

## **GEORGES VANTONGERLOO**

**1886 – 1965**

### **curriculum vitae**

Belgian artist Georges Vantongerloo, born in 1886, had to earn his keep as a construction worker at Antwerp's main train station during his youth. In his free time, he went to the Académie des Beaux Arts to draw Greek statues before going on to become a sculptor and painter. As a soldier in the first World War, he suffered lung damage from a German poison gas attack in a battle near Liège and afterwards received a small, lifelong disability pension from the Belgian state.

In 1915, he fled to the Netherlands with his brother Frans Vantongerloo (also a painter), where he met his future wife, Tine, and Theo van Doesburg, artist and editor of the legendary art journal 'De Stijl' that first appeared in 1917. Georges Vantongerloo was among the signatories of the 'De Stijl Manifesto'; while in the Netherlands, he also engaged in intense study of Spinoza's 'Ethics, Demonstrated in Geometrical Order'.

In 1920, Vantongerloo met Piet Mondrian, with whom he lived for several years in the southern French city of Menton and then for a time in Paris.

Vantongerloo became a member of the 'Cercle et Carré' artists' group in 1930; in the following year, he joined the internationally renowned 'Abstraction-Création' association of artists, later becoming the association's secretary.

Max Bill joined «Abstraction-Création» in 1933. Documents by «Abstraction-Création» like correspondance, original photos of artworks etc. are part of the «Archive Georges Vantongerloo», which Georges Vantongerloo bequeathed to his lifelong friend Max Bill and after the death of Max Bill are now in care of his widow, Angela Thomas.

Dr. Angela Thomas

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