

Dada, Surrealism, Mexican Modernists and the Like-minded

Dada 1916 -1921

Dada was not a movement; rather it was an anti-movement that opposed the academy and the avant-garde alike. It was nonsensical, meant to be humorous and anti-establishment.

Dadaists were engendered by WWI and the bourgeois societies they felt were responsible. It was meant to serve as an allegory to the pandemonium of war.

Dada paralleled the psychoanalytic views of Sigmund Freud, Carl Jung and others and produced images that arose out of the subconscious mind.

Art based on random, laws of chance, automatic drawings and photomontage, as well as the readymade and are newly developed artforms.

Marcel Duchamp, French, 1887-1968

Box in a Suitcase (Boîte-en-Valise), 1941/1961 cardboard, paper, linen, wood, and plexiglass 97.20.2

Man Ray/Emmanuel Rudnitsky, United States, 1890-1977

[Arnold H. Crane, Man Ray, gelatin silver print 76.81.47]

Return to Reason, 1921, oil on composite board 96.21

Gift, 1921/replicated in a 1970 edition of 11, cast iron, tacks 97.20.1

istan/islam, 1924, gelatin silver print (Rayograph) 96.24

Lee Miller, United States, 1907-1977

Solarized Portrait 1930, platinum print 2006.86.4

people/places/terms

Cabaret Voltaire "literary nightclub"

Hugo Ball, Emmy Hennings

readymades

automatism/automatic drawings

photomontage

John Heartfield (1891-1968)

Hannah Höch (1889-1978)

Parisian *Littérature* Group

André Breton

Louis Aragon

Philippe Soupault

TO MAKE A DADAIST POEM

-Tristan Tzara-

Take a newspaper.

Take some scissors.

Choose from this paper an article of the length you want to make your poem.

Cut out the article.

Next carefully cut out each of the words that make up this article and

put them all in a bag.

Shake gently.

Next take out each cutting one after the other.

Copy conscientiously in the order in which they left the bag.

The poem will resemble you.

And there you are -- an infinitely original author of charming sensibility even though unappreciated by the vulgar herd.

Surrealism 1924 – c.1940

Surrealism launched in Paris in 1924 by French poet André Breton, who formulated the philosophy in the *Manifesto of Surrealism*. It is described as pure automatism.

Surrealism developed out of the Dada activities during WWI.

Surrealism was not an artistic movement, but a way of life, a constant revolt against the conformities of thought and an attempt to redefine the human mind and spirit.

The act of creation was a way to tap into the power of the unconscious mind, bringing with it the creation of a new mythology to join humanity together.

The three most important elements of Surrealist philosophy are:

- 1.) a conviction that the dream is a valid and integral part of life experience,
- 2.) a belief in the creative power of the unconscious, and
- 3.) an acceptance of the universal need for myth, which arises from a common factor of human mentality and unites the people of all civilizations.

Paul Klee, Swiss, 1879-1940

Howling Dog, 1928 56.42

Hardy Plants, 1934 64.44.2

Salvador Dali, Spanish, 1904-1089

Aphrodisiac Telephone, 1938 96.2

Portrait of Juan de Pareja, the Assistant to Velázquez, 1960 84.5

René Magritte, Belgian, 1898-1967

The Promenades of Euclid, 1955 68.3

Le 16 Septembre (Tree with Crescent Moon), about 1955, gouache 80.78*

Ceci n'est pas une pipe (This is not a Pipe), 1962, etching 2004.228.16*

Yves Tanguy French, 1900-1955

Through Birds, through Fire, but Not through Glass, 1943 75.72.2

Reply to Red, 1943 63.14.2

Arshile Gorky (Vostanik Manoog Adoyan), United States, 1904-1948

Composition, 1936-39 63.14.1

Max Ernst, German, 1891-1976

[Arnold Newman, Max Ernst, New York City, 1942 2003.148.1]
 L'Oiseau Janus (Janus Bird), 1971, bronze 89.106

Joan Miró, Spanish, 1893-1983

[Yousuf Karsh, Joan Miro, 1965, silver gelatin print 95.12.2]
 Head of a Woman, 1938 62.73.2
 [Ngavimeli, Dance Mask, Bird and Totem, Sepik River, 20th century, rattan, feathers 73.3]

Rudolph Belling, German, 1886-1972

Portrait of Alfred Flechtheim, 1927, bronze 68.21*

*objects not on view

people/places/terms

French word *surréalisme*: *sur* - beyond, *réalisme* - realism
 André Breton, *Manifesto of Surrealism*
 André Masson
 automatism
 Sigmund Freud
 Syrie Maugham, Edward Jones
 biomorphs/biomorphic
 paranoiac-critical method
 Diego Velázquez
frottage, grattage
assemblage

Some Surrealist Works on View not covered in the lecture**Giorgio de Chirico, Italian, 1888-1978**

The Scholar's Playthings, 1917 72.75

Paul Delvaux, Belgian, 1898-1994

Woman with a Mirror, 1945 71.69

Max Ernst, German, 1891-1976,

Soleil Rouge Maritime, 1927, oil on glass 2002.104

Gerome Kamrowski, United States, 1914-2004

The Competitive Lover, 1945 88.65.1

Pablo Picasso, Spanish, 1881-1973

Woman in An Armchair, 1927 63.2

Mexican Modernists

Diego Rivera, Mexican, 1886–1957

Portrait of the Knight Family, 1946 83.121*

Alfredo Ramos Marínez, Mexican, 1871-1946

Las vendedoras de flores (The Flower Vendors), c 1935-1938 tempera and pastel on heavy cardboard 84.19

David Alfaro Siqueiros, Mexican, 1896–1975

Self-portrait, 1939, lithograph P.12,846*

José Clemente Orozco, Mexican, 1883–1949

The Flag, 1928, lithograph P.11,647*

The Rear Guard, 1929, lithograph P.11,649*

Manuel Álvarez Bravo, Mexican, 1902–2002

The Man from Papantla, 1934-35 82.125.8*

Manuel Álvarez Bravo, Two Pairs of Legs, 1928-1929, gelatin silver print 82.125.10

Leonora Carrington, English, 1917- 2011

Dear Diary—Never Since We Left Prague, 1955 2005.127.2

Rufino Tamayo, Mexican, 1899–1991

Perro Aullando (Howling Dog), 1960 P.12,853

The Scoffer, 1946 91.155

The Family, 1936 60.4*

people/places/terms

General Porfirio Díaz

Álvaro Obregón, Ministry of Public Education

Leon Trotsky

Dinah, Nora, Richard Allen Knight, Taxco, Cuernavaca

Frida Kahlo (1907-1954)

Xochimilco

*objects not on view