

DADA Zurich

Facts and Figures

1914 – 1918	Europe is torn apart by the First World War. Artists and intellectuals, as well as political and economic refugees, find exile in neutral Switzerland. Zurich is particularly popular among artists and academics.
Feb 5, 1916	The Cabaret Voltaire, a kind of café-club for artists, is founded in a back room at the Meierei bar. The building is located in Zurich's Old Town quarter, at Spiegelgasse 1, and – having changed hands several times – still exists to this day.
7 members	play a leading role in Zurich: Hugo Ball, Emmy Hennings, Richard Huelsenbeck, Tristan Tzara, Marcel Janco, Hans Arp and Sophie Taeuber (later Taeuber-Arp).
Apr 1916	Two months after the Cabaret Voltaire opens, the group of artists who regularly meet there name themselves "Dada". They want to change the world with nothing, with the word dada. Dada is directed against the purely scientific, rational understanding of the world.
1918 – 1921	Dadaism rapidly spreads throughout Europe, above all in Paris, Berlin and Hannover. Later, Dada even finds supporters as far afield as New York.
1923	The artists became involved in disputes about Dada, which comes to an abrupt end with the founding of Surrealism.
2002	The building at Spiegelgasse 1 is occupied by activists in protest against plans to turn it into luxury apartments.
2004	The city and the citizens of Zurich resolve that the Cabaret Voltaire should be preserved and run as a cultural historical institution.
Sep 29, 2004	Official opening of the Cabaret Voltaire as a museum, café and theater.
2016	Dada celebrates its centenary!

Zurich Establishments That Have Upheld the Dada Myth to This Day

Cabaret Voltaire

The Cabaret Voltaire is located at Spiegelgasse 1, in a part of Zurich's Old Town known as the "Niederdörfli". Nowadays, the building also houses a museum, café and shop. cabaretvoltaire.ch

Café Odeon

The Café Odeon is reminiscent of the large Viennese coffee houses. At the beginning of the 20th century, intellectuals, artists and politicians met here. odeon.ch

Terrasse

Directly opposite the Café Odeon is the Café de la Terrasse, these days often simply known as the Terrasse. This was also a popular venue where Dadaists exchanged views with like-minded people. cafe-terrasse.ch

ZunftHaus zur Waag

This guild house was where the first Dada Soirée was held in July 1916. These days, the ZunftHaus zur Waag is renowned for its "Zürcher Geschnetzeltes", a traditional dish comprising fried strips of veal served in a creamy sauce. zunfthaus-zur-waag.ch

ZunftHaus zur Meisen

The seventh Dada Soirée was also held in a guild house. The ZunftHaus zur Meisen is a magnificent rococo building situated directly on the River Limmat. zunfthaus-zur-meisen.ch

Kaufleuten

The Kaufleuten hosted the eighth Dada Soirée in 1919. It was a legendary evening, apparently attended by 1,000 guests. At the same time, it was the last official event held by the Dadaists in Zurich. Still today, artists from a wide variety of genres convene here. kaufleuten.ch

Contact

International Media Team

Zürich Tourism, Stampfenbachstrasse 52, CH-8006 Zürich

Tel +41 44 215 40 96, media@zuerich.com

zuerich.com/medien

Images & Text

In our media database, you have access to our multifaceted world of images.

zuerich.com/pictures-movies