

THE Illustrated Life of HANNAH HÖCH



photo by Stephen Moxon

1889 Adolf Hitler born ♦ First May Day celebrated in Paris ♦ Gustave Eiffel designs tower for Paris World Exhibition.

Born Anna Therese Johanne Höch on November 1, in the Thuringian city of Gotha, to Friedrich Höch, senior employee in an insurance agency, and Rosa Höch (née Sachs), formerly a reader and housekeeper for two women of nobility. The parents are evangelical and maintain an orderly, bourgeois existence for Anna and her four younger siblings: Friedrich (Danilo), Walter, Margarete (Grete), and Marianne (Nitte).

1904 Russo-Japanese War breaks out, resulting in humiliating defeat for Russia ♦ Marlene Dietrich born.

Leaves the Höhere Töchterschule (Girls' High School) in Gotha to care for her infant sister, Marianne, thereby postponing her plans to study painting. Her father nevertheless encourages her to draw from nature, and she creates pencil and watercolor drawings of Gotha landscapes, still lifes, and family members.

1907 Picasso paints *Les Femmes d'Alger*.

Makes her first collage, *Nitte unterm Baum* (Nitte under a Tree), from cut-and-torn colored papers.

1912 Gerhart Hauptmann wins Nobel Prize for literature ♦ SS *Titanic* strikes iceberg and sinks on its maiden voyage.

Enters the Kunstgewerbeschule (School of Applied Arts) in the Berlin suburb of Charlottenburg, where she studies with Harold Bengel in his glass-design class and creates drawings and designs for glass, wallpaper, official documents, and embroidery. Also studies calligraphy with Ludwig Sütterlin.

1914 World War I breaks out following assassination of Austrian Archduke Franz Ferdinand in Sarajevo ♦ Battle of the Marne halts German advance into France.

Receives a travel award from the School of Applied Arts to visit the Werkbund show in Cologne, an international exhibition of architecture, furniture, applied art, and industrial objects. She and five other students on the trip are stopped at the Rhine River by the outbreak of World War I. Returns to Gotha to work for the Red Cross after the School of Applied Arts is closed.

1915 Poison gas used for first time by German armed forces in Battle of Ypres, Belgium ♦ German U-boat sinks British ocean liner *Lusitania* as part of blockade of England ♦ Albert Einstein presents his General Theory of Relativity ♦ D. W. Griffith directs *Birth of a Nation*.

Enrolls in January at the Unterrichtsanstalt des königlichen Kunstgewerbemuseums (School of the Royal Museum of Applied Arts, later known as the State Museum of Applied Arts) in Berlin, which combines the rigorous instruction of an art academy with courses in all aspects of the applied arts. Here she enters the graphic- and book-arts program headed by Emil Orlik, a well-known Jugendstil artist whose work is inspired by Japanese woodblock prints. She supplements her day courses with six nights of classes in calligraphy and figure drawing. Typical assignments for school competitions include designing a title page for an auction catalogue, posters for the war effort, and pictures for the wounded and recovering soldiers in the hospital. George Grosz is in the same class from 1915 to 1917 and participates in many of the same assignments and competitions. Höch remains enrolled at the school through March 1920.

Meets the Austrian-born painter Raoul Hausmann in late April, probably at Herwarth Walden's avant-garde gallery, Der

Sturm. Maria Uhden, a childhood friend from Gotha, is exhibiting at the gallery and possibly brings Höch there for the first time. Uhden is involved with the artist Georg Schrimpf (her future husband), who, along with Hausmann, is part of the circle around the psycho-analyst Otto Gross and the writer Franz Jung. The relationship between Höch and Hausmann (who is married to Elfriede Schaeffer, and has a daughter, Vera) becomes intense as early as July. Through Hausmann, Höch meets Johannes Baader, the former tomb architect and future Oberdada, and Salomo Friedlaender ("Mynona"), the writer whose philosophy of "creative indifference" will fuel early Dadaist ideas.

1916 Battle of Verdun ♦ Hindenburg appointed head of German armed forces ♦ Food rationing instituted in Germany ♦ Dada movement founded by Hugo Ball, Tristan

1918 November Revolution in Germany results in abdication of Kaiser Wilhelm II; Friedrich Ebert named Chancellor ♦ Armistice signed between Allies and Germany brings World War I to a close ♦ Czar Nicholas II and family executed in Russia.

Obtains the second of her two abortions on January 18. The first Berlin Dada-Soirée takes place on April 12 in the rooms of the Berlin Secession on the Kurfürstendamm. Richard Huelsenbeck, who had brought Dada ideas from Zurich to Berlin a year earlier, reads from his Dada Manifesto; Hausmann reads from his essay "The New Material in Painting"; and Grosz sings and bounces soccer balls off the heads of the audience. Due to a major falling-out with Hausmann, which almost leads to the breakup of their relationship, Höch does not participate in this evening pro-

Just as I was emerging from the dreamy years of youth and becoming ardently involved with my studies, this catastrophe shattered my world. Surveying the consequences for humanity and for myself, I suffered greatly under my world's violent collapse.

—Hannah Höch on the outbreak of World War I, "Leberlebensblick," 1958

Tzara, Hans Arp, and others in Zurich ♦ Assassination of Rasputin in Russia ♦ Wilson reelected president in U.S. by a slim margin ♦ Kafka publishes *The Metamorphosis*.

At the first of the year, begins working three days a week in the handwork division of the Ullstein Press, where she makes embroidery and lace designs for publications such as *Die Dame* (The Lady) and dress designs for *Die praktische Berlinerin* (The Practical Berlin Woman), two of the company's most successful women's magazines. Also begins to publish embroidery designs in a non-Ullstein publication, *Sticker- und Spitzen-Rundschau* (Embroidery and Lace Review). The job (which she continues to hold until her move to the Netherlands in 1926) requires that she work with delicate paper patterns, many of which appear in her collages of the 1920s. It also provides her access to multiple copies of such Ullstein publications as *BIZ*, *Der Querschnitt*, and *Uhu*, which she will mine for photographic reproductions to use in her photomontages.

Obtains the first of two abortions on May 16. Although she desires children, she refuses to give birth to a child while Hausmann is still married to his wife.

Professor Orlik engages her as a woodcutter for his woodblock designs in November, and she creates her first abstract woodcut collages. Also produces her first oil painting.

1917 U.S. enters World War I, declaring war on Germany ♦ October Revolution installs Lenin as Chief Commissar in Russia; Russia and Germany sign armistice at Brest-Litovsk ♦ Bobbed hair becomes a fashion craze.

Höch's facsimile print of a woodcut of the prophet Matthew (from a fifteenth-century *Ars Memorandi* in the Ducal Library in Gotha) is published in the luxury edition of *Das Kunstblatt* (The Art Page), one of the leading German Expressionist periodicals.

Hausmann moves in with Höch to her studio in the Büsingstraße, in the Friedenau district of Berlin.

gram. It is only through Hausmann's promise to leave his wife, which he later rescinds, that the couple reunites.

Travels with Hausmann in August to Heidebrink, an island fishing village on the Baltic Sea, where they encounter a type of commemorative military picture with the heads of various soldiers pasted in. These mementoes reputedly give them the idea for photomontage. On their return to Berlin, they create the first Dada photomontages.



top left: Harold Bengel's class at the School of Applied Arts, Berlin-Charlottenburg, c. 1913 (Höch in circle)

top right: Hannah Höch, 1976
right: Höch and Raoul Hausmann, 1919

Makes the acquaintance of the artists Kurt Schwitters and Hans Arp.

