

Alexander Rodchenko

**From the collection of the Still Art
Foundation**

REGIONAL PUBLISHING AND EDUCATIONAL
PROJECT BY THE STILL ART CULTURAL
FOUNDATION AND THE LUMIERE GALLERY

**POPULARIZATION OF PHOTOGRAPHIC ART IN
RUSSIAN CITIES AND REGIONS**



**LUMIERE
GALLERY**

EXHIBITION PROJECT / ALEXANDER RODCHENKO. FROM THE COLLECTION OF THE STILL ART FOUNDATION

Alexander Rodchenko. From the collection of the Still Art Foundation

The Lumiere Brothers Center for Photography presents an exhibition of photographs by Alexander Rodchenko, prominent artist of the Russian avant-garde, from the collection of the Still Art Foundation established by Elena and Mikhail Karisalov. The exhibition includes shots taken by Rodchenko in different periods, from his first photographic experiments of the 1920s up to the late 1930s.



Alexander Rodchenko
Staircase, 1929

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The exhibition displays famous portraits of Rodchenko's friends, including artists, architects, poets, writers, film directors, and employees of the magazines "LEF" and "Novy LEF." Some of the featured pieces are the recognizable portrait of Lilya Brik that became the basis for a Lengiz poster, a few photographs of Vladimir Mayakovsky taken during the first session in Rodchenko's studio on Myasnitskaya Street (1924), and the well-known photo of Osip Brik, in which one of the eyeglass lenses was replaced by the magazine name "LEF." The exhibition also includes portraits of family members (the photographer's mother, his wife Varvara Stepanova, and his daughter Varvara Rodchenko), architectural photo shoots, and photographic reports such as the legendary shots "Balconies" (1925), "Fire Escape" (1925), "Staircase" (1929), "Pioneer with a Trumpet" (1930), and "Pioneer Girl" (1930).



Alexander Rodchenko
Osip Brik, Critic, 1924



Alexander Rodchenko
Pioneer with a Trumpet, 1930

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The co-curator of the exhibit was Alexander Lavrentiev, grandson of Rodchenko and the leading researcher of his artworks. The exhibition includes 58 gelatin silver prints from two albums of a museum portfolio series produced in 35 copies in 1994-1997 and put together under the guidance of Varvara Rodchenko, Alexander Lavrentiev, and gallerist Howard Schickler. The photographs included in the portfolio and provided by the Still Art Foundation were printed by Alexander Lavrentiev and Yuri Plaksin in Rodchenko's photo lab from the artist's original negatives.



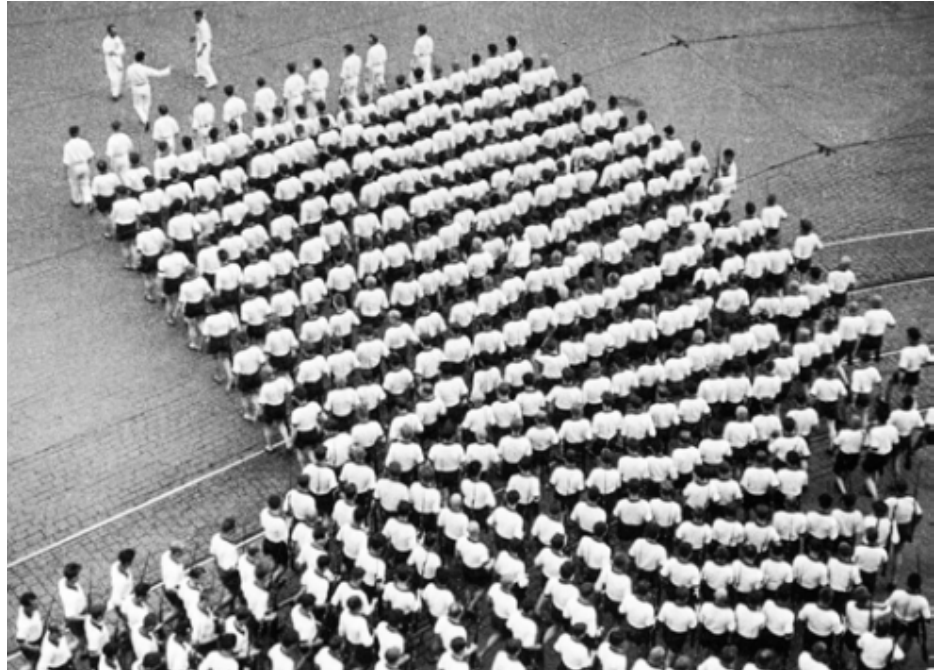
Alexander Rodchenko
Portrait of the Photographer's Mother, 1924



