

PROF. SVEN SPIEKER
WINTER 2008
THEORIES OF THE MODERN: MARCEL DUCHAMP

TENTATIVE SYLLABUS AND SCHEDULE

1. Books and Seminar Reader

David Joselit, *Infinite Regress* (UCen/UCSB Bookstore)

Dawn Ades, *Marcel Duchamp* (UCEn/UCSB Bookstore)

Marcel Duchamp, *Writings* (UCen/UCSB Bookstore)

Class Reader (Grafikart, Isla Vista)

The latest biography of Duchamp is the one by Calvin Tomkins. It will be on reserve at the Arts Library.

2. Requirements

--Research paper

-Up to four in-class interventions, focusing on one work by Duchamp + a reading of your choice. Interventions are strictly circumscribed: no handouts beyond one page (if any); absolutely no more than ten minutes; end with a question that leads into a group discussion. Team-interventions are possible. The point here is not to only to represent critical models already existent but also to develop possible alternatives to them.

--Produce an annotated bibliography of the books on reserve at the Arts Library. This is due in week 4.

Readings are for orientation, and may be adjusted as we move along. I suggest you use Ades' book as a basic tool for navigation, and then follow your instincts in selecting further readings from the class reader; the books on reserve at the Arts Library (see handout); and the books purchased for this class (see list above). We will not march through assigned texts one by one. Rather, I expect an informed discussion that works with a kaleidoscope of different sources. The works by Duchamp discussed each session are by and large those mentioned in the respective chapters in Ades' book.

3. Tentative Schedule and Readings

SESSION 1: 01.09.06:

Introduction

SESSION 2: 01.16.06

"Passages"

Reading:

Ades, Duchamp, 42-65

De Duve, *Pictorial Nominalism*, 19-56 (Reader)

Joselit, *Infinite Regress*, 9-70

Suggested additional reading:

Gleizes/Metzinger, *On Cubism* (Main Library, not on reserve)

Tomkins, *The Bride and the Bachelors* (on reserve at the Arts Library)

Cabanne, "A Window Onto Something Else" (Reader)

BBC Interview with Marcel Duchamp (Reader)

Hubert Damisch, "The Duchamp Defense" in *October* 10 (Fall 1979) (Main Library, not on reserve)

SESSION 3: 01.23.06

NO CLASS

SESSION 4: 01.30.06

“Dry Art. The Retinal Shudder and the Planning of the Large Glass”

Reading:

Ades, Duchamp, 66-81
Joselit, *Infinite Regress*, 9-70
Molderings, “Objects of Modern Scepticism” (Reader)
Demos, “from *The Exiles of Marcel Duchamp* (Reader)
Schwarz, “Toward the Large Glass” (Reader)

SESSION 5: 02.06.06

“The Bride Stripped Bare by Her Bachelors, Even (The Large Glass) I”

Reading:

Ades, Duchamp, 84-121
Joselit, *Infinite Regress*, 111-156
Krauss, “Where’s Poppa?” (Reader)
Hamilton, “The Large Glass” (Reader)
Steeffel, “Marcel Duchamp and the Machine” (Reader)
Schwarz, “The Alchemist Stripped Bare in the Bachelor, Even” (Reader)
Crary, “The Passage from Virgin to Bride” [not in the Reader/handout]
Paz, “* water writes always in * plural” (Reader)
Hopkins, from *Marcel Duchamp and Max Ernst. The Bride Shared* (Reader)
Krauss, from *The Optical Unconscious* (Reader)
Schwarz, “The Large Glass” (Reader)
Schwarz, “The Bride Stripped Bare” (Reader)
Schwarz, “The Bachelor’s Odyssey” (Reader)
Schwarz, “Continuing and Completing the Large Glass” (Reader)

SESSION 6: 02.13.06

“The Bride Stripped Bare by Her Bachelors, Even (The Large Glass) II”

Reading:

See class above

SESSION 7: 02.20.06:

“Anti-Art, Rose Sélavy and Surrealism”

Reading:

Ades, *Marcel Duchamp*, 122-145
Jones, “The Ambivalence of Rose Sélavy and the (Male) Artist as “Only The Mother of the Work” (Reader)

SESSION 8: 02. 27.06

“The Readymades”

Reading:

Ades, *Marcel Duchamp*, 146-171
Joselit, *Infinite Regress*, 71-109
Joselit, *Infinite Regress*, 157-193
William Camfield, “Marcel Duchamp’s Fountain” (Reader)
Judovitz, “Ready-Mades: (Non) sense and (Non) art” (Reader)
De Duve, “Echoes of the Readymade: Critique of Pure Modernism” (Reader)
Jones, “Readymades” (Reader)
Demos, “from *The Exiles of Marcel Duchamp* (Reader)
Michelson, “Anemic Cinema” (Reader)

**SESSION 9: 03.05.06:
Replicas, Casts and the Infra-thin**

Reading:

Ades, *Marcel Duchamp*, 172-189

Buskirk, "Thoroughly Modern Marcel" (Reader)

Ramirez, "The Infraline and Virtuality" (Reader)

**SESSION 10: 03.12.06:
"Etant donnés"**

Reading:

Ades, *Marcel Duchamp*, 190-205

Make-Up Class 1:

Duchamp's Afterlife

Readings to be announced

Make-Up Class 2:

Flexible topic