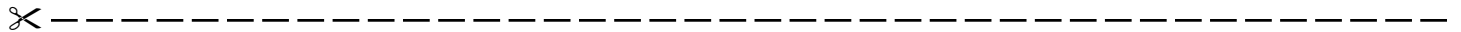


Over the course of five days, we asked 100 Art Chicago visitors to play Mad Libs with *mouthtomouth*. We were amazed to discover how many people have never heard of this game. We were equally amazed at how stressful it is to come up with a verb. Anyway, here's how it worked. Each day, following the template below, we approached 20 random strangers to supply us with parts of speech—without revealing their context—and posted the completed Mad Lib on the walls of our booth. As we suspected, these chance operations resulted in a free-form narrative of both high seriousness and unintended comic effect...otherwise known as “the artist’s statement.”

Our Mad Lib was based on an excerpt from the *Dada Cannibalistic Manifesto* by Francis Picabia, circa 1920. (To see what Francis actually wrote, turn this page upside down.) So, gather your friends, play it yourself, and then get out there and apply for that grant!



madlibsmanifesto

You are finally standing before _____, which represents _____
PROPER NOUN NOUN

and accuses you of _____ everything out of _____ from the
-ING VERB AN EMOTION

moment that it becomes _____. Are you completely _____?
ADJECTIVE ADJECTIVE

So much the better, that way you are going to _____ me with greater attention.
VERB

What are you doing here, _____ like _____ —
ADJECTIVE ADJECTIVE PLURAL NOUN

for you are _____, right? _____, _____, _____ to death.
ADJECTIVE ADJECTIVE ADJECTIVE ADJECTIVE

Death is a _____ thing, huh? One dies as a _____, or as a _____,
ADJECTIVE NOUN NOUN

which is the same thing. The only word which is not ephemeral is the word _____.
WORD

You love _____ for others. To death, death, death. Only _____
NOUN NOUN

which doesn't die, it just leaves on trips.

[You are] finally standing before DADA, which represents life and accuses you of loving everything out of snobism from the moment that it becomes expensive. Are you completely settled? So much the better, that way you are going to listen to me with greater attention. What are you doing here, parked like serious oysters—for you are serious, right? Serious, serious, serious to death. Death is a serious thing, huh? One dies as a hero, or as an idiot, which is the same thing. The only word which is not ephemeral is the word death. You love death for others. To death, death, death. Only money which doesn't die, it just leaves on trips.—F. Picabia

day one

You are finally standing before THE RENAISSANCE, which represents A PLAYPEN and accuses you of SLURPING everything out of FEAR from the moment that it becomes GREEN. Are you completely SPRITELY? So much the better, that way you are going to SLEEP WITH me with greater attention.

What are you doing here, YUMMY like GRUMPY MARGARITAS—for you are FUN, right? INTRANSIGENT, PINK, FLASHY to death. Death is a SPURIOUS thing, huh? One dies as a RESTAURANT, or as a BASEBALL, which is the same thing. The only word which is not ephemeral is the word EARWIG.

You love LACE for others. To death, death, death. Only BROKEN GLASS which doesn't die, it just leaves on trips.

day two

You are finally standing before BILL JAMES, which represents A DOG and accuses you of STINGING everything out of HYSTERIA from the moment that it becomes ANTIQUE. Are you completely VIBRANT? So much the better, that way you are going to CRACK me with greater attention.

What are you doing here, PICKY like DISGRUNTLED CARPET PISSERS—for you are SAUCY, right? SMOOTH, VAGUE, LUGUBRIOUS to death. Death is a DISGUSTING thing, huh? One dies as a COWGIRL, or as a TROGLODYTE, which is the same thing. The only word which is not ephemeral is the word MONOPOLY.

You love LOS ANGELES for others. To death, death, death. Only A LOTUS, which doesn't die, it just leaves on trips.

day three

You are finally standing before XANADU, which represents A PUPPY and accuses you of SKIING everything out of ANGER from the moment that it becomes SLATTERNLy. Are you completely LINDO? So much the better, that way you are going to DO me with greater attention.

What are you doing here, CREAMY like FANCY EGGS—for you are QUIZZICAL, right? LONG, SMELLY, MAGNETIC to death. Death is a KICKY thing, huh? One dies as a CAVITY, or as a BALLOON, which is the same thing. The only word which is not ephemeral is the word ERUDITE.

You love ART for others. To death, death, death. Only A PLUNGER which doesn't die, it just leaves on trips.

day four

You are finally standing before DONALD JUDD'S METEORITE, which represents A BANANA and accuses you of SNORTING everything out of ENNUI from the moment that it becomes SINFUL. Are you completely FURRY? So much the better, that way you are going to GOOGLE me with greater attention.

What are you doing here, ILLUSTRIOUS like BURLY CLUBS—for you are SILENT, right? SLUSHY, FROTHY, HUNGOVER to death. Death is a PERNICIOUS thing, huh? One dies as an INTERNET, or as a BLINK, which is the same thing. The only word which is not ephemeral is the word OBTUSE.

You love A TREE for others. To death, death, death. Only HAIR which doesn't die, it just leaves on trips.

day five

You are finally standing before McDONALD'S, which represents A CORKSCREW and accuses you of MASTURBATING everything out of EXHILARATION from the moment that it becomes SQUIRRELY. Are you completely LOUD? So much the better, that way you are going to RIDE me with greater attention.

What are you doing here, PUSHY like ARBITRARY GRAPEFRUITS—for you are DISASTROUS, right? UNCONSCIONABLE, PRESTIGIOUS, FLUFFY to death. Death is a SLUTTY thing, huh? One dies as a LIPSTICK, or as a DOG, which is the same thing. The only word which is not ephemeral is the word VORACIOUS.

You love A CHAIR for others. To death, death, death. Only A PERSIAN CAT which doesn't die, it just leaves on trips.