

Varvara Stepanova

Варвара Степанова

18

1894–1958 Kaunas, Lithuania



Varvara Fyodorovna Stepanova was a Russian artist. With her husband Alexander Rodchenko, she was associated with the Constructivist branch of the Russian avant-garde, 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.

