

The Museum of Modern Art

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DADA, SURREALISM, AND THEIR HERITAGE by William S. Rubin. 252 pages; 300 ills. (6 in color). Hardbound, \$9.95; paperbound, \$4.95. Published by The Museum of Modern Art, New York. Both editions distributed to the trade by New York Graphic Society Ltd., Greenwich, Conn.

DADA, SURREALISM, AND THEIR HERITAGE by William S. Rubin, just published by The Museum of Modern Art, provides a concise but comprehensive and copiously illustrated discussion of the art and theory of these two artistic and literary movements. Describing their birth and development, their philosophies and activities, the works of art they produced, and their contribution to the art of the present, Mr. Rubin's essay "must from now on be the authoritative reference," according to The New York Times.

"The beginnings of Dada," one of its founding members recalled, "were not the beginnings of art, but of disgust." Appearing almost spontaneously during the First World War among artists and intellectuals in New York, Zurich, Berlin, and Paris, Dada was a movement essentially of reaction--against the horrors of the War, against the inhumanity and materialism of the modern world, against the whole rationalist tradition of Western thought and culture.

Dada was only incidentally an art movement--indeed it tended to be aggressively "anti-art." But ironically, according to Mr. Rubin, it was in art that its most enduring monuments were created. Describing the stylistic relationship of Dada to the Cubist tradition that preceded it, Mr. Rubin perceptively discusses the work of such masters as Marcel Duchamp, Francis Picabia, Max Ernst, Jean Arp, and Kurt Schwitters.

Surrealism developed out of the nihilistic ferment of Dada during the twenties. Dedicated to social revolution in the name of humanism, and inspired by the Freudian exploration of the emotions and the unconscious, the Surrealists officially disparaged art as a "lamentable expedient"; yet the works they produced, from the biomorphic abstractions of André Masson and Joan Miró to the dream visions of

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René Magritte and Salvador Dali, have had as great an impact as their philosophy.

Three hundred illustrations, closely related to the text, accompany Mr. Rubin's discussion of the development of style and content in the two movements and their relevance to much of today's art. In addition to reproductions of works of art, there are numerous documentary photographs of important events, exhibition installations, and works that are no longer extant.

In the book's chronology, compiled by Irene Gordon, the development of Dada and Surrealism is documented in a step-by-step historical progression of the movements, personalities, and events, indicating the international nature of the two movements and revealing the far-reaching effects they have had on the art and art forms of the present, as, for example, on "Environments" and "Happenings." In addition, there is a selected bibliography and a checklist of the exhibition.

DADA, SURREALISM, AND THEIR HERITAGE is published in conjunction with a major exhibition of over 300 works, directed by William S. Rubin, on view at The Museum of Modern Art through June 9, 1968. After its New York showing, the exhibition will be shown at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art and The Art Institute of Chicago.

Mr. Rubin is Curator of Painting and Sculpture at The Museum of Modern Art and Adjunct Professor at the Institute of Fine Arts, New York University. He is the author of The Church of Assy and Modern Sacred Art (Columbia University Press, 1961) and has written numerous articles on modern artists and art movements. He is also the author of Dada and Surrealist Art, to be published by Harry N. Abrams, Inc., a volume that will be a very detailed historical survey presented in a considerably larger format.

DADA, SURREALISM, AND THEIR HERITAGE is available at the Museum Bookstore or by mail from the Museum for \$9.95 hardbound and \$4.95 paperbound. Both editions are distributed to the trade by New York Graphic Society Ltd. A poster for the exhibition, especially designed by Salvador Dali, is available for \$5.00 from the Museum.

Review copies, photographs, and additional information from Elizabeth Shaw and Patricia Kaplan, Department of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York, N.Y. 10019. 245-3200.