

# Aspects of Russian Art 1915–1935

Selections from the  
Merrill C. Berman Collection

May 3 – July 22, 2005

Natan Al'tman, Iakov Chernikhov,  
Aleksandr Deineka, Aleksandr  
Dortman, Vassily Elkin, Vassily  
Ermilov, Gustav Klutsis, Valentina  
Kulagina, Vladimir Lebedev, Elena  
Melnikova, Grigorii Miller, Yurii  
Pimenov, Lyubov' Popova, Mikhail  
Razulevich, Aleksandr Rodchenko,  
Elena Semenova, Maria Siniakova,  
Nikolai Sidelnikov, Georgii & Vladimir  
Stenberg, Solomon Telingater,  
Konstantin Vialov, Elena Zernova,  
Georgii Zimin and others



**Ubu Gallery presents *Aspects of Russian Art, 1915–1935: Selections from the Merrill C. Berman Collection***

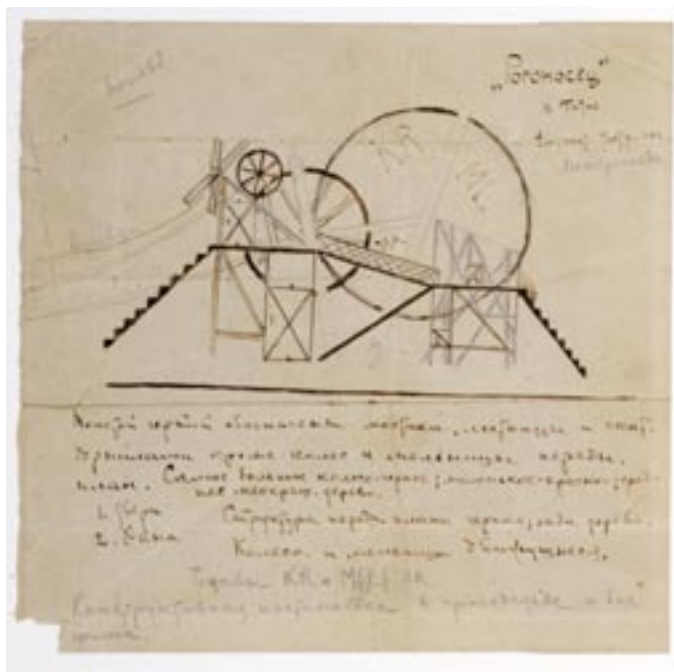
—an exhibition drawn from one of the foremost collections of Russian avant-garde art. On view will be Futurist, Realist and Constructivist works that explore the remarkable range of artistic expression during the early part of the 20th Century in Russia.

From the years leading up to the Bolshevik revolution of 1917 and continuing to the end of Stalin's second Five Year Plan in 1934 (in which Stalin decreed that only Socialist Realism would be permitted in the arts), artists and designers experimented with new forms of representation and object making, rejecting stodgy academic practices and the elitism of imperial government. Harnessing the power of technology, industrialization and political revolution, they were intent upon bringing about an advanced modern society—one acting in the interests of all of its members. In art, architecture, product and graphic design, new tools of visual communication were forged

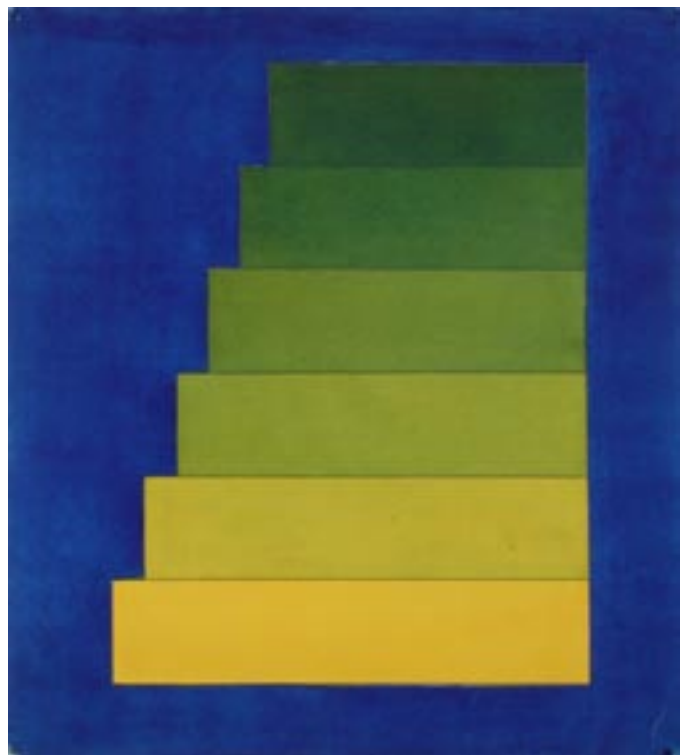
to define Soviet society and the artist's role within it. Despite many differing approaches, the artists and designers of the founding decades of the Soviet State were linked in their commitment to communicate with the whole of society in new ways that emphasized clarity, order and accessibility.

Merrill C. Berman is best known as a collector of graphic design—both the final printed works and the maquettes used in their creation—and while his collection covers many facets of early 20th Century art, it is particularly rich in Russian art and graphics. Berman has been the source of numerous museum exhibitions built solely or principally on his Russian avant-garde collection. An impressive selection of representative works from Berman's overall collection, including Russian art and design, is the subject of a touring exhibition, "Avant-Garde Graphics, 1918–1934," which is currently at the Estorick Collection in London and will travel to Kettle's Yard in Cambridge.



















1. **Elena Zernova**  
*Factory Kitchen*, 1928
2. **Aleksandr Rodchenko**  
Cover Design for *Isbran* by Nikolai Aseev, 1923
3. **Lyubov' Popova**  
Preparatory Drawing for *The Magnanimous Cuckold*, 1920–1921
4. **Konstantin Vialov**  
Cover Design for *Circus No. 6*, ca. 1925–1930
5. **Natan Al'tman**  
Design for Signet Artists' Club, 1919
6. **Elena Semenova**  
Design for an Exhibition Pavilion, ca. 1928
7. **Gustav Klutsis**  
Color Study, ca. 1924–1930
8. **Elena Semenova**  
Typographic Design for *Very Good* by Vladimir Maiakovskii, ca. 1927
9. **Gustav Klutsis**  
Design for Advertising Stands, 1922
10. **Aleksandr Rodchenko & Vladimir Maiakovskii**  
Maquette for a Poster, ca. 1925–1926
11. **Vladimir Lebedev**  
Untitled, ca. 1926–1927
12. **Yurii Pimenov**  
Drawing for *Red Panorama*, 1929
13. **Aleksandr Dortman**  
Maquette for a Film Poster, ca. 1930
14. **Nikolai Dolgorukov**  
Untitled, ca. 1930
15. **Georgii Zimin**  
Maquette for a Theater Poster, ca. 1920–1925

Special thanks to Jim Frank.

Design: Eileen Boxer

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