Visual and Cultural Studies

Notes -- Session 4

Prelude: Diane Arbus

What does it mean to approach an image or object **visually**? Cf. Judith Butler's literary/critical approach to Gillian Wearing's.

What constitutes a visual culture? How is it constructed?

Background to Greenberg's Modernism

Kant

beauty and aesthetic judgment disinterestedness

Bell & Fry - Formalism significant form representation subjective nature of aesthetic judgment

Greenberg

cf. modernism in literature (Apollinaire, Joyce, Beckett) film (Eisenstein, Vertov, Fellini, Godard)

Modernism and Postmodernism

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Barbara Kruger
recycling of images
stylistic link to Russian Constructivism
art < --- > advertising (Diesel, CK, ...)
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Carl Andre

Questions raised fall into three categories:

- 1. identity (What is it? Is it a work of art? What are the criteria?)
- 2. meaning (What is it about? What does it express? [connotation, 42f])
- 3. value (What value, if any, does it have? Intrinsic? Extrinsic? How is its value determined?)

rules, statements, subjects, practices

Manet

depiction (denotation) and representation (connotation) [27] formal (Zola, Bell, Greenberg) and narrative (Buchon, Butler) analysis [28f]

Malevich depiction abandoned