

## Hans Richter (artist)

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

**Hans Richter** (April 6, 1888 – February 1, 1976) was a painter, graphic artist, avant-gardist, film-experimenter and producer.<sup>[1]</sup> He was born in Berlin in a well-to-do and died in Minusio, near Locarno, Switzerland.

### Contents

- 1 Germany
- 2 USA
- 3 Filmography
- 4 See also
- 5 References
- 6 External links

### Germany

Richter's first contacts with modern art were in 1912 through the "Blaue Reiter" and in 1913 through the "Erster Deutsche Herbstsalon" gallery "Der Sturm", in Berlin. In 1914 he was influenced by cubism. He contributed to the periodical *Die Aktion* in Berlin.<sup>[2]</sup> His first exhibition was in Munich in 1916, and *Die Aktion* published as a special edition about him. In the same year he was wounded and discharged from the army and went to Zürich and joined the Dada movement.

Richter believed that the artist's duty was to be actively political, opposing war and supporting the revolution. His first abstract works were made in 1917. In 1918, he befriended Viking Eggeling, and the two experimented together with film. Richter was co-founder, in 1919, of the Association of Revolutionary Artists ("Artistes Radicaux") at Zürich. In the same year he created his first *Prélude* (an orchestration of a theme developed in eleven drawings). In 1920 he was a member of the November group in Berlin and contributed to the Dutch periodical *De Stijl*.

Throughout his career, he claimed that his 1921 film, *Rhythmus 21*, was the first abstract film ever created. This claim is not true: he was preceded by the Italian Futurists Bruno Corra and Arnaldo Ginna between 1911 and 1912<sup>[3]</sup>(as they report in the *Futurist Manifesto of Cinema*<sup>[4]</sup>), as well as by fellow German artist Walter Ruttmann who produced *Lichtspiel Opus 1* in 1920. Nevertheless, Richter's film *Rhythmus 21* is considered an important early abstract film.

About Richter's woodcuts and drawings Michel Seuphor wrote: "Richter's black-and-whites together with those of Arp and Janco, are the most typical works of the Zürich period of Dada." From 1923 to 1926, Richter edited, together with Werner Gräff and Mies van der Rohe, the periodical *G. Material zur elementaren Gestaltung*. Richter wrote of his own attitude toward film:

"I conceive of the film as a modern art form particularly interesting to the sense of sight. Painting has its own peculiar problems and specific sensations, and so has the film. But there are also problems in which the dividing line is obliterated, or where the two infringe upon each other. More especially, the cinema can fulfill certain promises made by the ancient arts, in the realization of which painting and film become close neighbors and work together."

### USA

Richter moved from Switzerland to the United States in 1940 and became an American citizen. He taught in the Institute of Film Techniques at the City College of New York.<sup>[5]</sup>

While living in New York, Richter directed 2 feature films, *Dreams That Money Can Buy* and *8x8: A Chess Sonata* in collaboration with Max Ernst, Jean Cocteau, Paul Bowles, Fernand Leger, Alexander Calder, Marcel Duchamp and others, which was partially filmed on the lawn of his summer house in Southbury, Connecticut.

In 1957, he finished a film entitled *Dadascope* with original poems and prosa spoken by their creators: Hans Arp, Marcel Duchamp, Raoul Hausmann, Richard Huelsenbeck, and Kurt Schwitters.

After 1958 Richter spent parts of the year in Ascona and Connecticut and returned to painting.<sup>[6]</sup>

Richter was also the author of a first-hand account of the Dada movement titled *Dada: Art and Anti-Art*<sup>[7]</sup> which also included his reflections on the emerging Neo-Dada artworks.

### Filmography

*Dadascope* (1961)  
*8 x 8: A Chess Sonata in 8 Movements* (1957)  
*Dreams That Money Can Buy* (1947)  
*Vom Blitz zum Fernsehbild* (1936)  
*Keine Zeit für Tränen* (1934)  
*Hallo Everybody* (1933)  
*Europa Radio* (1931)  
*Neues Leben* (1930)  
*Alles dreht sich, alles bewegt sich* (1929)  
*Everyday* (1929)  
*Rennsymphonie* (1929)  
*The Storming of La Sarraz* (1929)  
*Zweigroschenzauber* (1929)  
*Vormittagsspuk* ("Ghosts Before Breakfast", with music by Hindemith) (1928)  
*Inflation* (1927)  
*Filmstudie* (1926) with music by Darius Milhaud  
*Rhythmus 25* (1925)  
*Rhythmus 23* (1923)  
*Rhythmus 21* (1921)

## See also

- *Avant-Garde: Experimental Cinema of the 1920's and 1930's*

## References

- Stephen C. Foster, *Hans Richter: Activism, Modernism, and the Avant-Garde* (Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 1998)
  - Hans Richter, 'Towards a New World Plasticism' in Mary Anne Caws, *Manifesto: A Century of Isms* (<http://www.amazon.co.uk/dp/0803264070>) (Lincoln, Nebraska and London: University of Nebraska Press, 2001)
1. ^ [1] (<http://www.artnet.com/Magazine/features/oisteanu/oisteanu10-27-04.asp>) Artnet.com- Valery Osteinu
  2. ^ Haftmann, Werner (1978). *Postscript to Dada: Art and Anti-Art*. Thames & Hudson. ISBN 0-500-20039-4. , p220
  3. ^ Article on Futurist Cinema (<http://www.futurism.org.uk/cinema/cinema.htm>)
  4. ^ 'The Futurist Cinema' Manifesto, 1916 (<http://www.unknown.nu/futurism/cinema.html>)
  5. ^ Haftmann, p222
  6. ^ Haftmann, p222
  7. ^ Richter, Hans (1965). *Dada: Art and Anti-Art*. Thames & Hudson. ISBN 0-500-20039-4.

## External links

- Hans Richter at IMDB (<http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0725257/>)
- Hans Richter films at Ubuweb (<http://www.ubu.com/film/richter.html>)
- Hans Richter at YouTube ([http://www.youtube.com/results?search=related&search\\_query=hans%20richter%20filmstudie%20experimental%20animation%201925%202006%20zven%20sure](http://www.youtube.com/results?search=related&search_query=hans%20richter%20filmstudie%20experimental%20animation%201925%202006%20zven%20sure))

Retrieved from "http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hans\_Richter\_%28artist%29"

Categories: 1888 births | 1976 deaths | German artists | Film theorists | German art historians | Dada | American experimental filmmakers | German experimental filmmakers | People from Berlin | People from the Province of Brandenburg | German immigrants to the United States

Hidden category: Articles needing additional references from February 2007

- This page was last modified on 3 March 2008, at 03:48.
- All text is available under the terms of the GNU Free Documentation License. (See **Copyrights** for details.)  
Wikipedia® is a registered trademark of the Wikimedia Foundation, Inc., a U.S. registered 501(c)(3) tax-deductible nonprofit charity.