All works by Oskar Fischinger (1900–67)


Images courtesy Jack Rutberg Fine Arts, Los Angeles.
Oskar Fischinger (1900–67) was a pioneering German painter and filmmaker recognized by many of the 20th century’s great luminaries in art, film and music for his innovative animation techniques and the bravura of his non-objective films, many of them keyed to classical music in a way that sought to expand dimensions in both visual and auditory experience—that is, visual music. Exhibition curator Peter Frank notes that Fischinger “insisted on an indelible sensory relationship between color and form on the one hand and sound and motion on the other. It was music for the eyes.” Fischinger’s approach to abstraction in his films and paintings bears comparison to Kandinsky, Kupka, and other early abstractionists. Fischinger’s artistic work was also a spiritual pursuit consistent with his interest in Theosophy, Buddhism, and Anthroposophy.

Pressure from the Nazi regime forced Fischinger to flee to Hollywood in 1936, where he worked on the fringes of the commercial movie industry but continued to earn the appreciation of filmmakers and aficionados even after his death. Recently his work has been included in the blockbuster 2005 group exhibition Visual Music, held at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Los Angeles and the Hirshhorn Museum in Washington, D.C. MOCRA is pleased to host the first exhibition of Fischinger’s work in St. Louis, a city with significant ties to modern and contemporary German art. In addition to paintings and drawings, visitors will have the opportunity to view the newly released DVD Oskar Fischinger: Ten Films, which includes many of Fischinger’s great film projects, including Motion Painting No. 1 (1947), awarded the Grand Prix at the Brussels Film Festival in 1949.