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Antiauthoritarian Manifesto of the Artistic Avant Garde (January 1961)

By the early 1960s, a "situationist" avant garde in cities such as Munich began to rebel against the reimposition of bourgeois respectability after the Second World War. It proclaimed the unleashing of creativity and the revolutionizing of social relations under the banner of promoting "fun."

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#### JANUARY MANIFESTO

1. Whoever does not see politics, government, church, industry, military, the political parties, and social organizations as a joke has nothing to do with us.
2. Boycott all ruling systems and conventions by viewing them as nothing but a joke that went awry.
3. All true artists were born to change their surroundings.
4. Awards, scholarships, good reviews: they give us everything. But one thing is for certain, we are of no use.
5. Our highest goal is to be useless: joking around is unpopular folk art.
6. The whole world is the sphere in which the artistic impulse that is reserved for fun alone can unfold.
7. Everything that can be used is not for people. Without artists there would already be no more people.
8. We are opposed to Mardi Gras carnival celebrations, because they commercialize fun. Misusing fun is the greatest crime.
9. Art for art's sake is over, as is art for money and art for women. This marks the beginning of art for fun.
10. Being creative means: having fun with everything by constantly creating new things.
11. Being human means *homo ludens* and *homo gaudens*.
12. Fun has not been an integrating factor in culture since the ascendancy of dialectic

materialism and determinism. We demand its liberation from oppression by the prevailing ideologies and rationalism.

13. The sentence "Knowledge is power," which ushered in the age of science, shall be followed by the sentence "Fun is power," ushering in the age of fun.

14. Just as Marx derived a revolution from science, we derive a revolution from fun.

15. The socialist revolution misused artists. The one-sidedness of these subversions was due to the separation of work and fun. A revolution without fun is no revolution.

16. There is no artistic freedom without the power of fun.

17. All discontented forces are gathering into an organization of anti-organizers, who will manifest themselves through a general revolution.

18. In all seriousness we are calling for fun. We demand urban fun, as well as unitary, total, real, imaginary, sexual, irrational, integral, military, political, psychological, philosophical ... fun.

19. The implementation of Situationist Fun will solve all the problems in the world: the East-West conflict, the Algerian conflict, the Congolese conflict, rioting by young hooligans, blasphemy trials, and sexual repression.

20. We are engaging the entire world for our fun! January 1961

The "Gruppe Spur"  
Sturm, Prem, Fischer, Kunzelmann, Zimmer

Source: Gruppe Spur [Helmut Sturm, Heimrad Prem, Lothar Fischer, Dieter Kunzelmann, Hans-Peter Zimmer], "January Manifesto" (January 1961); reprinted in Jürgen Miermeister and Jochen Staadt, eds., *Provokationen. Die Studenten- und Jugendrevolte in ihren Flugblättern 1865-1971* [*Provocations. The Student and Youth Revolts in their Leaflets 1865-1971*] Darmstadt, 1980, pp. 13-14.

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