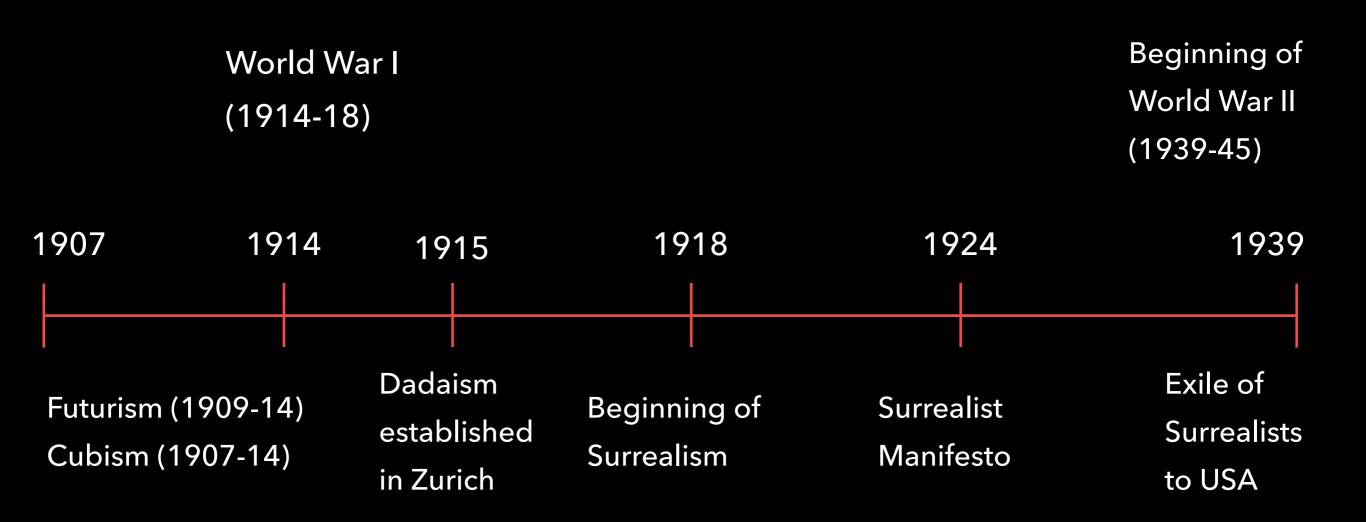
MODERN ART AND OTHER TALES OF PROGRESS

DADAISM SURREALISM

TIMELINE



The beginnings of Dada / The beginnings of WWI

- WWI lasted from 1914-18; caused the deaths of almost 20 million
- An unprecedented loss of human life (as a result of technological advances in weaponry, communications and transportation)
- Compared to the Futurists, what do you think the perception towards these new technologies would have been now?

The beginnings of Dada / The beginnings of WWI

"The beginnings of Dada, were not the beginnings of art, but of disgust."
-Tristan Zara (Dada artist)

- Compared to the Futurists, what do you think the perception towards these new technologies would have been now?
 - For the disillusioned artists of the Dada movement, unlike the Futurists, the war merely confirmed the degradation of social structures that led to such violence: corrupt and nationalist politics, repressive social values.
 - Instead of the Futurist attitude of patriotism and fascism, the Dadaist tone was of Pacifism (opposition to war)
 - Dada artists felt the war called into question every aspect of a society capable of starting the war- including its art.

What is Dadaism?