Publishes several articles in *Sticker- und Spitzen-Rundschau* that argue for a revolution in embroidery design and emphasize the painterly and abstract possibilities of what she considers a legitimate artistic medium.

Takes part in December in the first meetings of the Novembergruppe, the revolutionary artists' organization formed in the wake of the November Revolution that had recently ousted the Kaiser and accompanied the end of World War I. The group's goals are to bring art to the people and to serve the socialist revolution through arts legislation and the reform of institutions such as art schools and museums. Höch becomes a member, sporadically contributing to the group's annual exhibitions from 1920 through 1931, and through it meets artists such as Arthur Segal, Otto Freundlich, and Thomas Ring, as well as the writer and critic Adolf Behne, who will later become friends.

1919 German Communist Party founded by Spartacist leaders Rosa Luxemburg and Karl Liebknecht: Spartacist revolt in Berlin: Luxemburg and Liebknecht murdered by counterrevolutionary Freikorps irregulars ♦ National Assembly meets in Weimar, elects Ebert president and ratifies new constitution, which includes provision giving women the right to vote ♦ Peace treaty signed in Versailles, imposing harsh war reparations on Germany ♦ Benito Mussolini founds Italian Fascist party. Bauhaus founded by Walter Gropius.

Participates in the First Berlin Dada Exhibition at the print cabinet of I. B. Neumann on April 28–30, which includes works by Hausmann, Grosz, Walter Mehring, Jefim Golyseff, Fritz Stuckenberg, Erica Deeter, and Arnold Topp. Höch exhibits some of her abstract watercolors and participates for the first time in a Dada event, the Dada-Soirée on the final day of the exhibition, for which she plays pot lids and a child's rattle in an anti-symphony composed by Golyseff. Later in the year, on November 30 and December 7, she participates in a "simultaneous poem" by Richard Huelsenbeck in the Dada-Matinée at the newly founded avant-garde theater "Die Tribüne," where, for the first time, all the Berlin Dadaists perform together.

Publishes an embroidery design in the April issue of *Sticker- und Spitzen-Rundschau* as well as an article and a short story in its October–November issue. In December, one of her woodcuts is reproduced in an advertisement for "dadaco" in the second number of the periodical *Der Dada*, where she is mistakenly identified as "M. Höch."

1920 National Socialist (Nazi) Party, led by Adolf Hitler, founded in Munich ♦ Monarchist coup put down in Berlin ♦ Communist uprising suppressed in Ruhr ♦ Right wing parties gain in Reichstag elections ♦ U.S. Senate votes against membership in League of Nations ♦ 18th Amendment institutes Prohibition in U.S. ♦ 19th Amendment passed, giving women right to vote.

Two of Höch's Dada dolls appear in April on the cover and within the body of the periodical *Schall und Rauch* (Noise and Smoke), a magazine founded by the theater director Max Reinhardt in conjunction with his cabaret of the same name. Both the cabaret and periodical become outlets for Dadaist wit and satire. After Hans Hoffmann, press officer for the Munich Expressionist Workshop, sees the dolls on the cover, he invites Höch to submit them to the group's first exhibition, to be mounted in Chicago. She perhaps also sends some embroidered pillows to this exhibition, but it is unclear whether the show actually takes place. The dolls are ostensibly purchased by a Chicago painter named Carl Sachs.

Participates in the First International Dada Fair, the largest and most comprehensive of the Dada exhibitions, held at the gallery of Dr. Otto Burchard in Berlin from June 30 to August 25. The show contains 174 Dada works—including paintings, prints, sculptures, objects, pamphlets, ephemera, and posters—by more than twenty-five artists, including such non-Berlin Dadaists as Max Ernst, Francis Picabia, and Hans Arp. Höch's participation is opposed by Grosz and John Heartfield, and she is included only



Raoul Hausmann and Hannah Höch with their work at the First International Dada fair, 1920

through the intercession of Hausmann, who threatens to withdraw. She is represented with at least eight works, including her Dada dolls, *Dada-Rundschau* (Dada Panorama, 1919), and the monumental photomontage *Schnitt mit dem Küchenmesser Dada durch die letzte weimarer Bierbauchkulturepoche Deutschlands* (Cut with the Kitchen Knife Dada through the Last Weimar Beer-Belly Cultural Epoch of Germany, 1919–1920). The exhibition receives a rash of reviews, including one by Adolf Behne in *Die Freiheit* (The Freedom) that praises Höch's "splendid collages."

Attends Monday soirées at the studio of Arthur Segal, which become a monthly fixture of Berlin intellectual life for many years. Here, she converses with artists, philosophers, and writers such as Mynona, Ernst Simmel, Erich Buchholz, and Alfred Döblin.

Sticker- und Spitzen-Rundschau publishes an enthusiastic review of Höch's designs for printed fabric in its September issue. Executives from the Alexander Koch Verlag in Darmstadt suggest factories that might put her extraordinary designs into production.

Travels from Munich to Italy in October and November with her sister Grete and the Swiss poet Regina Ullmann in order to distance herself from Hausmann. Her friend the architect Ludwig Mies van der Rohe, who has connections to the Pope in Rome, arranges for the visa, and much of the trip is accomplished on foot. Ullmann leaves the party at Venice; Grete departs at Bologna; and Höch continues alone to Florence and Rome, where the Italian

Dadaist Enrico Prampolini gives her a copy of the Futurist Manifesto. Upon her return to Germany, she reestablishes her connection with Hausmann.

1921 German war reparations fixed at \$33,280,000,000. German mark begins rapid fall, initiating

period of extreme inflation ♦ Finance Minister Matthias Erzberger assassinated by right-wing extremists who hold him responsible for terms of Treaty of Versailles ♦ Nazis establish SA (Sturmabteilung) Brown Shirts.

Attends the Faschings-Dada-Ball, organized by Baader in January, one of several artists' costume parties she will attend through 1926.

Publishes several designs in *Sticker- und Spitzen-Rundschau*, a cover illustration for the March–April issue of *Die Kornscheuer* (The Corncrib), a monthly publication dedicated to the arts; an April Fools'-joke photomontage in the *Berliner*

I was somewhat timid at this debut. I gladly would have gotten out of it, since I was never in my life fond of noise. But I also didn't want to appear cowardly, so I threw myself with resignation into what the thing—the tin thing—really needed, because it was my job.

—Hannah Höch on her participation in the 1919 Dada Soirée. "Erinnerungen an DADA," lecture delivered in Düsseldorf, 1960



Illustrirte Zeitung (BIZ) entitled "The Botanical Garden's Interesting New Acquisitions," depicting a carnivorous plant seated at a table and eating off a plate; and a watercolor illustration in Hans Arp's volume of poetry, *Der Vogel selbst*.

Along with Hausmann, Grosz, Otto Dix, Thomas Ring, and Rudolf Schlichter, signs the "Open Letter to the Novembergruppe," which is published in *Der Gegner* (The Adversary), one of the revolutionary periodicals put out by Wieland Herzfelde's Malik Verlag. Although the letter publicly criticizes the Novembergruppe's retreat from politics and its increasingly bourgeois activities, Höch continues to show watercolors and paintings in the group's annual exhibitions.

Participates with Hausmann and Mynona on February 8 at the Berlin Secession in an evening of readings of "grotesques" (short, satirical essays or stories, often combining humor with the shocking, the bizarre, and the parodistic). Höch's reading from an essay entitled "Journey to Italy," about her experiences on her 1920 trip, is cited by one reviewer as the best of the three performances. The essay is published in May in the first and only number of the official Novembergruppe periodical, *NG*, which also reproduces one of her relief prints on its cover.

