

Week 7: COOL ART / COLD WAR

Lecture 11: “Post-Painterly Abstraction” and Formalist Sculpture; Greenberg’s reign

key decade: *1950s into ‘60s*
terms: Color Field, “Post-Painterly” abst.

I. Greenberg’s search for AbEx’s successor:

- A) Helen Frankenthaler (b. US 1928)
Per artist Morris Louis, “a bridge between Pollock and what was possible,”
per art historian/critic Michael Fried “pregnant with possibilities” (!)
- B) Morris Louis (b Louis Bernstein, US, 1912-1962)
- C) Kenneth Noland (US, b. 1924)

II. Formalism and sculpture: Anthony Caro (UK, b. 1924)

III. Formalism’s occlusions

- A) Frankenthaler’s body
- B) Ellsworth Kelly (US, b. 1923)

IV. The uptake of formalism

- A) Kelly’s public art
- B) Kelly algorithm: <http://radicalart.info/AlgorithmicArt/grid/any/index.html>

Review of Midterm images

SELECTED IMAGES

Frankenthaler, Mountains and Sea October 1952*
Frankenthaler, Scene w/ Nude (a.k.a. Personal Landscape) October 1952*
Frankenthaler, Arcadia, 1962
Frankenthaler, Orange Proscenium, 1968
Louis, Charred Journal: Firewritten, 1951
Louis, Tet, 1958 (compares with Blue Veil at Harvard and on the website)
Louis, Alpha 1960
Noland, Song, 1958
Noland, Blue Veil, 1963
Caro, 24 Hours 1960
Caro, Prairie 1967
Kelly, Sixty-Four Panels: colors for a large wall, 1951
Kelly, Green, Blue, Red, 1964

* same month, same artist

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