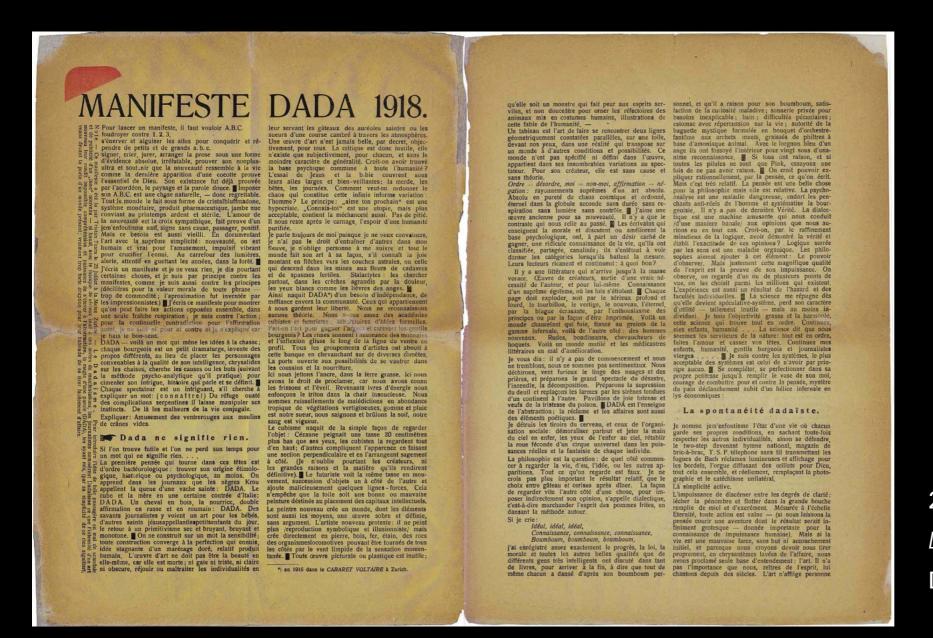
"Dada is irony," "Dada is anti-art," "Dada will kick you in the behind"



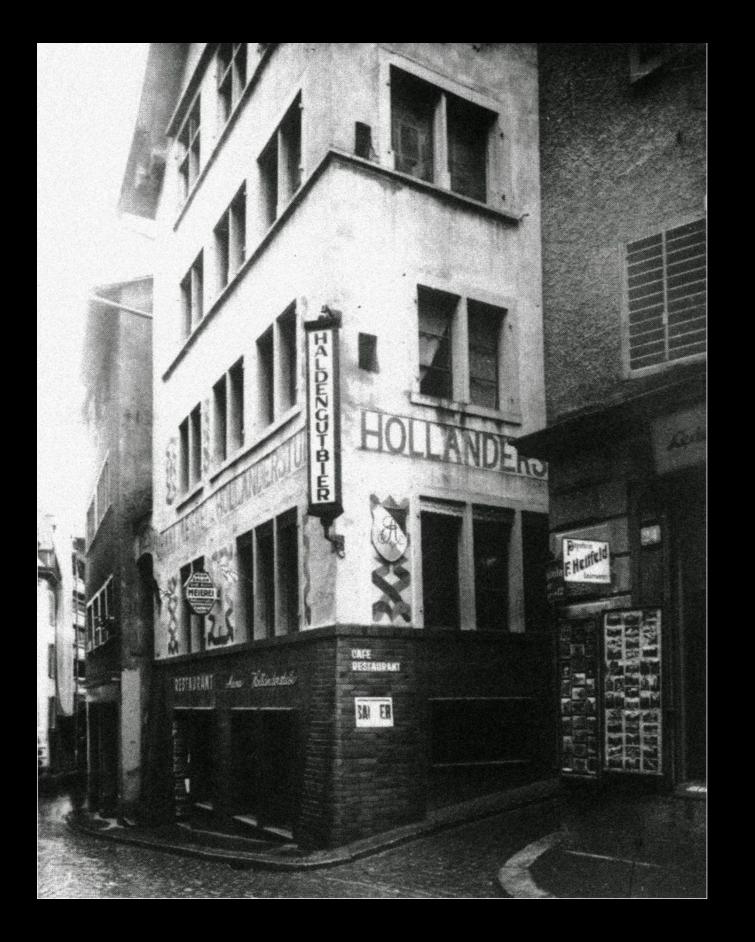
- No common style or medium: could be painting, photography, sculpture etc.
- Aesthetic/visual style was secondary to the ideas
- Importance on absurdity, humor, satire, uncanny (weirdness)
- The very name Dada reflects the absurdity- nonsensical word selected at random

THE DADA MANIFESTO

I write this manifesto to show that people can perform contrary actions together while taking one fresh gulp of air; 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. -Tristan Tzara, 1918



2-page layout of Tristan Tzara's Dada Manifesto, printed in Dada 3 (December 1918)



CABARET VOLTAIRE

- Zurich which was known at the time during WWI to be a city that flourished as a cultural center and whose energy was fuelled by refugees from all over Europe.
- Cabaret Voltaire: a club/
 performance venue where the
 artists hosted a number of
 events and came together and
 shared ideas