With Helma Schwitters, accompanies Hausmann and Kurt Schwitters on their "Anti-Dada Merz-Tournée" to Prague. During two Dada performance evenings (September 6 and 7), the two women sit in the audience as the men try to outdo each other in a noise fest, reciting Dada "sound poems" and trying to antagonize the generally amused crowd. This is the first of her many trips with Helma and the "unfathomable" Kurt Schwitters.

1922 Mussolini marches on Rome and assumes power in Italy ♦ German foreign minister Walther Rathenau negotiates Treaty of Rapallo with U.S.S.R., cancelling war debts and establishing diplomatic relations; Rathenau subsequently assassinated by right-wing extremists ♦ American "cocktails" become fashionable in Europe.

Publishes a design for a pillow in the February issue of *Die Dame* and exhibits in a design and pattern fair in Leipzig.

Is invited to participate in late September at the International Dada and Constructivist Congress in Weimar, a conference that attracts artists from all over Europe, including El Lissitzky, Theo and Petra (Nelly) van Doesburg, Cornelis van Eesteren, László Moholy-Nagy, Tristan Tzara, Hans Arp, and Sophie Taeuber-Arp.



Because she is traveling in southern Germany when the invitation is sent, she does not participate, but does attend a restaging of Schwitters's "Dadarevon" at the Garvens Gallery in Hanover with many of the Congress members on September 30.

Separates from Hausmann by the middle of the year.

1923 French and Belgian forces, including colonial troops, occupy the Ruhr to ensure Germany's acquiescence to reparations payments ♦ Skyrocketing inflation drops value of the mark to 4 million to the dollar; new currency, "Rentenmark," established to end inflation ♦ "Beer Hall Putsch" fails in Munich; Hitler placed under arrest. German Communist Party banned ♦ Italy dissolves all non-fascist political parties.

Schwitters reproduces one of Höch's drawings in the first issue of his periodical *Merz*, devoted to Holland Dada, and Höch helps to locate subscribers for the magazine in Berlin. She also creates the first of two grottoes for Schwitters's *Merzbau*, the organic architectural structure the artist is building at his house in Hanover,

Hans Arp and Kurt Schwitters, in my experience, were rare examples of the kind of artist who can really treat a woman as a colleague.

— Hannah Höch, in an interview with Edouard Rodin, 1959

which will be destroyed by an air bomb in 1944. Entitled "Bordello," Höch's grotto consists mainly of photographs and small collaged additions and depicts a prostitute with three legs. Her second contribution, produced a few years later as part of the column called the "Cathedral of Erotic Misery," refers to the German writer and philosopher Johann Wolfgang von Goethe. A strong friendship develops between Höch and Schwitters, who often stays at her Büsingstraße studio when he visits Berlin and even stashes a hoard of Merz material in a crawl space there. Schwitters also asks her to lodge other visiting artists, such as Vilmos Huszar, which she does frequently.

Höch's father dies in Gotha on February 22.

Designs for embroidery are published in the March, May, and June issues of *Die Dame*.

Visits László Moholy-Nagy and his wife, Lucia Moholy, in late May at the Bauhaus in Weimar. In the coming years, Höch will attend a variety of entertainments with the Hungarian Constructivist, including films (both popular and avant-garde), cabaret and jazz performances, and even her one-and-only soccer game. After Weimar, she continues on to Dresden to meet the Schwitterses for a private demonstration of Kurt's tone poem *Ursynate*.

Vacations in Sellin, on the island of Rügen, with the Schwitterses and Arps in August, and makes objects and sculptures from the driftwood on the beach. Upon their return to Berlin, the Arps stay with her in her Büsingstraße studio, where they hold evening readings of poetry and create colored reliefs from wood fragments. Höch's close friendship with both Sophie Taeuber and Hans Arp originates during this period. She also frequently attends evening get-togethers at the home of Adolf and Elfriede Behne, where she is enchanted by the stories of the Berlin artist and photographer Heinrich (Papa) Zille.

1924 Lenin dies in Moscow ♦ Hitler, sentenced to five years' imprisonment, is released after eight months ♦ Dawes Plan adopted, reducing German reparations and calling for Allied withdrawal from the Ruhr ♦ André Breton publishes *Surrealist Manifesto* ♦ Bauhaus closes in Weimar.

Schwitters reproduces Höch's collage *Astronomie* (Astronomy, 1922) in the seventh number of his *Merz* magazine; she publishes the same image as a postcard. *Die Dame* publishes more embroidery designs in its February, November, and December issues.

In April, makes her first trip to Paris, where she develops a friendship with the Dutch De Stijl artist Theo van Doesburg and his wife, Nelly. Meets Piet Mondrian at the van Doesburgs' studio in Clamart and is often engaged with Tristan Tzara, to whom she gives several of her collages and photomontages and whom she accompanies to the Théâtre du Champs-Élysées to see Stravinsky conduct his *L'Histoire du soldat*. Höch's travel diary mentions engagements with many artists, including Ivan and Xana Puni, Man Ray, Constantin Brancusi, Fernand Léger, and Sonia Delaunay (with whom she exchanges pattern designs and discusses painting on fabric). She also attends a meeting of the French Surrealists that includes Tzara, Pierre Soupault, Paul Eluard, Erik Satie, and Marcel Duchamp; and goes to the Jockey jazz bar with Mme. Puni and members of the Synthetic Cubist group the Section d'Or, which includes Jacques Lipschitz and Amédée Ozenfant. Höch becomes especially enamored of Parisian street life and popular culture, including the Folies-Bergères, the Marché aux Puces, and other tourist destinations.

Allows Schwitters to host a soirée in her studio in August, one of many times during these years that she opens her home to Schwitters, Arp, and others for their readings of experimental poetry and prose. In September, she becomes van Doesburg's intermediary in Berlin for the dissemination of his periodical *De Stijl* through the publisher Wasmuth.

Participates with two paintings in the *Erste Allgemeine Deutsche Kunstausstellung in Sowjet-Rußland* (First Comprehensive German Art Exhibition in Soviet Russia) in Moscow, organized by the artistic wing of the International Worker's Aid (IAH), a pro-Soviet German support group under the leadership of Otto Nagel and Eric Johansson. The exhibition presents 501 postwar works by 126 German artists belonging to thirteen different artists' organizations; Höch shows under the aegis of the Novembergruppe.

1925 Hindenburg, leader of German armed forces in WWI, elected president ♦ Hitler publishes *Mein Kampf* ♦ Nazi SS (Schutzstaffel) Black Shirts formed ♦ Treaty of Locarno establishes western border of Germany; British withdraw from Cologne ♦ Bauhaus reopens in Dessau ♦ First Surrealist exhibition in Paris ♦ Eisenstein's *Bathtime Potemkin* screened in Moscow.

Höch's painting *Die Etiketten wollen sich hervortun* (The Tags Want to Distinguish Themselves, 1922) is reproduced in Arp and Lissitzky's *Die Kunstisten* (The Icons of Art), a book that traces the development of art from Viking Eggeling's contemporary experimental films back to Expressionist painting of 1914. Her photomontage *Hochfinanz* (High Finance, 1923) is published in Moholy-Nagy's Bauhaus book *Malerei, Fotografie, Film* (Painting, Photography, Film), along with a photographic self-portrait. She again publishes embroidery designs in *Die Dame*.

Travels in July to London, the Isle of Wight, and Belle Isle, off the coast of Brittany, where she meets the van Doesburgs at their summer residence. Upon returning to Paris for a few days she visits the *Exposition internationale des arts décoratifs et industriels modernes*, the largest exhibition of applied arts, industrial design, and architecture since before World War I, where she is especially interested in the textile division. Expands her connections with artists and architects from Italy and the Soviet Union and makes the acquaintance of Jean Hepp, editor of New York's avant-garde literary and arts magazine *The Little Review*, who displays works by Höch, on loan from Tzara, in the Little Review Galleries in New York.