Alexander Rodchenko
Vladimir Mayakovsky, Poet. 1924

EXHIBITION PROJECT / ALEXANDER RODCHENKO. FROM THE COLLECTION OF THE STILL ART FOUNDATION

Alexander Mikhailovich Rodchenko (1891–1956), one of the leaders of the Russian avant-garde and an innovator in the areas of painting, sculpture, and design for books, posters, film, and theater, started to practice photography in 1924. His experimental approach toward photography changed the history of this form of art forever and not only influenced contemporaries, but also defined the development of photography for decades to come.



Alexander Rodchenko
"Dinamo" Sports Club, 1935

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Rodchenko used various methods in his photography, such as shooting from unusual points of view (top-down and bottom-up), which immediately earned the name “Rodchenko’s” method; creating diagonal compositions that established the dynamics and rhythmicity of a shot; shooting details and close-ups; and using double exposures and delicate work with light and shadow contrasts. According to Osip Brik, Rodchenko employed these approaches in his endeavors to turn a familiar object into a “seemingly unknown construction,” to alter a person’s ordinary perspective of the surroundings, and to expand a person’s capabilities to “see things.”



Alexander Rodchenko
Pines, Pushkino, 1927



Alexander Rodchenko
Balconies, 1925

Lecture: “Alexander Rodchenko and Abstract Art”

Painter and graphic artist, designer and photographer, teacher, one of the pioneers of Constructivism and organizers of the new museum type – Alexander Rodchenko achieved all of these titles. The main topic of this lecture is Rodchenko’s abstract painting of the late 1910s and its influence on photography.

Guided tours of the exhibition “Alexander Rodchenko. Journey in Photography”

For Alexander Rodchenko, photography as a type of art was a continuation of his discoveries in painting, graphic art, and sculpture. The creative process included the usage of unconventional engineering instruments and resulted in the formation of an aesthetic system of values, “the measure of beauty.”



The creative method of Alexander Rodchenko

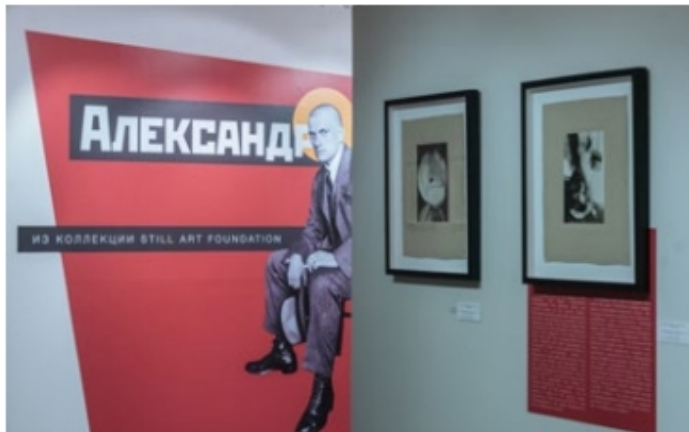
Rodchenko's career in photography was also connected with his teaching work. In 1928 he gathered a group of Vkhutemas students interested in photography, and he developed a program that included some tasks that he himself had yet to test in practice. He compared photography to stenography, calling for the documentation of reality. Rodchenko's teaching approach can be discussed both in the context of the direct transfer of a teacher's experience to a student and on the basis of his system of vision, which was clearly and obviously formulated in his foreshortening shots. The clarity of purpose and the minimalism

of expressive means (the diagonal, perspective, close-up) allow new generations to perceive his professional credo and learn by addressing the experimental artist's main principle—"to see ordinary things in an extraordinary way."

Photomontage: history and pioneers of the genre

In the USSR, photomontage evolved as creative trickery and became the visual symbol of the Russian avant-garde. It became one of the most popular and universal methods of all media and spheres of art, adopted by artists and publishing houses. Using photographs, artists of the 1920s arranged their own reality from photographic fragments, and they captured images of the "new life," bringing the most utopian dreams closer.

EXPOSITION IN THE LUMIERE BROTHERS CENTER FOR PHOTOGRAPHY



EXHIBITION BRANDING IN THE LUMIERE BROTHERS CENTER FOR PHOTOGRAPHY



EXHIBITION RENTAL TERMS / EXPOSITION MAKEUP

58 photographs

Produced using gelatin silver processing, in black plastic frames, 43.5 x 36 cm.

