

**Week 13: 80'S POLITICAL ART AND POSTMODERNISM**

**Lecture 23: Return to Painting vs. Appropriation**

decades discussed: *1980s-90s*  
terms: Postmodernism,  
Appropriation, "Neo Geo"

I. Postmodernism

- Goes behind and before "now" to return to other potential futures
  - Returns: to painting, to the body, to "figurative" sculpture, to "expression," to difference
- A) Women painters surge into view (painterly, personal, less photographic)
1. Jennifer Bartlett (trained by AbEx Tworkov, via Minimalism, to Painting)
  2. Elizabeth Murray (trained in California, out of Minimalism to lush cartoons)
  3. Katherine Porter (trained by AbEx Guston, semi-abstract signs)
  4. Susan Rothenberg (horses: "portraiture without people")
- B) Return of the repressed? The abject body in the 90s
1. Kiki Smith (daughter Tony Smith, infl.by her Catholicism)
  2. Robert Gober (suburban homo-eroticism)

II. Critical Postmodernism in the "image world"

- A) The impact of post-structuralism (anti-essentialist feminism)
1. Cindy Sherman
  2. Barbara Kruger
  3. Jenny Holzer
- B) Appropriation
1. Sherrie Levine, Mike Bidlo: questioning authorship
  2. Jeff Koons, Haim Steinbach: commodity fetishes
- C) Neo-Geo
1. Philip Taaffe: the wit in pattern and pastiche
  2. Ross Blechner: emotion hiding in the field
  3. Peter Halley: deconstructing power in abstraction

selected image list on verso

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LECTURE NOTES

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SELECTED IMAGES (painting on canvas unless otherwise noted)

Bartlett, At the Lake, Morning, 1979

Murray, Sentimental Education, 1982

Rothenberg, United States 1975

Smith (Kiki), Untitled (The Virgin Mary), 1990 (paper mache)

Gober, Untitled 1989-90 (wax, cotton, leather, human hair, wood)

Sherman, Untitled (Film Stills) 1978-82 (photographs; series)

Sherman, Sex Pictures, 1992 (photograph)

Kruger, Untitled (We are being made spectacles of), 1980

Holzer, Truisms: "Abuse of Power..." (offset posters, T-shirts, LED signs), 1979-86

Levine, After Walker Evans 1981 (photograph)

Bidlo, Restaging "Anthropometry of the Blue Period," 1980s, documentation of performance

Koons, New Hoovers or New Shelton Wet/Dry Double Decker, 1981, plexi case, fluorescent lights, appliances

Steinbach, Fantastic Arrangement, 1985, appliances on custom shelf

Taaffe, Concordia, 1985

Halley, Two Cells with Circulating Conduit, 1986

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