Dada artists at Cabaret Voltaire

'Total pandemonium. The people around us were shouting, laughing and gesticulating. Our replies are sighs of love, volleys of hiccups, poems, moos and meowing of medieval bruitists. Tzara is wiggling his behind like the belly of an oriental dancer. Janco is playing an invisible violin and bowing and scraping. Madame Hennings, with a Madonna face, is doing the splits. Huelsenbeck is banging away nonstop on the great drum,

with Ball accompanying him on the piano,

-Jean Arp in his 1955 memoir

pale as a chalky ghost.'

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z_8Wg40F3yo

KARAWANE

jolifanto bambla ô falli bambla grossiga m'pfa habla horem

égiga goramen
higo bloiko russula huju
hollaka hollala
anlogo bung
blago bung
blago bung

bosso fataka ü üü ü

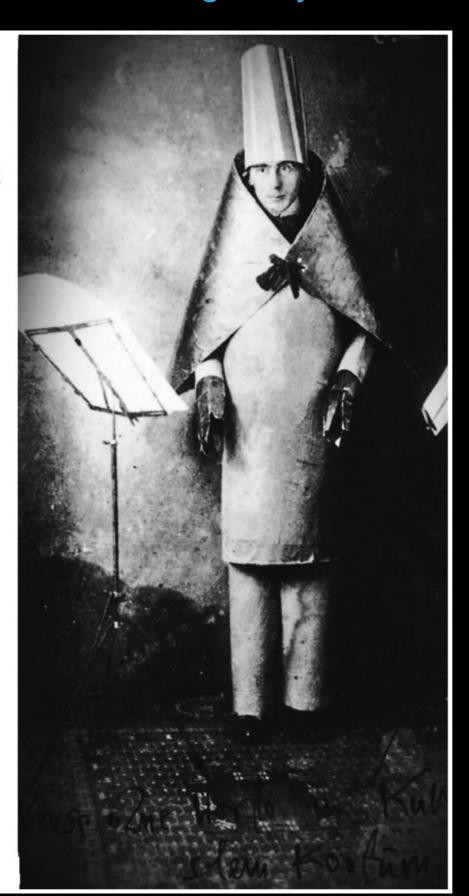
schampa wulla wussa ólobo hej tatta gôrem eschige zunbada

wulubu ssubudu uluw ssubudu tumba ba- umf

kusagauma

ba - umf

Hugo Ball, Karawane, 1916



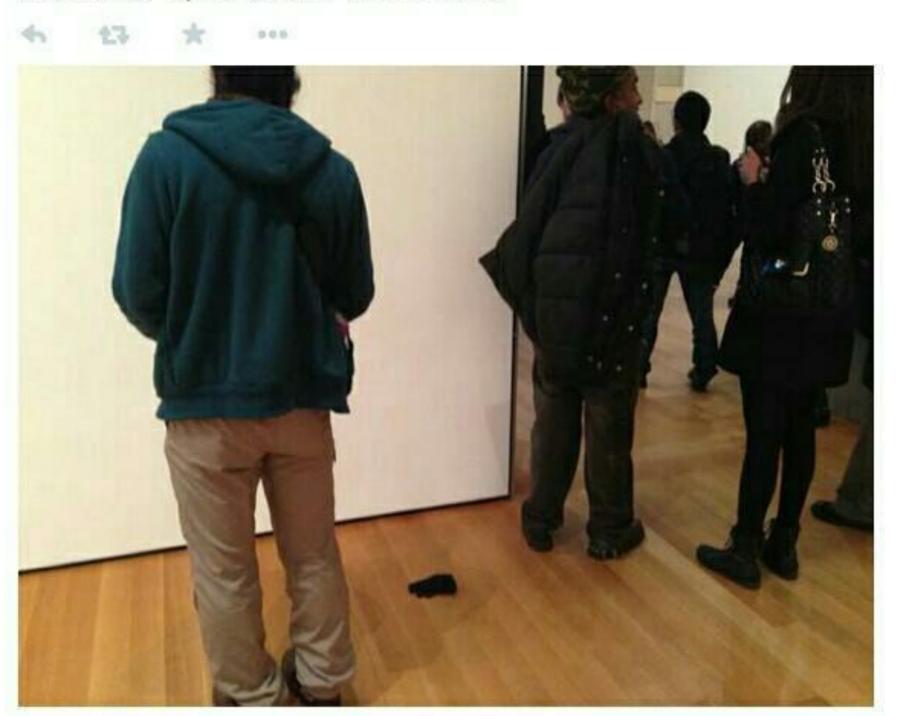
Hugo Ball
(right) text of *Karawane*(left) Ball performing the
poem at Club Voltaire
1916