Makes paintings based on principles of photomontage, including *Roma* (Rome, 1925), *Journalisten* (Journalists, 1925), and *Die Braut* (The Bride, 1927). The first two are exhibited in June in the annual exhibition of the Novembergruppe in Berlin; Mies van der Rohe, current chairman of the group, recommends that the city buy Höch's pictures in an effort to attain municipal support for its artist members, but the reigning official on the city committee, the artist Hans Baluschek, declines to purchase them.

With Kurt Schwitters, begins plans for an "anti-Review" entitled *Schlechter und besser* (Worse and Better), a Merz performance parodying the extravagant and popular reviews of the 1910s and 1920s. Schwitters plans to direct the piece and create the story, while Höch is slated to design the sets and costumes, and Hans Heinz Stuckenschmidt, a composer associated with the Novembergruppe, is enlisted to compose the music. While the plans are never realized, Höch does design several stage sets and costumes, including



above: Hannah Höch with one of her Dada Dolls, c. 1922

right: Nelly van Doesburg, Piet Mondrian, and Höch in Theo and Nelly van Doesburg's Clamart studio, 1924

I would like to do away with the firm boundaries that we human beings so self-assuredly are inclined to erect around everything that is accessible to us.... Most of all I would like to depict the world as a bee sees it, then tomorrow as the moon sees it, and then, as many other creatures may see it. I am, however, a human being, and can use my fantasy, bound as I am, as a bridge.

—Hannah Höch, foreword to the catalogue for her solo exhibition at the Kunstzaal De Bron, The Hague, 1929

those for the characters Mr. and Mrs. Warm Oven and a girl whose head emits smoke.

1926 Germany admitted to League of Nations ♦ Hitler Youth founded ♦ Invention of the permanent wave.

Publishes a woodcut as illustration to Ernest Hemingway's "Banal Story" in the Spring–Summer issue of *The Little Review*.

Spends a few weeks during July with the Schwitters in Kijkduin, near Scheveningen, the Netherlands, at the home of the Hungarian painter Lajos d'Ebneth and his wife, Nell. Evening get-togethers are attended by many painters, writers, and architects, including van Eesteren, Huszar, Ida Bienert, Siegfried and Carola Giedion, J.J.P. Oud, and Gerrit Rietveld. During the days, Höch, Schwitters, and d'Ebneth create small reliefs and sculptures from the driftwood and detritus on the beach. Two of these by Schwitters, *Die breite Schmurchel* (*The Wide Schmurchel*, 1923) and *Kathedrale* (*Cathedral*, 1926), become part of Höch's extensive collection of art (now in the collection of the Neue Nationalgalerie in Berlin). Takes day trips throughout the Netherlands with Schwitters, including a visit to the Ethnographic Museum in Leiden.

During her stay at the home of d'Ebneth, meets the poet Til Brugman, the Dutch contact for Schwitters's *Merz* periodical and author of poems, grotesques, and prose pieces for *Merz* and *De Stijl*. The two women travel to Paris and Grenoble in late July and August. Höch rents out her studio and apartment in Berlin and quits her job at Ullstein, and by October moves to The Hague to live with Brugman, whose apartment is designed by Huszar with De Stijl furniture by Rietveld. Höch receives financial support from the Novembergruppe, which has extra funds available for artists in need.

1927 End of Allied control of Germany ♦ Trotsky expelled from Communist Party ♦ Execution of Sacco and Vanzetti in U.S. ♦ Al Jolson stars in *The Jazz Singer*.

Travels with Brugman throughout Belgium in April and, to recuperate from a summer illness, to Italy and Switzerland during August. During this latter trip, she probably visits the spa at Monte Verità, a famed artists' retreat near Ascona, on the Italian-Swiss border, owned by the German financier and collector Eduard van der Heydt, whose renowned collection of ethnographic art is partially installed in the hotel corridors. Returns to the Netherlands via Paris in early September.

1928 Chiang Kai-shek elected President of China ♦ D. H. Lawrence publishes *Lady Chatterley's Lover* ♦ Falconetti stars in Carl Dreyer's *The Passion of Joan of Arc*.

Joins a film league in the Netherlands, a forerunner of the International League for Independent Film, that screens avant-garde and controversial films (which she attends with Brugman) and opposes film censorship. Exhibits paintings at the Stedelijk Museum in Amsterdam in March and November with the Dutch artists' group "De Onafhankelijken" (The Independents) and contributes to their exhibitions of Dutch and foreign contemporary art in 1929.

Travels with Brugman in the summer to Norway and is so impressed by the Nordic country that she recommends it to Schwitters, who visits there in 1929 and makes it his residence in exile from 1937 to 1940.

1929 "Black Friday" Wall Street crash touches off worldwide economic crisis ♦ Erich Maria Remarque's *All Quiet on the Western Front* is best-seller in Germany ♦ August Sander publishes his compendium of photo portraits, *The Face of Our Time* ♦ Brecht and Weill's *Threepenny Opera* produced ♦ Graf Zeppelin airship flies around the world ♦ "Talkies" bring an end to silent film era ♦ Museum of Modern Art opens in New York.

Receives her first one-person exhibition, organized by the architect Jan Buijs, at the Kunstzaal De Bron in The Hague, which consists of approximately fifty paintings, watercolors, and drawings but no photomontages. Höch publishes her artistic credo in the catalogue, which calls for the effacement of all boundaries between styles and artistic points of view, between the real and the fantastic, between the admissible and the inadmissible in art.

Exhibits in the mammoth international *Film und Foto* exhibition in Stuttgart, organized by the Württemberg office of the

German Werkbund, which highlights the latest innovations by 191 artists in film, photography, photomontage, and commercial photography and which travels internationally to several cities through 1931. Höch is represented with at least eighteen photomontages (the first she has shown since the 1920 Dada Fair), including *Die Kokette I* (*The Coquette I*, 1923–1925) and *Russische Tänzerin* (*Mein Double*) (*Russian Dancer* [*My Double*], 1928). In one review her work is singled out, along with that of Moholy-Nagy and Man Ray, as being especially noteworthy. Franz Roh and Jan Tschichold publish her photomontage *Von Oben* (*From Above*, 1926–1927) in their book *foto-auge* (*photo-eye*), one of the catalogues to come out of the exhibition. After seeing her work at the Berlin venue of the exhibition, Josef Albers, instructor at the Bauhaus in Dessau, asks to exchange one of his glass paintings for one of her photomontages.

Moves with Brugman on November 1 back to her Büsingstraße apartment in Berlin. Höch feels increasingly distanced from the Berlin art scene and hopes for renewed contact with colleagues and greater opportunities for work and commissions.

1930 Nazi Wilhelm Frick, Minister of Education in Thuringia, issues "Ordinance against Negro Culture" ♦ National Socialist party becomes second largest party in Reichstag.

Höch's mother dies on April 10.

Reconnects with many of her friends and colleagues in Berlin, including Mynona, Adolf Behne, and Georg Muche and his wife, who take French lessons from Brugman.

1931 Five million unemployed in Germany ♦ Dresden's Bank collapses, leading to month-long government closure of all German banks ♦ "Habsburg Fraud" against Bolshevism unites National Socialists with leading financiers ♦ Empire State Building is completed in New York City ♦ Charlie Chaplin stars in *City Lights* ♦ Hattie Caraway (D-Ark.) first woman elected to U.S. Senate.

