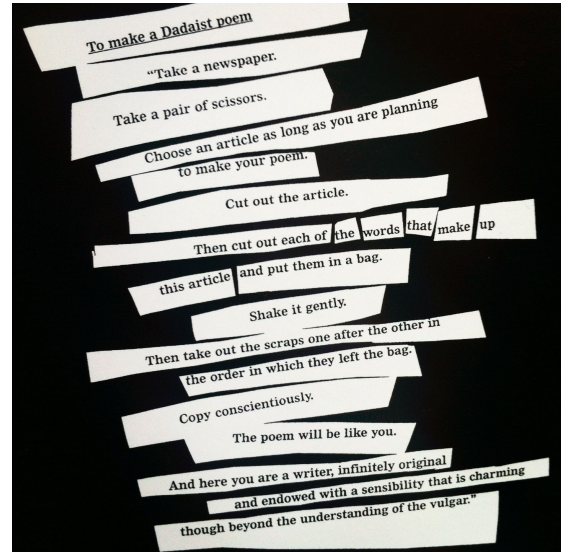


Dada Poetry

Dadaism was a 20th century European art movement that prioritized experimentation. Artists who were a part of this movement were particularly drawn to collage because they saw it as a more experimental artistic medium. Dada artists (also known as Dadaists) in different countries came up with different variations of collage. For example, the German Dadaists invented photomontage, which was a type of collage made entirely out of photographs. In this activity, we will learn about Dada Poetry, a type of writing that was inspired by collage and was invented by Dadaists in Paris, France.



A collaged version of the set of Dada Poetry instructions that the Dadaist Tristan Tzara wrote in the year 1920.



The Dadaist Tristan Tzara

Tristan Tzara, one of the Dadaists living in France, was particularly interested in collage-like poetry. In fact, he wrote in 1920 a set of instructions on how to make a Dada poem. Here are the instructions that he wrote:

TO MAKE A DADAIST POEM

Take a newspaper.

Take some scissors.

Choose from this paper an article of the length you want to make your poem.

Cut out the article.

Next carefully cut out each of the words that makes up this article and put them all in a bag.

Shake gently.

Next take out each cutting one after the other.

Copy conscientiously in the order in which they left the bag.

The poem will resemble you.

Let's try making our own Dada poems! On the next page, follow Tristan Tzara's instructions for making a Dada poem. While you make your poem, think about the following questions:

1. In what ways is Dada poetry similar to collage?
2. In what ways is Dada poetry different from collage?
3. Do you like that your poem's outcome is determined by chance? Why or why not?
4. Why do you think Tristan Tzara says that "The poem will resemble you"?

Use the space below to make your Dada poem

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, occupying most of the page below the instruction. It is intended for the student to write their Dada poem.