Sophie Taeuber-Arp (1889–1943) began her artistic practice with the idea of making things not just to be looked at, but also to be handled, moved about, and used. Trained at a progressive school that taught that the fine and applied arts are closely allied, she pursued a multifaceted career trajectory: from maker of textiles and objects, expressionist dancer, participant in the Dada movement, and teacher of design and embroidery; to designer of murals, interiors, stained-glass windows, furniture, and buildings; to paintersculptor, magazine editor, and early champion of geometric abstract art.

For Taeuber-Arp abstraction was always connected to an everyday lived reality and responsive to the time and place in which it was created. "Only when we go into ourselves and attempt to be entirely true to ourselves will we succeed in making things of value, living things, and in this way help to develop a new style that is fitting for us," the artist wrote in 1922. She expressed this determination in her own practice through the use of vividly colored, geometrically abstract shapes that remain a constant across a remarkable range of mediums and formats.

Taeuber-Arp's distinctive, cross-pollinating approach to abstraction and her fluid movement between genres, disciplines, and creative roles are as resonant today as they were during the tumultuous interwar years in Western Europe. By consistently challenging the historically constructed boundaries used to separate fine art from craft and design, her innovative work proposes a more openended and inclusive way of thinking about what constitutes modern art. Organized by Anne Umland, the Blanchette Hooker Rockefeller Senior Curator of Painting and Sculpture, The Museum of Modern Art, New York; Walburga Krupp, independent curator; Eva Reifert, Curator, Nineteenth-Century and Modern Art, Kunstmuseum Basel; and Natalia Sidlina, Curator, International Art, Tate Modern, London; with Laura Braverman, Curatorial Assistant, Department of Painting and Sculpture, The Museum of Modern Art.

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We invite you to explore the accompanying publication, *Sophie Taeuber-Arp: Living Abstraction*, which is available in the Museum Store.