

## Construction Is a Contemporary Worldview

### SLOGANS

(CONSTRUCTION *discipline*, director RODCHENKO)

CONSTRUCTION—is the organization of elements.

CONSTRUCTION IS THE CONTEMPORARY WORLDVIEW.

ART is one of the branches of *mathematics*, like every other *science*.

CONSTRUCTION is the contemporary requirement for the ORGANIZATION and utilitarian use of *material*.

A CONSTRUCTIVE LIFE IS THE ART OF THE *FUTURE*.

ART *which has not entered life* will be numbered and handed over to the archaeological *museum* of ANTIQUITY.

It is time for ART to merge with life in an organized fashion.

A CONSTRUCTIVELY ORGANIZED life is HIGHER than the bewitchingly intoxicating art of magicians.

THE FUTURE doesn't build monasteries for the ROMAN PRIESTS, PROPHETS, and HOLY FOOLS of art.

Down with ART as a bright PATCH on the mediocre life of a propertied man.

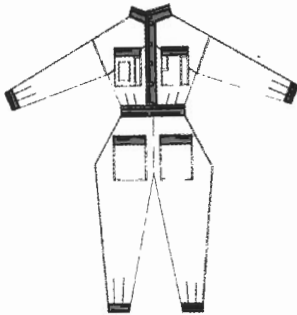
Down with art as a precious STONE amid the dirty, dark life of the poor man.

Down with art as a means TO ESCAPE A LIFE that isn't worth living.

LIFE, a conscious and organized life, capable of SEEING and CONSTRUCTING, is contemporary art.

A PERSON who organizes his life, work, and himself is a CONTEMPORARY ARTIST.

WORK for LIFE and not for PALACES, TEMPLES, CEMETERIES, and MUSEUMS.



Rodchenko. Design for "production clothing." 1922. Ink on paper, 14 $\frac{9}{16}$  x 11 $\frac{13}{16}$ " (37 x 30 cm)

Rodchenko. *Self-Caricature*. 1922. Cut-and-pasted printed papers and gelatin silver photograph on paper, 7 $\frac{1}{4}$  x 5 $\frac{7}{8}$ " (18.5 x 15 cm)



Work in the midst of *everyone*, for *everyone*, and *with everyone*.

DOWN with monasteries, institutes, ateliers, studios, offices, and islands.

*Consciousness*, EXPERIMENT, goals, CONSTRUCTION, technology, and *mathematics*—these are the BROTHERS of contemporary ART.

February 22, 1921. Rodchenko<sup>1</sup>

## WHO WE ARE MANIFESTO OF THE CONSTRUCTIVIST GROUP

[c. 1922]

We don't feel obliged to build Pennsylvania Stations, skyscrapers, Handley Page Tract houses, turbo-compressors, and so on.

We didn't create technology.

We didn't create man.

BUT WE,

*Artists* yesterday

CONSTRUCTORS today,

1. WE PROCESSED

*the human being*

2. WE ORGANIZE

*technology*

1. WE DISCOVERED

2. PROPAGATE

3. CLEAN OUT

4. MERGE

PREVIOUSLY—Engineers relaxed with art

NOW—Artists relax with technology

WHAT'S NEEDED—IS NO REST

*Who saw* A WALL. . . .

*Who saw* JUST A PLANE—

EVERYONE . . . AND NO ONE

Someone who had actually seen came and simply SHOWED:  
the *square*.

This means opening the eyes *TO THE PLANE*.

*Who saw* an ANGLE

*Who saw* an ARMATURE, SKETCH

EVERYONE . . . AND NO ONE.

Someone who had actually seen came and simply SHOWED:

*A line*

*Who saw*: an iron bridge

a dreadnought

a zeppelin

a helicopter

EVERYONE . . . AND NO ONE.

We Came—the first working group of CONSTRUCTIVISTS—