

This is a chapter in piero scaruffi's "A Visual History of the Visual Arts": <http://www.scaruffi.com/art/history>

# The Victorian Age

- Russia
  - Russian avant-garde
    - 1909: a critique of cubism and futurism
    - Larionov and Zdanevich's "Yes-Manifesto" (1912) answers "yes" to any question
    - Kazimir Malevich's " Black Square" (1915)
    - 1921: Rodchenko declares that the artist must undertake large-scale ideological projects
    - Elena Guro and Mikhail Matiushin
    - Olga Rozanova
    - Mikhail Larionov
    - Ilia Zdanevich
    - Pavel Filonov

# The Victorian Age

- Russia
  - Russian avant-garde
    - Beyond easel painting:
      - image and text coexist as equals (Alexei Kruchenykh)
      - photomontage (Rodchenko, El Lissitzky)
      - constructivism
    - Socialist art: collectives of artists, aligned with the utopian goals of the state (socialist realism), creating art that can be enjoyed by the proletarian and peasant masses (hyper-visibility) to induce mass euphoria, an art movement that will become universal

# The Victorian Age

- Russia
  - Constructivism
    - Merging art and engineering
    - Harmony between art and new technology
    - The materials themselves have an artistic propensity
    - Utilitarian art instead of art for art's sake, art to serve society's needs
    - Practical art prevails over fine art

# The Victorian Age

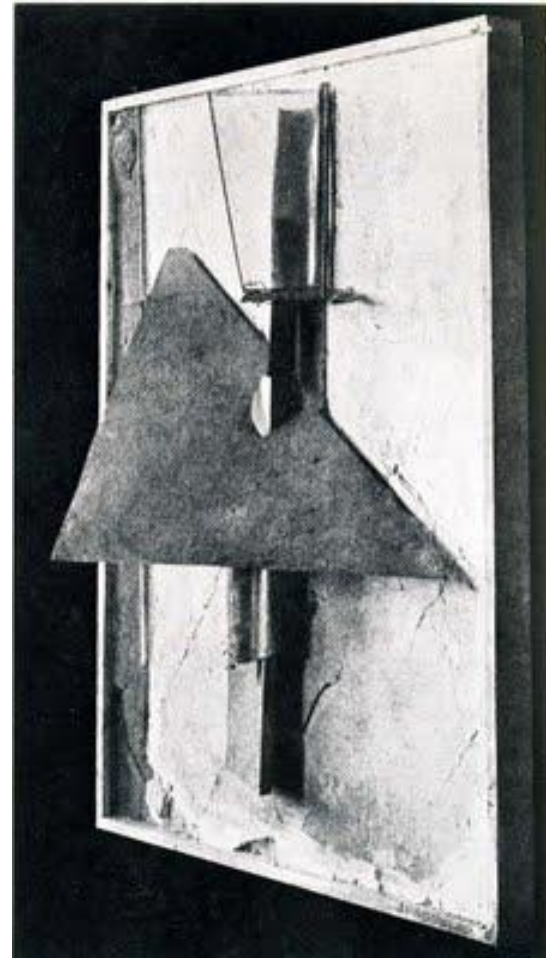
- **Russia**
  - **Constructivism**
    - **Downplaying painting and sculpture**
    - **Against artistic genius (against inspiration, intuition, etc)**
    - **Towards the death of all isms**
    - **Communism is creating a new society, and art should give it a new shape**
    - **Architecture is revolution**

# The Victorian Age

- Constructivism
    - Vladimir Tatlin (1895): from cubism to constructivism
- “Painting Relief” (1914)



Corner Counter-Relief (1914)



# The Victorian Age

- Constructivism
  - Vladimir Tatlin (1895)



“Monument to the Third International” (1920)

# The Victorian Age

- Constructivism
  - Konstantin Melnikov (1890, Russia)

“Soviet Pavilion” (1925)



