HISTORY OF THE EXQUISITE CORPSE

The exquisite corpse was first created as a drawing game in 1925 by surrealist artists Yves Tanguy, Jacques Prévert, André Breton and Marcel Duchamp.

To play the game, an artist would draw a portion of a figure, then fold the paper to hide their sketch. The next artist could only see a small portion of the original image and created a drawing that connected to the visible portion. This process could be repeated more than once depending on how many times the paper was folded.

Exquisite corpses have continued as a collaborative art tradition and expanded into other media. Today, artists work together to create uniquely random compositions using the same process for paintings, prints, collages, and photographs.