**Lesson 8**

**Dadaism**

**THE COURSE TEXT and WORKSHEET (required to be completed and submitted)**

**Name and parallel group (A or B): ……………………………………………………………………………..**

**Date of submission: ………………………………………………………………………………………………………**

*Before you read*

**Warm-up questions**

Was ‘Dadaism’ a popular movement of art? What does ‘Dadaism’ mean?

What are the remarkable elements of ‘Dadaism’? Did ‘Dadaism’ last for a

long time? Did ‘Dadaism’ involve just painting?

**Skimming the text**

Read the text’s title (headings and subheadings) and

• Write some of the text’s keywords in the following blanks.

……………… ……………… ………………… ………………

• Write the names of some important people and places given in the

reading passage.

……………… ………………… ………………… ………………

• Read the first sentences of each paragraph. What do you think the

reading is probably about?

………………………………………………………………………………

………………………………………………………………………………

………………………………………………………………………………

………………………………………………………………………………

**Group work (classroom activity)**

Discuss the following terms in groups and compare your answers with

your partners.

• Anti-bourgeois • Surrealism

• Cabaret Voltaire • Collage

• Hobby Horse • Post-World War II optimism

*Part Ι. Reading*

**Dadaism**

[1] ‘Dada’ or ‘Dadaism’ was an art movement of the European avant-garde in

the early 20th century. Many claim ‘Dada’ began in Zurich, Switzerland in

1916, spreading to Berlin shortly thereafter. ‘Dada’ was born out of

negative reaction to the horrors of World War I. This international

movement was begun by a group of artist and poets associated with the

Cabaret Voltaire in Zurich. ‘Dada’ rejected reason and logic, prizing

nonsense, irrationality and intuition. The origin of the name ‘Dada’ is

unclear; some believe that it is a nonsensical word. Others maintain that it

originates from the Romanian artists *Tristan Tzara*'s and *Marcel Janco*'s

frequent use of the words *da*, *da*, meaning yes, yes in the Romanian

language. Another theory says that the name ‘Dada’ came during a

meeting of the group when a paper knife stuck into a French-German.

The dictionary happened to point to ‘dada’, a French word for ‘hobbyhorse’.

[2] The movement primarily involved visual arts, literature, poetry, art

manifestoes, art theory, theater, and graphic design, and concentrated its

anti-war politics through a rejection of the prevailing standards in art

through anti-art cultural works. In addition to being anti-war, Dada was

also anti-bourgeois and had political affinities with radicalism.

[3] A movement that proclaimed to be nothing and everything, ‘Dada’

desperately sought a fresh start, a tabula rasa for culture and humanity.

‘Dada’ arose from the depths of individuals as a testament to the

everlasting spirit of change. This spirit strove to offer a rebirth of thought

that would wash away the tears and the disillusions of millions of lost

souls and provide ground for humans to move forward, to forget the past

and re-envision society. ‘Dada’ as an art movement sought to unearth the

façade established by misconceptions brought forth by conventional

definitions.

[4] Many ‘Dadaists’ believed that the ‘reason’ and ‘logic’ of bourgeois

capitalist society had led people into war. They expressed their rejection of

that ideology in artistic expression that appeared to reject logic and

embrace chaos and irrationality. For example, *George Grosz* later recalled

that his ‘Dadaist’ art was intended as a protest “against this world of

mutual destruction”. A reviewer from the *American Art News* stated at the

time that “Dada philosophy is the sickest, most paralyzing and most

destructive thing that has ever originated from the brain of man.” Art

historians have described Dada as being, in large part, a "reaction to what

many of these artists saw as nothing more than an insane spectacle of

collective homicide."

[5] While broad, the movement was unstable. By 1924 in Paris, ‘Dada’

was melding into ‘Surrealism’, and artists had gone on to other ideas and

movements, including ‘Surrealism’, social ‘Realism’ and other forms of

modernism. Some theorists argue that ‘Dada’ was actually the beginning

of postmodern art.

[6] By the dawn of World War II, many of the European ‘Dadaists’ had

immigrated to the United States. Some died in death camps under *Adolf*

*Hitler* who persecuted the kind of ‘Degenerate art’ that ‘Dada’

represented. The movement became less active as post-World War II

optimism led to new movements in art and literature. The ‘Dadaists’

imitated the techniques developed during the cubist movement through the

pasting of cut pieces of paper items, but extended their art to encompass

items such as transportation tickets, maps, etc. to portray aspects of life,

rather than representing objects viewed as still life.