Ckub Voltaire in Zurich today

Guy dropped his glove on the floor here at MoMA and everyone is nervously stepping around it, unsure if it's art.





READYMADES

What makes a readymade?

- A term first used by Marcel Duchamp; refers to artworks that are made of manufactured objects
- * "An ordinary object [could be] elevated to the dignity of a work of art by the mere choice of an artist." -Marcel Duchamp
- The choice of object itself is a creative act
- By cancelling the useful function of an object, it becomes art
- The presentation and addition of a title to the object as an artwork gives it 'a new thought', a new meaning.



Marcel Duchamp
Fountain
1917



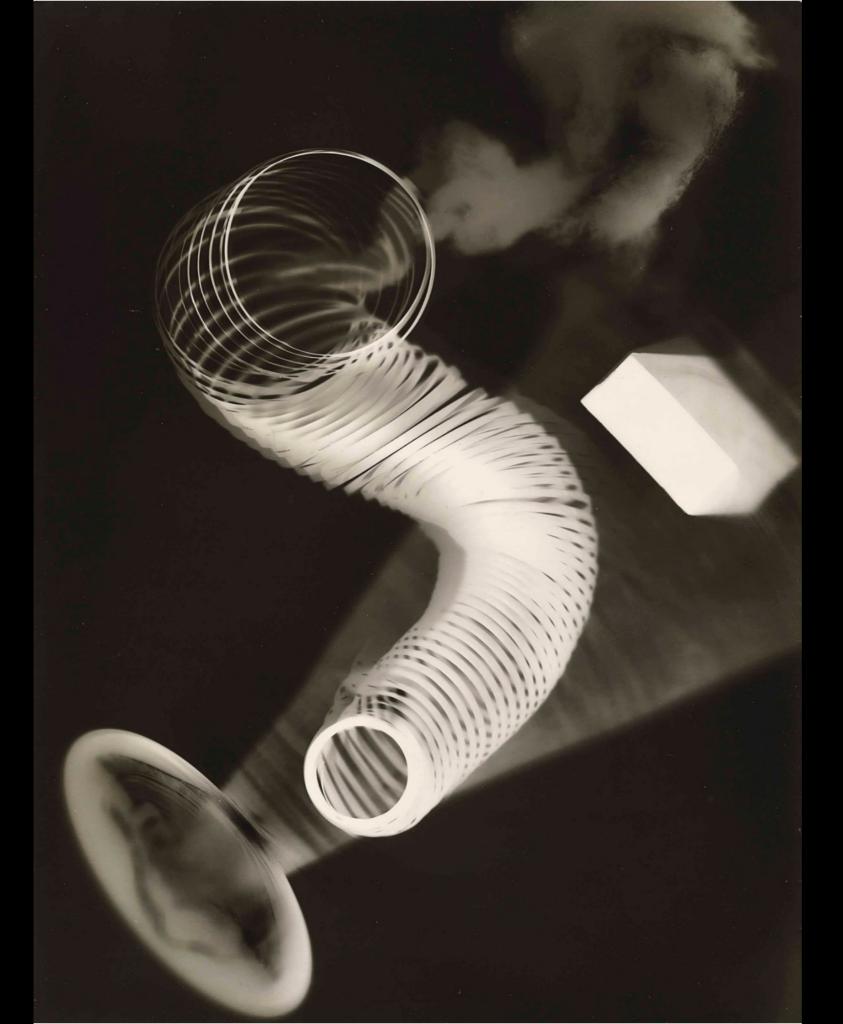
Marcel Duchamp, Bicycle Wheel, 1913



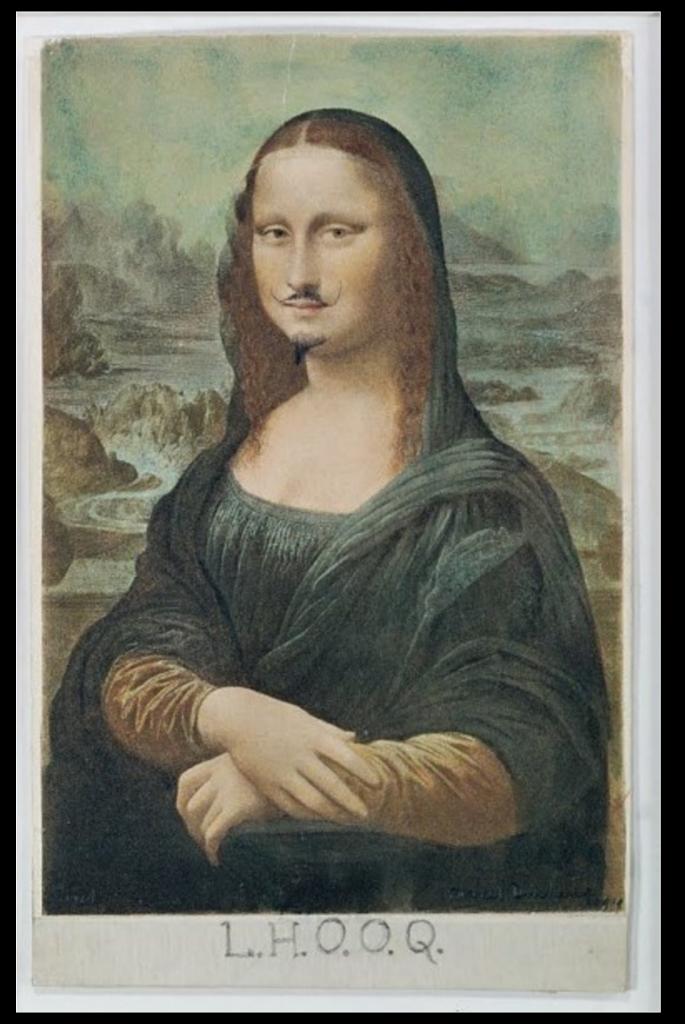
CHANCE CREATIONS

- War proves that rationalism and order of society doesn't work
- Instead, artists relied on new "anti-rational" chance procedures to create art

Jean (Hans) Arp
Untitled (Collage with Squares Arranged
according to the Law of Chance)
1916-17