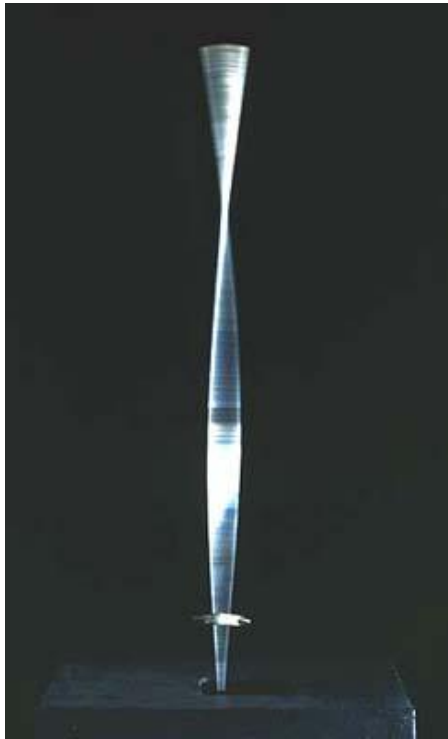
“Kauchuk Club ” (1929)





# The Victorian Age

- **Constructivism**
  - **Naum Gabo (1890)**



"Kinetic Construction" (1920)

"Constructed Head No.2" (1915)

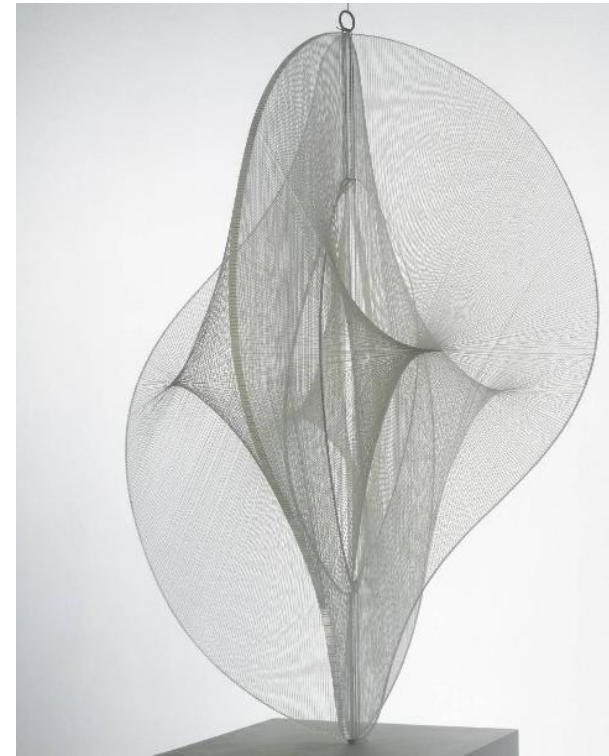


# The Victorian Age

- **Constructivism**
  - **Naum Gabo**
    - **But later: Transparent plastic material so that space becomes the ultimate sculptural medium**



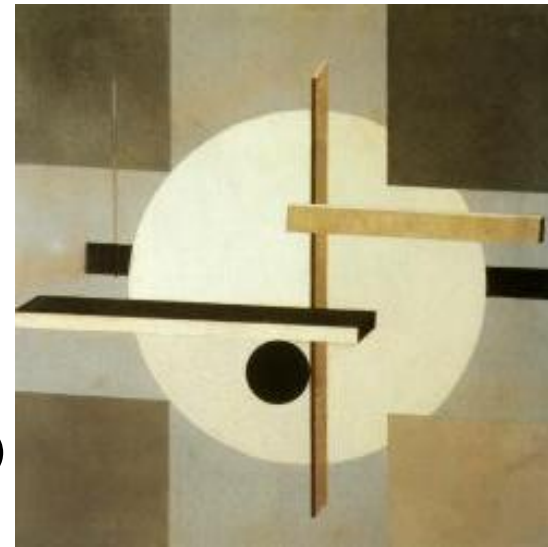
"Linear Construction No 1" (1946)