**Image: RAOUL HAUSMANN (1886- 1971) \_ *Self-portrait***

[7] The ‘Dadaists’ used scissors and glue rather than paintbrushes and

paints to express their views of modern life through images presented by

the media. A variation on the collage technique, photomontage utilized

actual or reproductions of real photographs printed in the press.

*Part ΙΙ. Word study: Pronunciations, definitions and examples*

**Affinity (n.) /**əˈfɪnɪti/

A spontaneous or natural liking or sympathy for someone or something.

*It has a close linguistic and cultural* ***affinity*** *with its neighbors.*

**Chaos (n.) /**ˈkeɪɒs/

Behavior so unpredictable as to appear random, owing to great sensitivity

to small changes in conditions.

*Where is my book? I cannot find it in this* ***chaos****.*

**Dawn (n.) /**dan/

The first appearance of light in the sky before sunrise.

*This book is the* ***dawn*** *of my academic success.*

**Disillusion (n.) /**ˌ\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_dɪsɪˈl(j)uːʒ(ə)n/

Disappointment resulting from the discovery that something is not as good

as one believed it to be.

*When I saw the new job's situation, I totally* ***disillusioned****.*

**Encompass (v.) /**enˈkəmpəs/

**(**1) Surround and have or hold within. (2) Cause (something) to take place.

*The house yard is* ***encompassed*** *by beautiful old trees.*

**Erode (v.) /**ɪˈrəʊd/

(1) (Of soil, rock, or land) Be gradually worn away by such natural agents.

(2) Gradually destroy or be gradually destroyed.

*Three months of struggle seriously* ***erode*** *our energy.*

**Façade (n.) /**fəˈsad/

An artificial or deceptive front**.**

*You cannot convince her by your illusive* ***façade****.*

**Homicide (n.) /**ˈhaməsīd/

The deliberate and unlawful killing of one person by another, murder.

*About 90% of* ***homicide*** *victims were killed with a gun.*

**Intend (v.) /**inˈtend/

(1) Have (a course of action) as one's purpose or objective. (2) Plan.

*Because of the stormy climate, they* ***intend*** *to cancel their trip to France.*

**Manifesto (n.) /**mænɪˈfɛstəʊ/

A public declaration of policy and aims, esp. one issued before an election

by a political party or candidate.

*Their artistic* ***manifesto*** *is published in the press.*

**Meld (v.) /** meld/

Blend and combine.

*If you want to* ***meld*** *the ingredients you should add some water to the pot.*

**Nonsense (n.) /**ˈnansens/

Words that make no sense.

*Who would believe this* ***nonsense****!*

**Optimism (n.) /**ˈaptəmizəm/

Hopefulness and confidence about the future or the successful outcome of

something.

*This article is particularly reflecting its author's* ***optimism****.*

**Paralyze (v.)** /ˈpærəlīz/

Cause (a person or part of the body) to become partly or wholly incapable

of movement.

*The sanctions cannot* ***paralyze*** *the economy.*

**Persecute (v.) /**pərsəˈkyu:t/

Harass or annoy (someone) persistently.

*His phone calls* ***persecuted*** *her during the last year.*

**Strive (v.) /** strīv/

(1) Make great efforts to achieve or obtain something. (2) Struggle or fight

vigorously.

*He* ***strived*** *hard to get his Ph.D from that renowned university.*

**Unearth (v.) /**ˈənərθ/

Discover (something hidden, lost, or kept secret) by investigation or searching**.**

*Finally their hostile relationship is* ***unearthed****.*

*Part ΙΙΙ. Exercises*

**A. Open questions**

Based on the text you have read, answer the following questions orally.

1- How did ‘Dadaism’ come into existence?

2- How did ‘Dadaism’ propose its anti-war perspectives?

3- Why was ‘Dadaism’ against bourgeois capitalist society?

4- What do you think about this sentence; “Dada philosophy is the

sickest, most paralyzing and most destructive thing that has ever

originated from the brain of man”?

5- Why did Hitler torture the ‘Dadaist’ painters?

