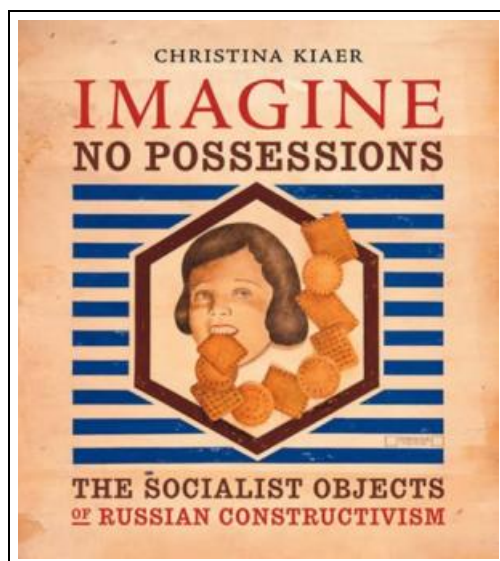


Imagine No Possessions: The Socialist Objects of Russian Constructivism (Paperback)



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Reviews

This ebook is definitely not straightforward to start on looking at but really enjoyable to learn. It usually will not charge excessive. It is extremely difficult to leave it before concluding, once you begin to read the book.

(Karianne Deckow)

IMAGINE NO POSSESSIONS: THE SOCIALIST OBJECTS OF RUSSIAN CONSTRUCTIVISM (PAPERBACK)



MIT Press Ltd, United States, 2008. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book. How Constructivist artists in Russia between 1923 and 1925 developed a counterproposal to capitalism's commodity fetish by producing objects meant to be comrades in the creation of an egalitarian socialist culture. In *Imagine No Possessions*, Christina Kiaer investigates the Russian Constructivist conception of objects as being more than commodities. Our things in our hands must be equals, comrades, wrote Aleksandr Rodchenko in 1925. Kiaer analyzes this Constructivist counterproposal to capitalism's commodity fetish by examining objects produced by Constructivist artists between 1923 and 1925: Vladimir Tatlin's prototype designs for pots and pans and other everyday objects, Liubov Popova's and Varvara Stepanova's fashion designs and textiles, Rodchenko's packaging and advertisements for state-owned businesses (made in collaboration with revolutionary poet Vladimir Mayakovsky), and Rodchenko's famous design for the interior of a workers club. These artists, heeding the call of Constructivist manifestos to abandon the nonobjective painting and sculpture of the early Russian avant-garde and enter into Soviet industrial production, aimed to work as artist-engineers to produce useful objects for everyday life in the new socialist collective. Kiaer shows how these artists elaborated on the theory of the socialist object-as-comrade in the practice of their art. They broke with the traditional model of the autonomous avant-garde, Kiaer argues, in order to participate more fully in the political project of the Soviet state. She analyzes Constructivism's attempt to develop modernist forms to forge a new comradely relationship between human subjects and the mass-produced objects of modernity; Constructivists could imagine no possessions (as John Lennon's song puts it) not by eliminating material objects but by eliminating the possessive relation to them. Considering such Constructivist objects as flapper dresses and cookie advertisements, Kiaer...



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