

use of the term anti-art

saul ostrow

I was wondering if anyone had a citation for the earliest use of the term anti-art.

In working on some material that has to do with the question of how the political today seeks its resolution within the cultural sphere -- I found that what I had assumed about the term anti-art , non-art , etc. having come from the DaDa-ist was inaccurate -- While the term came to be associated with DaDa, this came much later, for it does not play a significant role in the DaDa-ist's rhetoric. They instead tend to emphasize that they are making a new art. This lead me to believe that perhaps the term had some other derivation. It was suggested that it might have been used by academic critics to attack the new art and rather than a term that originates with any artistic program.

Thank you

Saul Ostrow
Dept. of Art and Art History
University of Connecticut

Reference:

Q: use of the term anti-art. In: ArtHist.net, Nov 26, 2002 (accessed Jan 8, 2026),
<<https://arthist.net/archive/25343>>.