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Reconstructing Mayakovsky: a new hybrid media novel

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URL:

www.reconstructingmayakovsky.com

Reconstructing Mayakovsky is a new hybrid media novel inspired by Vladimir Mayakovsky, the Russian Futurist poet who killed himself in 1930 at the age of 36. The novel imagines a dystopia where uncertainty and tragedy have been eliminated through technology. As readers discover Mayakovsky's biography (prison at age 15, lifelong affair with his editor's wife, fame, revolution, suicide, posthumous resurrection by Joseph Stalin), they explore their own fears and fantasies about the future. Moving between past and future, revolutionary Russia and post-apocalyptic America, the novel explores the universal desire to create meaning in the face of senseless destruction and reaffirms the enduring power of art. Using "found" objects (text, image, video, and sound,) and employing elements of historical fiction, science fiction, poetry and the detective story, the site functions as a metalogue for the Mayakovsky's life and work: drawing out, challenging, and, partially satisfying the reader/viewer's desire for a fixed, cohesive narrative while offering an anarchic multiplicity of meanings. See attachments for a short guided tour to the site and an ethereally beautiful downloadable version of "a petit manifesto."