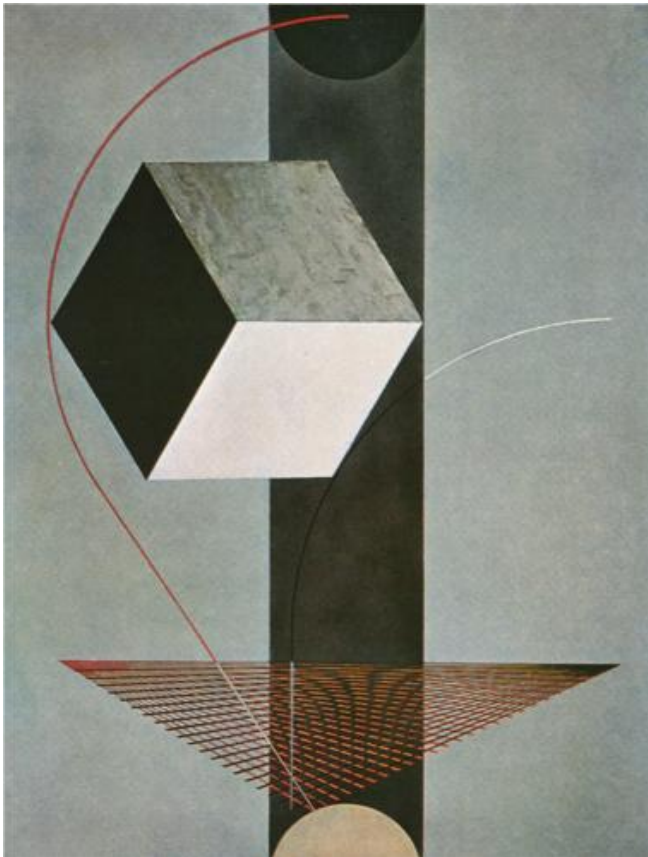
"Linear Construction No 2" (1949)

# The Victorian Age

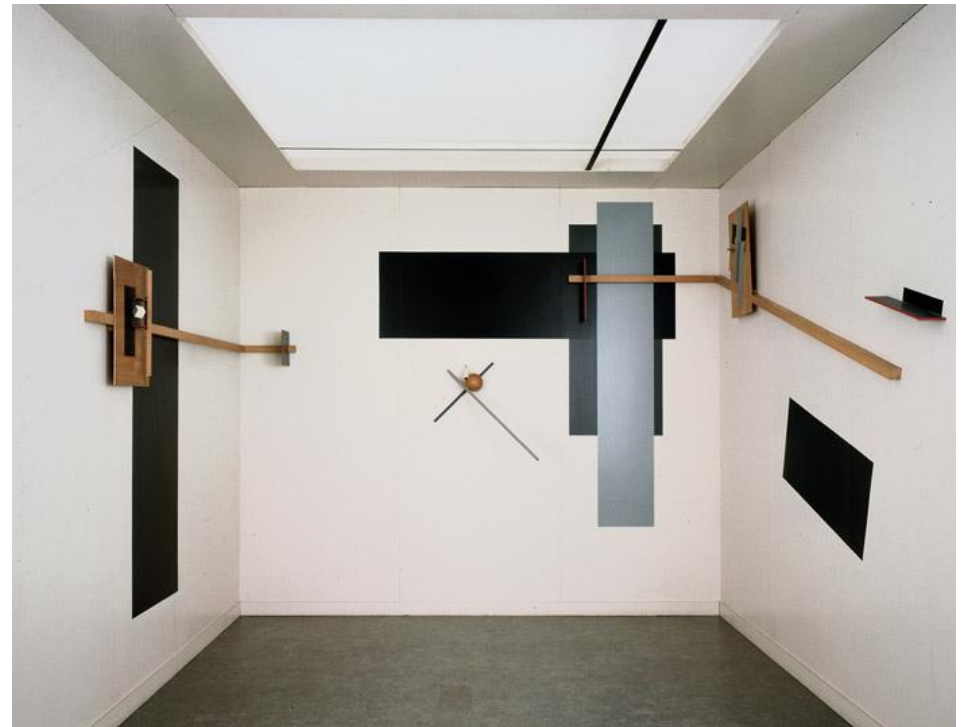
- Constructivism
  - El Lissitzky (1890)