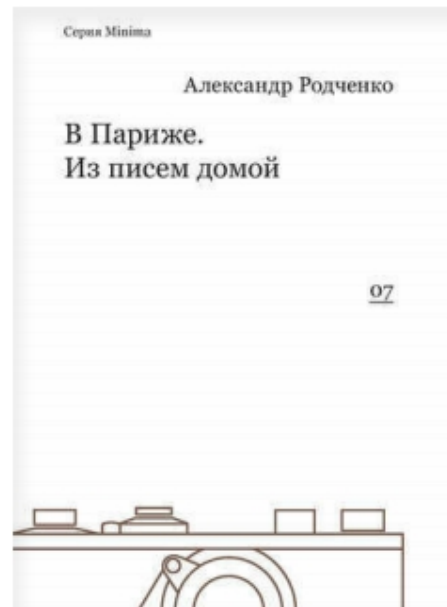
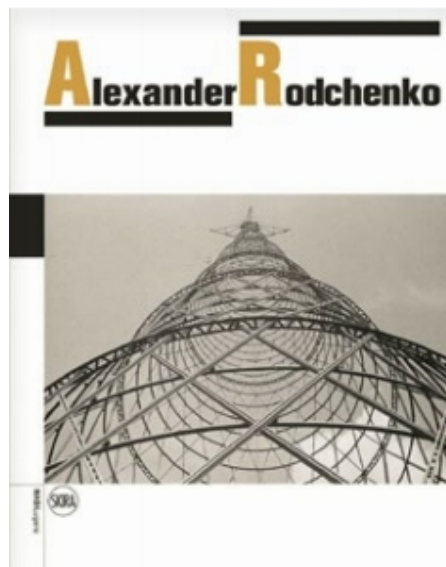
Exhibiting conditions:

- Illumination – 50 lx
- Temperature – 16–22°C (\pm) 2 degrees
- Relative humidity 45–55% (\pm) 2.5%
- Transportation of exhibits: Lumiere Gallery – Museum – Lumiere Gallery
- Insurance of exhibits: Lumiere Gallery – Museum – Lumiere Gallery

The Lumiere Gallery will gladly provide you with the following additional options for your venue:

- Audio guide with information on exhibits
(read by Yuri Kolokolnikov)
- Design services (oracal, badges, printing work, exposition design)
- Educational program development: guided tours, lectures, workshops
- Reading materials:
 1. Press packs for media publications (Russian /English)
 2. Quotes (Russian /English)
- Publishing information about the exhibition on the Center for Photography official pages:
Instagram: @lumiere_center
Facebook: www.facebook.com/LumiereBrothersCenter
VK: vk.com/lumiere_center

BOOKS FOR SALE AT YOUR VENUE DURING THE EXHIBITION



MEDIA REFERENCES

“Given that Alexander Rodchenko’s works can be found today in famous photographic museum collections, including the MoMA (New York), the Pushkin State Museum of Fine Arts, and the Moscow Multimedia Art Museum, the prints made 20 years ago from the negatives of the 1920s are already rarities.”

— Rossiyskaya Gazeta

“The exhibition includes shots taken by Rodchenko in different periods, starting from his first photographic experiments of the 1920s and leading up to the late 1930s. The photographs included in the portfolio and provided by the Still Art Foundation were printed in Rodchenko’s photo lab from the author’s original negatives.”

— TV channel Kultura

“The magic of these shots can be explained by Rodchenko’s attempt to discover human psychology together with his viewers and convey his attitude toward it through the frame composition. Among the most remarkable shots is the portrait of the artist’s mother taken in 1924.”

— AD Magazine

ABOUT THE LUMIERE GALLERY

The Lumiere Gallery, founded in 2001 by Natalia Grigorieva-Litvinskaya, is one of the oldest galleries in Moscow specializing in photographic art. The Gallery presents pieces by renowned Soviet and foreign photographers and collaborates with modern artists. Since the Gallery opened, a collection of Soviet photographs has been created that covers the period between the 1920s and the 1990s and includes 13,300 authors' prints.

The Gallery has held more than 200 exhibitions and published 11 authors' monographs dedicated to Soviet photographic art.

Exhibition projects organized by our curators are offered to museums in Russia and abroad.



CONTACT INFORMATION

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