



DECLAN MCKENNA – WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THE CAR



SIDE A

HUMONGOUS
BRAZIL

THE KIDS DON'T
WANNA COME HOME

MIND

MAKE ME YOUR QUEEN

SIDE B

ISOMBARD
BETHLEHEM

I AM EVERYONE ELSE

WHY DO YOU FEEL SO
DOWN?

PACACETAMOL

LISTEN TO YOUR FRIENDS

Dadaism was an art movement that developed in early 20th century Europe around 1914 as a negative response to the aftermath of World War I. It got its start from artists and poets from the Cabaret Voltaire in Zürich, Switzerland. Its influence spread throughout the rest of Europe, finding a home in Berlin and later Paris. It also made it across the sea where it became prominent in New York in 1915. The movement was fairly short lived, however, only surviving until about the mid 1920s. It came forth out of the more avant-garde movements like Cubism and Expressionism and was all about protesting modern capitalism and rejecting logic and reasoning. The absurdity so often seen from this art period was used to draw and capture attention to social and political issues at the time. Many Dada artists were openly against war and violence, heavily associating with the radical left. Their art was characterized by striking imagery that renounced preconceived notions of aesthetics and practicality and caused viewers to question what they believe to be considered art.

Forerunners of the movement included Jean Arp, Johannes Baader, Hugo Ball, Max Ernst, and Hannah Höch. One influential artist from the movement, John Heartfield, was a leading force in the protest of the Nazis before the start of World War II. Several Dada art

pieces utilized pre-existing images or works to create something new, like collages or cut-up writings. Heartfield did so as well, but different from regular collages, he created photomontages that tell a specific story when put together. He cut out recognizable photographs of Hitler, Nazi symbolism, and other imagery from newspapers or posters and placed them into a new context to promote messages that directly oppose their propaganda. His statements were loud and important, reflected by his use of bold typography spaced with loose tracking. He would make multiple prints of his art using a technique called rotogravure and have them published in a magazine to garner attention from the masses and raise awareness for the hypocrisy and evil present around them. The design of this album is inspired by John Heartfield's protest artwork.

Being an art movement about revolt and objection, the Dada style is a perfect fit for a rock album filled with politically charged messages about reform. Declan McKenna's music shares similar motivations in its creation as John Heartfield's art: protesting war, excessive wealth, the government, rejecting what people believe is normal, and calling for social rehabilitation. Both use their art to serve as their voices in conveying these themes to their audience.

