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Stefan Themerson: "The Urge to Create Visions"

Experimental Photographs, Photograms & Collages 1928 – 1937

March 16 – April 27, 1996

CASE

Drawing by Stefan Themerson of the stand he devised to make and animate photograms on 16mm movie film
n.d.
Ink on tracing paper
7 3/8" x 6 1/4"

Facsimile of *f.a.*, #1, February 1937 on French experimental cinema

Original publication of *f.a.* were published.

Only the above two issues of *f.a.* were published.

Original publication of *Europa* by Anatol Stern, Ksiegarnia F. Hoesicka, Warsaw, 1929 with typography and illustrations by Mieczyslaw Szczuka and cover design by Teresa Zarnower. Signed and dedicated by Stern. Example #60/800. (missing pages and back cover)

This poem was the influence for the film of the same name made by/
Stefan and Franciszka Themerson in 1932.

English translation of *Europa* by Anatol Stern. Gaberbocchus Press, London, 1962 with supplement on the Themersons' film version of *Europa*.

The Urge to Create Visions, Stefan Themerson, Gaberbocchus + De Harmonie, Amsterdam, 1983.

The Themersons and the Gaberbocchus Press – An Experiment in Publishing, 1948 – 1979, edited by Jan Kubasiewicz and Monica Strauss, MJS Books & Graphics, New York, 1993

EAST WALL – FRONT GALLERY

1. Contact strip of four frames from
The Adventures of a Good Citizen (bird)
1937
Vintage gelatin silver print
3" x 1 1/4"
2. Enlarged frame from *Europa* (devil)
1931 – 32
Vintage gelatin silver print
2 1/4" x 3"
3. Enlarged frame from *Europa* (loaf of bread)
1931 – 32
Vintage gelatin silver print
2 1/4" x 3"
4. Enlarged frame from *Europa* (grass photogram)
1931 – 32
Vintage gelatin silver print
2 3/8" x 3 1/8"
5. Enlarged frame from *Short Circuit* (silhouette figure holding a bulb
and pierced by an electric shock scratched into the film)
1935
Vintage gelatin silver print
2 1/8" x 3"
6. Collage of contact strips from *Pharmacy*, *Europa* and
The Adventures of a Good Citizen (21 frames)
1930 – 37
Vintage gelatin silver prints mounted on card stock
13 3/8" x 5"

FRONT WALL – FRONT GALLERY

7. Collage of six images from *Moment Musical*
1933
Vintage gelatin silver prints mounted on card stock
Typed paper label on recto
14 3/4" x 15 1/4"

WEST WALL – FRONT GALLERY

8. Untitled (foot photogram)
ca. 1928
Vintage gelatin silver print
8 1/2" x 6 3/8"
9. Collage of six images from *Pharmacy*
1930
Vintage gelatin silver prints mounted on card stock
Typed paper label on recto
15 3/4" x 12 1/4"

10. Untitled (abstract photogram)
1928 – 29
Vintage gelatin silver print
Initialed and annotated “original fotogram” on verso
6 1/2” x 8 3/4”
11. Collage of 13 images from *Short Circuit*
1935
Vintage gelatin silver prints mounted on card stock
Typed paper label on recto
12” x 10”
12. Untitled (corona photogram)
1929 – 30
Vintage gelatin silver print
Initialed and annotated “original fotogram” on verso
7” x 9 1/2”
13. Enlargement of two consecutive frames from *Europa* (head)
1931 – 32
Vintage gelatin silver print
5 1/8” x 3 3/8”
14. Untitled (coil photogram)
1930
Vintage gelatin silver print
3 1/2” x 5”
15. Enlarged frame from *Europa* (baby in space photomontage)
1930 – 31
Vintage gelatin silver print
5 1/4” x 7 3/4”
16. Untitled (foot photogram)
ca. 1928
Vintage gelatin silver print
8 1/2” x 6 3/8”

WEST WALL – REAR GALLERY

17. *A Scream* (photomontage study for *Europa*)
1930 – 31
Vintage gelatin silver print
Signed and paper label on verso
Annotated “montaz” by the artist on recto
4 5/8” x 4 3/8”
18. Two enlarged frames from *Europa* (heart)
1931 – 32
Vintage gelatin silver prints
5” x 3 1/2”
19. Enlarged frame from *Europa* (hand pierced with spike)
1931 – 32
Vintage gelatin silver print
2 3/8” x 3 5/8”

