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21F.031 Response Paper 4/10

Read the manifestos of surrealism, dada, the theater of cruelty, and futurism. Can you determine what the genre of the manifesto is—in general terms? What is avant-garde about any of these manifestos? Do you think the practice of framing manifestos still has legitimacy today?

MANIFESTO is used as both a declarative positioning document (in relation to the societal or cultural context in which it is published), as well as a general call to arms to the reader. MANIFESTOS themselves are written in a distinct style that echoes the sentiments expressed within. The primary motive of MANIFESTO is relevant today, as it always has been; MANIFESTO defines and produces new ideas and methods for producing artwork as life and life as artwork.

MANIFESTO is more than a document. It is a living being. It breathes the life of a movement that encompasses all aspects of art: literary, life, painting, theater, life, etcetera. We use extreme and absolute statements. We list point by point the DO'S and DO NOT'S of MANIFESTO. We use EXAGGERATED words to drive home points. We provide statements both succinct and memorable. MANIFESTO engages and consumes all aspects of art and culture. We reconnect art to life. MANIFESTO is a call to action.

MANIFESTO is avant-garde, like futurism. MANIFESTO is avant-garde, like dada. MANIFESTO is avant-garde, like surrealism. MANIFESTO is avant-garde, like the theater of cruelty. We reject common literary notions of formatting and propriety. The aim of MANIFESTO is the message and the meaning. It is not the constructs of a formal document. The idea is expressed however we see fit.

We frame MANIFESTOS in order introduce novelty into stagnation. We introduce life into artwork. MANIFESTO is political as it is aesthetic. Art does not exist outside of life. MANIFESTO ensures this idea persists.

MANIFESTO is art .

MANIFESTO is life.