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 99” (1925)

“Proun RVN2” (1923)

“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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