



**CALL FOR PAPERS: *International Journal of Surrealism* 4.2 (Fall 2027):
Surrealism in the Shadow of Totalitarianism**

Guest Editors: Jason Earle (Sarah Lawrence) and Raymond Spiteri (Victoria University of Wellington)

Submissions due: 10 January 2027

The *International Journal of Surrealism* is the journal of the International Society for the Study of Surrealism (founded 2018), launched 2022 (<https://surrealismstudies.org/>). The journal is published by the University of Minnesota Press (<https://www.upress.umn.edu/journal-division>). Co-Editors: Alyce Mahon (University of Cambridge) and Kate Conley (William & Mary)

The editors invite submissions for articles on the topic of Surrealism in the Shadow of Totalitarianism

The political aspirations of surrealism have long been articulated as a radical quest for absolute freedom. Beginning in the 1930s, the emergence of totalitarian states in Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union under Stalin, which manifested new forms of political power and domination that extended to all aspects of society, represented a clear challenge to surrealism, one that demanded a response. As surrealism expanded across the globe, in locations as widespread as Japan, Egypt, and the Caribbean, it was forced to confront different forms and practices of authoritarian politics hostile to the avant-garde. In the postwar era, the persistence of totalitarian regimes and military dictatorships in Eastern Europe and Latin America also gave rise to new forms of response and opposition by surrealist authors and artists. In each of these locations and times, surrealism posed itself as both a strategy of resistance and a mode of critical understanding. And now, in our own era of social media, technological surveillance, and political upheaval, what lessons can surrealism offer to challenge the reemergence of authoritarian leaders across the globe?

For this issue of the *International Journal of Surrealism*, we invite essays that address the cultural, historical, and/or philosophical nature of surrealism's response to totalitarianism across media (painting, photography, film, theatre, literature, design, etc.) in both their local and global

contexts. Contributors are invited to analyze how artists and authors living under authoritarian rule employed surrealist strategies in circumstances defined by censorship, repression, and material privation. Contributions that explore surrealism's reaction to totalitarianism through its relationship to its anti-colonial or anti-racist stances are particularly welcome. As new forms of authoritarian politics thrive in the twenty-first century, this issue also invites papers that consider how new media can use surrealist strategies as part of a politically charged critical response to totalitarianism.

Guest editors

Jason Earle is Associate Professor of French at Sarah Lawrence College (New York). His work focuses on the interwar period of French literature, on the relationship between literature and politics, and on the avant-garde. He has published articles on French surrealism, Louis-Ferdinand Céline, French fascism, interwar journalism, conspiracy theories, and William S. Burroughs. He currently serves as Treasurer on the board of the ISSS.

Raymond Spiteri is Senior Lecturer in Art History at Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand. His research and publications focus on the interface of culture and politics in the history of surrealism. He is the coeditor with Donald LaCoss of *Surrealism, Politics and Culture* (2003), and has contributed essays to *Modernist Magazines: A Critical and Cultural History* (2013), *Aesthetic Revolutions and Twentieth-Century Avant-Garde Movements* (2015), *Surrealism: Key Concepts* (2016), and *A Companion to Dada and Surrealism* (2016), *The International Encyclopedia of Surrealism* (2019), *Surrealism* (2021), and *Surrealism: Beyond Borders* (2022). His current research is focused on the polarization of French surrealism into antagonistic factions circa 1930, and surrealist responses to the French-Algerian War. He serves on the Editorial Collective of the IJS.

Essays should be submitted to: IJSedit@umn.edu and

Queries and Correspondence should be addressed to: abutler@kzoo.edu and rsilveri@ufl.edu

Deadline: January 10, 2027