“Proun RVN2” (1923)



“Proun 99” (1925)



“Proun Room” (1923)

# The Victorian Age

- **Constructivism**
  - **Alexander Rodchenko (1891)**
    - **Kinetic sculpture**
    - **Graphic design and photomontage**



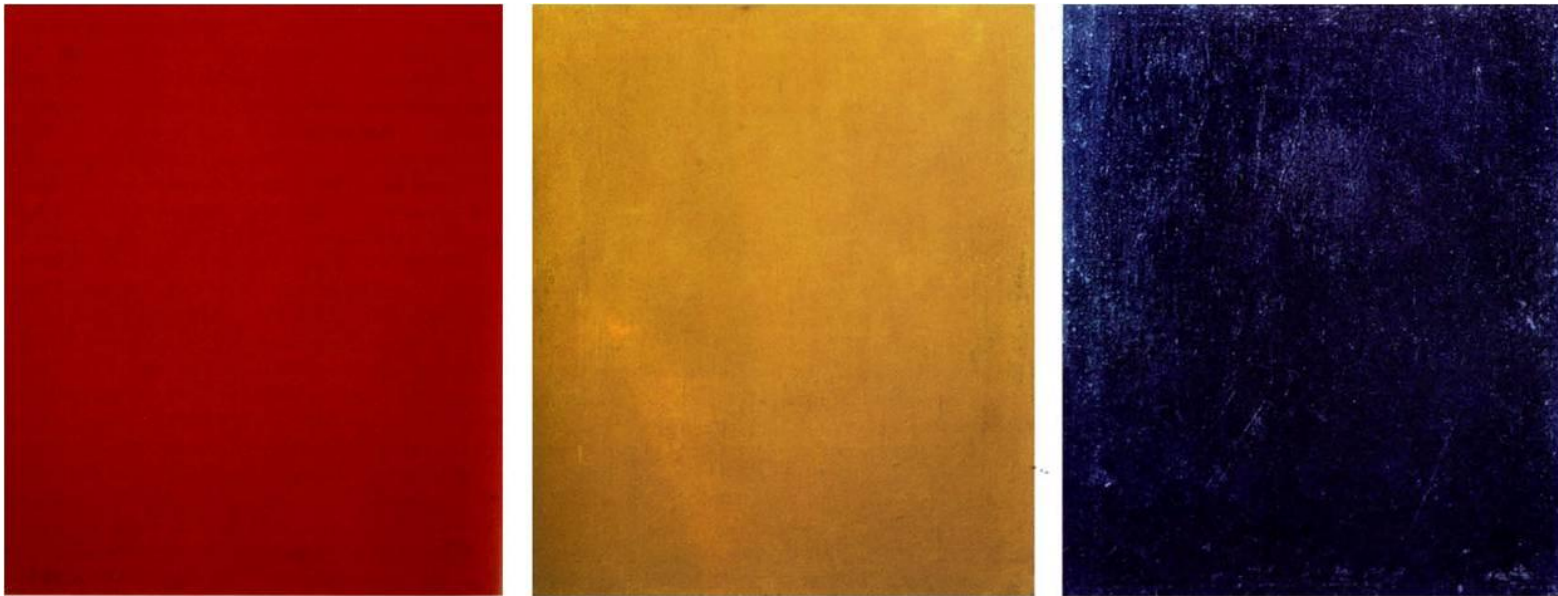
“Hanging Sculpture” (1920)

Cover for “Miss Amend” (1924)



# The Victorian Age

- **Constructivism**
  - **Alexander Rodchenko (1891)**
    - **Minimalism**



“Monochrome triptych” (1921)

# The Victorian Age

- Textile art
  - Anni Albers (1899, Germany)



“Ancient Writing” (1936)



“Thickly Settled” (1957)

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