

Anarchist Modernism: Art, Politics, and the First American Avant-Garde

Allan Antliff

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The relationship between the anarchist movement and American art during the years surrounding World War I is most often described as a tenuous affinity between two distinct spheres: political and artistic. In *Anarchist Modernism*—the first in-depth exploration of the role of anarchism in the formation of early American modernism—Allan Antliff reveals that modernists participated in a wide-ranging movement that encompassed lifestyles, literature, art, and even politics. Drawing on a wealth of previously unknown materials, including interviews and reproductions of lost works, he examines anarchism's influence on a telling cross-section of artists such as Robert Henri, Elie Nadelman, Man Ray, and Rockwell Kent. He also traces the interactions between cultural figures and thinkers including Emma Goldman, Alfred Stieglitz, Ezra Pound, and Ananda Coomaraswamy.

By situating the evolution of American art in the progressive politics of the time, Antliff offers a richly illustrated chronicle of the anarchist movement and also revives the creative agency of those who shaped and implemented modernism for radical ends.



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