

Statement *by* Paul Eluard

Poetry is not necessarily limited by the secret ideas you have about it. But like the dreams one does not tell, it is apt to cause lapses of memory and to prevent the regular formation of a world superior to that in which forgetfulness is used for the self-preservation of the individual.

That inspiration may leap freely from the mirror, all reflections of the personality must be effaced. Give influences free play, invent what has already been invented, what is beyond doubt, what is unbelievable, give spontaneity its pure value. Be the person who is questioned and who is heard. A single vision, infinitely varied.

THE POET IS HE WHO INSPIRES FAR MORE THAN HE WHO IS
INSPIRED.