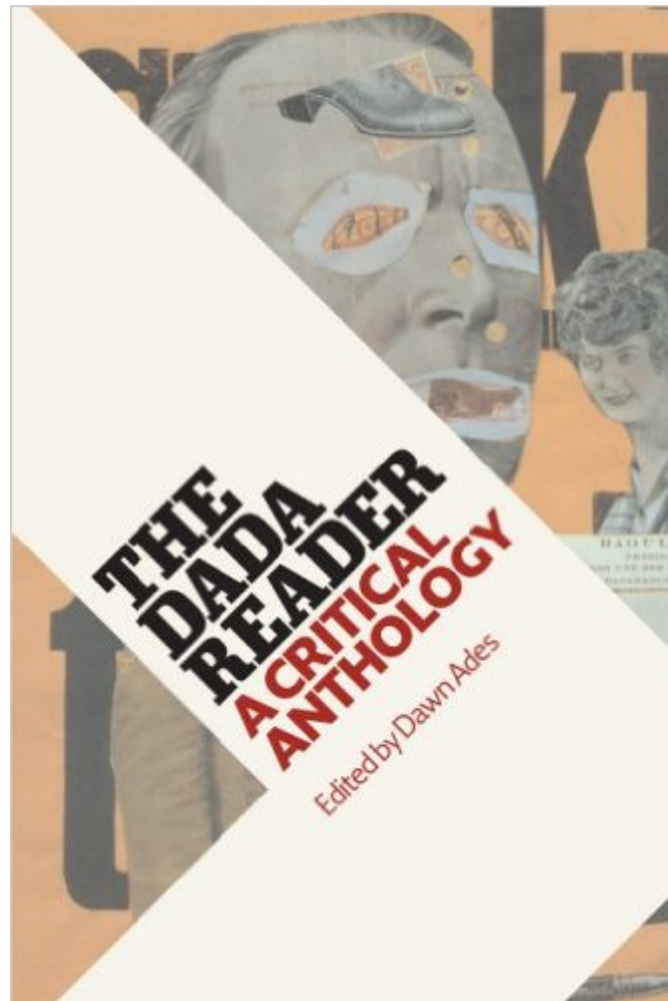


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The DADA Reader: A Critical Anthology



Synopsis

The revolutionary Dada movement, though short-lived, produced a vast amount of creative work in both art and literature during the years that followed World War I. Rejecting all social and artistic conventions, Dadaists went to the extremes of provocative behavior, creating "anti-art" pieces that ridiculed and questioned the very nature of creative endeavor. To understand their movement's heady mix of anarchy and nihilism combined with a lethal dash of humor, it's essential to engage with the artists' most important writings and manifestos. And that is precisely where this reader comes in. Bringing together key Dada texts, many of them translated into English for the first time, this volume immerses readers in some of the most famous (and infamous) periodicals of the time, from Hugo Ball's Cabaret Voltaire and Francis Picabia's 391 to Marcel Duchamp's The Blind Man and Kurt Schwitters's Merz. Published in Europe and the United States between 1916 and 1932, these journals constituted the movement's lifeblood, communicating the desires and aspirations of the artists involved. In addition to providing the first representative selection of these texts, The Dada Reader also includes excerpts from many lesser-known American and Eastern European journals. Compiled with both students and general readers in mind, this volume is necessary reading for anyone interested in one of the most dynamic and influential movements of the twentieth century.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is a wonderful book. As a Dadaist I think it is a valuable addition to my library of Dada literature.

Dada was a hotbed of transformative thinking back in the 1920's that later led to Surrealism, Fluxus, Pop Art, Neoism, Be sure to hunt up the "Neoist Manifesto" by the Neoist Society. Another wonderful couple of books are "The dada painters and poets" and "the surrealist painters and poets". Your friends at fluxuslaboratories.org

i recently purchased this book. its a great exploration of dada publications some in their first english translations. its amazing to me how these were really the way that artists could communicate and disseminate their ideas. some of the poems are really awesome. a great exploration of what dada was, found through their own work and writings. the communication between groups and artists in different cities that is explored is quite cool too.

I had to read this for a seminar. I don't recommend it for light reading.

A good collection of historic Dada reviews, although there is little critical about the anthology. While not comprehensive (maybe that is what the editor meant by critical) the volume offers a pretty good recollection of texts, in historical orders essentially as they were published in several magazines (reviews) across Europe as DADA developed. Some illustrations, and covers for the reviews, feel short of giving the feeling of the original publications, in the sense that often one feels that might be losing a lot of the layout work that was quite significant in these offerings. However, the most uncomfortable aspect of the book might be its translations. Obviously a historic Dada English volume is all a series of translations by a variety of authors, and while Dada was rather quirky in these incarnations, there is a sense of somewhat clumsy translations, in particular during the first half of the volume. In any case, some of the texts offered are rather interesting in the dialectical maze that Dada produced, and remain an interesting insight to revisit its influence. But for the most part the book stops there offering little analysis of the context and repercussions of these documents.

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