

Tessel M. Bauduin

Surrealism and the Occult

Occultism and Western Esotericism in the Work and Movement of André Breton

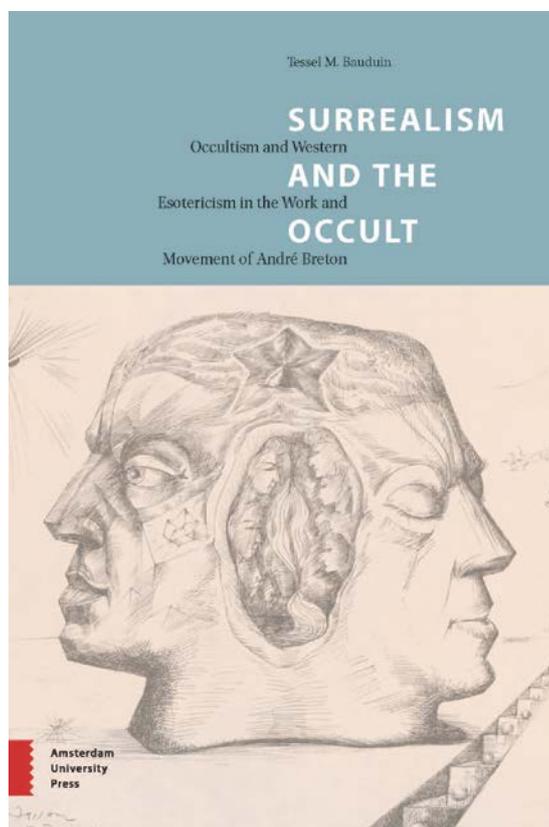
This book offers a new perspective on a long-debated issue: the role of the occult in surrealism, in particular under the leadership of French writer André Breton. Based on thorough source analysis, this study details how our understanding of occultism and esotericism, as well as of their function in Bretonian surrealism, changed significantly over time from the early 1920s to the late 1950s.

"This is easily the best analysis of the complex relationship between Surrealism and Western Esotericism. Based upon thorough research of primary sources, Bauduin shows how the occult became important to André Breton's movement in spite of its secular foundations."

Wouter J. Hanegraaff, Professor of History of Hermetic Philosophy and Related Currents, University of Amsterdam

"An excellent analysis of the impact of esoteric currents on surrealism. Bauduin challenges many of the previous notions about André Breton's intellectual and artistic debt to esotericism, and argues convincingly for the increased importance of esoteric practices to Breton and his circle. This book is destined to become a standard source for the relationship between occultism and art in general, and Bretonian surrealism in particular."

Henrik Bogdan, co-editor of *Occultism in a Global Perspective* (2013) and associate professor Religious Studies, University of Gothenburg



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