I. AbEx in San Francisco key decade: 1940 into 1950s

thesis:
There was an important impetus, if not an origin, for Abstract Expressionist "Field" painting in New York — in the painting being produced around San Francisco in the 1940s, particularly the somber, narcissistic abstractions of Clyfford Still.

A) Clyfford Still (1904-80)
B) Rothko and Reinhardt in San Francisco
C) Richard Diebenkorn (1922-1993) — genius loci
D) Others: Hassel Smith and Frank Lobdell

II. The promotion of an "école du pacifique" by French curator Michel Tapié, mid- to late '50s.

A) Mark Tobey -US (1890-1976)
B) Georges Mathieu -France (b. 1921)
C) Jiro Yoshihara -Japan (1905-1972; westernized order of name.)

III. "Gutai Bijutsu Kyokai" (The Concrete Art Association, known now as "Gutai"); begun by Yoshihara and students, Osaka 1954. Outdoor art exhibit, October 1955.

"Gutai art does not alter matter; it gives matter life.... In Gutai art, the human spirit and matter, opposed as they are, shake hands... My respect goes out to the works of Pollock and Mathieu. Their works are the cries uttered by matter: by oil paint and enamel themselves." (Yoshihara, Gutai manifesto, 1956)

A) Sensei (teacher) Yoshihara Jiro (1905-1972)
B) Radical Students:
1. Shimamoto (Shozo) (b. 1928)
3. Shiraga (Kazuo) (b. 1924)
4. Tanaka (Atsuko) (b. 1932)
SELECTED IMAGES

Rothko, *Slow Swirl by the Edge of the Sea*, 1944
Rothko, *Multiform*, 1948
Still, *Brown Study* 1935
Still, *1945 R*
Still, *1953*
Lobdell, *Fall*, 1957
Diebenkorn, *Untitled* 1949
Diebenkorn, *Berkeley #8* 1954
Tobey, *Broadway* (tempera) 1936
Tobey, *Crystallization* 1944

Yoshihara, *Work* 1961
Shiraga *Struggle with Clay* 1955, (photograph documenting performance)
Murakami *Tearing Paper* or, *At One Moment Opening Six Holes*, 1955 (photograph documenting performance)
Shimamoto *Trous (Holes)* 1950
Shimamoto *Hurling Colors* 1956 (photograph documenting performance)
Yoshishara, *Work* 1962 (circle)
Shiraga documented painting with feet, 1955
Shiraga, *Tenisei Sekihatsuki*, 1959
Tanaka *Electric Dress* 1957
Mathieu, *Composition* 1953
Mathieu, *Simon Comte de Crepy* 1959