

Title: Picturing Poetry: Mayakovsky and the Futurist Book
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This paper focuses on the theoretical issues, concepts, and poetics of the Russian literary and visual avant-garde between 1910 and 1919. Unlike the post-revolutionary avant-garde of the 1920s, which dedicated itself to seeking what the position of the artist in the new social hierarchy should be, the early avant-garde was struggling to overcome whatever boundaries had been thought to define art, and to bridge the traditional gap between an artist and his audience. The experience of visual arts was an important ingredient in these efforts. I address issues associated with the development of intellectual thought and aesthetic ideas, influenced by the early Russian avant-garde movement, such as Formalist theory, and investigate “borderline” synthetic genres, such as Futurist books and theatre, in the context of Vladimir Mayakovsky’s poetic persona.

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