

# UTOPIANS, PROSPECTUS!

As we approach the middleterm *zdvig* or “shift” to production as a mode of scholarly inquiry, we look both forward to confront our own expressive identities, as well as backward, to “lay bare” the formal devices of our avant-garde subjects.

For this one-page *Scalar* presentation, you will choose and analyze a characteristic artifact of the Russian / Soviet avant-garde, using the tools and features of *title, text, media, annotation, metadata, and tags*, to elucidate key technical, expressive and/or linguistic elements in comparison with other contemporary works.

Your selection of work will not commit you to your own concrete product of trans-rational, abstract “verbi-visual” art. Nor will it determine your research topic. Rather, it will serve, alongside those of your peers, to represent the communicative languages revealed once the conventions of art, poetry and literacy were exploded.

## What TYPE are you?

When pondering your selection consider your own inclinations:

ARE YOU MORE OF A KAZIMIR MALEVICHIAN? ████████ DO YOU HAVE SUPREMATIST TENDENCIES, THE PROMETHEAN INCLINATION TO CHANGE THE WORLD BY CRAMMING EVERYTHING UNIQUELY HUMAN, RELIGION, PHILOSOPHY, SCIENCE, PEASANTS, ████ INTO TIGHT, LITTLE BOXES AND HANDPRINT CHARACTERS SO PACKED THEY WIGGLE AS IF ABOUT TO BURST?

Does the more measured **el Lissitsky** relieve some of that pressure to communicate *actual meaning*, by adding some words, a dimension or two, and making letters, shapes and colors fun...something a child, and not just an ascetic priest or theorist, would appreciate?

If you were collaborating with

Kru chen ykh

on his next zany tome, would you rather be a

La rionov,

curvilinear, provocative and piggish, or a

Roz ano v a,

Colorful, talented, and biting?

How does the green, bespectacled egghead Jakobson suit your poetic proclivities? While others entertained themselves with child’s play, turning letters sideways, and scribbling nonsense at the drop of a hat, Roma J., aka Aliagrov, ground out with simple, old-fashioned type by far the most unpleasant sounds in the history of Russian poetry.

*(Fine print: prospectuses must include: a thoughtful title; 1 principal, “target” object of analysis; 1 or more comparative artifacts by the same or another artist/author; proper and complete metadata for all media; specific and concise annotations for relevant details and features; analytical text. Prospectus elements (selections, annotations, etc) are due in Lab 2/23; Final page w/ text due 2/28; presentations 3/1)*