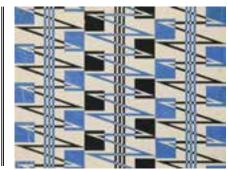


Varvara Fyodorovna Stepanova was a Russian artist. With her husband Alexander Rodchenko, she was associated with the Constructivist branch of the Russian avantgarde, which rejected aesthetic values in favor of revolutionary ones. Her activities extended into propaganda, poetry, stage scenery and textile designs.



Stepanova was born in Kaunas, Lithuania, to a Russian family. After training at the Kazan Art School, she left for Moscow, where she became fascinated with avant-garde poetry. In the wake of the Revolution she worked in close association with such Futurists as Aleksei Kruchenykh, whose book Gly-Gly she illustrated with abstract collages in 1919. Between 1919 and 1920, she was assistant director of the art and literature section of IZO Narkompros, a government agency charged with the enlightenment of the people through culture. It is in this context that she contributed to the initial discussions about Constructivism.

