

Constructivism

Art & Design

Art remade as construction for a new society, and its design language.

A Russian movement from 1915 that rejected art as self-expression in favour of construction for social use: posters, textiles, architecture and stage design.

FROM
1915

SUPPRESSED
about 1932

- Against: easel painting and art for its own sake.
- Tatlin, Rodchenko, Stepanova, Lissitzky, Popova.
- Diagonal composition, photomontage, primary colour.
- Sans-serif type, heavy rules, asymmetric layout.
- Tatlin's Tower, 1919-20, was never built.
- Suppressed by Socialist Realism from about 1932.

LOOK FOR IT

Rodchenko's Books poster of 1924 is still copied almost verbatim in graphic design a century later.

Constructivist layout entered Western graphic design through Lissitzky and the Bauhaus, and then through the Swiss school.