**B. Comprehension check**

Read each statement and decide whether it is true or false. Write “T”

before true statements and “F” before false ones.

…..... 1. ‘Dada’ was born out of negative reaction to the horrors of

World War II.

……. 2. ‘Dada’ rejected chaos and irrationality in favor of logic and

reason.

……. 3. Art historians have mentioned that ‘Dada’ reacted against an

insane collective homicide.

……. 4. Dadaism was an unstable movement.

……. 5. Adolf Hitler was against "Degenerate art" that ‘Dada’

represented.

……. 6. ‘Dadaism’ was the most popular art school of the 20th century

which was collapsed by Hitler.

**C. Multiple choice questions**

Read the reading passage carefully and select the most appropriate

answer for each of the following multiple-choice test items.

1- How did ‘Dadaism’ propose its anti-war philosophy?

A) By proclaiming its manifesto publically.

B) through a rejection of the prevailing standards in art through

anti-art cultural works

C) through different exhibitions and galleries across the Europe

D) by neglecting the artistic conventions of ‘Expressionism’

2- ‘Dadaism’ was born in …………….

A) Switzerland. B) France.

C) Germany. D) America.

3- ‘Dadaism’ involved …………….

A) visual arts. B) literature.

C) theater. D) all art works.

4- Which of the following art schools is closer to ‘Dadaism’?

A) ‘Cubism’ B) ‘Expressionism’

C) ‘Realism’ D) ‘Impressionism’

5- ‘Portray’ in paragraph 6 is closest in meaning to …………….

A) destroy. B) express.

C) represent. D) react.

**D. Word formation**

Fill in the blanks with the appropriate words from the following table.

Make necessary changes.

**Noun Verb Adjective Adverb**

chaos chaotic chaotically

erosion erode erosive

intention intend intentional intentionally

paralysis paralyze paralyzing

1- The bureaucracy ……………. the entire operation.

2- The desk was a(n) ……………. of papers and unopened letters.

3- I do not forgive you. I am sure that you have done it …………….

4- After his wife’s death, a progressive ……………. of confidence in his

behavior is obvious.

5- International sanctions do not have ……………. effects on our

economy, the president said.

**E. Synonym finding**

Find a single word in the passage which means:

1 regular, normal (para.1) ……………………..

2 senseless, ridiculous (para.1) …………………….

3 sympathy (para.2) …………………….

4 state publically (para.3) …………………….

5 endless, unending (para.3) ……………………..

6 discover (para.3) ……………………..

7 foolish (para.4) ……………………..

8 group (para.4) ……………………..

9 include (para.6) …………………….

10 sunrise (para.6) ……………………..

**F. Matching**

Match the words in column Ι with their appropriate equivalents in

column ΙΙ. Insert the letters in the parentheses provided. There are more

choices in column ΙΙ than required.

**column Ι column ΙΙ**

1 facade (……) a. rebirth

2 homicide (……) b. blend

3 meld (……) c. optimism

4 strive (……) d. change

5 renaissance (……) e. wrong appearance

6 hopefulness (……) f. simplify

7 variation (……) g. attempt

h. murder

**G. Cloze test (classroom activity)**

There are some missing words in the following text. Find the best

choice for each blank and mark it in your book.

Having left Germany and Romania during the Great War, the artists found

themselves in Switzerland, a country …..(1)….. for its neutrality. Inside

this space of political neutrality they decided to use abstraction to fight

a…..(2)….. the social, political, and cultural ideas of that time. The

‘Dadaists’ believed those ideas to be a byproduct of bourgeois ….(3)…..

Marcel Janco recalled, "We had lost confidence in our culture. Everything

had to be demolished. We would begin again after the *tabula rasa*. At the

Cabaret Voltaire we began by shocking common sense, public opinion,

education, institutions, museums, good taste, in short, the whole prevailing

order." The Cabaret closed its doors. In 1917, Tzara wrote a second

‘Dada’ ….(4)…. considered one of the most important ‘Dada’ writings,

which was ….(5)….. in 1918. Other manifestos followed.

**1**. A) understood B) recognized C) accompanied D) created

**2**. A) against B) for C) up D) away

**3**. A) community B) unity C) certainty D) society

**4**. A) article B) letter C) manifesto D) book

**5**. A) perished B) published C) pushed D) pulled

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