

A hundred years of Surrealism - le cadavre exquis toolkit

Le cadavre exquis traditionally involves participants taking turns writing or drawing on a sheet of paper, folding it to conceal their contribution, and then passing it to the next player for a further contribution. This architectural version allows participants, quite literally, to play with, disassemble and reimagine, items from the RIBA Collections to create something new.

This activity works best when played between three to five players.

Supplies

- A large piece of sturdy paper to create your artwork on
- A second large piece of paper, slightly smaller than the base piece
- Printed copies of the RIBApix images supplied in this toolkit
- Scissors
- Glue or double-sided tape
- Something to use as a timer (phone or watch)

Instructions

1. Begin by printing out the RIBApix images supplied in this toolkit
2. Set up a table with your base piece of paper, the printed images and your pairs of scissors/adhesives
3. Each activity works best for groups of 3 to 5, if you have a larger practice, divide everyone into groups of this size and ensure they have enough supplies on each table (you may need to print out multiple copies of the images and share them amongst the tables)
4. Using your timer, each participant has 1 minute to choose an image, cut out part of it (think creatively with the shapes and outlines you see) and then glue it to the main piece of paper
5. Once the first participant has added their collage piece, have them cover up the artwork using another piece of plain paper before the timer stops
6. The next participant then repeats the process by building upon the original image and covering up the artwork before the timer stops
7. This process can continue for several rounds, depending on how much time you have or how detailed you'd like the final artwork to be
8. Once all rounds have been completed, you can remove the top piece of paper to reveal the final artwork