

## ANDRE BRETON

"DADA JE KÁSNÉ JAKO NOC, KTERÁ KOLÉBÁ MLADIČKÝ DEN VE SVÉM NÁRUČÍ." HANS ARP





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To try to

classify the Dada

movement is a daunting task,

as the movement is made of individuals

to rebel against the traditional forms of art, turning notions of aesthetics and composition on their heads, upsetting the bourgeoisie. As World War I engulfed Europe, artists fleeing the chaos and nationalistic pandemonium headed to neutral cities in the war. Out of these REFUGEE ARTISTS, specifically those in Zurich, arose the Dada movement in 1916.

After the turn of the century, the avant-garde of the art world were starting

all moving along separate but parallel paths,

with NO CONSISTENT STYLE linking them. An attempt to group

the movement by trends is in itself contrary to the spirit of Dadaism.

As STEPHEN FOSTER writes in his book DADA SPECTRUM, they "sought through their polemics to disqualify themselves from historyin order to view themselves, and to have others view them, as the beginnings of a totally new direction in art." This effort arose in response to the materialism of Western civilization, and the poisonous nationalism that gave rise to the horrors of the First World War. If such values and culture could give rise to such depravity, the system needed to be destroyed and reconstructed from the blank state. The anti-art attitude of Dadaist spawned from this disgust with Western culture. If it had given rise to the evil of war on a global scale, then the art and culture it had produced must be as flawed as well. Throughout the movement, Dadaism manifested itself in all out craziness, as well as according to Foster "NIHILISM, POLITICAL ACTIVISM, anarchism, BOLSHEVISM, IRRATIONALISM, CONSTRUCTIVISM, MYSTICISM, OR PRIMITIVISM"

in a multitude of artistic forms. They experimented

with collage, photomontages, found objects, and bizarre typography, along with more traditional media, such as photography and PAINTING.

Despite Dadaism's anti-art stance, as Matthew Gale notes in his book Dada & Surrealism, "Their position emerged from the cultural radicalism of the prewar avant-garde" despite the nationalistic fervor surrounding them. They adopted the tactics of Italian Futurists such as Filippo Tommaso Marinetti by holding performances he audience was deliberately provoked to the point of riot." They took on some

where "the audience was **deliberately provoked** to the point of riot." They took on some of Cubism's experimentation with collage and **text**. They borrowed ideas from Expressionism, despite their denunciation of it. Their *nihilistic tendencies* were encouraged by associates with anarchistic proclivities. They followed the avant-garde's format of criticizing the system through radical performances and pieces of art. Dadaists used their <u>angry humor</u>, **SHOCKING NON SENSE**, and carnival-like presentations as centerpieces in showing the chaos and **horrific** absurdity of war, bringing it home to comfortable bourgeoisie.





Francis Picabia was an ARTIST and WRITER.

He was influenced by the Impressionists and Cubists.

He traveled to the United States, collaborated with Marcel Duchamp, and exhibited in the STIEGLITZ GALLERY. He traveled frequently and was active in the Zurich and PARIS Dada groups.

He published the periodicals 391,

in honor of the Stieglitz group publication 291, and Cannibale, in which he began his movement away from DADAISM and toward Surrealism.