20. Collage of contact prints from *Polish Wooden Gothic*
(58 frames from an unrealized film)
ca. 1936
Vintage gelatin silver prints
7 1/2" x 12 5/8"
21. Untitled (sheet of glass in vise photogram/study for *Europa*)
1930 – 31
Vintage gelatin silver print
3 1/2" x 5 1/2"
22. Untitled (car photogram)
1930
Vintage gelatin silver print mounted on board
Initialed and annotated "original fotogram" on verso
3 3/8" x 4 1/2"
23. Collage of two enlargements of each of two consecutive frames
from *Europa* (eight multiple exposures of slices of apple and
Stefan Themerson eating them)
1931 – 32
Vintage gelatin silver prints
10" x 33/4"
24. Untitled (hair photogram)
ca. 1928
Vintage gelatin silver print
8 3/4" x 4"
25. Enlarged frame from *Europa* (Franciszka Themerson)
1931 – 32
Vintage gelatin silver print
3 1/2" x 4 5/8"
26. Untitled (tree photogram)
ca. 1930
Vintage gelatin silver print
Initialed gelatin silver print
Initialed on verso and annotated "original fotogram" on verso
5" x 7"

BACK WALL – REAR GALLERY

27. Untitled (palm leaf photogram)
1930
Vintage gelatin silver print
Signed on verso
6 1/2" x 9"
28. Collage of four enlarged frames from *Europa* (fat man eating)
1931 – 32
Vintage gelatin silver prints mounted on card stock
Typed paper label on recto
10" x 8 1/4" (irregular)

"The head in this study of eating was show horizontally.
To break the rules you must first have them."
- Stefan Themerson, *The Urge to Create Visions*, p. 13

29. *19 Years After 1910* (bull and tooth photomontage / study for *Europa*)
1929 – 31
Vintage gelatin silver print
8" x 5 1/2"

The dated in the title refers to the year of Stefan Themerson's birth.

30. Untitled (foot and starry sky photogram)
1928
Vintage gelatin silver print
Initialed and annotated "original fotogram" on verso
7" x 5"

EAST WALL – REAR GALLERY

31. *A Letter to Boy-Zelenski*
1928 – 29
Vintage gelatin silver print pricked with needle
Initialed on recto
4 1/4" x 5 3/4"
32. Collage of six enlarged frames from *Europa*
1931 – 32
Vintage gelatin silver prints mounted on pieces of card stock
5 1/4" x 9 5/8"
33. Untitled (abstract photogram)
1928 – 29
Vintage gelatin silver print
Initialed and annotated "original fotogram" on verso
7" x 9 1/4"
34. Collage of contact strips from *The Adventures of a Good Citizen*
(101 frames)
1937
Vintage gelatin silver prints mounted on card stock
Incorporating an invitation to an original performance of the film
13 1/2" x 13 1/2"
35. Untitled (abstract photogram)
1928 – 29
Vintage gelatin silver print
Initialed on verso and annotated "original fotogram" on verso
7" x 8 1/4"
36. *Short Story* (photograph of a collage containing a short story)
ca. 1930
Vintage gelatin silver print
5 1/4" x 7"
37. Untitled (photogram of Stefan Themerson's face montaged
against a background of a photograph of page 27 of *f.a.*, #1,
February 1937)
n.d.
Gelatin silver print
9 7/8" x 8"

EAST WALL – FRONT GALLERY

38. Enlarged frame from *Short Circuit* (candle and pliers)
1935
Vintage gelatin silver print
2 1/4" x 2 3/4"
39. Untitled (cloud photogram / study for *Europa*)
ca. 1930
Vintage gelatin silver print
3 5/8" x 4 5/8"
40. Collage of four enlarged frames from *Europa*
(woman's body, bread and woman's face twice)
1931 – 32
Vintage gelatin silver prints mounted on card stock
10" x 3 5/8"
41. Enlarged frame from *Pharmacy* (skeletal hand)
1930
Vintage gelatin silver print
4 5/8" x 5 3/8"
42. Untitled (smoke and leaves photogram)
1928
Vintage gelatin silver print
Initialed and annotated "original fotogram" on verso
7 1/8" x 4 5/8"
43. Untitled (woman with lipstick and legs collage / study for *Europa*)
1930 – 31
Collage of halftone cut-outs on black paper background
Initialed and annotated "original montaz" on recto
of white paper mount
4 1/8" x 4 3/4" (image size)
44. Untitled (abstract photogram / study for *Europa*)
ca. 1930
Vintage gelatin silver print
Signed and annotated "original fotogram" on recto
1 1/8" x 2 1/4" (image size)
45. Enlarged frame from *Moment Musical* (hand and glass)
1933
Vintage gelatin silver print
5 1/8" x 6"
46. Enlargement of two consecutive frames from *Europa*
(multiple exposures of Henryk Haller Sobieralski)
1931 – 32
Vintage gelatin silver print
5 1/4" x 3 3/8"

OTHER WORKS NOT DISPLAYED

47. Collage of a girl with sewing machine

- ca. 1930
Collage of halftone and gelatin silver print cut-outs
Signed in white gouache on recto
7 1/2" x 10"
48. Vintage gelatin silver print of # 47 above
6 3/8" x 9"
49. Collage of tailor's dummies
ca. 1930
Collage of halftone and gelatin silver print cut-outs
Signed on recto
50. *Demonstrations in Budapest* (photograph of a collage)
1930/printed later
Gelatin silver print
51. Untitled (experimental self-portrait)
ca. 1950
Vintage gelatin silver print
7 3/4" x 7 1/2"