

PENELOPE ROSEMONT

# BEWARE

*of the*

# ICE

*and other poems*

with drawings by

ENRICO BAJ



SURREALIST EDITIONS

CHICAGO

Descended from free-thinking Bohemians who came to the U.S. in the mid-nineteenth century, **Penelope Rosemont** was educated for a career as a chemist, but has preferred to devote her life to poetry, mountain-climbing and revolution. ¶ An active supporter of the underground Cuban 26th of July Movement in her early teens (1957-59), she later took part in Chicago's "anarcho-surrealist" *Rebel Worker* group (also called the "left wing of the Beat Generation") as well as the movement against the war in Vietnam, and served on the National Staff of the Students for a Democratic Society (SDS) during its most radical phase. ¶ In January 1966, in Paris, André Breton welcomed her into the Surrealist Movement as an avowed "Enemy of the State." After several months' participation in the daily meetings of the Paris group, she co-founded the first indigenous Surrealist Group in the U.S., in Chicago, in the summer of that year, and has been an important force in international surrealism ever since. She took part in the U.S. Surrealists' first group show at Chicago's Gallery Bugs Bunny in 1968, and her paintings and alchemograms have been included in major surrealist exhibitions in France, England, Holland, Mexico and other countries. At the World Surrealist Exhibition in Chicago in 1976 she elaborated "The Domain of Robin Hood." Her work was also included in the "Art & Alchemy" exhibition at the Venice Biennale in 1986. ¶ Her first collection of poems, *Athamor*, was published in 1970. A co-editor of *Arsenal/Surrealist Subversion* as well as of *Free Spirits: Annals of the Insurgent Imagination*, she has contributed to surrealist publications in many countries as well as to such radical periodicals as *The Rebel Worker*, *Radical America* and *Earth First!*

Renowned for his strikingly original paintings and assemblages—including his series of "generals" (1959), *Funeral of the Anarchist Pinelli* (1972) and the *Apotheosis of Kitsch* (1989)—**Enrico Baj** has been in the forefront of artistic revolt since the early 1950s. ¶ Co-founder with Asger Jorn of the International Movement for an Imaginist Bauhaus in 1953, he has also taken part in several International Surrealist Exhibitions. André Breton's important essay on his work is included in the definitive (1965) edition of *Surrealism and Painting*. ¶ Baj has also been active in the anarchist movement in Italy, and has collaborated on many anarchist publications. His many books include *Cose dell'altro mondo* and *Ecologia dell'arte*, both published in 1990.

TO BLANCA  
VARELA,

Surrealist Greetings,

Penelope Rosemont

May 13, 1996