Idealism versus Realism: Social Utopia and the Politics of Style

Oct. 23 – Nov. 11

What is “Realism”? Discussion of terminology (idealism, realism, naturalism) and its use in nineteenth-century writing; the complex interaction between idealism and realism; the politics of style: idealism, naturalism, realism, and the question of defining their meaning(s); the French Revolutions of 1830 and 1848, the coup d’état of 1851; city versus countryside; painting the juste milieu; development of printing technology (illustrated books, popular prints, political caricature).

Section I: The Deceptive Smoothness of Biedermeier Realism and the Rise of the Düsseldorf School of Painting;
Section II: Art as Social Critique in France
Section III: Liberty on the Barricades or a Dance of Death? The Revolutions of 1830 and 1848 and the Politics of Allegory.
Section IV: Naturalism and Realism in Germany

Idealism versus Realism (Section II): Art as Social Critique in France

Oct. 28

Readings:
Frascina, Introduction, pp. 3-68.

********** ATTENTION **********

Change in Syllabus: Oct. 30

NEW: Delacroix, Ingres, and the Allure of the Orient

Oct. 30

NO READINGS, but visit the exhibition: Théodore Chassériau (1819–1856): The Unknown Romantic, October 22, 2002–January 5, 2003; Special Exhibition Galleries, 2nd floor.

********** ATTENTION **********
HISTORICAL GENRE

• Eduard Bendemann, Mourning Jews, dating from 1832
• Cornelius, Last Judgment

Bendemann, Eduard (Julius Friedrich) (b Berlin, 3 Dec 1811; d Düsseldorf, 27 Dec 1889).

Paul (Hippolyte) Delaroche (b Paris, 17 July 1797; d Paris, 4 Nov 1856).


July Monarchy:

French Révolution De Juillet, also called July Days (1830), insurrection that brought Louis-Philippe to the throne of France. In the July Revolution the upper middle class, or bourgeoisie, secured a political and social ascendancy that was to characterize the period known as the July Monarchy (1830–48).

Alexandre Dumas (1802–70):

• best known to modern audiences through vivid historical novels of the 1840s such as “The Three Musketeers” (published in 1844) and “The Count of Monte Christo” (1845)

Heinrich Heine (b December 13, 1797, Düsseldorf, Prussia; d February 17, 1856, Paris)

What is modern art? Definition of modern in Briony Fer, Modernity and Modernism:

• Édouard Manet, L’Olympia, 1863


Émile Zola (b April 2, 1840, Paris, France – d Sept. 28, 1902, Paris)

juste-milieu


Baudelaire (b April 9, 1821, Paris, France – d Aug. 31, 1867, Paris)

Ferdinand-Victor-Eugène Delacroix (b Charenton-Saint-Maurice, nr Paris, 26 April 1798; d Paris, 13 Aug 1863)

Théodore Géricault (b Rouen, 26 Sept 1791; d Paris, 26 Jan 1824):

• *Ary Scheffer, Géricault’s Death*

• *Eugène Delacroix, The Bark of Dante, Salon of 1822*

• From Dante’s *Inferno*, Canton 8: Dante and Virgil are ferried across a tumultuous lake by the muscular oarsman Phlegas

• *Michelangelo, Night from Medici tomb*

• *Rubens, Marie de’ Medici at Marseille*

• *Lionhunt, 1854*

• *Initially Sketch of Lionhunt*