

The Amsterdam Declaration

Written by Constant Nieuwenhuis and Guy Debord, and published in Internationale Situationniste #2 December 1958

1. The Situationists must take every opportunity to oppose retrograde forces and ideologies, in culture and wherever the question of the meaning of life arises.
2. Nobody shall consider their membership in the SI as a simple agreement of principle; the essential activity of all participants must relate to perspectives elaborated in common, to the necessity of disciplined action, in the practical as well as the public sphere.
3. The possibility of unitary and collective creativity is already announced in the decomposition of the individual arts. The SI cannot justify any attempt to renovate them.
4. The SI's minimum programme is the development of complete decors, which must extend to a unitary urbanism, and research into new modes of behavior in relation to these decors.
5. Unitary urbanism is defined as the complex, ongoing activity that consciously recreates man's environment according to the most advanced conceptions in every domain.
6. The solution to problems of housing, traffic, and recreation can only be envisaged in relation to social, psychological and artistic perspectives that are combined in one synthetic hypothesis at the level of daily life.
7. Unitary urbanism, independently of all aesthetic considerations, is the fruit of a new type of collective creativity; the development of this spirit of creation is the prior condition of unitary urbanism.
8. The creation of ambiances favorable to this development is the immediate task of today's creators.
9. All means are usable, on condition that they serve in a unitary action. The coordination of artistic and scientific means must lead to their total fusion.
10. The construction of a situation is the edification of a transient micro-ambiance and of the play of events for a unique moment in the lives of several persons. Within unitary urbanism, it is inseparable from the construction of a general, relatively more lasting ambiance.

11. A constructed situation is a means for unitary urbanism, just as unitary urbanism is the indispensable basis for the construction of situations, in both play and seriousness, in a freer society.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCE

Constant et Guy Debord, 'La déclaration d'Amsterdam', in *Internationale situationniste* #2 (December 1958) pp. 31-32. Reprinted in *De Nieuwe Utopiese Courant* #9/10 (1969); in *Textes et documents situationnistes 1957-1960* (Paris 2004) pp. 82-83. Translated in German for the 3rd Situationist Conference in Munich and published in *Textes et documents situationnistes 1957-1960* (Paris 2004) pp. 80-81. Translated in English in *Constant's New Babylon. The Hyper-Architecture of Desire* (Rotterdam 1998) p. 87; online on [Situationist International Online](#) and www.notbored.org

Corrections to adopting the eleven points of Amsterdam

The Amsterdam Declaration in our previous number has been adopted by the Munich Conference with the following modifications:

The first point should read: "The Situationists must take every opportunity to oppose ideological systems and retrograde practices, in culture and wherever the question of the meaning of life arises." (Instead of : "every opportunity to oppose retrograde ideologies and forces, etc.")

In the third point replace: "The S.I. cannot justify any attempt to renovate these arts" (individual) with "The S.I. cannot justify any attempt to practice these arts." And add the following: "Unitary urbanism will entail the authentic accomplishment of the creative individual."

At the end of the ninth point ("The coordination of artistic and scientific means must lead to their total fusion") add "Artistic and scientific research must retain total freedom."

Complete the last sentence of the eleventh point ("the construction of situations, as play and as seriousness in a freer society") as follows: "the construction of situations as at once play and as seriousness in a freer society."

(Unattributed and published in *Internationale Situationniste* #3 December 1959.)