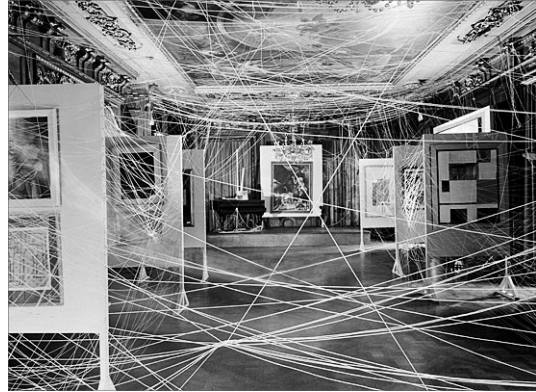


**Seminar in Modern and Contemporary Art:  
AHI 190H (undergraduate students) &  
AHI 290 (graduate students)**

## **Marcel Duchamp: Art, Science, & Design on Exhibition**



Meets Wednesdays 9-11:50am in 157 Everson

A room in which rain falls indoors... an exhibition of art in darkness, flashlights distributed at the door... a book with holes shot through it, casting distinct shadows for each reading... a display in which all of a viewer's five senses are activated... hydrogen bombs, 'pataphysics, illicit love, typographic experimentation, and a strong sense of humor...

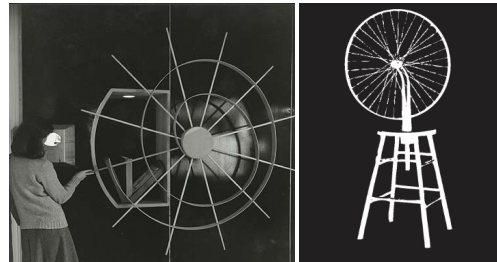


Match to these a fascination with science, a position at the forefront of the international avant-garde from 1913 on, expertise in both art and design. Together, these words begin to constitute a portrait of Marcel Duchamp (1887-1968).

Duchamp stands as the single most influential figure in the art of the past century. From his early years in the midst of cubism, his adulthood in dada and surrealism, to his later reputation as the papa of pop art, the progenitor of performance, and the grand-daddy of neo-dada, Duchamp was found perpetually at the center of modern art.

In this seminar we will look at Duchamp's impact on art and design over more than 100 years. We will examine Duchamp in his historical context, while

analyzing the ways his art has been interpreted and used. We will especially consider his interest in creating spaces of experience, designing exhibits and objects that pioneered new forms of multisensory audience engagement. To do so, we will look at his engagement with science, literature, art, and design. We will pay close attention to the science museums he loved, places that directly inspired the playful sort of "hands-on" experiences of San Francisco's Exploratorium and recent science museums that follow its example.



About the instructor: James Housefield teaches in the Department of Design, and on the graduate faculties in Art History, Design, French, and Performance Studies. Trained as an art historian and curator, with expertise in modern French culture, he is interested in the ways modern art intersects with other fields of inquiry. Duchamp has fascinated him throughout his career. Housefield is the author of *Playing with Earth and Sky: Astronomy & Geography and the Art of Marcel Duchamp* (Dartmouth College Press, 2016). He is completing a book on Paul Gauguin and another on the book after Stéphane Mallarmé, with new analyses of the experimental approaches sometimes called "artists' books."

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