

MODERN ART AND OTHER TALES OF PROGRESS

DADAISM

SURREALISM

TIMELINE

World War I
(1914-18)

Beginning of
World War II

1909

1914

1915

1918

1924

1939

Futurism

Dadaism
established
in Zurich

Beginning of
Surrealism

Surrealist
Manifesto

Exile of Surrealists
to USA

The beginnings of Dada

"The beginnings of Dada, were not the beginnings of art, but of disgust."

-Tristan Zara (Dada artist)



What is Dada?

"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

'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, pale as a chalky ghost.'

-Jean Arp in his 1955 memoir



Dada artists at
Cabaret Voltaire

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

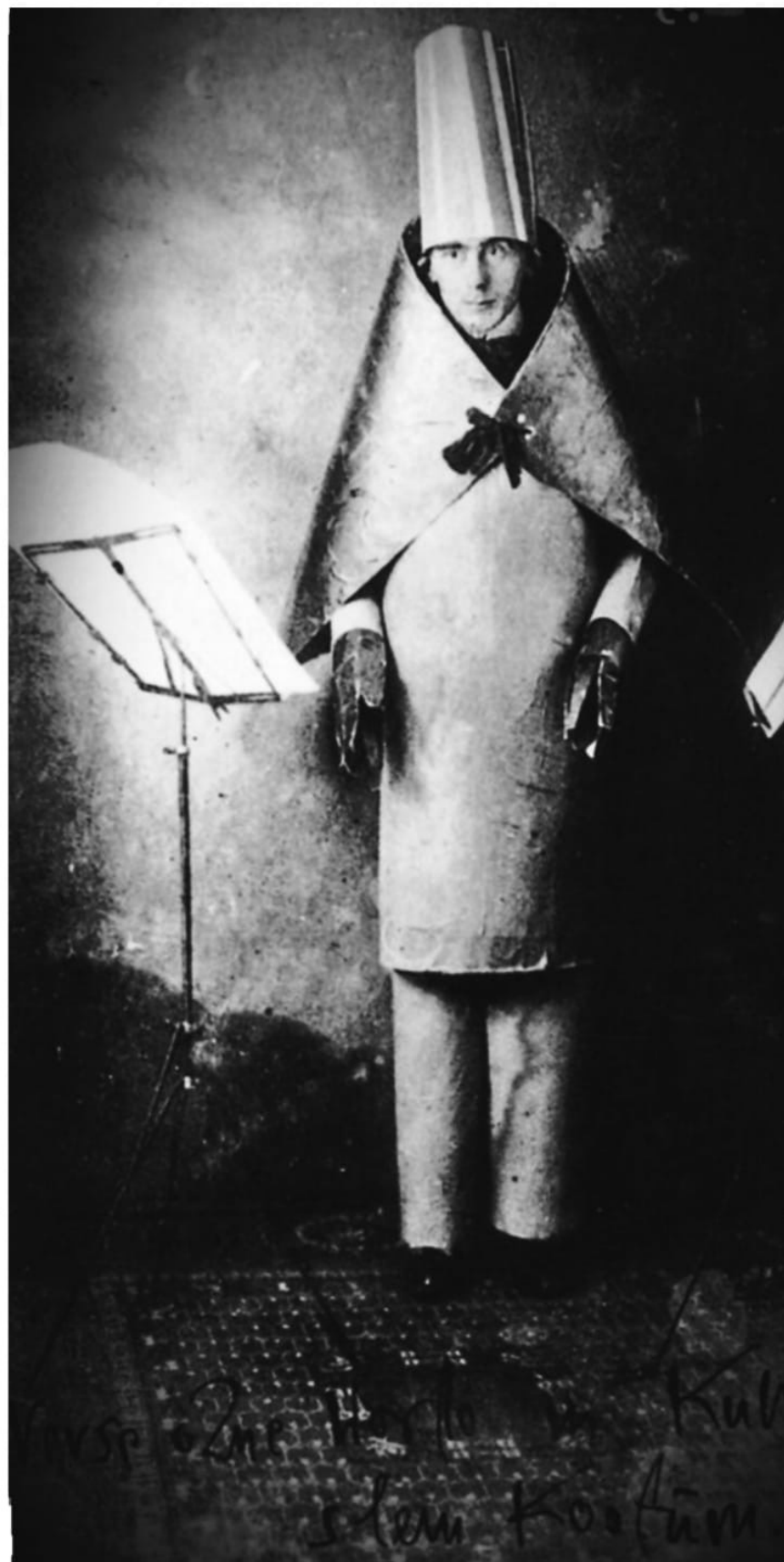
wulubu ssubudu uluw ssubudu

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



Cklub 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.

