Photograph - The Lonely Metropolitan

Object: Photograph

Place of origin: Berlin (made)
Germany (made)

Date: 1932 (made)

Artist/Maker: Bayer, Herbert, born 1900 - died 1985 (photographer)
Bayer, Herbert, born 1900 - died 1985 (artist)

Materials and Techniques: printer's ink, paper, photomontage, photography


Museum number: CIRC.738-1968

Gallery location: In Storage

Public access description

Herbert Bayer was one of the leading figures in the Bauhaus movement in Germany and throughout his career was a highly influential graphic designer and artist. Bayer produced some straight photographs, highlighting the abstract structures and sculptural qualities of things, but was never interested in the technical side of photography and so his exploration of straight photography was limited. He left the Bauhaus in 1928 and established himself as a leading designer. It was at this stage that he took and interest in photomontage. He was partly responsible for establishing photomontage as a key commercial visual style in the 1930s.

Descriptive line

20thC; Bayer Herbert, The Lonely Metropolitan, 1932

Physical description

Photomontage

Dimensions

Height: 398 mm sheet, Width: 298 mm sheet, Height: 392 mm print, Width: 293 mm print

Museum number

CIRC.738-1968

Historical context note

Herbert Bayer was one of the leading figures in the Bauhaus movement in Germany and throughout his career was a highly influential graphic designer and artist. Bayer began to experiment with photography while he was teaching advertising, typography and layout at the Bauhaus school in Dessau. He produced some straight photographs, highlighting the abstract structures and sculptural qualities of things, but was never interested in the technical side of photography and so his exploration of straight photography was limited. He left the Bauhaus in 1928 and established himself as a leading designer. It was at this stage that he took and interest in photomontage. He used the technique for his own artistic work but also in advertising work, where he was partly responsible for establishing photomontage as a key commercial visual style in the 1930s. His main body of photographic work was produced in the late 1920s and the 1930s, after which he continued to develop other areas of visual design.

URL

http://collections.vam.ac.uk/item/O128503/the-lonely-metropolitan-photograph-bayer-herbert/