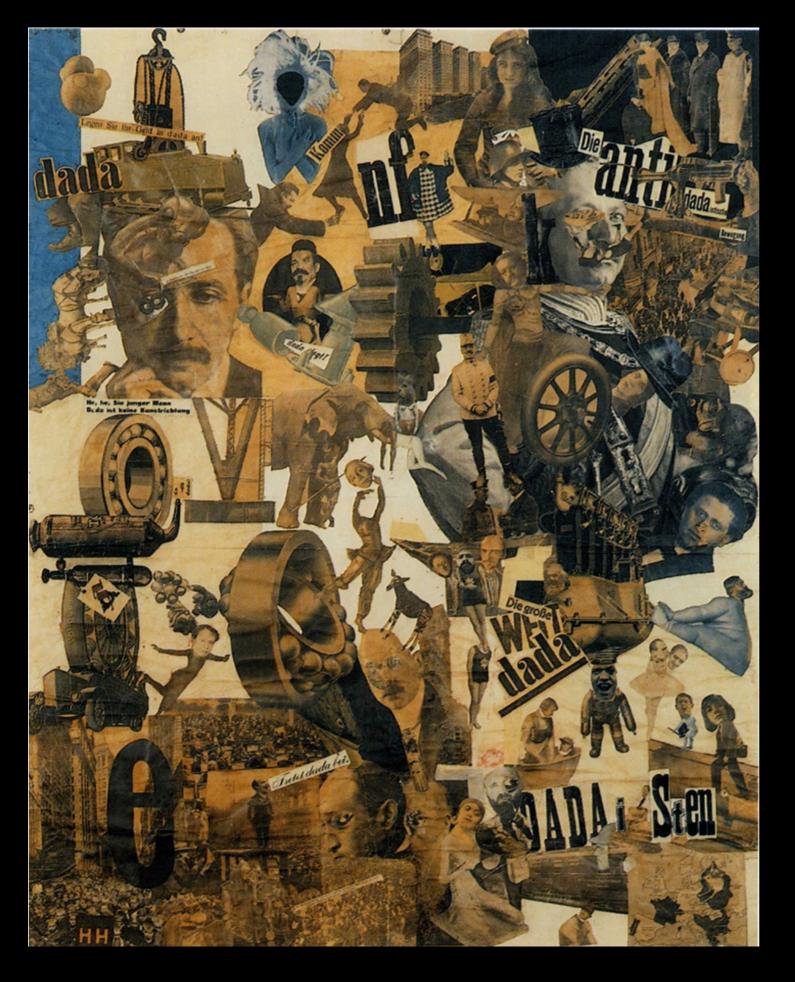


Man Ray *Untitled Rayograph*1922



WORD PLAY

Marcel Duchamp L.H.O.O.Q. 1919



COLLAGE

Derived from the French verb coller, meaning "to glue,"

Collage refers to both the technique and the resulting work of art in which fragments of paper and other materials are arranged and glued or otherwise affixed to a supporting surface.

Hannah Hoch
Cut with a Kitchen Knife Through Germany's
Last Weimar Beer Belly Cultural Epoch
1919

The beginnings of Surrealism



- (postwar) Not a negation of rationality but a positive expression of it
- now attempting to tap into the subconscious mind and were more attentive to their psychological expressions.
- Responding to the psychological trauma of the war they had just lived through

