

Artyfacts Episode 4

What is Dadaism

Into

To gain a better understanding of Dadaism I will be looking at the second Dada Manifesto recited in 1918 by TRISTAN TZARA. Please note this is a very long piece of written literature so I'll only be quoting sections of importance. I will link the full manifesto in the discretion where you can read it at your leisure.

http://writing.upenn.edu/library/Tzara_Dada-Manifesto_1918.pdf

The magic of a word—Dada... is of no importance to us.

The word itself is a French term that means Hobby horse a type of old child toy. However here it means nothing and yet implies that their actions and the movement itself speaks louder than a single nonsensical word.

**To put out a manifesto you must want: ABC
to fulminate against 1, 2, 3**

A manifesto is a declaration of revolt against common consensus, current laws, institutions or even forms of government.

'To impose your ABC is a natural thing— hence deplorable.'

Just like a lion that strikes down a gazelle out of instinct, which is both in itself a beautiful and yet reprehensible act of nature as an action of self-preservation. Acting out in one's self-interest is at heart a selfish gesture that only benefits the initiator. The same can very much be said about art or at least one that tries to profit off it.

'Everybody does it in the form of crystalbluffmadonna,'

I believe this and many other sentences like this are written to be incomprehensible or universally applicable. So that it can't be argued against or disputed out right.

I also made sense of this by splitting it into the words Crystal Bluff Madonna which would mean a beautiful fake statue that was meant to represent innocence.

‘The love of novelty is the cross of sympathy, demonstrates a naive (je m'enfoutisme), it is a transitory, positive sign without a cause.’

The burden of showing show support blindly, to all new methods of production in art is foolish and presents a (I don't care attitude) to a short-lived movement.

‘approximation was invented by the impressionists).’

This isn't true in the slightest, but I found it to be a funny burn on another movement I had to share with you all.

‘I write this manifesto to show that people can perform contrary actions I am against action; for continuous contradiction, for affirmation too, I am neither for nor against and I do not explain because I hate common sense.’

This is a promise from the author that though out this manifesto he will go against his principles and beliefs. That he will continue to spout questions that need to be asked and answers that must be given, even though he would not usually do so.

Why? Because the infestation had gotten to a point where he could no longer ignore the problem.

‘Dada Means Nothing ‘

This is quite a literal statement, in this manifesto and thought the Dada movement. The term Dada was used in place of the word nothing, to suggest that in principle the movement itself isn't of importance but the individual acts of each willing contributor.

‘word;... the stagnant idea of a gilded swamp, a relative human product. ‘

Words are the construct of human innovation, however each individual word lacks meaning; it's only when we put meaning into those words though passion and affirmative action.

‘A work of art should not be beauty in itself, for beauty is dead’

The author is suggesting that art is no longer just about aesthetics alone, art is now about the connotation and denotation.

'A work of art is never beautiful by decree, objectively and for all. Hence criticism is useless'

All forms of art are entirely subjective and the opinion of a single piece of art will differ from person to person. So the work of critics is purely nonsense and shouldn't interfere with one's own conclusion.

'I speak only of myself...I have no right to drag others into my river,...everybody practices his art in his own way,'

He is telling the audience to only follow his example if they wholeheartedly believe in what he is spouting, as for those that disagree to just disregard and continue on with their lives.

'And so Dada was born of a need for independence, of a distrust toward unity.'

The automatists wished to start up a movement that would allow them to separate themselves from the gallery's, collectors and critics that would only seek to profit off their work

'We recognize no theory.'

This again is a very literal statement, they were not going to consider any historical, academic or common practice methodology's that they had been taught when in the production of Dadaist work.

'Is the aim of art to make money and cajole the nice bourgeois?'

This is a rhetorical question, in which they ask is the practice of art to just make money and impress the middle class?

'This does not prevent the canvas from being a good or bad painting suitable for the investment of intellectual capital.'

Just a painting doesn't have an underlining meaning, doesn't mean it isn't worth purchasing. The buyer determines the value of a painting by their own opinion and introspective.

‘Everything one looks at is false... I do not consider the relative result more important than the choice...The system of quickly looking at the other side of a thing in order to impose your opinion indirectly is called dialectics,’

Every work of art no matter how mundane has a story behind it. Just because you unveil a curtain and survey the windowsill does not make you an expert in the subject matter. However it grant you an informed opinion, which will allow you to engage in a civilized discourse.

‘Does anyone think that, by a minute refinement of logic, he had demonstrated the truth and established the correctness of these opinions?’

All logic no matter the time, level of knowledge or infamy one has in their chosen subject of specialization; facts and theories will be little more their opinion or speculation.

‘We observe, we regard from one or more points of view, we choose them among the millions that exist.’

Everyone has their own conclusions, which are formed though their experiences, emotions and knowledge. It is up to them which paths they follow on the road of inquiry.

‘Science disgusts me as soon as it becomes a speculative system, loses its character of utility that is so useless but is at least individual.’

