

Artist Resources – Man Ray (American, 1890-1976)



[Man Ray Trust](#)

[Ray at MoMA](#)

[Ray at the Tate](#)

[Ray at the Smithsonian](#)

Watch a [video](#) by the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art about Ray's photographic inventions: "'Crimes Against Photography': Man Ray and the Rayograph."

"When they said I was ahead of my times, I said, 'No I'm not, I'm of my time, you are behind the times.'" In 2006, the Heckscher Museum of Art opened *Man Ray in the Age of Electricity*. Read an [article](#) that considers Ray's innovative approach to photography and a review in the New York Times by Benjamin Genocchio, "[Photographs So Electrifying, You Can Feel Them.](#)"

Man Ray: African Art Through the Modernist Lens examined the role of photography in understanding African objects as art in the 1920s and 1930s. The exhibition was organized by [International Art & Artists](#) and traveled to the [Phillips Collection](#), the [University of New Mexico Art Museum](#), the [University of Virginia Art Museum](#), and the [University of British Columbia](#).

The Legion of Honor in San Francisco installed [Man Ray/Lee Miller: Partners in Surrealism](#) in 2012. The exhibition covered the creative interaction between these two artists, who lived together in Paris as teacher/student and later as lovers. Listen to an [NPR story](#) about Ray's and Miller's relationship

In 2013, [Man Ray: Portraits](#) was on display at the National Portrait Gallery in London, the first major museum exhibition of his photographic portraits, with 150 prints on display. Read a [review](#) in Art Daily.

Man Ray – Human Equations: A Journey from Mathematics to Shakespeare was at the [Phillips Collection](#) in 2015, exploring the intersection of art and science in early 20th century modern art movements.

Read a 2015 article in Artnet, "[8 Things We Learned from Man Ray on His 125th Birthday.](#)"

Ray has had many major exhibitions in the 2020s. Read a [review](#) of *Man Ray and Fashion* (2020-2021) at the [Musée du Luxembourg](#) in Paris, "The Seductive Mysogyny of Man Ray." [Man Ray: Images, Dreams, and Love](#) (2021-2022) was installed at M WOODS, the artist's first exhibition in China and largest to date in Asia. In 2022, Cashiers d'Art in Paris installed an exhibition that [recreated a 1935 exhibition](#) by the artist at the same gallery.

In 2022, the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts launched [Man Ray: The Paris Years](#), which exhibited his portraits completed between 1921 and 1940 in the French capital city. Watch a [video](#) about the exhibition's subjects and read a review in [The Art Newspaper](#) about how the museum theatrically told the story. The [curator's opening talk](#) is also available to watch online.



Ray with his painting, *Mademoiselle H* (1952), 1954
Photograph: Ida Kar



Man Ray (American, 1890-1976)

Le Violon d'Ingres, 1924

Unique gelatin silver print, lush mounted on board

Private Collection; L2022:64.1

Photographer and painter Man Ray was an influential figure in the Dada and Surrealist movements of the 20th century. The artist lived in Paris until the Second World War, where he met and fell in love with Alice Prin (1901-1953), a model and artist who was known as Kiki de Montparnasse (Queen of Montparnasse). **Le Violon d'Ingres** is perhaps Ray's most famous artwork. The image centers on Kiki's elongated, nude back with a violin's f-holes superimposed on her skin in a way that likens her body with the instrument. Using techniques of "rayograph," multiple exposures, re-photographing negatives, and hand painting, the artwork is a testament to the artist's skill in many mediums. **Le Violon d'Ingres** is also an homage to the Neoclassical painter Jean-Auguste-Dominique Ingres (1780-1867), who not only inspired Ray's approach to the female nude but also hoped to be recognized equally for his work as a painter and violinist.



Jean-Auguste-Dominique Ingres

La Grande Baigneuse, 1808

Oil on canvas

Musée du Louvre

On view August 10 – November 13, 2022