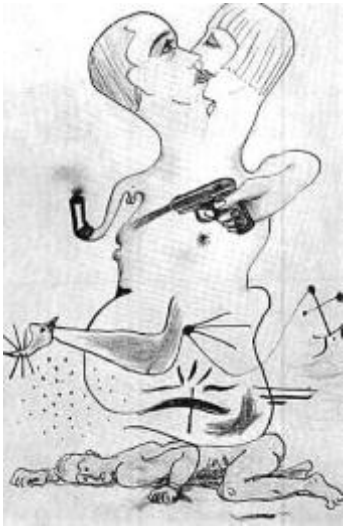


# Exquisite Corpse

## What is the “Exquisite Corpse”?

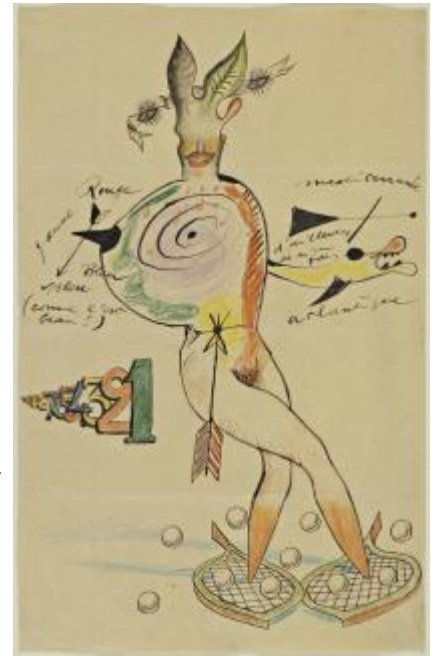
A game in which each participant takes turns writing or drawing on a sheet of paper, folds it to conceal his or her contribution, then passes it to the next player for a further contribution (MoMA).



## History

Exquisite Corpse was originally a parlor game based on words. Typically consisting of a group of four participants, each would write a word on a piece of paper, fold it to conceal what they wrote, and pass on to the next person.

The resulting phrases were nonsensical. “*The exquisite corpse will drink the new wine*” was one of the first phrases after which the game was named. Surrealist artists like Breton, Tanguy, Kahlo, Miro, Man Ray, Jacqueline Lamba and Dali produced exquisite corpse drawings in which one artist would draw the head, the other a torso, and a third the legs.



## Use in the K-12 Art Room

Exquisite Corpse can be adapted for students of all grade levels. Teachers may base the activity on a certain theme (e.g. human bodies, animals, robots) or may leave the subject matter open. The activity can be an excellent ice-breaker activity at the beginning of the school year, or a time-filler for the last days of June! This also works as an introductory activity to a Surrealism unit. As an extension, students can write about the surrealistic qualities of their Exquisite Corpse drawings, connecting their artwork to the historical painters who invented the game.

## Resources



MoMa Learning: Exquisite Corpse



MSLK: Exquisite Corpse (The Drawing Game)



Art Institute of Chicago: Surrealist Games



MoMa Learning: Surrealism