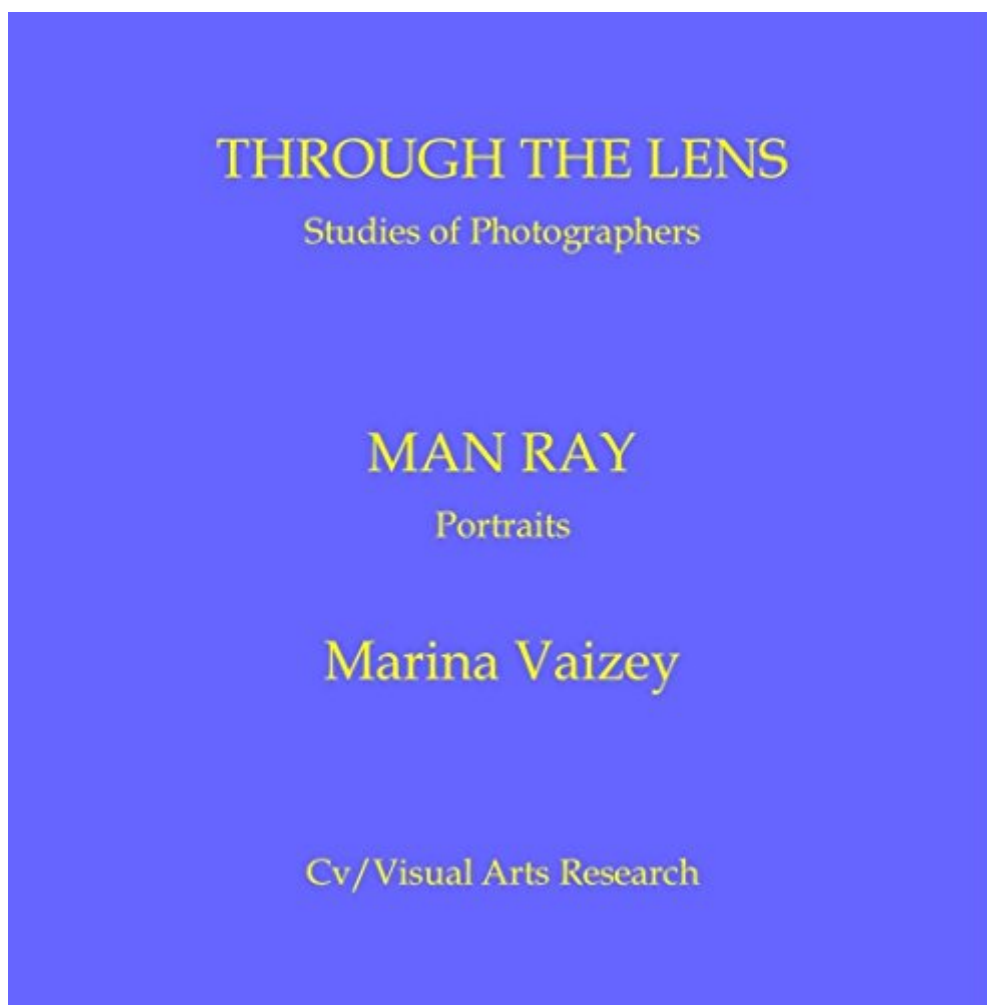


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Man Ray Portraits



Synopsis

This ample exhibition of 150 or so photographs, and a small complementary display of well chosen magazines, showing a succinct number in published form by Man Ray (1890-1976) is described as the first to concentrate exclusively on his portraits. He was born in Philadelphia as Michael Emmanuel Radnitzky, the eldest child of Russian Jewish immigrants (the father's classic occupation for someone of his ethnicity and class that of a tailor); the family moved to Brooklyn in 1897, the first of Man Ray's advantageous geographical relocations. The boy, talented in drawing, was deeply engaged with the New York art world before he was 20, and a student both at the National Academy of Design (America's Royal Academy) and the Art Students League. His family simplified their surname to Ray in 1912, and he was to be known as Man Ray for the rest of his life, perhaps a portent of the extraordinary self transformations to come. He already was working as a sculptor, and in paint and mixed media, and with found material for abstract compositions, officially a dada-ist and soon to be classified as a surrealist, when that ism came into view. Man Ray purchased his first camera in 1915 to record his paintings, but by 1920 he had begun to make his living through portrait photography.

Book Information

File Size: 89 KB

Print Length: 8 pages

Publisher: Cv Publications; 1 edition (July 25, 2017)

Publication Date: July 25, 2017

Sold by: Amazon Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B0748YYN74

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Not Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #482,614 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #49

in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Arts & Photography > Photography > Photographers, A-Z

#82 in [Books > Arts & Photography > Photography & Video > Individual Photographers > Essays](#) #89 in [Kindle Store > Kindle Short Reads > 15 minutes \(1-11 pages\) > Arts & Photography](#)

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