtesy of the Mayor Gallery, London. © ADAGP, Paris and DACS, London 1998	60
5	Benjamin Péret, <i>Collage (untitled)</i> (1929). © Librairie José Corti	71
6	André Breton, <i>Chapeaux de gaze garnis de blonde</i> (1934). Arturo Schwarz Collection, Milan. Photo: SADE archives	78
7	Jacqueline Lamba, André Breton, Yves Tanguy, <i>Cadavre exquis</i> (1938). Courtesy of Timothy Baum, New York	79
8	Jindrich Styrsky, <i>La Baignade</i> (1934). Courtesy of José Pierre, Paris	84
9	Joan Miró, <i>Collage (Prats is quality)</i> (1934). Fundació Joan Miró, Barcelona	89
10	Benjamin Péret, <i>Hier en découvrant l'Amérique</i> (1926). © Librairie José Corti, Paris	101
11	Paul Eluard, <i>A chacun sa colère</i> (c.1935). Private Collection, England. © Estate of Paul Eluard. By kind permission of Cécile Eluard	107
12	Jacques Brunius, <i>Collage en neuf épisodes</i> (1942). Courtesy of Galerie 1900–2000, Paris	108
13	Max Ernst, 'Oedipe', <i>Une semaine de bonté</i> (1934). © ADAGP, Paris and DACS, London 1998	113
14	Max Ernst, 'La cour du dragon', <i>Une semaine de bonté</i> (1934). © ADAGP, Paris and DACS, London 1998	120



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Frontmatter

[More information](#)xii *List of illustrations*

- |    |   |     |
|----|---|-----|
| 15 | Max Ernst, 'L'eau', <i>Une semaine de bonté</i> (1934). © ADAGP, Paris and DACS, London 1998  | 121 |
| 16 | Max Ernst 'L'île de Pâques', <i>Une semaine de bonté</i> (1934). © ADAGP, Paris and DACS, London 1998   | 126 |
| 17 | Max Ernst, invitation for exhibition <i>Max Ernst</i> (1935). © ADAGP, Paris and DACS, London 1998  | 143 |
| 18 | Max Ernst, <i>The Punching Ball or l'immortalité de buonarotti</i> (1920). © ADAGP, Paris and DACS, London 1998                                       | 145 |
| 19 | Max Ernst, <i>Au rendez-vous des amis 1931 or Loplop introduces Members of the Surrealist Group</i> (1931). © The Museum of Modern Art, New York 1998 | 148 |
| 20 | André Breton, <i>L'écriture automatique</i> (c.1938). Arturo Schwarz Collection, Milan. Photo: SADE archives  | 153 |
| 21 | Max Ernst, invitation for exhibition <i>Man Ray, Peintures &amp; objets</i> (1935). © ADAGP, Paris and DACS, London 1998                              | 161 |
| 22 | Max Ernst, Venus, from <i>Paramyths</i> (1949). © ADAGP, Paris and DACS, London 1998  | 169 |
| 23 | Max Ernst, Hercules, from <i>Paramyths</i> (1949). © ADAGP, Paris and DACS, London 1998   | 169 |
| 24 | Georges Hugnet, <i>Le Sang en proverbe</i> (1936). © Musée d'Unterlinden, Colmar. Photo O. Zimmermann   | 180 |
| 25 | Max Ernst, 'La clé des chants', <i>Une semaine de bonté</i> (1934). © ADAGP, Paris and DACS, London 1998  | 182 |

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## Abbreviations

### Louis Aragon

- C* *Les Collages* [1965], Paris: Hermann, 1993  
*PP* *Le Paysan de Paris*, Paris: Gallimard, 1926

### André Breton

- En* *Entretiens* [1952], Paris: Gallimard (NRF Idées), 1969  
*OCI* *Œuvres complètes I*, Paris: Gallimard (Pléiade), 1988  
*OCH* *Œuvres complètes II*, Paris: Gallimard (Pléiade), 1992  
*SA* *Signe ascendant* [1947], Paris: Gallimard (NRF Poésie), 1968  
*SP* *Le Surréalisme et la peinture*, Paris: Gallimard, 1965

### Max Ernst

- E* *Ecritures*, Paris: Gallimard, 1970