

Press release
Zurich, 4 February 2016

The Kunsthaus Zürich is reconstructing 'Dadaglobe' – Tristan Tzara's unpublished anthology with contributions by artists from around the world.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 160 works of poetry and visual art that were sent to Tristan Tzara by 40 artists from all over the world for his 1921 book project 'Dadaglobe'. Now, to mark 100 years since the foundation of Dada, this exhibition briefly reunites the widely dispersed original works for the first time. The publication that was planned but never executed finally becomes a reality.

For the first time in Europe, the Kunsthaus Zürich presents a reconstruction of the legendary, mysterious and – until now – unrealized 'Dadaglobe' book project. If the anthology had come to fruition in 1921, it would unquestionably be seen today as one of the most ambitious publications of the Dada movement. With the help of some 200 artworks, images and texts contributed by artists and writers from ten 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 was 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, Johannes Baargeld, Constantin Brancusi, Jean Crotti, Max Ernst, Hannah Höch, Francis Picabia, Man Ray, Sophie Taeuber 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 more than 160 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, Paris and New York. Especially remarkable are the treasures of the Bibliothèque littéraire Jacques Doucet; these 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 Kunsthaus curator Cathérine Hug, arranged into a dense cabinet exhibition. 'Dadaglobe Reconstructed' will travel to the Museum of Modern Art, where it will be on view from 12 June to 18 September 2016.

PUBLICATION FAITHFULLY FOLLOWS TRISTAN TZARA'S INSTRUCTIONS

The catalogue, in German and English, is published by Scheidegger & Spiess and is available from the Kunsthaus shop, price CHF 66. The elaborate and richly detailed publication contains an overarching scholarly essay by Adrian Sudhalter and the first ever reconstruction of Tzara's book project, following his instructions as faithfully as possible. Contributions by Anne and Michel Sanouillet, Cathérine Hug, Samantha Friedman, Lee Ann Daffner and Karl Buchberg explore the social and artistic accomplishment of the uncompleted 'Dadaglobe' project. Over some 300 pages, with more than 200 colour illustrations and 100 black and white reproductions, it presents the artworks and texts, such as poems, alongside documents upon which the reconstruction is based: Tzara's lists and notes, correspondence and manuscripts that were exchanged between the artists.

ACCOMPANYING PROGRAMME

- 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. Registration is not required. Places limited. Private guided tours available on request.
- Lecture by Dr. Adrian Sudhalter on Dadaglobe followed by a discussion with Dr. Sarah Burkhalter (SIK-ISEA). Introduced by Cathérine Hug and accompanied by a performance with Denis Savary and friends. Thursday 4 February 2016, 6.30 p.m. Language: English. 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). Admission free.

- Lecture by Dr. Elza Adamowicz, em. Prof., Queen Mary University of London: 'Dada representations of the body: between battlefield and fairground'. Followed by a discussion between Adamowicz, Ina Boesch and Cathérine Hug. Friday 11 March 2016, 7.30 p.m. Kunsthaus Zürich. Language: English. Admission free for members of the Zürcher Kunstgesellschaft and visitors with an exhibition ticket, otherwise CHF 10. In cooperation with the Cabaret Voltaire as part of the symposium 'She Dada. Dada-Women-Bodies'.
- Dialogue guided tour of the exhibition with curator Cathérine Hug and Martina Pfister (project assistant). Thursday 7 April 2016, 6.30 p.m. Language: German. Admission included in the exhibition ticket (CHF 14 / CHF 11 (concessions)).
- From idea to book: a discussion in the exhibition between the graphic designers from NORM about their work on the publication 'Dadaglobe Reconstructed' and curator Cathérine Hug. Thursday 21 April 2016, 6.30 p.m. Language: German. Admission included in the exhibition ticket (CHF 14 / CHF 11 (concessions)).

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: in addition to 'Dadaglobe Reconstructed' (until 1 May), it includes the Dada costume ball (13 February) and 'Francis Picabia – A Retrospective' (3 June – 25 September). From 4 February, a microsite on www.kunsthhaus.ch offers an insight into the digitized Dada collection.

GENERAL INFORMATION

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

Opening hours: 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/kunsthhaus-zuerich.

KUNSTHAUS ZÜRICH

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 TO MEDIA

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