



Dadaism

Setting the scene

1915 - World War I rages through the backyards of the citizens of Europe

Many escaped the slaughter by taking refuge in neutral territories such as Switzerland

A number of refugee artists and literary types from across Europe found themselves congregating in Zurich at this time

Rather than feeling relief at their escape of certain conscription to the forces, they were angry that a modern European society would allow a war to happen

They regularly met, discussed and performed in a nightclub called Cabaret Votaire

What was Dadaism?

Dada or Dadaism was a form of artistic anarchy born out of disgust for the social, political and cultural values of the time

It was a protest against the atrocity of World War I and what Dadaists felt was an oppressive intellectual way of thinking in both art and everyday society

The loosely-knit group had nothing in common except their ideals - a contempt for society and all that went with it - Nationalism, materialism and anything else that had contributed a senseless war

There is no consensus as to what the word 'Dada' meant. Some say it is non-sensical others say the name was decided when a knife stuck into a dictionary pointed to the french word for 'Hobby horse' - Dada

The movement encompassed art, music, poetry, theatre, dance and politics. Dada was not so much a style of art like Cubism or Fauvism; it was more a protest movement with an anti-establishment manifesto



Dada's avowed purpose was "to kill art"



Max Ernst - *At the Rendez-vous of Friends* 1922

Seated from left to right: René Crevel, Max Ernst, Dostoievsky, Théodore Fraenkel, Jean Paulhan, Benjamin Péret, Johannes Baargeld, Robert Desnos. Standing: Philippe Soupault, Jean Arp, Max Morise, Raphaël, Paul Éluard, Louis Aragon, André Breton, Giorgio de Chirico, Gala Éluard

Dada Artists

Jean (Hans) Arp - French sculptor, collagist, engraver and poet

Marcel Duchamp - French painter and sculptor of 'readymades'

George Grosz - German painter and caricaturist

Francis Picabia - French painter, poet and typographer

Man Ray - American painter and photographer

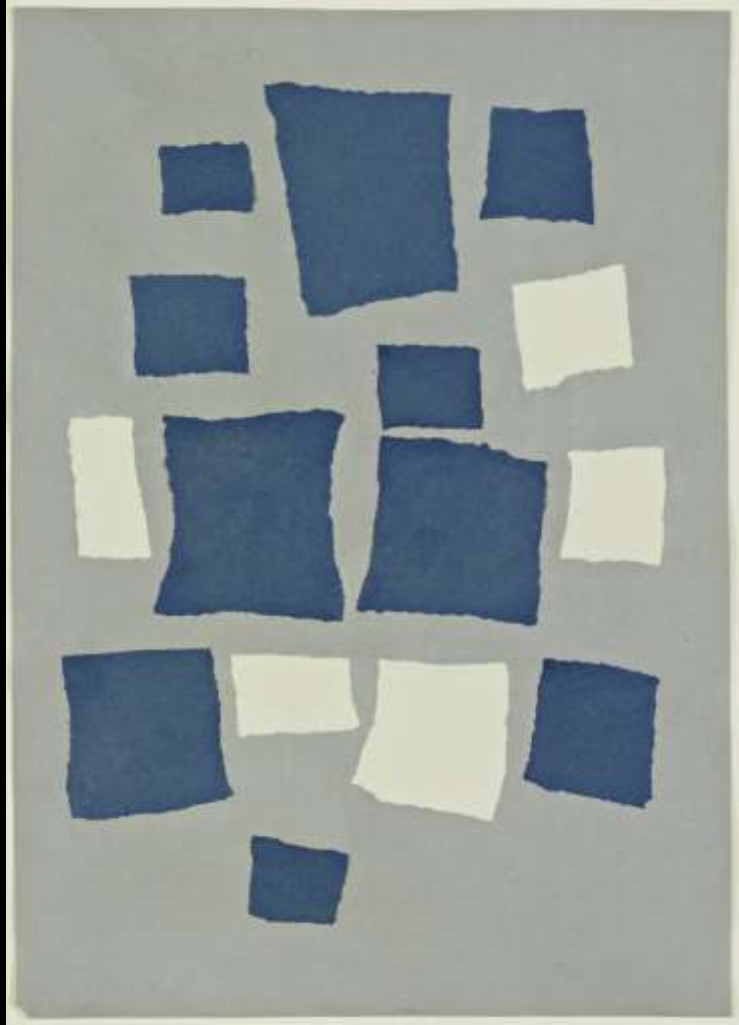
Christian Schad - German painter

Jean (Hans) Arp

German-born (1886) French sculptor, painter, collagist, printmaker and poet
Arp was best known as a founding member of the [Dada movement](#) in Zurich

Arp had a lively intelligence. Over the course of his artistic career, he worked with the many diff

All of these movements and his playful, amoeba-like forms had a huge impact on art. He also w



Collage Arranged According to the Laws of Chance, 1916-17



Mountain Table Anchors Navel, 1925



Configuration, 1933



Torso, 1953

Movement, Style, School or Type of Art:

Marcel Duchamp

Born 1887 France - painter and sculptor of readymades

A man of great humour and wit, Duchamp loved nothing more than jokes, puns and challenging others to think 'outside the box'.

He is best known for introducing the ready-made (or "found") objects into visual art, co-founding Dada and being affiliated with the Surrealists.

Perhaps his greatest contribution, though, is that he almost singlehandedly shifted the focus of art away from the strictly visual and onto the mental. Duchamp's enormous impact on Contemporary Art cannot be overstated.

How To Pronounce 'Duchamp':

Doo-shaw

- doo·shaw



Bicycle Wheel,
1913 (first version)



Nude Descending a
Staircase, No. 2, 1912



L.H.O.O.Q., 1919



Fountain, 1917

The End

By the beginning of World War II, many of the Dadaists had fled or been forced into exile in the United States, others died in Hitler's death camps. The Führer personally disliked the kind of radical art that Dada represented. The movement became less active as post-World War II optimism led to new movements in art and literature.

The Cabaret Voltaire fell into disrepair until it was occupied by a group claiming to be neo-dadaists in June-August of 2002. After their eviction the Cabaret Voltaire became a museum dedicated to the history of Dada and the Dada movement.