The Surrealist Group

ANDRE BRETON

MANIFESTE DU SURRÉALISME

POISSON SOLUBLE

Cinquième édition



AUX ÉDITIONS DU SAGITTAIRE CHEZ SIMON*KRA, 6, RUE BLANCHE, PARIS

What is Surrealism?

- Surrealism was a means of reuniting the conscious and unconscious realms so that the world of dream and fantasy could be joined to the everyday world of the rational.
- Dada = anarchic (complete destruction of society)
- Surrealism = uses psychology to free themselves of society

Andre Breton

The Surrealist Manifesto

1924

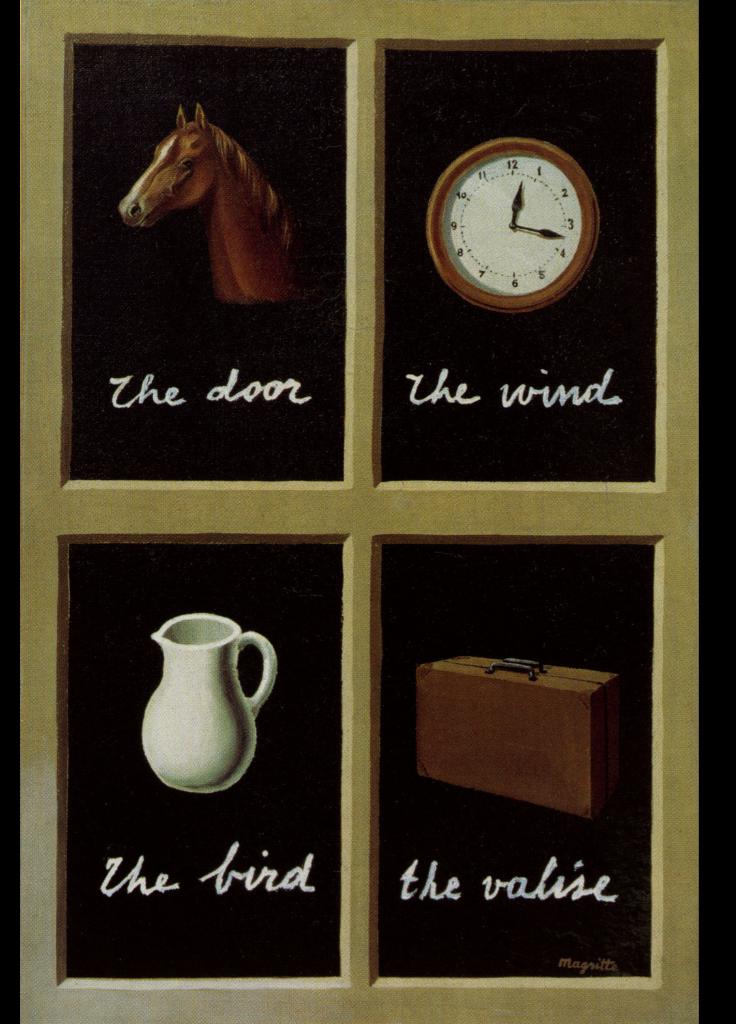
SURREALIST PAINTING



Rene Magritte

The Treachery of Images

1929



René Magritte

La Clef des songes (The

Interpretation of Dreams)