Reinitiates a friendship with Raoul Hausmann, who has since turned to photography as his primary artistic medium. Theo van Doesburg dies of a heart attack on March 7, at the age of forty-seven, in Davos, Switzerland.

Participates in April and May in the exhibition *Fotomontage*, at the former Applied Art Museum in Berlin, with works from the Love and Ethnographic Museum series. Two untitled works from the latter series are purchased by Baron von der Heydt, presumably because they employ reproductions of sculptural objects from his own extensive collection of ethnographic art.

Participates in October in the international exhibition *Frauen*



above: Höch's Büsingstraße studio, Berlin-Friedrichshagen, c. 1925

below: Höch and Til Brugman, c. 1930

right: Höch and Kurt Matthies, 1940

in *Not (Women in Distress)*, at the Haus der Juryfreien in Berlin, with works on the subject of women and children. The exhibition is connected with controversies over Article 218 of the constitutional code, which has imposed strict laws against abortion.

Joins the Reichsverband bildender Künstler Deutschlands (National Federation of Visual Artists of Germany) and the Deutsche Liga für unabhängigen Film Ortsgruppe Berlin (German League for Independent Film, Berlin Division).

1932 Nazi-dominated Dessau City Council closes Bauhaus ♦ Hindenburg wins German presidential elec-



tions; Hitler is second ♦ Nazi party gains largest representation in Reichstag; Hitler demands to be named chancellor but is rebuffed ♦ Franklin Roosevelt coins phrase "New Deal"; wins U.S. presidential election in landslide victory ♦ Greta Garbo stars in *Grand Hotel*.

Early in the year, a break-in occurs in Höch and Brugman's apartment in the Büsingstraße, which letters from friends suggest may be politically motivated. Problems apparently begin to arise in the relationship between Höch and Brugman.

Exhibition of forty photomontages and watercolors by Höch, planned for May 29 to June 10 at the Bauhaus in Dessau, is canceled when the Nazis close the school. Exhibits photomontages from the Love and Ethnographic Museum series in an international exhibition of photography in July at the Palais des Beaux-Arts in Brussels.

Writes comments on film censorship, which she characterizes as an attack against the basic human rights of freedom and creativity, in response to questions posed to her through the mail by the Czech magazine editor František Kalivoda. These appear in the November issue of *Kalivoda's Index*, a periodical devoted to film and culture published in Brno, Czechoslovakia.

Creates first book covers for "Dreigroschenromane," or three-penny novels, published by the Antony Bakels publishing house in Berlin. Financial hardships force Höch to take on such assignments, which she continues into the 1940s.

1933 Hindenburg names Hitler chancellor ♦ Reichstag building destroyed in fire; Hitler blames Communists, outlaws German Communist Party ♦ Exodus of German artists and intellectuals begins; will reach 60,000 by 1939 ♦ Dachau concentration camp opens; boycott of Jewish businesses initiated ♦ Roosevelt launches New Deal, including National Industrial Recovery Act, Public Works Administration, and Tennessee Valley Authority ♦ Prohibition repealed in U.S. ♦ U.S. recognizes U.S.S.R. and re-establishes trade relations ♦ Japan withdraws from League of Nations.

Moves with Brugman to a new apartment in the Friedenau district of Berlin, at Rubensstraße. Receives a letter on April 28 from the Künstler-Laden, an artist's cooperative in Berlin, asking her to affirm her support for National Socialism and to deny that she is of Jewish descent. Höch writes "nein" on the letter and promptly resigns from the organization that had been selling her works on commission since 1932. All works loaned to the shop are returned to Höch.

Exhibits eight photomontages at the *Deuxième exposition internationale de la photographie et du cinéma* in Brussels in June and July.

Travels to the Netherlands with Brugman from July to September (perhaps, as letters from friends intimate, to flee Germany for Holland or Paris) but returns to Berlin at the beginning of October. Their return after three months seems to surprise friends such as Thomas Ring and Otto Nebel. Paints *Wilder Aufbruch* (Savage Outbreak) in response to the seizure of power by Hitler and the National Socialists, wishing to illustrate the rupture that is occurring between the "Welteroberungswahn" (madness of world conquest) of men and the sorrowful resignation of women.

1934 Hindenburg dies; Hitler named Führer ♦ Stalin begins purges of Communist Party in U.S.S.R., resulting in deaths of millions ♦ Socialist Realism declared only acceptable art form in U.S.S.R. ♦ Three-year "Dust Bowl" drought begins in American Midwest.

Exhibition of forty-two photomontages at the Masaryk student residence in Brno, Czechoslovakia, from late February to early March. Kalivoda, who organizes the exhibition, again asks Höch to submit an article on film censorship, this time for his literary journal *Srbskolesko*. Claiming unfamiliarity with the present film scene, Höch submits instead an article on photomontage, which appears in the April issue of the magazine.

Travels again with Brugman to the Netherlands in April, but the two return to Berlin in early May. A month later, Höch becomes very sick with Graves' disease, a serious inflammation of the thyroid gland. She has the goiter removed in an operation and remains in the hospital through July. While recovering from her operation, agrees to act as a consultant to Kalivoda's new magazine, *Ekran* (Screen), a periodical devoted to the latest international achievements in film, photography, and painting. Kalivoda's plans to produce a special issue devoted to Höch's work in all media and a corresponding exhibition do not materialize. Convalesces at the mountain spa in Johannsbad in October.

1935 Germany repudiates Treaty of Versailles, reintroduces military conscription ♦ German Luftwaffe established ♦ U.S. establishes Social Security system ♦ Leni Riefenstahl's *Triumph of the Will* released ♦ "Swing" music becomes popular.

Creates the illustrations for *Scheingehacktes* (Mock Minced Meat), Brugman's first German-language book of grotesques.

During a hiking trip in the Dolomite Alps, meets Heinz Kurt Matthies, a businessman, mountain climber, and amateur pianist twenty-one years younger than she. An active correspondence ensues, and near the end of the year Höch breaks off her nine-year

The peculiar characteristics of photography and its approaches have opened up a new and immensely fantastic field for a creative human being: a new, magical territory for the discovery of which freedom is the first prerequisite. But not lack of discipline, however.

— Hannah Höch, "A Few Words on Photomontage," 1934

relationship with Brugman, which she will later describe as some of the most enjoyable years of her life.

Last exhibition of Höch's work until after World War II is held at the Galerie d'André Breton in The Hague. She shows watercolors and photomontages, partly because these works can be transported more easily and safely than paintings.

1937 Riots by ethnic Germans in Czechoslovakian Sudetenland ♦ Chiang Kai-shek unites with Communist forces led by Mao Tse-tung after Japanese occupy Peking and Shanghai ♦ Italy withdraws from League of Nations ♦ Picasso paints anti-fascist mural *Guernica* for inclusion at Paris World Exhibition ♦ Amelia Earhart disappears in Pacific ♦ German dirigible *Hindenburg* catches fire and explodes in Lakehurst, N.J.

From June to November, takes a long road trip through southern Germany with Matthies in his trailer and produces many naturalistic watercolors of flowers and landscapes along the way, which she tries to sell in Erfurt. Several events mark the vacation, including an accident involving a small child and what Höch describes as a small heart attack she experiences outside of Mainz in June. On the road to Bayreuth and Nuremberg in November, Höch and Matthies engage in heated arguments, which temporarily cause them to separate.

On September 11 and 16, visits the *Entartete Kunst* (Degenerate Art) exhibition in Munich, the mammoth showcase of 730 works considered degenerate by Hitler and the National Socialists. In Wolfgang Willrich's book *Die Säuberung des Kunststempels* (The Cleansing of the Temple of Art), an inflammatory tract devoted to the artistic and cultural enemies of the Third Reich, Höch is identified as an affiliate of the "Bolshevik" Novembergruppe and signatory of the 1921 "Open Letter"; her painting *Journalists* is reproduced in a montage of artists associated with the organization.

