

Main Title

Dire et (contre)faire : Jean de Boschère, imagier rebelle
des années vingt / Véronique JAGO-ANTOINE

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Other Titles**Subjects**

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Esteemed by the most demanding poets of his time (from Elskamp to Artaud and through Valéry), friend of Anglo-Saxon Imagistes during his exile in London, the writer, illustrator, painter, sculptor, Jean de Boschère (Uccle, 1878 – La Châtre, 1953) remains in the shadow of a literary history hostile to unclassifiable characters, and yet, between symbolism and avant-garde, he is truly the missing link to the story of the illustrated book from the twenties.

Devastated by the suicide of his older sister, disfigured by a cleft palate—a tragedy romanticized in the unforgettable *Marthe et L'Enragé* (1898), Jean de Boschère made himself into a creator of art to put identity related tensions in opposition to the subversive beauty of unedited forms. He makes himself elusive by playing provocative game of masks, by increasing his talents, and, above all, by using an abnormal text and image dialogue.

To say and do otherwise. The ambiguous architecture of the self-illustrated books of Jean de Boschère as his obsessive fear of hybrid figures, ellipticals, show a poetic art of polysemy, of the paradox and of difference, without equivalent. Summit of the plot, the secret collages made for the poems of *Job le Pauvre* (1922) shows, the semiological crack, the privileged place for thinking the undermining entropy of his time. And of ours.