1935



Salvador Dali
Persistence of Memory
1931



THE SURREALIST OBJECT



Meret Oppenheim

Object

Paris, 1936

"I do not understand why, when I ask for a grilled lobster in a restaurant, I am never served a cooked telephone" - Salvador Dali



Salvador Dali Lobster Telephone 1938

AUTOMATISM

The process of creating art without conscious thought, accessing material from the unconscious mind as part of the creative process

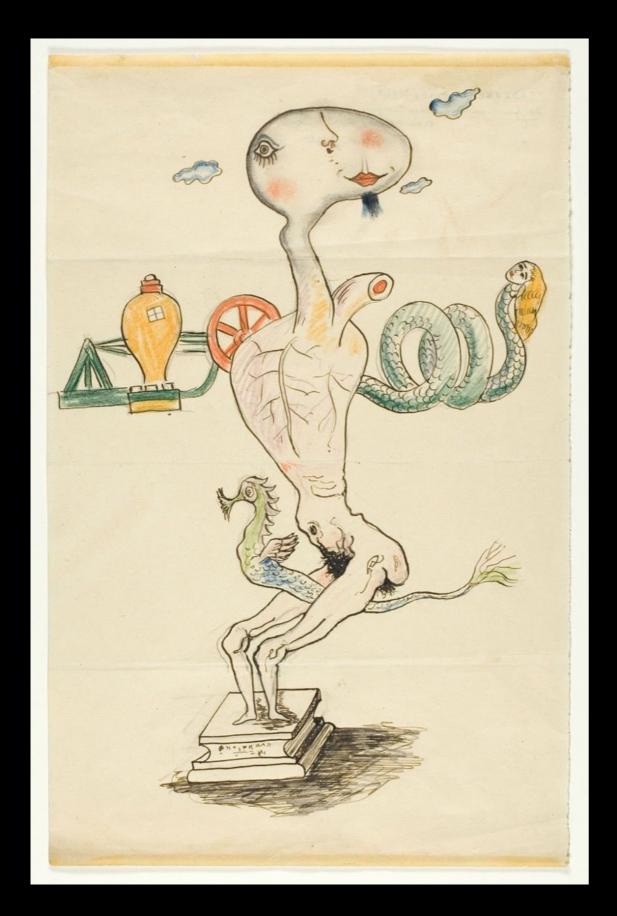


Joan Miro

Carnival of Harlequin

1924-25

CADAVRE EXQUIS (EXQUISITE CORPSE)



A surrealist drawing game in which a work of art is created by a group collectively.

"we were at once recipients and contributors to the joy of witnessing the sudden appearance of creatures none of us had foreseen but which we ourselves have created." -Simone Kahn

Man Ray (Emmanuel Radnitzky), André Breton, Yves Tanguy, and Max Morise Exquisite Corpse 1928



André Breton, Jacques Hérold, Yves Tanguy, Victor Brauner Figure 1934

- **Readymade**: A term first used by Marcel Duchamp; refers to artworks that are made of manufactured objects
- **Collage:** Derived from the French verb coller, meaning "to glue," collage refers to both the technique and the resulting work of art in which fragments of paper and other materials are arranged and glued or otherwise affixed to a supporting surface.
- **Subconscious** (Unconscious): In popular writing about psychology, the division of the mind containing the sum of all thoughts, memories, impulses, desires, feelings, etc., that are not subject to a person's perception or control but that often affect conscious thoughts and behavior (noun).
- •Automatism: The process of creating art without conscious thought, accessing material from the unconscious mind as part of the creative process
- **Exquisite Corpse:** A surrealist drawing game in which a work of art is created by a group collectively.