Takes eleven of her art works in December to the "Luftfahrtministerium," the ministry of civil aviation in Berlin. It is possible that Höch has received a commission to provide artworks for this building, which is completed around this time, since the Nazi regime stipulates that a certain percentage of construction costs for public buildings be used for art.

1938 Germany invades Austria; Germany and France mobilize armed forces; British issue gas masks to civilians ♦ Munich Agreement cedes Czechoslovak Sudetenland to Germany ♦ Leading figures in British government resign in protest to Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain's policy of appeasement toward Germany ♦ Anti-Jewish "Kristallnacht" pogroms in Germany ♦ Orson Welles's "War of the Worlds" radio broadcast causes panic in U.S.

Matthies is hospitalized from January through April after a nervous breakdown and possible suicide attempt, and Höch sacrifices much of her time and energy helping him recuperate. She rents out the room he has occupied in her apartment since Brugman's departure in early 1936 and continues to produce book jackets for the Antony Bakels publishing house in order to pay off the debts from her 1934 thyroid operation. Ultimately, the couple marries on September 16.

Visits the *Entartete Kunst* exhibition for a third time in March in its Berlin installation, and for the fourth time in November,

when she travels with Matthies to Hamburg (where she feels the exhibition is better installed and includes more distinguished works). This trip is the first that Höch and Matthies take with their new furnished trailer. Höch loves the freedom and comfort of this life on the road with Matthies, as suggested by several paintings from this year, including *Paradies* (Paradise) and *Die Freiheit* (Freedom).

Becomes aware of the pogroms against Jews in Germany.

In her journal, she writes of the burning of the synagogues on November 11 and of the plight of many of her Jewish friends, including the composer Walter Hirschberg, who was interned in a concentration camp and then forced to flee Germany. Her fear of the Nazis escalates during this period, and she appears to tear many pages from her private journals.

1939 Spanish Civil War begun in 1936, comes to close as major powers recognize Franco government ♦ Stalin and Hitler sign non-aggression pact, opening door for mutual invasion of Poland ♦ Germany invades Poland; England and France declare war on Germany; U.S.S.R. invades Poland from east ♦ James Joyce publishes *Finnegans Wake* ♦ Vivian Leigh stars in *Gone With the Wind*.

Spends much of the year traveling throughout Germany and the Netherlands in the trailer with Matthies, who has been selling welding materials during the Nazi period and thus appears to be less restricted than most in his travels. The couple visits many friends, including Jan Buijs in the Netherlands, and Willi Baumeister, Hans Hildebrandt, and Til Brugman in Germany. They return to Berlin in late August, just before the outbreak of World War II on September 1.

Purchases a small home (a former guardhouse at the entrance to an airfield from World War I) in Heiligensee, a town on the northwest outskirts of Berlin. Later, she will recall how she moved her "very questionable" possessions here, thereby saving them from probable destruction in an air raid. Spends many days here clipping photographs from periodicals for her photomontage files.

1940 Germany invades Denmark and Norway, then Holland, Belgium, Luxembourg and France ♦ Winston Churchill succeeds Chamberlain as British prime minister.

Continues to travel throughout Germany with Matthies during the summer, and in August and September travels to Italy. Maintains little contact with friends and colleagues, many of whom have gone into exile. Outside of her family, the Behnes and the Rings are the primary friends with whom she has contact during the war years.

1941 Germany invades Russia; Japanese bomb Pearl Harbor; U.S. enters World War II.

Produces two series of watercolors: *Notzeit* (Time of Suffering), probably begun in this year and completed over the next few years, and *Totentanz* (Dance of Death), completed in 1943.

1942 German siege of Stalingrad begins ♦ British and American forces drive back Germans in North Africa ♦ Systematic gassing of Jews in concentration camps begun by Germans ♦ U.S. intern more than 100,000 Japanese-Americans in camps.





the annual jury-free art exhibitions in the exhibit halls of the Berlin radio tower, to which she submits through 1955 and again in the early 1960s.

Renews her correspondence with Hans Arp, who lives in Meudon, outside of Paris. Höch is very enthusiastic about his poems, which she has read in the journal *Die literarische Welt* (The Literary World), as well as poems by Richard Huelsenbeck, the "New York Cantatas."

1954 Four Powers Conference on German reunification fails. French forces in Vietnam defeated at Dien Bien Phu.

Regularly reads the literary journals *Merkur* (Mercury) and *Der Monat* (The Month). Begins to receive a small monthly pension from the Hauptkustant (Main Bureau for Art) in Berlin on the occasion of her sixty-fifth birthday, for which Hans Arp has written a letter of recommendation.

Richard Huelsenbeck offers to purchase several of the Dada works in Höch's collection, including some of her own and Hausmann's early pieces. Höch is unwilling to sell any of the collection at this time, despite the fact that she has given away several works immediately after the war to safeguard them from enemy hands.

1955 U.S.S.R. ends state of war with West Germany; West Germany joins NATO. Bus boycott by blacks in Montgomery, Alabama.

Travels with her brother Walter and his family to Essen, Duisburg, and Cologne, where she visits family, friends (such as Georg Mücke), and museums; shows her photomontages and watercolors to the curators at the Folkwang Museum in Essen and the museum in Duisburg.

1956 Soviet troops enter Hungary and crush popular insurrection. Communist Party banned in West Germany. War breaks out between Israel and Egypt. Egypt wrests control of Suez Canal from England and France. Fidel Castro launches Cuban Revolution.

Travels for first time by airplane to the large Schwitters retrospective in Hanover, accompanied by gallery director Rudolf Springer and his wife. Renews contact with many artists and meets dealers, art historians, and museum professionals, including Werner Schmalenbach, Carola Giedion-Welcker, and Hans Bolliger, who will begin to sell Höch's work through his Swiss gallery, Kornfeld und Klipstein. Later that fall, she travels to his gallery in Bern to see an exhibition that contains some of her works; while there she attends exhibitions of the work of Paul Klee, Egon Schiele, and Marc Chagall and visits the artists Otto Nebel and Gertrud Korf-Stemmler.

Exhibits a small number of photomontages in a collage exhibition at the Rose Fried Gallery in New York. Fried gives one work, *Auf Tüllgrund* (On a Tulle Net Ground, 1921) to the Busch-Reisinger Museum in Boston, and in 1963, three more to the Museum of Modern Art in New York.

Exhibits in the *Große Berliner Kunstausstellung* for the first time since the early 1930s, participating as a member of the RING. She will continue through the 1950s to show in this annual exhibition, exclusively with paintings and watercolors.

1957 First steps toward European Common Market taken in Italy. Soviet satellite Sputnik launched, inaugurating the Space Age. Eisenhower sends U.S. paratroopers to Little Rock, Arkansas, to ensure desegregation of public schools.

Solo exhibition at the Galerie Gerd Rosen with twenty-six collages and photomontages from the 1950s.

Begins to show with the Deutscher Künstlerbund (German Artists' League), an umbrella organization that attempts to showcase Germany on the international art scene. She will become a

Slowly intellectual life is returning to this so-long-godforsaken Berlin.

—Hannah Höch, letter to Hans Arp, October 3, 1953

member in August 1959 and submit works (paintings and drawings only) to this juried exhibition through the 1960s.

Takes a great interest in the October launching of Sputnik, the first space capsule sent into orbit around the earth. Cuts out and collects many articles and images about this watershed event, many from the newspaper *BZ am Abend*. This marks the beginning of her avid interest in space exploration during the late 1950s and 1960s, which she will often write about in her journals.

