

The collection of deceased Dada-collector Hans Bolliger and of Dada-specialist and curator Guido Magnaguagno constitute the foundation of the newly opened Dada library, which contains significant Dada-publications and is constantly expanded. Another part of the library is the newly created research display, a wooden construction in which valuable books and Dada first editions or facsimiles of letters and photos can be exhibited. In addition to this, important books on current exhibitions as well as mediation material are also presented.

The sections of the Dada library are centered around the protagonists of the Dadaist movement and are divided by the protagonists' surnames. This way, the library mediates the history of the art movement primarily through these figures. Even if it makes sense historically to refer to the protagonists in order to understand the authorship and claims of the dada movement, it is also important to take into consideration contexts such as World War 1, late Industrialization, cities, languages and magazines. The cities in which different Dada movements arose are therefore already represented in their own sections of the library. From an art history perspective, different art techniques (such as the collage or simultaneous poetry) should also receive special attention. There is furthermore a section focusing on the ways in which artists collaborated. The Dadaist movement moreover was long received as a distinctly male domain, which is why the section on Feminist Dada reappraisal is constantly expanded with critical voices in order to present diverse perspectives.

There are several sections regarding people who were mentioned or referenced in artworks by Dadaists or who were part of their network for a short time, such as Alfred Jarry, Kasimir Malewitsch, Wassily Kandinsky or Amedeo Modigliani.

Throughout the day, the library can be used as a workspace and is available for meetings, while it turns into a part of the wider bar area in the evening.

Stefan Burger, «Narcissus, zentrales Höhlengrau, Erbse, Flamingo» (I&II)

Stefan Burger (*1977) exhibits two luminaire objects in the library which will light up the room as well as, hopefully, the visitors' moods. The sculptures, made from poured glass and aluminum, continue Burger's work with art as a commodity which he began at the Cabaret Voltaire in 2020. The notions that can be attributed to the sculptures fluctuate between pretty and ugly, pedantic and snotty, decorative and useful, disgusting and erotic. They are hybrid installations or tilting figures which, depending on the view, lean towards different qualities and interpretations and deal with decoration and function. Some form-references can be derived from the work process: when liquid glass is joined together, it always hangs towards the ground. Brezel and Böppel (in the tradition of Bollen and Bölleli) serve as ornamental repetitions, relaxed and low in meaning, yet distantly related to eclectic decorative strategies such as Baroque Rocaille. The supporting structure of the luminaries, a former ladder, originates from the Zurich sewer system and was wrested from one of the descending shafts. Originally intended to serve as a help for entering and exiting the shaft, the shaft step now enjoys its new functions as reading light and as object shaping the ambiance. Working with liquid glass involves colors of intense radiance, which continue to shine indestructibly happily thanks to their ceramic nature. Even the name of the color palette which was used - «Narcissus, zentrales Höhlengrau, Erbse, Flamingo» (I&II) - is intended by the artist to amplify joy; an invitation to cheer up.

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Künstler*innenkneipe /
Artists' Bar

Ausstellungen / Exhibitions
Dada-Vitrine / Dada
Showcase
Dada-Bibliothek / Dada
Library
Soireen am Dienstag /
Tuesday Soirées

Glossary of the individual exhibits

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Stefan Burger
Narcissus, zentrales Höhlengrau, Erbse, Flamingo II, 2022
glass and aluminum

7
Stefan Burger
Narcissus, zentrales Höhlengrau, Erbse, Flamingo I, 2022
glass and aluminum

8
Research display

9
Library

