

# MICHEL LEIRIS

*Writing the Self*

SEÁN HAND

*Oxford Brookes University*



**CAMBRIDGE**  
**UNIVERSITY PRESS**

## Contents

<i>Acknowledgements</i>	page x
<i>List of abbreviations</i>	xi
Introduction: the deaths of Michel Leiris	I
PART I TEXTS AND CONTEXTS	
1 Unities and identities: Leiris and surrealism	15
2 Recasting the self: from surrealism to ethnography	45
3 Autobiographical frameworks: from ethnography to <i>L'Age d'homme</i>	61
4 Positional play: <i>La Règle du jeu</i>	85
5 Secreting the self: <i>Journal 1922–1989</i>	122
PART II THE QUEST FOR PRESENCE IN <i>LA RÈGLE DU JEU</i>	
6 Excess of joy: the beginnings of presence in ‘... Reusement!’	151
7 Organs of learning: sensing presence in <i>Biffures</i>	158
8 The act of union: being-in-the-world in <i>La Règle du jeu</i>	169
9 Thanatography: non-being as the limit of autobiography	185
Conclusion: locating Leiris	202
<i>Notes</i>	206
<i>Bibliography</i>	229
<i>Index</i>	255