1958 European Common Market established. De Gaulle elected president of France. Robert Rauschenberg exhibition inaugurates Castelli Gallery, New York.

Writes her "Lebensüberblick" (Life Overview), an autobiographical text requested by Richard Huelsenbeck for his forthcoming book on Dada. The request comes only after Höch has complained of her omission from his earlier Dada account, *Mit Witz, Licht und Grütze* (1957).

Til Brugman dies in Gouda, the Netherlands, on July 24; Höch's brother Walter dies from cancer in Essen on November 25.

Exhibits approximately twenty Dada works, including watercolors, collages, and photomontages, in the first large retrospective of Dada after the war, *Dada: Dokumente einer Bewegung* (Dada: Documents of a Movement), mounted at the Düsseldorf Kunstverein. Höch attends the opening of the exhibition on September 5, where she sees Man Ray, Hans Richter, Werner Graeff, and Dr. Ewald Rathke, the curator of the exhibition. Publishes an account of one of her trips with Schwitters in the catalogue.

1959 Castro assumes power in Cuba. George Grosz dies shortly after returning to Germany. Gunter Grass publishes *The Tin Drum*.

Her exhibition of thirty-five photomontages from 1956 to 1959 at the Galerie Rosen is well received by the German press, with one reviewer praising the subtle irony that has come to replace the socio-critical aggressivity of the Dada period in her work.

Subscribes to the photograph-based magazines *Life* and *Magnum*. Interview with Höch by the writer Edouard Roditi appears in *Der Monat*, in which she describes the formation of Berlin Dada as well as the general environment of modern art in the late 1910s and 1920s. Although after its publication Höch will maintain that key comments about Richard Huelsenbeck's involvement in the formation of Dada were edited out, there is a public outcry from Huelsenbeck and others regarding Höch's misrepresentation of Dada. Höch attempts unsuccessfully to change the text before its planned republication in Roditi's *Dialogues on Art*. These unpleasant exchanges will color her relationship to Huelsenbeck for the rest of her life.

Accompanies Rudolf Springer on a trip to Paris in late November and early December, where she visits César Domela Nieuwenhuis, Hans Arp and Marguerite Haguenbach-Arp, and Nelly van Doesburg but just misses the opening of the International Exposition of Surrealism at the Galerie Daniel Cordier, in which two of her paintings from the 1920s are exhibited.

1960 American U-2 spy plane shot down over U.S.S.R. Former Gestapo chief Adolf Eichmann arrested in Argentina and deported to Israel. Neo-Nazi political groups banned in Germany. Kennedy elected U.S. President. "The Pill," oral contraceptive, becomes available in U.S.

Hans Arp advises Höch to correct the still-festering problem with Richard Huelsenbeck concerning the Roditi interview of 1959 and agrees to purchase two of Höch's works from the early 1920s that she has offered to sell to him, *Huldigung an Arp* (Homage to Arp, 1923) and *Schneurbild* (String Picture, 1923-1924).

Exhibition of the RING at the Haus am Waldsee includes a section devoted to Höch's works from Dada to the present, in honor of her seventieth birthday.

Begins to receive financial support (which will continue for the rest of her life) through the Deutsche Künstlerhilfe (German Artist's Aid), a fund financed through subsidies from the Federal Ministry and the broadcasting institutions.

1961 Berlin Wall divides East and West Berlin.

Russian cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin orbits earth, becoming first man in space. U.S.-backed "Bay of Pigs" invasion by anti-Castro Cubans fails. U.N. Secretary General Dag Hammarskjöld dies in air crash. Eichmann found guilty in Jerusalem trial and subsequently hanged. "Freedom Riders" attacked by white mobs in Alabama. First publication in U.S. of Henry Miller's previously banned 1942 *Tropic of Cancer*.

Honored guest from January through early April at the Villa Massimo, an artist's retreat in Rome overseen by the Preußischer Kulturbesitz. Höch produces many drawings, some large woodcuts, and several poems and aphorisms which she inscribes on small pieces of paper. The final three weeks are spent at the Casa Boldi near Olevano, a retreat she visited first on her trip to Rome in 1920. In the train on the way home, a collapsible couch bed falls on her head, which sends her to the hospital in Berlin. While there is no official skull fracture, she experiences pain and bouts of disorientation throughout the coming weeks.

Her one-person retrospective exhibition at the Galerie Nierendorf in Berlin includes seven paintings, forty-five photomontages, and thirty-three watercolors. From this point on, Galerie Nierendorf becomes Höch's primary Berlin dealer and its directors, Florian and Inge Karsch, become lasting supporters and friends. The Nationalgalerie in Berlin purchases *Cui with the Kitchen Knife* for its permanent collection.

1962 Cuban Missile Crisis poses U.S. and U.S.S.R. on verge of nuclear war. Andy Warhol exhibits first Campbell's Soup-can paintings. Marilyn Monroe commits suicide.

As more books are published by former members of the Club Dada (including Huelsenbeck, Hausmann, and, later, Hans Richter), Höch is beset with requests to open up her extensive holdings of Dada memorabilia and materials for perusal. Hausmann, especially, berates Höch for what he considers her less than adequate curatorship of his works in her possession.

1963 Ludwig Erhard succeeds Konrad Adenauer as West German chancellor. Kennedy delivers "Ich bin ein Berliner" speech. Kennedy assassinated in Dallas, Texas. Betty Friedan publishes *The Feminine Mystique*. Beatlemania sweeps Britain.

Retrospective exhibition of Höch's work, organized by Florian and Inge Karsch, opens at the Galleria del Levante in Milan with fifty-three photomontages, watercolors, and paintings from the period from 1916-1961.

Travels to Stuttgart to attend the opening of the Deutscher Künstlerbund exhibition, in which she has two paintings. Afterward, travels to Paris and Meudon, where she visits the Arps and Nelly van Doesburg.

1964 Gulf of Tonkin Resolution authorizes President Lyndon Johnson to expand U.S. military presence in South Vietnam. Khrushchev ousted as Soviet Prime Minister. Martin Luther King Jr. wins Nobel Peace Prize. United team represents Germany in Olympics for last time until 1992.

Visits the international art exhibition *Documenta III* in Kassel, West Germany.

Mies van der Rohe, who travels to Berlin from his home in Chicago to plan for his new building for the Neue Nationalgalerie, visits Höch in Heiligensee.

The largest and most comprehensive retrospective of Höch's work to date, in honor of her seventy-fifth birthday, opens in November at the Galerie Nierendorf in Berlin. The catalogue contains five original linocut cuts from 1915-1917 which Höch reprints for this occasion.

1965 Germany opens diplomatic relations with Israel. Winston Churchill dies. De Gaulle elected president of France. First organized protests against U.S. involvement in Vietnam on college campuses. Race riots in Watts district of Los Angeles.

With Florian Karsch, visits exhibition in the Amerikahaus in Berlin of works by Robert Rauschenberg, which she calls "giant collages à la Dada." Participates with Karsch in a radio show about Hitler and the Arts on RIAS 1 (Radio in the American Sector), in which she discusses the 1938 *Entartete Kunst* exhibition.

Elected on May 7 to the Akademie der Künste (Academy of the Arts) in West Berlin, an appointment she holds alongside such prominent Berlin artists as Karl Hartung, Heinz Trökes, and Hans Uhlmann.

Left: (left to right) Hannah Höch, Hans Richter, Juliet Man Ray, Frida Richter, and Man Ray at the exhibition *Dada: Documents of a Movement*, Düsseldorf, 1958.