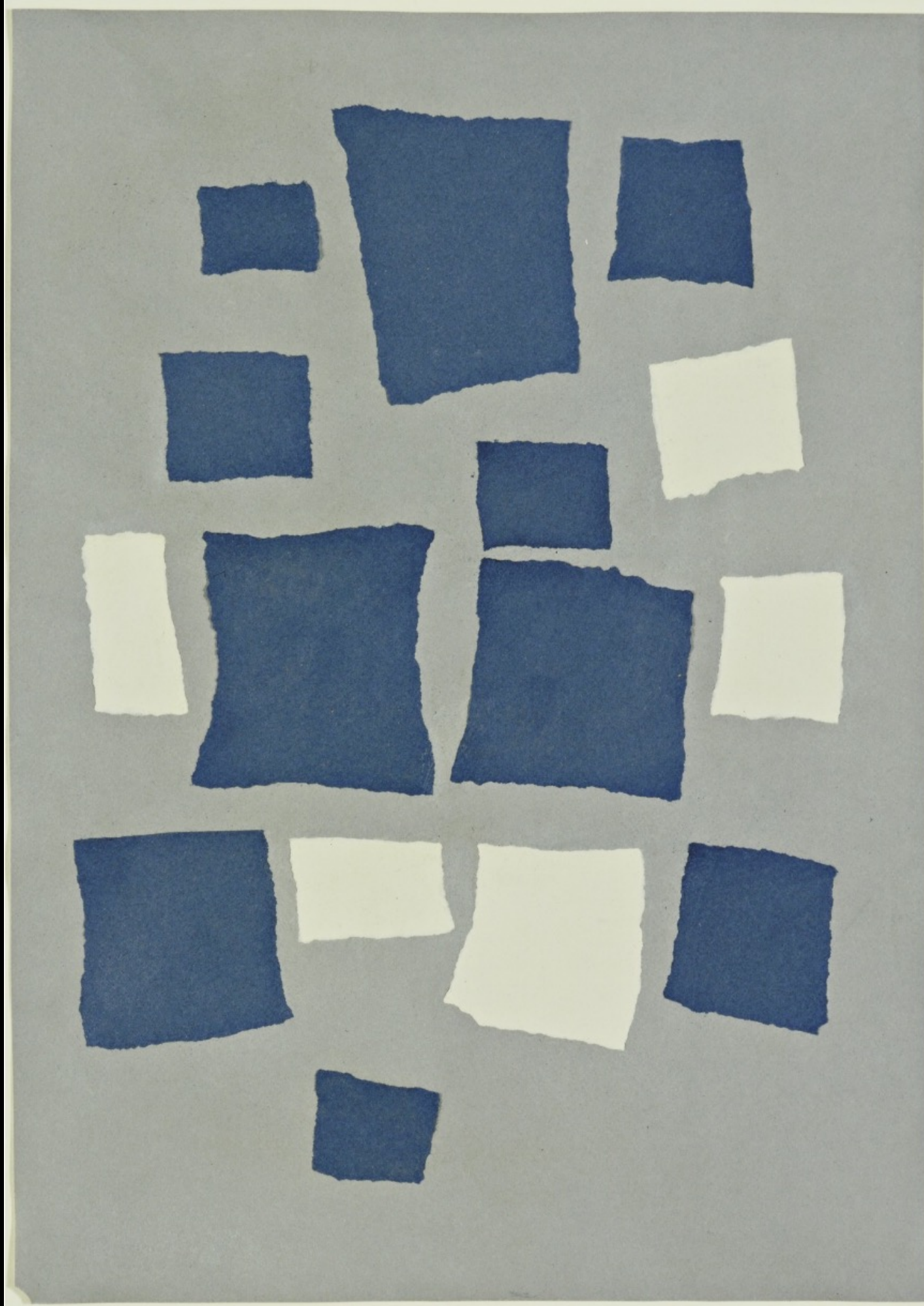


Marcel Duchamp
Fountain
1917



Marcel Duchamp,
Bicycle Wheel, 1913

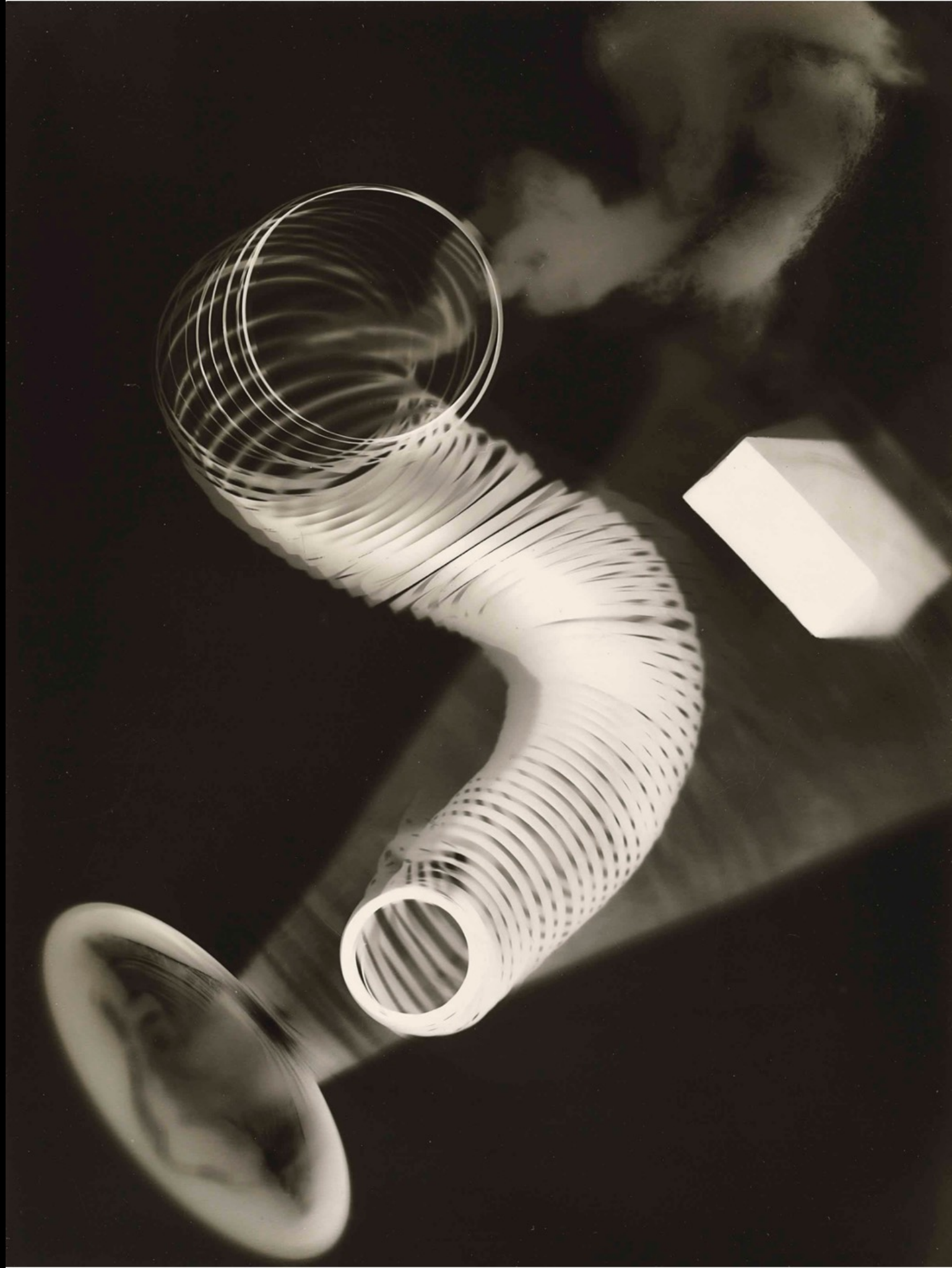
CHANCE CREATIONS



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



The Surrealist Group

What is Surrealism?

ANDRÉ BRETON

MANIFESTE
DU
SURREALISME

POISSON SOLUBLE

Cinquième édition



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

Andre Breton

The Surrealist Manifesto

1924

SURREALIST PAINTING



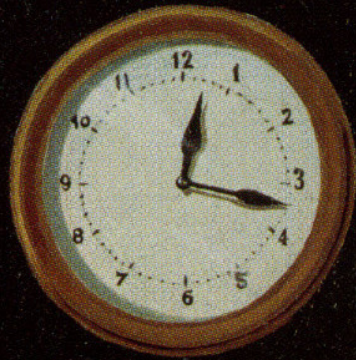
Rene Magritte

The Treachery of Images

1929



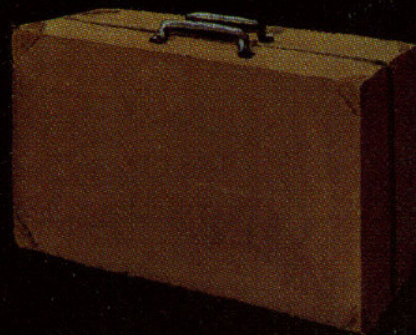
The door



The wind



The bird



the valise

magritte

René Magritte

*La Clef des songes (The
Interpretation of Dreams)*

1935



Salvador Dali

Persistence of Memory

1931

You can look at a digital rendering of Dali's painting, *Archaeological Reminiscence of Millet's "Angelus."* in a 360 view using this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zQ2-oJOkTKc>





