

VKhUTEMAS Centenary

1 July – 31 August

Timed to coincide with the centenary of the founding of the school, our exhibition of rare, vintage photographs, documents the (now destroyed) sculptures and models created by students of the school.

Founded in Moscow in 1920, the VKhUTEMAS (Higher Artistic and Technical Workshops) was the result of the merging of several artistic schools. Established by a decree from Vladimir Lenin, it merged art, life and technology, and was a center for three major movements in avant-garde art and architecture: **constructivism**, **rationalism**, and **suprematism**.

Tutors at VKhUTEMAS included many ground-breaking innovators, like artist Alexander RODCHENKO and like-minded peers such as his textile designer wife Varvara STEPANOVA, painter Lyubov POPOVA, and architect Nikolai LADOVSKY.

In the aftermath of the Russian Revolution, the VKhUTEMAS united the most creative contemporaries of the young Soviet Union; classical and modern art as well as architecture were taught with the aim of improving the living conditions of the masses.

Ideological tensions between adherents of the so-called 'rationalist' approach and the 'constructivist' devotees, along with dictatorial regimes, led to the closing of the school in 1930. Although most of the projects have remained on paper, it had a tremendous impact on the Russian avant-garde and its legacy remains influential even in these days.

The centenary of the school is being celebrated with a series of exhibitions and events throughout the year, such as 'VKhUTEMAS 100', at the Bauhaus Center of Tel Aviv, a major exhibition at the Museum of Moscow, and the International Scientific Conference: "VKHUTEMAS Space in World Culture of the XX– XXI Centuries".

The Global Biennale of Graphic Design (8 October - 1 November 2020) is paying tribute to the anniversary with a commemorative poster project that celebrates one of the most influential art schools of the last one hundred years.