

## AT-HOME ART PROJECT: Photomontage, Dada Art **INSTRUCTIONS**



### **INSPIRATION ARTIST:**

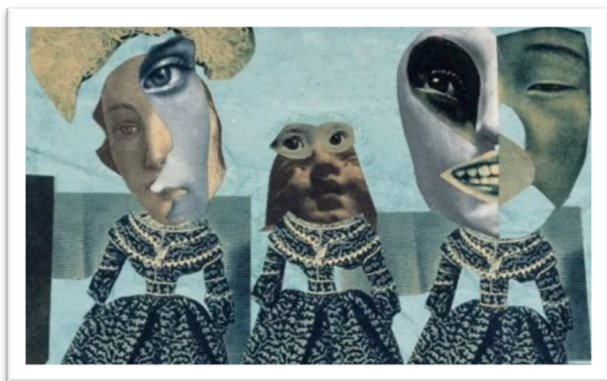
**Hannah Höch**, (1889-1978, Germany)

Hannah Höch began her training in 1912 at the School of Applied Arts in Berlin where she studied calligraphy, embroidery, wallpaper design, and graphic arts.

Höch experimented with nonobjective art—nonrepresentational works that make no reference to the natural world. She is recognized as a revolutionary feminist artist and it was her concern with the disparaging of the female gender role that distinguished her work from that of her colleagues in the Dada period.

Using fragments of imagery found in newspapers and magazines in her photomontages, Höch cut, overlapped, and juxtaposed (joined unlike things together) photographic pieces in disorienting but meaningful ways. To support herself and pay for her schooling, Höch worked part-time at a Berlin magazine publishing house. This position gave her access to an abundant supply of images and text that she could use in her artwork.

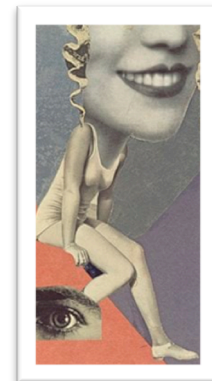
Dadaists rejected modern order and their use of photomontage was intended as a type of anti-art that required no formal training. The movement was quickly and enthusiastically absorbed into the art world and found appreciation among experts of fine art in the 1920s. Höch's legacy can be attributed to her pioneering work in photomontage and her desire to use art as a means to disrupt and unsettle the norms of society.



*Modenschau (Fashion Show)*, 1925-35



*Watched*, 1925



*Für ein Fest gemacht (Made for a Party)*, 1936

## **MATERIALS NEEDED FROM HOME:**

- White or light-colored paper (any size)
- Various Magazines, Mailers, Photographs, Newspaper photos
- Scissors
- Glue Stick or Glue Bottle
- Paper Towels, Newsprint, Paper Bag (something for gluing and protecting work area)

## **ART PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**

Participants will be creating a photomontage work of art in the style and manner of artist Hannah Höch. Artists will create a composition using several pieces of photo and printed material, intentionally considering the comparisons and contrasts of the images they choose.

## **PROMPT QUESTIONS:**

1. Hannah Höch used unusual comparisons in her collage work. What images will you use to show an uncommon contrast, and why are they important to you?
2. What idea will you communicate through your work of art?
3. How do you think nonobjective, nonrepresentational, or abstract art is different from realistic art?

## **ART MAKING PROCESS:**

### **Step 1:**

Begin by gathering several magazines, photos, mailers - anything with images to work with. Take some time to go through your gathered picture inventory. Purposefully look for images that inspire you. Think about the objects and images you are seeing in the photos and how they might be used creatively together. Think about when images are joined together and are organized in an intentional and unusual way, what story does it tell? When you come across an image that you might want to use, cut or tear it out and set it aside, no matter what its size or style. It is OK if your ideas develop and change as you come across new images that inspire you to use.

### **Step 2:**

Next, consider how you will bring the photos you chose together to create a new work of art. What will you create using these images? What will make your artwork unusual and what is the story that you want to tell? Consider the details in the cut-outs you are choosing and how they might affect emotion and opposition in your work of art.

### **Step 3:**

Decide if you want your artwork to be horizontal or vertical. Start cutting out your images and arranging them on your piece of paper. Remember that proportions are not important in this style of art. Layer your pieces from back to front, big to small. You can leave your background blank or add imagery. Layout the pieces as you cut them, making adjustments and changes as you design.

### **Step 4:**

Once you are satisfied with your photomontage layout, you will begin to glue your collage pieces into place. Prepare your gluing workspace by putting down paper towels, a grocery bag or large piece of paper to glue on and protect your work surface. Carefully remove the collage pieces from your paper and using your glue stick or glue begin to secure them back in place on your paper, from back to front. Be sure to glue all the little edges of each collage piece when positioning them into place. It is OK if some of your collage pieces hang off the edge of your

## LESSON PLAN

paper, you can trim them at the end when everything is glued down. TIP: Take a photo of your artwork beforehand to remember the layout if needed.

When all the pieces are glued into place, and you are satisfied with your design, trim any images that hang over the edge of your paper to complete your work of art!

### POST PROMPT QUESTIONS:

1. Did your artwork turn out as you had originally planned? Or did it change throughout the creative process?
2. Does your artwork tell a specific story? What is it?
3. What title would you give your work of art?
4. What did you learn from working on this project?

### EXAMPLES:



### SOURCES:

<https://www.moma.org/artists/2675>

<https://nmwa.org/explore/artist-profiles/hannah-hoch>

<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Hannah-Hoch>