

Week 5: FIFTIES (AND LATER): HOT ART/ COLD WAR

Lecture 9, Bay Area Figurative Art, Funk, and Chicago's "Hairy Who"

Thesis: In these West coast and Midwestern art movements, we can see an "internal rebellion" against the dominance of New York painting, critics, and market in the U.S. postwar. In other words: this is not (or not only) "provincial" art, but an argument with hegemony.

I. Bay Area Figurative (SF, 1950-65)

key decade: *1950s into '60s*

- A) First Generation: David Park, Elmer Bischoff, Richard Diebenkorn, James Weeks
- B) "Bridge" Generation: Nathan Oliveira, Paul Wonner, Theophilus Brown
- C) Second Generation (into Funk): Joan Brown, Manual Neri, Bruce McGaw

II. California Funk (SF/ LA, late 50s into 60s)

- A) The "Beats" – life, drugs, and poetry (Kerouac, Ginsberg) Wallace Berman + "Semina"
- B) "Rat Bastard Protective Association," Bruce Conner
- C) Hermetic underground: Jay De Feo, Wally Hedrick
- D) Assemblage and installation: Ed Kienholz

III. Chicago "Hairy Who," ('68 + after)

- A) precursor: H.C. Westerman
- B) Jim Nutt, Gladys Nilsson (California connection)
- C) Ed Paschke, Roger Brown

IMAGE LIST (Selected)

Park, Kids on Bikes 1951
Park, Ethiopia 1959
Bischoff, Girl Wading 1959
Diebenkorn, Coffee 1956
Diebenkorn, Woman on a Porch 1958
Diebenkorn, Ocean Park series 1970-80s
Weeks, Two Musicians 1960
Oliveira, Man Walking 1958
Neri, Standing Figure 1958
Brown, (Joan) Girl Sitting 1962
Brown, Fur Rat 1962
Conner, Child 1959-60
Berman, Faceless Faces 1963
De Feo, The Rose, 1958-64
Arneson, Typewriter 1965
Kienholz, Back Seat Dodge, 1964
Westermann, Evil New War God 1958
Nutt, I'm Da Vicious Roomer, 1969
Paschke, Fandango 1979
Brown, (Roger) The Entry of Christ in Chicago 1976

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