

ubu

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Aleksandr Rodchenko: Konstruktor

September 15 – October 17, 1998

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**Ubu Gallery** will exhibit photographic and graphic design works by **Aleksandr Rodchenko**, whose painting, photography and design are the subject of a major exhibition at the Museum of Modern Art, New York. Rodchenko was—with Tatlin and Mayakovsky—one of the most dominant figures of the Russian Constructivist movement in the 1920s.

With Wassily Kandinsky, Rodchenko had co-founded the enormously influential Inkhuk artists' group in 1920. The following year, however, the two parted company when their disagreement over their competing theories of art—Rodchenko emphasizing the primary importance of the “object” in art, Kandinsky insisting that the paramount elements were the “poetic” and “philosophical.” Rodchenko immediately embarked upon the founding of the famed VkhUTEMAS School (to be known as the “Russian Bauhaus”) in Moscow, establishing the principles of what he called “Constructivism.” By 1923, he had abandoned painting and architecture (declaring that “painting is dead”) and concentrated almost exclusively on the “new art” of “mass agitation.”

Ubu's exhibition will concentrate on Rodchenko's photography and graphic design, the two areas of his art in which his Constructivist style and Productivist attitude were most prevalent and most effective. The show includes vintage photographs and photogravures; posters and other manifestations of propaganda and advertising; and book and magazine montage and layout. In keeping with the emphasis evident in several of its exhibitions over the last few years, Ubu will highlight Rodchenko's innovative and important work in the field of photomontage and collage.