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

Professor Caroline A. Jones

History, Theory and Criticism Section, Department of Architecture

Spring 2004 Lecture Notes Week 1, Lecture 1

1:1 – Introduction to theories of Modernism and Modernity

- I. High and Low? Or images of Modernization?
 - A. Venus Envy: looking back from Modernity
 - 1. Botticelli and the Renaissance– already high/low
 - 2. 19th century France (Bouguereau and Cabanel versus Courbet and Manet)
 - B. Mass Culture as a product of reproductive technologies (Berger, Benjamin), and Modernism as resistant (case study: Woman)
 - 1. Picabia and Duchamp: mechanical women, 1912-1920s
 - 2. Dubuffet and de Kooning: primordial woman or commodity?
 - 3. Warhol's Venus
 - 4. Cindy Sherman's postmodern complexities
 - C. Commodified desires (Wesselman, Rauschenberg, Meireles)

II. Review of Syllabus

Slide List (selected)

Botticelli, <u>Birth of Venus</u>, 1483-84 Bouguereau <u>Birth of Venus</u>, 1879

Cabanel Birth of Venus, 1863

Manet Olympia, 1863

Courbet The painter's studio, 1855

Picabia, Portrait of an American girl in a state of nudity, 1915

Duchamp, Nude Descending a Staircase, 1912 and The Bride Stripped Bare ... 1915-23

Dubuffet, Childbirth, 1944 and Corps de Dame series, 1950

de Kooning, Study for Woman, 1950

Warhol, Gold Marilyn, 1962 and Marilyn Diptych, 1962

Sherman, Untitled film stills, 1978

Wesselman, Great American Nude series, ca. 1962-67

Rauschenberg, Coca-Cola Plan, 1958

Meireles, Insertions Project, 1970