Science is the subject of questioning everything and providing facts, that are for the most part deemed to be the common consensus. However there are internal subjects such as fringe science, not to mention every fact start out as a hypothesis and even to this day

‘I am against systems, the most acceptable system is on principle to have none.’

You should live by your own set of philosophy and beliefs, don't let anyone else be it academia, governmental bodies or family and friends tell you how to live your life.

'we have proclaimed as the sole basis for agreement: art. It is not as important as we, mercenaries of the spirit, have been proclaiming for centuries.'

The concept and importance of art hasn't changed since the day the subject was given a name. The only thing that has change is the angle at which we view it, thing is based on the updated academic theories, philosophy's , religious beliefs, law, politics and international relations.

'Art afflicts no one and those who manage to take an interest in it...populate the country with their conversation.'

No one is born with an illness that drives them to be creative, producing an outlet for the human experience is of their own choice.

'Art is a private affair...an intelligible work is the product of a journalist,... to combine this monstrosity... automatically pressed and poured hatred cowardice villainy.'

Those that publish without consent, those criticize for profit without interest or passion, those that see art as nothing more than an investment are merely oil barons spilling disgusting black sludge over part of our souls.

'The artist, the poet rejoice at the venom of the masses condensed into a section chief of this industry, he is happy to be insulted: it is a proof of his immutability.'

The critics and journalists are happy to be called out for the crap they print. It's all free publicity and additional copies sold, as is kindle to a fire. At the end of the day they know they can get away with slander as long as it brings in a profit.

'When a writer or artist is praised by the newspapers, it is a proof of the intelligibility of his work: wretched lining of a coat for public'

The more aesthetically pleasing and simple in terms of meaning an image is to comprehend. The more the general public will applaud it due to most of them being uneducated when it comes to the arts, few can understand the beauty of the nonsensical, surreal or abstract

'What we need is works that are strong straight precise and forever beyond understanding.'

This very much explains the use of nonsensical words and visuals within the movement. It is to make the works themselves unintelligible for the sake of being impossible to understand which in itself is a thing of beauty.

'Married to logic, art would live in incest'

This is quite the true statement, even though we all learn and gain inspiration from other sources. If we didn't diverge ourselves and come up with new concepts art would quickly become stale and boring, we would cease to grasp from meaning in a reality of nihilism.

'The control of morality and logic has inflicted us with impassivity in the presence of policemen...which have infected the only luminous clean corridors of glass that remained open to artists.'

Basically he is trying to state, that the critics, academic institutions and collectors were in some form policing their work approving or disproving what they see fit.

'Every product of disgust capable of becoming a negation of the family is Dada;'

I believe this is perhaps talking about a group of artists or the artistic community as a family. It could also be using family as an accusation of ones ideals.

'knowledge of all the means rejected up until now by the shamefaced sex of comfortable compromise and good manners: Dada;'

Basically all methods of production and thought that have been denied access into the artistic community. Because it's easier for those that control the market and educational system to ignore that which doesn't conform to their ideals.

'abolition o/ logic, which is the dance of those impotent to create: Dada;'

Logic is the product of those with no imagination or aspirations and should be ignored.

‘of every social hierarchy and equation set up for the sake of values by our valets: Dada;’

All groups, facts and figures made to make life easier by categorization and conformity are worthless.

‘every object, all objects, sentiments, obscurities, apparitions and the precise clash of parallel lines are weapons for the fight: Dada;’

This is a statement that calls into question and opposes the movement of futurism, cubism and other artistic genres.

‘abolition of memory: Dada;’

Your memories are not needed to create art

‘abolition of archaeology: Dada;’

The history of man is irrelevant

‘abolition of prophets: Dada;’

Religion isn't the guiding for being this movement so hence it being worthless to them.

‘abolition of the future: Dada;’

They are not concerned with the future, only the present which they strive to change matters to them.

‘absolute and unquestionable faith in every god that is the immediate product of spontaneity: Dada;’

Blind loyalty towards the gods, enforced by so called miracles is idiotic

‘Freedom: Dada Dada Dada, a roaring of tense colors, and interlacing of opposites and of all contradictions, grotesques, inconsistencies:’

Dada meaning nothing is also at the very same time everything, as long as it follow the beliefs, philosophy and intentions of Dadaism then it is a work under their family name.

‘LIFE’

Dada is now their reason for living.

Poetry

Wolken

elomen elomen lefitalominal
wolminuscalo
baumbala bunga
acycam glastula feirofim flinsi
elominuscula pluplubasch
rallalalaio
endremmin saxassa flumen flobollala
fellobasch falljada follidi
flumbasch
cerobadadrada
gragluda gligloda glodasch
gluglamen gloglada gleroda glandrid
elomen elomen lefitalominal
wolminuscalo
baumbala bunga
acycam glastala feirofim blisti
elominuscula pluplusch
rallabataio

Hugo Ball, 1886-192

Music

Georges Ribemont-Dessaignes

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qJst-XRff-w>

Cut-up technique

Photomontage

Assemblage

Readymades