1966 German government endorses U.S. policy in Vietnam, leading to formation of German protest movement
 ✦ Christian Democrats and Social Democrats form "Great Coalition" in German parliament. Kurt Georg Kiesinger elected Chancellor. ✦ Albert Speer released from prison after twenty-year sentence. ✦ De Gaulle requests removal of NATO forces from France. ✦ Cultural Revolution launched in China. ✦ National Organization for Women founded in U.S. ✦ Introduction of the miniskirt.

Delivers a lecture in Düsseldorf on her remembrances of the Dada period and Kurt Schwitters.

Is exposed to a wide variety of artists and cultural figures through the numerous activities she attends at the Akademie der Künste—most notably, exhibitions of the painters Rolf Neusch and Ernst Wilhelm Nay, whose original, hand-pulled prints she finds particularly beautiful; a lecture by Theodor Adorno on "Art and the Arts"; and a special eightieth-birthday celebration for the dancer Mary Wigman.

Hans Arp dies in Basel on June 7.

Receives several artists associated with the international Fluxus movement in her home in Heilgensee, including Nam June Paik and Charlotte Moorman in July and Wolf Vostell, Dick and Alison Higgins, and Juan Hidalgo in October.

Decides to return, at last, many of Raoul Hausmann's works to him, including *Mechanischer Kopf (Der Geist unserer Zeit)* (*Mechanical Head (The Spirit of our Time)*, 1919) and *Tatlin lebt zu Hause (Tatlin at Home, 1920)*, after receiving several letters throughout the years in which he asserts ethical claims to all of his works in her possession.

1967 Arab-Israeli Six-Day War; Israel occupies Sinai and West Bank.

Receives a financial award from the Theodor Heuss foundation, which grants her additional awards in 1968 and 1978.

1968 Assassinations of Robert Kennedy and Martin Luther King, Jr. in U.S. ✦ Soviet troops suppress "Prague Spring" in Czechoslovakia. ✦ Student and worker protests in France. ✦ Democratic Convention in Chicago. ✦ Deaths of Marcel Duchamp and John Heartfield.

Participates in the exhibitions *Dada, Surrealism, and Their Heritage* at the Museum of Modern Art, New York, and *Realismus in der Malerei der 20er Jahre (Realism in the Painting of the 1920s)* at the Kunstverein, Hamburg. In the latter, she is resurrected as a Neue Sachlichkeit (New Objectivity) artist with four still-life paintings from the 1920s.

Heinz Ohlf's book, *Hannah Höch*, the most comprehensive account to date of her life, friends, and work, appears as the first volume in the series *Bildende Kunst in Berlin (Visual Art in Berlin)*.

1969 Socialist Willy Brandt, former mayor of Berlin, elected Chancellor of Germany. ✦ Apollo 11 astronauts Armstrong and Aldrin become first to walk on moon. ✦ De Gaulle resigns as president of France. ✦ Woodstock, New York, music festival.

Included in two exhibitions that feature the connections between art and technology: *Art at the End of the Machine Age*, organized by the Museum of Modern Art, New York, and *Industrie und Technik in der deutschen Malerei: Von der Romantik bis zur Gegenwart (Industry and Technology in German Painting from Romanticism to the Present)* at the Wilhelm-Lehmbruch-Museum in Duisburg.

The city of Reinickendorf pays off the mortgage on Höch's home in Heilgensee and offers her an annual sum to help with house repairs. In return, the city assumes ownership of the property, which she can live in until she dies. Receives a new addition to the house, which includes her first proper bathtub.

Last year of creation of oil paintings.

1971 Four-Power Agreement on Berlin. ✦ Willy Brandt wins Nobel Peace Prize. ✦ Erich Honecker becomes head of East German Communist Party. ✦ Open letter in *Der Stern*, signed by more than 300 prominent women testifying to having had illegal abortions, marks the unofficial

emergence of the modern women's movement in Germany. ✦ U.S. bombing of Cambodia; invasion of Laos.

Raoul Hausmann dies in Limoges on February 1.

Asked to become a member of the honorary committee of the Deutscher Künstlerbund, with whom she has exhibited since 1957.

Retrospective of 184 of her collages and photomontages, including some of her latest mini-collages, known as "Minis," at the Akademie der Künste in Berlin. Writes a new essay, "On Collage," for the catalogue.

The photographers Liselotte and Armin Orgel-Köhne visit Höch in Heilgensee in July to take photographs for a planned book (never realized). Höch uses some of these photos and others made for her by the Orgel-Köhnes in the large *Lebensbild (Life Portrait)*. At the same time, a film about Höch is being produced by Johannes Freisel for the West German Broadcasting Network (Westdeutscher Rundfunk) in Cologne.

1973 East and West Germany establish formal diplomatic relations; both join the U.N. ✦ U.S. Supreme Court upholds women's right to abortion in *Roe v. Wade*. ✦ Arab-Israeli Yom Kippur war. ✦ Pablo Picasso dies.

Interview with Höch conducted by Wolfgang Pehnt airs on German radio on March 4 in the series *Jene zwanziger Jahre (Those 1920s)*.

Begins to organize her vast collection of Dada documents, art, catalogues, and other memorabilia; creates scores of lists that detail the exhibitions in which she has participated and the exact locations of art and objects in her collection.

1974 Brandt resigns as chancellor of West Germany when one of his aides is found to be an East German spy; succeeded by Helmut Schmidt. ✦ Nixon resigns as U.S. president as a result of Watergate scandal.

The Berlinische Galerie purchases her 1925 paintings *Rome* and *Journalists* for a sum that astounds and gratifies Höch. Retrospective exhibition at the National Museum of Modern Art in Kyoto, Japan.



Höch in her Heilgensee studio, 1970s (photo by Siegfried Meuser)

Becomes ill with a combination of lumbago and continued heart troubles. In June, she has a laser operation for cataracts, which greatly improves her eyesight. New glasses that she receives in early July allow her to see more colors, although not as distinctly as before. She often uses a magnifying glass. Höch's eyesight will remain blurry until 1977, when she finally receives new contact lenses.

1975 Trial of Baader-Meinhof Gang begins in Germany. ✦ North Vietnamese and Viet Cong troops capture Saigon; Vietnam War ends.

Participates in the exhibition "*Als der Krieg zu Ende war*": *Kunst in Deutschland 1945–1950* ("When the War was Over": *Art in Germany 1945–1950*), at the Akademie der Künste in Berlin, with photomontages and a number of posters and catalogues from the period.

1976 Ulrike Meinhof found dead in her jail cell, reported suicide. ✦ Mao Tse-tung dies. ✦ Max Ernst dies.

Largest retrospective to date, with 169 works in all media, organized by the Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris and the Berlin Nationalgalerie, Staatliche Museen Preussischer Kulturbesitz. Awarded the title of "professor" by the mayor of Berlin, Klaus Schütz, on April 23.

1977 Andreas Baader found dead in his jail cell, reported suicide. ✦ Egyptian president Anwar Sadat becomes first Arab head of state to visit Israel.

Höch's photomontages, collages, and minis are given a separate exhibition in the monumental show *Berlin Now: Contemporary Art 1977*, organized by the Goethe House in New York; her works are also shown in the important exhibition *Women Artists: 1550–1950* at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art.

1978 First "test tube baby" born in England. ✦ Sid Vicious kills girlfriend Nancy Spungen.

Hannah Höch, after a career that spanned some sixty years, dies in Berlin at the age of eighty-eight on May 31.

I am an introverted person, but my profound interest in everything that is happening during my time here on earth leads me, to this day, even in my retirement, to participate in everything that is interesting to me.

—Hannah Höch, interview with Suzanne Pagé, 1976

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