constructivism

art movements

introduction

- ▶ 1915-1940
- "Construction Art" term used by Kazimir Malevich to negatively describe the work of Alexander Rodchecnko during 1917
- Invention of the Russian avant-garde
- Expanded outside of the Soviet Union in Germany due to Walter Gropius's Bauhaus, a progressive art and design school
- Also in other art centers, like Paris, London, and eventually the United States

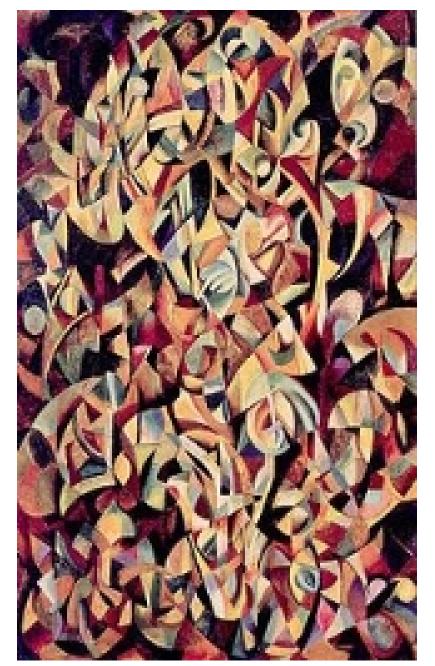
characteristics

- Commitment to total abstraction and a wholehearted acceptance of modernity
- Emphasizes geometric shape and experimentation
- Rarely emotional
- Reduces subject down to its basic elements
- Contains a utopian undercurrent (because of the political times out of which it grew in the USSR; they wanted a world of more understanding, unity, and peace)

Naum Gabo, Alexander Vesnin, Liubov Popova, Olga Rozanova, and Kasimir Malevich

Alexander Rodchenko





Alexandra Exter





Vladimir Tatlin



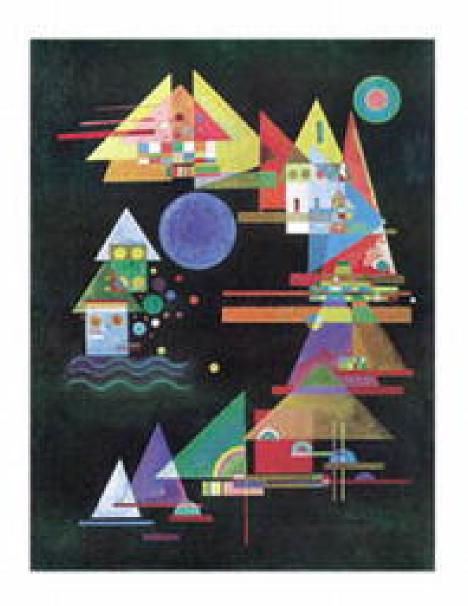
▶ El Lissitzky



Antoine Pevsner

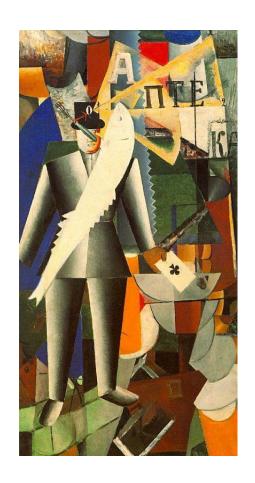


Wassily Kandinsky



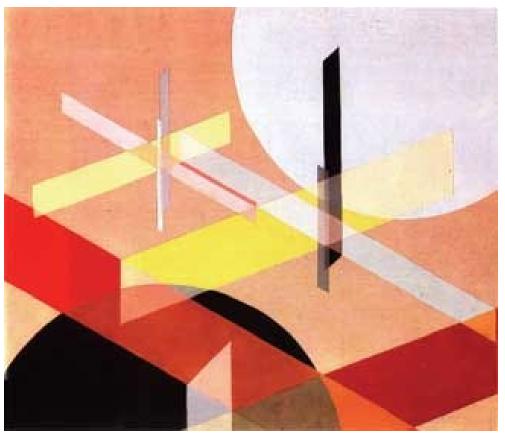
other paintings





other paintings





other paintings





assignment

- Choose a photograph from which you will create a work of constructivist art.
- Remember, you won't be simply drawing shapes in place of the elements. Distort things, rearrange things. Study the sailboat example; notice how the boats float all around the house. The moon is in the middle...
- See the example provided that goes from photo to artwork.