MIT 4.602, Modern Art and Mass Culture (HASS-D/CI)

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Mapping Postmodernism - 1

below is a ridiculously simplified dichotomy, extrapolated from *one* influential source: Fredric Jameson, "The Cultural Logic of Postmodernism..." New Left Review, 1984

Modernism Postmodernism

Depth Surface
van Gogh Warhol
depression schizophrenia
alienation fragmentation
centered individual decentered discursive subject

stylepastichediachronicsynchronichistoryend of history

time space situation simulacrum inter-national capital multi-national capital production Nature space space situation simulacrum multi-national capital reproduction Techne

Freud, Marx
(Depth models)

Lacan (Deleuze), Mandel
(Systemic/surface models)

"Unite d'habitation" Hotel Bonaventure division of labor simulation of world l'art pour l'art entertainment critical distance cognitive mapping (??) Scientific knowledge understanding the Imaginary in the Real

Mapping Postmodernism - 2

from I. Hassan, "The Culture of Postmodernism," Theory, Culture and Society, vol. 2, 1985

Modernism Postmodernism

Romanticism/Symbolism 'Pataphysics/Dadaism

Form (conjunctive, closed)

Antiform (disjunctive, open)

Purpose Play
Design Chance
Hierarchy Anarchy

Mastery/Logos (language) Exhaustion/Silence

Art Object/Finished Work Process/Performance/Happening

Distance Participation

Creation/Totalization Decreation/Deconstruction

Synthesis Antithesis
Presence Absence
Centering Dispersal
Genre/Boundary Text/Intertext

Semantics Rhetoric
Paradigm Syntagm
Hypotaxis Parataxis
Metaphor Metonymy
Selection Combination
Root/Depth Rhizome/Surface

Interpretation/Reading Against Interpretation/Misreading

Signified Signifier

Lisible (Readerly) Scriptible (Writerly)

Narative/Grande Histoire Anti-narrative/Petite Histoire

Master CodeIdiolectSymptomDesireTypeMutant

Genital/Phallic Polymorphous/Androgynous

Paranoia Schizophrenia

Origin/Cause Difference-Difference/Trace

God the Father The Holy Ghost

Metaphysics Irony

Determinacy Indeterminacy Transcendence Immanence

"Postmodern" Timeline:

	New Imperialism and	British screed against French Impressionism, call for "Post-modernism"
the	"scramble for Africa"	
1910s		Cubist experimentation, leading to "avant-garde" modernism (Futurism, Suprematism, Dadaism)
1920s	World War	"rappel à l'ordre" in France, "Neue Sachlichkeit" in Germany, stylistic reaction & conservatism; MoMA and Bauhaus founded
1930s	fascism on the rise	Frederigo de Onis theorizes two streams in modernism: progressive and "post-modern" (reactionary) – [Bauhaus vs Surrealism?]
1950s	World War II	Hegemonic modernism in postwar U.S.: "avant-garde" as Pollock, Int'l style architecture
1960s		widespread rebellion in the name of a neo-avant-garde: Happenings, body art
	Wars against colonialism	
1980s		Post-modernism theorized explicitly as a (post-structural) turn against fixity and order, as well as a new mode of capitalism
1989	End of Soviet Union "New world order"	
2000's		Relational, situational, and social art forms free of "style" or fixity, the name "postmodernism" rarely used

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