Kunsthaus Zürich
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Kunsthaus Zürich

The attitude of Dada toward art is impregnated with that of Futurism. Futurism had cultivated the ambiguity more or less wilfully, and if the irreferentiable, imperative tone used by Dada to impose its doubt is a proof of its own contradiction, in this very contradiction the one finds the richness of Dada's own nature.

Dada tried to destroy, not so much art, as the idea one had of it. Futurism had pushed its frontiers ever further and further, lowering its imaginary heights – subjecting them to a dependence on man, to his power – humbling, art, significantly, to the service of man and subordinating its value to the pure movement which is also the movement of life.

Was not Art (with a capital A) taking a privileged, not to say transcendental position? Dada do not believe in a position which made it sever all connections with human contingencies? That is where Dada made its well-aimed attack: it showed that art is a plaster cast, that the individual, Dada accepted, even advocated the use of the different plastic and poetic disciplines. If Dada partly made of art a game, it was because it penetrate into the inner sanctum, it is, nevertheless through art realizations that Dada's criticism toward the Individual was expressed. It revealed as well as its device of a line of conduct and a generalized conception of vital phenomena.

It should be noted – and this is a fundamental point – that Dada's attitude was possible for others to understand them.

***What you see here is Dada. You also, handsome man, beautiful woman, you are Dada, only you don't know it yourself. Tomorrow Dada will have a different face from today and for that reason will be Dada – Dada is life. Dada is that which changes (I would almost say the perpetual change, the eternal return, Heraclitus). Dada is life that will transform itself tomorrow and behave differently from today. Dada is gay, sad, anti-Art, laughter, tears, consistent, inconsistent, extremely simple, extremely complicated, practical, edible, heavy as lead, candy pink, square, venomous, lucid, eagles, chairs, windows, all these paintings and sculptures are Dada, and everything all over the place in the shacking of the freedom of the creative spirit. Dada is life. Dada is that which shouted into the audience the invention of the object. Dada is generability all over the place in the shacking of the freedom of the creative spirit. Dada is life. Dada is that which shouted into the audience the invention of the object. Dada is life. Dada is life. Dada is life