

**Week 4, Lecture 7: Body/ Gesture in Europe**

decade: 1940s to edge of '60s

“Art doesn't go to sleep in the bed made for it; it would sooner run away than say its own name: what it likes is to be incognito. Its best moments are when it forgets what its own name is.” (Dubuffet, 1940s generation)

“The painter has only to paint one masterpiece, himself, constantly.”  
(Klein, 1950s generation)

- I. “*Informe*” and “*Tachisme*” in Europe – Abject bodies and surfaces in the 1940s - '50s
  - A) Jean Dubuffet (France, 1901-1985), engineer of “*l'art brut*” and “anti-cultural positions”
  - B) Jean Fautrier (France, 1898-1964), philosophies of Georges Bataille, *informe*
  - C) Antoni Tapiés (Spain, b. 1923)
  - D) Alberto Burri (Italy, 1915-1995)
  
- II. The “*Nouveaux Realistes*” – return to color and sensuous play in the 1950s - '60s
  - A) Yves Klein\* (Fr, 1928-1962) (Space -Void) }role of critic,
  - B) Arman (b. Armand Fernandez, 1928) (Matter - Full) }curator, writer
  - C) Jean Tinguely (Swiss, 1925-1991) (Time - Movement) }Pierre Restany
  
- III. The *d'affichistes* or “*decollage*” artists – mass culture in the street in the 1960s
  - A) Mimmo Rotella (Italian, b. 1918)
  - B) Jacques de la Villeglé (Fr., b. 1926)
  
- IV. CoBrA [Copenhagen, Brussels, Amsterdam] – the continuous craving for revolution, 1940s through the 1960s
  - A) Asger Jorn (Copenhagen, Denmark, 1914-1973)
  - B) Pierre Alechinsky (Brussels, Belgium, 1927); with poet Christian Dotremont
  - C) Karel Appel (Amsterdam, Holland, 1921)

For CoBrA see the wiki:

[http://www.wikipedia.org/wiki/COBRA\\_\(avant-garde\\_movement\)](http://www.wikipedia.org/wiki/COBRA_(avant-garde_movement))

Linked to the Situationist International, which we will learn about later; for their theory of *détournement*, see theses 204-209 of Guy Debord, *The Society of the Spectacle*.

\* interested in researching Yves Klein, spiritual leader, holy clown, fascinating trickster? See his online (posthumous) archive at: [http://www.yveskleinarchives.org/documents/bio\\_us.html](http://www.yveskleinarchives.org/documents/bio_us.html)

SELECTED IMAGES

unless noted, works are oil on canvas

background: Giacometti, Tall Figure 1949 (cast bronze)

Dubuffet, Childbirth 1945

Dubuffet, Portrait of Fautrier, 1947

Dubuffet, Corps de dame series, 1950

Fautrier, The Massacre (a..k.a. Sarah) 1944 (or 1942)

Fautrier, Hôtage (Hostage) series, 1944

Fautrier, Nu (Nude) 1946

Tapies, Marro Negros, 1958

Burri, Sacco series, 1954

Klein, Monochrome series, 1959 onward (variously: paintings with flocking, sponges, mounted sponges)

(Titles: L'Accord bleue 1960, Monochrome I.K.B. 191 1962 etc.)

Klein, Leap into the Void, 1960 ("assisted" photo by Harry Shunk)

Klein, Anthropometries series, 1960 onward, documentation and canvases

Arman, Madison Avenue, 1962 (vitrine with shoes)

Arman, Cold Petting or Venu\$, 1970 (acrylic with dollar bills, molded in mannequin mold)

Tinguely, Homage to New York, March 7 1960 (documentation of self-destructing sculpture)

Rotella, Marilyn 1963

Villeglé, rue Daubenton November 1958

Jorn, The avant-garde will not be stopped 1962 (found oil painting with addition)

Alechinsky, Exercice d'écriture, 1950

Appel, Man 1953

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