

**eva**  
**ELEMENTARY VISUAL ARTS**  
Park City Education Foundation • Kimball Art Center

LESSON

9

**Man Ray**

Photograms

Verbal Directions

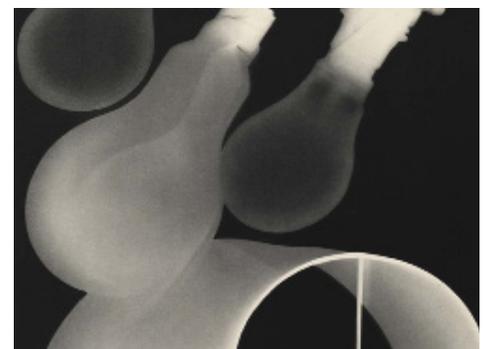
## LESSON OVERVIEW

Man Ray (Emmanuel Radnitzky; 1890-1976) was an important American artist associated with both the Dada and Surrealist movements. Ray is remembered for his experimental photographic work, a method called "rayographs" which are also known as "photograms." Students will learn about photography, Man Ray's influences, and his process. Then they will create their own photograms and experiment with sun paper using collected objects and composition.

### INSTRUCTIONAL OBJECTIVES

- Learn about Man Ray and his influences.
- Discuss the history of photography and photograms.
- Practice creating interesting compositions.
- Create photograms using sun paper and collected objects.

### MAN RAY



### SUPPLIES

- Images of Man Ray's artwork
- Cardboard
- Plexiglass
- Tape
- Sunpaper
- Collected objects for photogram (leaves, flowers, string)
- Cold water
- Folder to keep paper light sensitive after & before being exposed

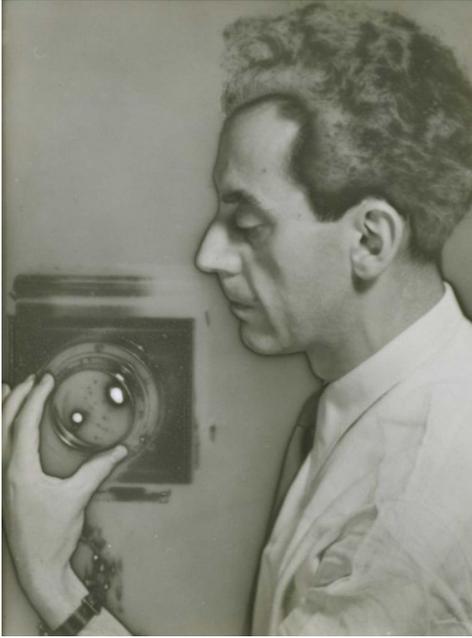
Man Ray (1890-1976), formerly known as Emmanuel Radnitzky was born in South Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Man Ray's family moved to Brooklyn, NY, when he was a young boy. While living in New York as mainly an abstract painter, he became friends with famous Dada artist Marcel Duchamp and picked up photography. In 1921, Man Ray moved to Paris, where he joined a group of French artists at the peak of Surrealism. Man Ray spent his time in New York where he created portraits, fashion photography and eventually began to experiment with "photography without the camera" which he called "rayographs" as a play on his own name. Man Ray experimented in photography using light and objects as his direct medium. He created these photograms by placing objects onto a sheet of photosensitized paper and exposed them to light, creating negative images. He embraced spontaneity and play and left a legacy on the history of experimental photography. [More Info](#)



1. Introduce students to the life and work of Man Ray. Share with students his many influences. Discuss ' photograms' and how they are different from normal photography. A photogram is "camera- less" meaning, you use photo sensitive paper and objects to create negative images or silhouettes of these objects. Review the art style vocabulary in the biography:
  - What is the Dada movement? When was it? Show examples of artists and their work.
  - What is the Surrealist movement? When was it? Show examples of artists and their work.
  - Open discussion up to class ; Why did Man Ray choose this process?
2. Discuss how artists have many influences as they develop their own art style. Learn about the history of photography and brief explanation of how photograms are created. Show examples of Man Ray's work.
  - What do you see?
4. Take a closer look at objects students have chosen to use in the photograms
  - Do these objects have meaning to you? What textures do they have? Do these objects range in size?
5. Discuss composition and negative space.
  - What is negative space? Negative space is the area around and between an object.
  - What is composition? Composition is the placement or arrangement of the objects.
6. Practice arranging objects on a plain piece of paper by tracing them and see how the composition looks and what story it tells.
  - How many objects do you have? Why did you choose these objects?
7. Prepare materials to go outside for photograms. Students can take their individual folders outside (they will have the photo sensitive paper inside- so make sure not to open paper before going outside). The paper is light sensitive. Once you put the objects on the paper, the sun will recognize these objects and block them out on the paper. Whatever objects have see-through parts, you will see on the paper. With your sun paper taped to cardboard (so it doesn't blow away), use objects and arrange them on paper. If it is windy, consider using heavier objects or tape or plexiglass.
8. Allow the objects to stay on the paper for 10-15 minutes depending on the amount of sun. Carefully take objects off and place objects back in a plastic bag, and cardboard with sun paper back in the envelope.
9. Place sun paper in cold water to stop any more development for 2 minutes. Let paper dry and wait to see your image develop!
10. Display each student's image and discuss the objects and arrangement on each of them.

\*\*\* To do this project at home without light sensitive paper student can arrange objects and photograph them using a smart phone, scanner or digital camera.





**KEY IDEAS THAT CONNECT TO NATIONAL CORE ARTS STANDARDS:**

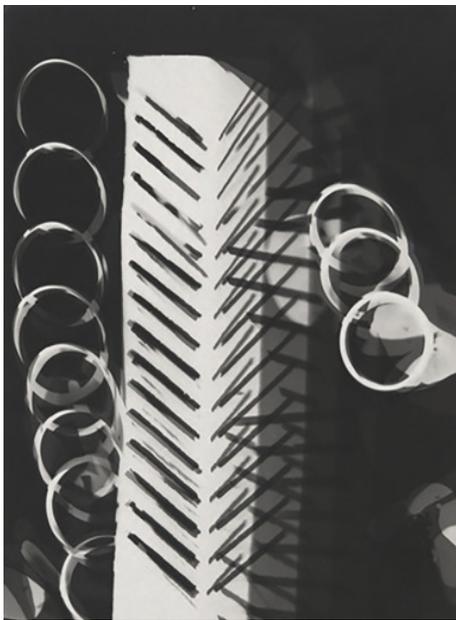
**Based on National Core Arts Standards visual Arts Requirements (First Grade).**

VA:Cr2.1.1a: Explore uses of materials and tools to create works of art or design.

VA:Re8.1.1a: Interpret art by categorizing subject matter and identifying the characteristics of form.

VA:Cn11.1.1a: Understand that people from different places and times have made art for a variety of reasons.

VA:Cr3.1.1a: Use art vocabulary to describe choices while creating art.



**STUDIO HABITS OF THE MIND:**

**ADDITIONAL REFERENCES**

**Click on links to learn more.**

- <https://www.moma.org/artists/3716>
- <https://iphf.org/inductees/man-ray-emmanuel-radnitsky/>
- <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Man-Ray>
- <https://americanart.si.edu/artist/man-ray-3094>
- <https://www.provokr.com/art/man-ray/>
- <https://www.moma.org/artists/3716#works>

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