

Press release
Zurich, 21 October 2015

The Kunsthaus Zürich is reconstructing 'Dadaglobe' – Tristan Tzara's unpublished anthology with contributions by artists from around the world.

From 5 February to 1 May 2016, the Kunsthaus Zürich presents 'Dadaglobe Reconstructed'. The exhibition brings together some 200 works and texts submitted to Tristan Tzara by more than 40 artists from all over the world for his 1921 book project 'Dadaglobe,' which remained unpublished at the time. Now, to mark 100 years since the foundation of Dada, the widely dispersed original works are reunited for the first time.

For the first time ever – and uniquely in Europe – the Kunsthaus Zürich presents a reconstruction of perhaps the most intriguing and legendary Dada book project – a volume that was never published. If the 'Dadaglobe' anthology had come to fruition in 1921, it would unquestionably be seen today as one of the most ambitious publications of the Dada movement.

100 ARTWORKS, 100 DOCUMENTS

With contributions by artists and writers from seven countries, many of whom created new works for his publication, co-founder of Dada and originator of the 'Dadaglobe' project Tristan Tzara (1896-1963) set out to present the apotheosis of Dada as a literary and artistic movement of international scope and to document it for posterity. 'Dadaglobe' was envisaged as a paean to the work of art in reproduction; but financial and organizational difficulties meant that the book never saw the light of day. The result is a void where a magnum opus should be – at the heart of Dada's reception and the artistic production of the avant-garde in general. Now, a hundred years after the foundation of Dada, an exhibition and a comprehensive publication aim to fill that void. 'Dadaglobe Reconstructed' turns the analytical spotlight on this notoriously restless and virtually unclassifiable art movement. It writes a fundamental, hitherto missing chapter in the history of modernism, in which Tzara's Dada legacy shapes the vocabulary of artistic discourse.

A MILESTONE IN DADA RESEARCH

'Dadaglobe Reconstructed' is a remarkable survey of the artistic diversity, socio-political relevance and art-historical impact of the Dada movement, with contributions from Hans Arp, André Breton, Max Ernst, Hannah Höch, Sophie Taeuber-Arp and around 30 other artists. Their goal was not simply to make

mischief: through a provocative, guerrilla art aimed squarely at the establishment, they drew attention to the brutal social upheavals of the First World War.

VALUABLE, RARELY SEEN LOANS WILL ALSO BE EXHIBITED AT MoMA

The exhibition comprises some 200 small-format works on paper. They include photographs, drawings, photomontages and collages as well as a series of selected lyrical and prose works, manuscripts, printed matter and historically relevant documents. Many come from prestigious public and private collections in Berlin, New York, and Paris. Especially remarkable are the treasures of the Bibliothèque littéraire Jacques Doucet, Paris, which account for approximately a quarter of the loans that New York-based guest curator and project initiator Adrian Sudhalter has assembled, researched and, working with Kunsthhaus curator Cathérine Hug, arranged into a dense cabinet exhibition. 'Dadaglobe Reconstructed' will travel to the The Museum of Modern Art exhibition, where it will be on view from 12 June to 18 September 2016 in New York.

PUBLICATION AND EVENTS

The catalogue in German and English is published by Scheidegger & Spiess. It contains an overarching scholarly essay by Adrian Sudhalter and a reconstruction of Tzara's book project that follows his instructions as faithfully as possible. It is prefaced by Michel Sanouillet and includes contributions by Cathérine Hug, Samantha Friedman, Lee Ann Daffner and Karl Buchberg that explore the social and artistic accomplishment of the uncompleted 'Dadaglobe' project. Over some 300 pages, with 170 colour illustrations and 100 black and white reproductions, it also includes documents upon which the reconstruction is based: Tzara's lists and notes, correspondence, and manuscripts that were exchanged between the artists.

Public guided tours in German take place on 6 February and 19 March at 11 a.m., 17 February, 3 March and 14 April at 6 p.m., and 3 April at 1 p.m.

The following events accompany the exhibition:

- Lecture by Dr. Adrian Sudhalter followed by a discussion with Dr. Sarah Burkhalter (SIK-ISEA, head of the Antenne Romande). Introduced by Cathérine Hug and accompanied by a performance with Denis Savary and friends. Thursday 4 February 2016, 6:30 p.m. Language: English. Admission free. The evening is a cooperation with the Swiss Institute for Art Research (SIK-ISEA), Alumni Art History UZH and the Fluxum Foundation and takes place at SIK-ISEA (Zollikerstrasse 32, Zurich).
- Dialogue guided tour with Cathérine Hug (curator) and Martina Pfister (project assistant). Thursday 7 April 2016, 6.30 p.m.

- From idea to book: a discussion with the graphic designers from NORM about their work on the publication 'Dadaglobe Reconstructed' and Cathérine Hug. Thursday 21 April 2016, 6.30 p.m.

Supported by the Ernst Göhner Foundation and the Art Mentor Foundation Lucerne.

This exhibition is part of an extensive programme at the Kunsthaus Zürich to mark 100 years of Dada: 'Dadaglobe Reconstructed' (5 February – 1 May 2016), 'Francis Picabia – A Retrospective' (3 June – 25 September 2016), the Dada costume ball (13 February 2016) and the digitization of the Kunsthaus's Dada collection.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Kunsthaus Zürich, Heimplatz 1, CH-8001 Zurich. tel. +41 (0)44 253 84 84, www.kunsthaus.ch

Fri-Sun/Tues 10 a.m. – 6 p.m., Wed, Thurs 10 a.m. – 8 p.m. Public holidays: Easter 25 – 28 March and 1 May: 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Admission: CHF 14 / CHF 11 (concessions and groups). Combined ticket including the Collection and the Pipilotti Rist exhibition: CHF 25 / CHF 18. Admission free to visitors up to the age of 16.

Advance sales: SBB RailAway combination ticket, with discount on travel and admission: at stations and by phoning Rail Service 0900 300 300 (CHF 1.19/min. by land line), www.sbb.ch/kunsthaus-zuerich.

Zurich Tourism: hotel room reservations and ticket sales, Tourist Service at Zurich Main Railway Station, tel. +41 44 215 40 00, information@zuerich.com, www.zuerich.com.

NOTE AND INVITATION TO EDITORS

The press conference will take place on 4 February 2016 at 11 a.m. Registration is not required. This press release, which will be updated on 4 February, and illustrations are available at kunsthaus.ch under Information > Press.

For further information, contact: Kunsthaus Zürich, Kristin Steiner kristin.steiner@kunsthaus.ch, tel. +41 (0)44 253 84 13