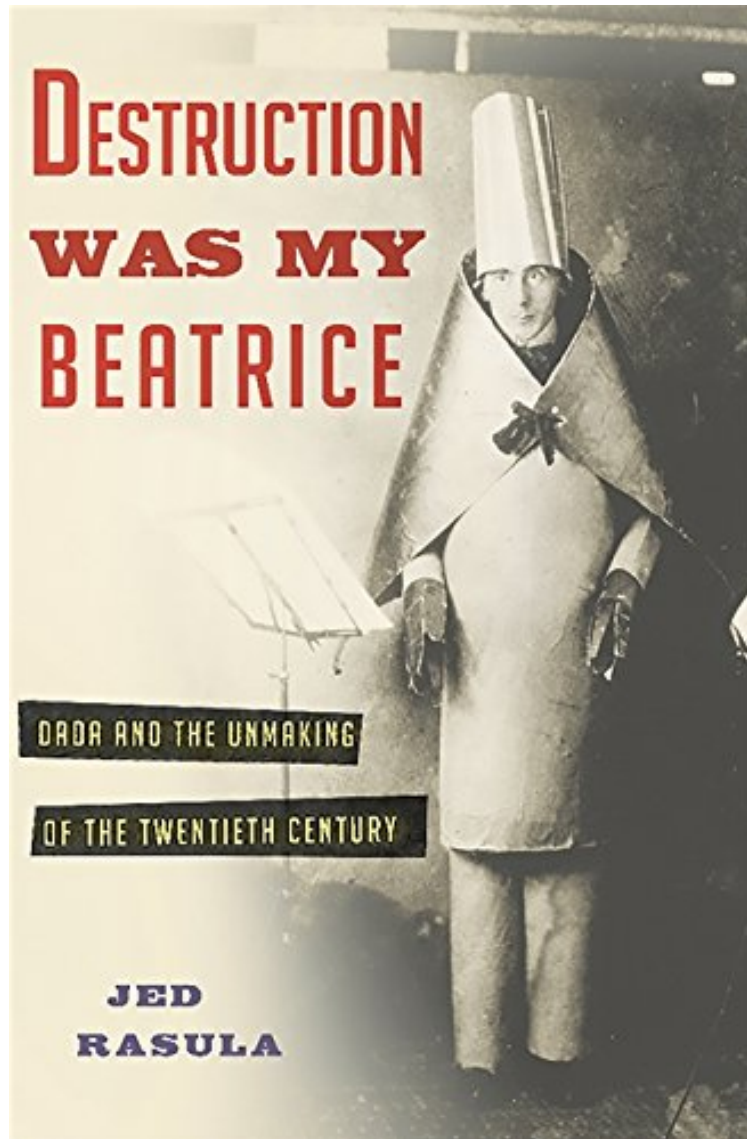


(Free read ebook) Destruction Was My Beatrice: Dada and the Unmaking of the Twentieth Century

Destruction Was My Beatrice: Dada and the Unmaking of the Twentieth Century

Jed Rasula

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Jed Rasula : Destruction Was My Beatrice: Dada and the Unmaking of the Twentieth Century before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Destruction Was My Beatrice: Dada and the Unmaking of the Twentieth Century:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Readable, thoughtful history of a foundational modern art movementBy Erik StrommenThis is a lovingly rendered, detailed history of (in my view) THE seminal artistic and

intellectual movement of the early 20th century. Read this book and you will get to know the motley group of international refugees who forged it, and how their ideas fertilized the diverse movements of surrealism and constructivism that followed, and how their innovative artistic treatment of modern media, like collage, are now commonplaces of modern artistic techniques. The text is well written, and the author does a great job of following the people and the ideas as they move from country to country, and city to city. The afterword is a masterful and sympathetic summary and appraisal of Dada well worth reading just of itself. The one thing to be aware of as a potential reader is that there are very few actual examples of the various artworks in question in the book. If you are not familiar with them, it helps to read up on the individual artists and see their work so you can understand what the fuss was about. The author assumes you are familiar. I learned a lot reading this book. Highly recommended. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Art and literary history: the book of the year. By Lou Rowan Resourceful, full of lively detail and intelligent observation--a most important book! 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A wonderful story of DADA --- very important to understand current ... By anonymous A wonderful story of DADA --- very important to understand current art in all of its different modes --- painting, music, dance --- you name it --- the breaking of all the rules until there is only one left to break --- but how do you break breaking?

In 1916, as World War I raged around them, a group of bohemians gathered at a small cabaret in Zurich, Switzerland. After decorating the walls with art by Picasso and other avant-garde artists, they embarked on a series of extravagant performances. Three readers simultaneously recited a poem in three languages; a monocle-wearing teenager performed a spell from New Zealand; another young man sneered at the audience, snapping a whip as he intoned his Fantastic Prayers. One of the artists called these sessions both buffoonery and a requiem mass. Soon they would have a more evocative name: Dada. In "Destruction Was My Beatrice," modernist scholar Jed Rasula presents the first narrative history of Dada, showing how this little-understood artistic phenomenon laid the foundation for culture as we know it today. Although the venue where Dada was born closed after only four months and its acolytes scattered, the idea of Dada quickly spread to New York, where it influenced artists like Marcel Duchamp and Man Ray; to Berlin, where it inspired painters George Grosz and Hannah Hoch; and to Paris, where it dethroned previous avant-garde movements like Fauvism and Cubism while inspiring early Surrealists like Andre Breton, Louis Aragon, and Paul Eluard. The long tail of Dadaism, Rasula shows, can be traced even further, to artists as diverse as William S. Burroughs, Robert Rauschenberg, Marshall McLuhan, the Beatles, Monty Python, David Byrne, and Jean-Michel Basquiat, all of whom along with untold others owe a debt to the bizarre wartime escapades of the Dada vanguard. A globe-spanning narrative that resurrects some of the 20th century's most influential artistic figures, "Destruction Was My Beatrice" describes how Dada burst upon the world in the midst of total war and how the effects of this explosion are still reverberating today."