

CANCELLED CONFESSIONS or DISAVOWALS by CLAUDE CAHUN

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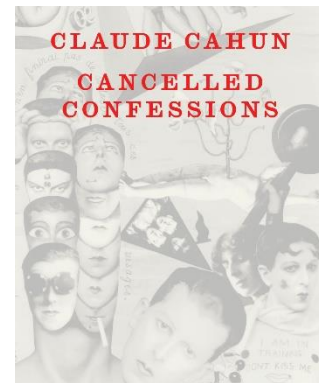
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Cancelled Confessions reveals Claude Cahun to be a major surrealist writer and pioneering queer theorist almost a century ahead of her time.

‘The re-appearance of this glittering and dissenting semi-lost epic is a gift... Cahun’s writing is stylish, playful and prescient, peopled with angel slang, flowering disavowals, God’s lipstick and an infinite layering of masks.’ Daisy Lafarge, author.

In 1930, Claude Cahun (born Lucy Schwob) and her partner, artist Marcel Moore (born Suzanne Malherbe) published their surrealist masterpiece, *Aveux non Avenus*, translated here as *Cancelled Confessions* and available in English for the first time in twenty years.

Susan de Muth’s revised translation of *Cancelled Confessions* has a new introduction by art historian Amelia Groom which contextualizes it within contemporary queer discourse.

‘It’s a surrealist, trans, queer, autofiction, (anti)memoir, and also none of those things. It’s a text, and a life, felt as connection and at the same time completely singular.’ McKenzie Wark, author.

‘The kaleidoscopic text is pieced together from diverse fragments... there are philosophical and subversive theological musings, aphorisms and fables, letters and dialogues, dreams and hymns, nightmares and jokes,’ writes Groom.

The book’s nine sections are prefaced by dreamlike photomontages (reproduced in high definition here) which reflect, illuminate and converse with the verbal content.

Upon publication, *Aveux non Avenus* simply baffled all but a few of Cahun’s friends and admirers, leading Cahun to describe herself as, ‘An unwanted Cassandra’.

Now, however, is the time of the remarkably prescient Cahun and Moore.

‘Cahun was a pioneer of gender-bending role-playing...eerily ahead of her time she has attracted an almost cult-like following.’ The late David Bowie

Cahun and Moore’s appeal is wide and universal. They were adventurers in life as in art. Cahun famously terrified Andre Breton in the 1920s when she appeared in a Paris café with her head shaved and painted gold. Having moved to Jersey in 1938, Cahun and Moore waged a mischievous two-person resistance campaign against the occupying Nazi forces from 1940. Finally caught and imprisoned in 1944, they were sentenced to death in 1945, saved at the very last moment by the armistice.