

# FLAGRATION OF VOWLS

*Next Wednesday, 3/22, ARTS227 and CSLC134 / RUSN334 will meet again at 1:30pm, for a one-hour combined class activity, a collective word-burning, to extract linguistic material for avant-garde books.*

To prepare for the event, you will each collect a stack of English words for the pyre, both hefty, rough-hewn nouns and verbs, and dry, combustible kindling articles and pronouns. In your meanderings to and from class, during meals, and in the throes of study, gather any words that catch your eye or come to mind related in any way to these two themes:



**Kazimir Malevich.**  
**"Woodcutter," 1912**

## **LIBERATION (OR EMANCIPATION)** and **DISRUPTION\***

For class, bring a list, in writing (in any form: typed, handwritten, on paper or device) of **10 total real words**, including:

- Approx. 3 long, stout (4 or more syllables)
- Approx. 3 medium (2-3 syllables)
- Approx. 3 short (1 syllable)

Your selections can refer directly or indirectly to these terms, or they can exemplify some aspect, or otherwise associate in your own mind or experience with the themes as words. Consider sound, emotional resonance, connotation, and primordial trans-sense.

\*In the 1910s the term "Osvobozhdenie" (liberation or emancipation) enchanted a young generation of Russian poets, painters, provocateurs and thinkers. They applied the term liberally to their artistic manifesti. The impulse to emancipate meanings from logic, sounds from meaning, and letters from sound led to declarations of each of these complex phenomena *as such*, and lent an explosive energy to cultural production. A comparable obsession today with the pervasive term "disruption" provides the closest analogue of a term that is both emotionally charged and ominous in its portents of chaotic destruction.