Week 13: 80'S POLITICAL ART AND POSTMODERNISM
Lecture 23: Return to Painting vs. Appropriation

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
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
Levine, *After Walker Evans* 1981 (photograph)
Bidlo, Restaging “Anthropometry of the Blue Period,” 1980s, documentation of performance
Steinbach, *Fantastic Arrangement*, 1985, appliances on custom shelf
Taaffe, *Concordia*, 1985
Halley, *Two Cells with Circulating Conduit*, 1986