

Quarter/Year

Spring 2018

Course Number

ART-HIST 368

Day/Time

M/W 12:30-1:50

Instructor

Kiaer

Course Title

Art of the Russian Revolution



Reflecting on the recent 100th anniversary of the Russian Revolution in 2017, this course will examine the art and visual culture of revolution, from the first Russian revolution of 1905, to the Bolshevik Revolution of 1917, and ending with the Stalin Revolution in the 1930s. The course approaches Russian and Soviet culture as a distinct model of modernity, both sharing and departing from more familiar Western models of modernism. Russian artists were among the first to invent abstraction in the 1910s, and, after the 1917 Revolution, to insist on a utilitarian function for art in relation to everyday life and social needs. Paying particular attention to the unusual number of woman artists within these movements, we will study late 19th-century Russian traditions of realism and Impressionism; modernist movements such as Neo-primitivism, Cubo-futurism, Suprematism, Constructivism, photomontage, photography and film;

as well as the parallel development of a modern form of realism in the 1920s, culminating in the invention of Socialist Realism as an alternate model of modern art across mediums.

Required Textbooks

Robert Bird *et al.*, *Revolution Every Day: A Calendar* (paperback; \$30)
ISBN: 978-88-6749-294-7
Sheila Fitzpatrick, *The Russian Revolution: 1917-1932* (paperback; ca. \$14)
ISBN: 978-0198806707

Assessments

Class participation
Midterm & Final exams
One shorter (ca. 2 pp.) and one longer (ca. 5 pp.) writing assignment
Other short, less formal writing tasks may also be assigned