DUCHAMP, Marcel (July 28, 1887-October 2, 1968)

Marcel Duchamp was a prominent artist, and an influential figure in aesthetics or the philosophy of art, as well as experimental cinema. In 1924, he collaborated with artist Man Ray and composer Erik Satie on René Clair’s film *Entr'acte*. Two years later, Duchamp directed *Anémic cinema* (1926), a short experimental film that explores further themes the artist had previously dealt with in other media, including sculpture and painting. In it, Duchamp used for the first time spinning discs he called *Rotoreliefs*, on which various geometrical designs and printed words were placed, showcasing his interest in optical illusions and mechanical art. In 1943, he collaborated with renowned American experimental filmmaker, Maya Deren, on a short film they never finished, *Witch's Cradle*. The film was meant to explore fantastical elements in Peggy Guggenheim’s Art of this Century Gallery, where other works by Duchamp were exhibited. In 1957, Duchamp co-directed with German artist Hans Richter (who previously directed a film based on Duchamp’s work, *Dreams That Money Can Buy*, 1947), and famous French writer and filmmaker Jean Cocteau, the film *8 × 8: A Chess Sonata in 8 Movements*. The work portrayed the unconscious of chess, a game about which Duchamp had a life-long passion.

References and Further reading:

Judovitz, D, (1995) *Unpacking Duchamp: Art in Transit*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Partial List of Notable Works:

*Nu descendant un escalier n° 2* (painting, 1912)

*Roue de bicyclette* (readymade, 1913

*Fountain* (readymade, 1917)

*Anémic cinema* (film, 1926)

*Witch's Cradle* (film, co-directed, 1943)

*8 × 8: A Chess Sonata in 8 Movements* (film, co-directed, 1957)

Paratextual materials:

<http://www.marcelduchamp.net/>

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