Novembergruppe, Draft "Manifesto" (1918)

Manifesto (draft)

We stand on the fertile ground of revolution. Our motto is:

LIBERTY, EQUALITY, FRATERNITY!

Our union resulted from the identity between human and artistic conviction.

We consider it our noblest duty to dedicate our best energies to the moral reconstruction of a new, free Germany.

We plead for rectitude in everything, and we support this conviction with all of the means at our disposal.

We insist on unlimited freedom of expression and a public statement about it.

We hold it as our special duty to gather all serious artistic talents and to turn them towards the public good.

We are neither party nor class for itself, but people, people who tirelessly perform, in places assigned to them by nature, difficult tasks, which must, like any task that benefits all the people, take into account the general public interest and win the appreciation and recognition of the whole.

We hold achievements in every area and in every form in high esteem and believe that the most difficult problems will be given to the most capable people, who must consider the use and benefit of the whole populace in finding solutions.

Our goal is for each to work—hard and tirelessly—in his place, to build collectively.

Our struggle applies to all destroyers—our love to all reconstructive powers.

We feel young and free and pure.

Our pure love belongs to the new, free Germany; because of our love,

we will fight backwardness and reaction with all the powers at our disposal, courageously and without reservation.

In the hope that they will join us, we send our fraternal greeting to all Cubist, Futurist, and Expressionist artists who feel addressed and accountable.