

PHOTOGRAPHER, SCULPTOR, WRITER

Claude Cahun

Born Lucy Schwob into a creative Jewish family, the artist adopted the name Claude Cahun and created self-portraits that challenged fixed ideas of gender and identity.

Working across writing, photography, performance and collage, Cahun explored multiple selves and shifting realities. Through masks, costumes and staged scenes, she questioned artistic authority and resisted the idea of a single, stable identity.

Although she often used feminine language, Cahun described her gender as fluid, writing: "Masculine? Feminine? It depends on the situation. Neuter is the only gender that always suits me."

Her influence on feminist and queer thought endures, shaping generations of artists, designers and performers, and her refusal of binary norms continues to resonate today.

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