

Vasarely's Cosmic Visions

December 11, 2018–May 12, 2019

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Curator of European and American Art

Victor Vasarely's experiments with the perceptual effects of arranging basic elements of design earned him the nickname the "grandfather of Optic Art," or Op Art. In 1959, the Hungarian-born artist not only became a French citizen, but also issued a portfolio of twelve abstract serigraphs, each named after stars, constellations, moons, and other astronomical features. Appropriately enough, he dedicated this portfolio to French physicist Alexandre Dauvillier (1882–1979), who made important early discoveries in optics and radiography (including X-ray spectroscopy, X-ray crystallography, and television). Dauvillier devoted his later career to cosmic physics, a field that synthesizes astrophysics and geophysics in order to better understand the origins, structure, and fate of the universe.

Vasarely's Cosmic Visions, the Museum's exhibition of this complete portfolio, will consider the symbiosis between creative and scientific thinking, while highlighting humanity's enduring fascination with the celestial. Vasarely's black-and-white abstractions, created through manipulation of only line, shape, and pattern—essential building blocks of design—

Victor Vasarely (French, 1906–1997)

All images are from the portfolio *Vasarely*, 1959

Edition 76/150

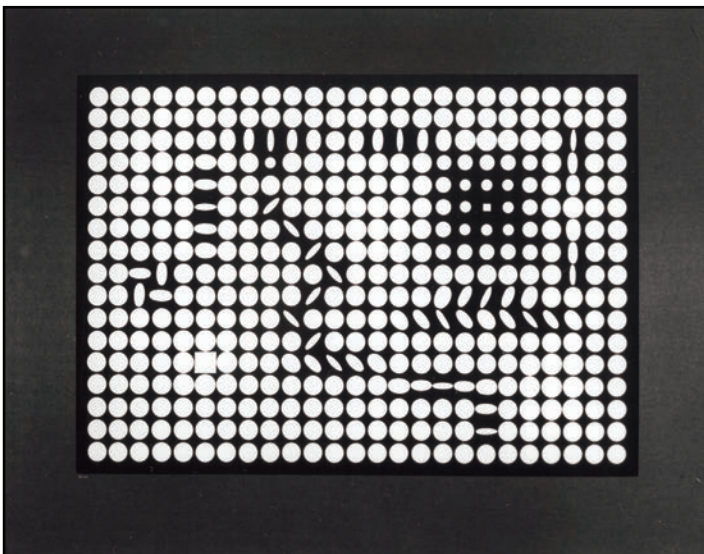
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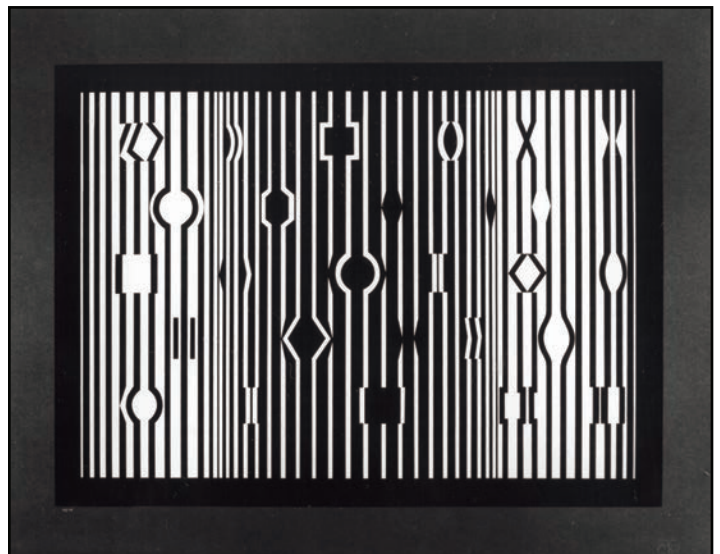
Gift of Mary C. Hazard in memory of Leland Hazard, 1893–1980



Gotha (81.332.3)

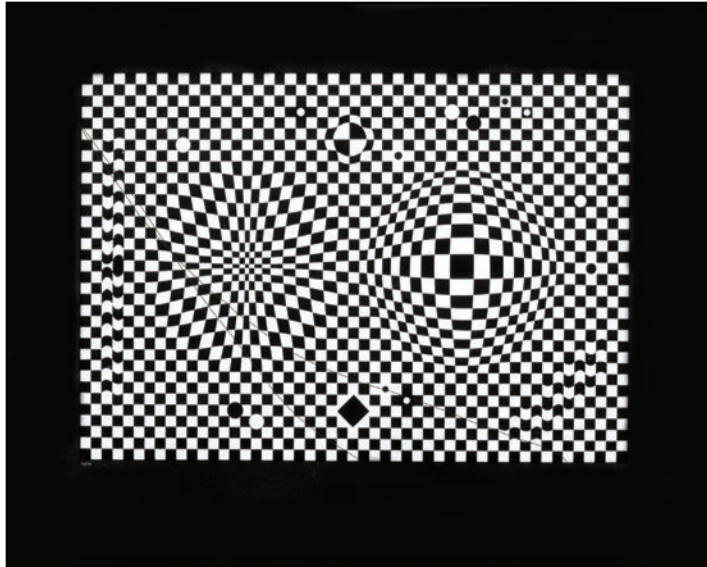


Betelgeuse (81.332.9)



Markab (81.332.11)

resemble the images of light and cosmic rays that Dauvillier studied in order to develop his theories about essential building blocks of the cosmos. By featuring this unique connection between a modern physicist and a modernist artist, the exhibition seeks to bridge the often conceptually divided realms of the creative (artificial) and the empirical (natural), fostering discussions about intersections of artistic, scientific, and humanistic endeavors and methods.



Vega (81.332.1)

Mark Your Calendars!

During the course of this exhibition, several astronomical events will be observable:

- December 13-14, 2018 Geminids meteor shower (considered “the king of meteor showers”)
- December 21-22, 2018 Ursids meteor shower
- December 22, 2018 Full moon
- January 3-4, 2019 Quadrantids meteor shower
- January 21, 2019 Total eclipse of the full supermoon
- January 22, 2019 Conjunction of Venus and Jupiter
- February 19, 2019 Full supermoon
- March 21, 2019 Full supermoon
- April 19, 2019 Full moon
- April 22-23, 2019 Lyrids meteor shower
- May 6-7, 2019 Eta Aquariids meteor shower ■

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Museum of Art and Archaeology



Saturday, October 6, 2018
1:00-3:00pm