THE SURREALIST OBJECT



Meret Oppenheim

Object

Paris, 1936



Salvador Dalí
Lobster Telephone
1938

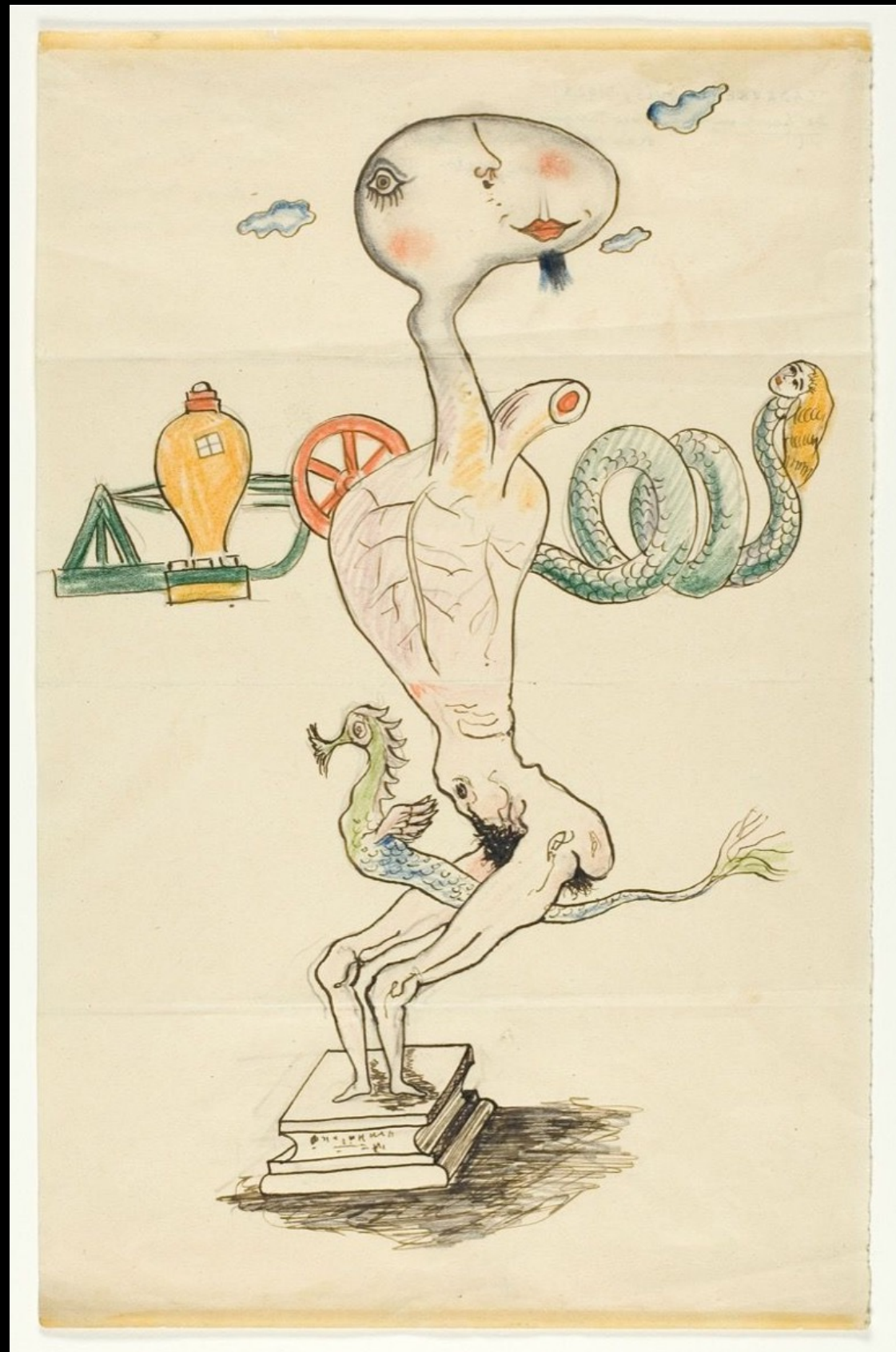
AUTOMATISM

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

GLOSSARY

- ▶ **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.