



Sophie Taeuber-Arp - Equilibre

Landmarks of Swiss Art

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Edited by Angelika Affentranger-Kirchrath

ISBN	9783858816627
Publisher	Scheidegger & Spiess
Binding	Hardback
Territory	World excluding Austria, Germany, Switzerland, Puerto Rico, United States, Canada, and Japan
Size	250 mm x 215 mm
Pages	96 Pages
Illustrations	39 color, 4 b&w
Price	£25.00

- A concise introduction to Sophie Taeuber-Arp's *Equilibre*, a key part of her oeuvre in painting
- Sophie Taeuber-Arp is one of the most significant female protagonists of modernism

Swiss artist Sophie Taeuber-Arp (1889-1943) was a pioneer of 20th-century avant-garde. Remarkably versatile and immensely gifted, she produced an oeuvre that encompasses the entire range of the modernist movement from applied and fine art and dance to architecture, interior design, and teaching.

Equilibre, created in 1931, marks the beginning of Taeuber-Arp's career as an accomplished painter. She moves away from figuration to focus on shape and colour. Circle, square, and rectangle define her future vocabulary. While in her earlier textiles she used multiple shades and hues, she now reduces her palette to primary colours alongside black and white, signalling a markedly changed sense of colour.

The painting's posthumous title emphasises Taeuber-Arp's constant striving for an ideal balance of colour, shape, and indeed all the elements in her paintings. From here, she sets out to explore movement, circles, and spaces, and later gradations and lines. **Equilibre**, a landmark of Taeuber-Arp's oeuvre, looks ahead to her future subject matter, while at the same time referencing her earlier work.

Text in English and German.

Walburga Krupp is a freelance scholar, writer, and curator, and a leading expert on Sophie Taeuber-Arp.