

VI. 1 April

Andreas Huyssen

What does it mean for woman to be mass culture's other?

- Mass culture/woman art/man
- Women identified with masses... both are political threat

How did Nietzsche describe this threat of public culture?

- He used aesthetic terms...
- important passage: 51/ herd, female, Wagnerian
- Women were associated with popular and mass culture, with everyday life

Huyssen sees the 'othering' of mass culture as an important part of modernist project.

Modernism needed to 'fortify its boundaries.'

Where does Huyssen say that?

- Important passage:
- 54/ art must maintain adversarial stance
- Modern art makes absolutist claims, Huyssen calls it "a one-party state"--he's referring to the condemnation of kitsch
- So, mass culture (and woman) are the other to the modernist project.
- important passage:
- 58/ both modernist art and mass culture bear the scars of capitalism, both contain elements of change. Both are torn halves a freedom to which, however, they do not add up.

Andrew Hewitt, “avant-garde and technology”

-In 1920 Marinetti constructed his first Free-word Tactile Tables, which anticipated the literature of Dada and Surrealism.

-Actilism Manifesto (1924)

<http://www.personal.psu.edu/users/a/r/arh165/art297/futurism/manifestos/Tactilism.html>

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-Marinetti wants to free human sensuality... sees this as symbolic of Italian tyranny, but Hewitt sees problem in this--body pushed to full capacity... read bottom of 152

-Hewitt sees parallel shifts:

1. From phallogentric towards degenitalized power
2. From democracy to authoritarian state

-Fascist patriarch is not phallogentric, rather, he is no more than a technician of the state machine

André Breton, Nadja

What is surrealism?

-Constructivism about political revolution, surrealism charged with sexual frisson

-manifesto of sexual subversion.

-Prompted by women's entrance into public sphere of urban life.

-Constructivism and futurism future-oriented. Surrealism looks back to past.

Who is Nadja? What becomes of her?

-She is a prostitute, woman of the streets (“wretched, unprotected”), she ends up in sanatorium

important passage:

-101/ she is Breton’s surrealist muse (she is also part of Breton himself... his alter ego) read this bathtub scene

-She tries to break out of the ‘iron cage’ that we discussed at the beginning of the term

Where do we see this retrospective perspective in Nadia?

-Painting (important passage: ucello... 94/ hidden intentions, hard to interpret)

-Photography: sites of Paris that are not modern (i.e. no telephones, no railway)

If Marx and Hegel are the patrons of constructivism, who is the patron of surrealism?

-Freud: perversion and debility are of high interest

Locate surrealist moments in the text

Important passages:

*56-59/ optical illusion

115/ happenings

86/ coincidences

Paris arcades, decay, flea markets

falling dead body