# 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 2, Lecture 1

### **POST-REVOLUTIONARY FRANCE:**

# Delacroix, or, how to imagine Liberty

- I. The first efforts at imagining Liberty:
  - A. Jacques-Louis David
  - B. The legislated Liberty seal of the First Republic 1792
- II. Allegorical Woman
  - A. Woman as icon
    - 1. Nike, Athena, Venus (Teiresias)
    - 2. Mary, Judith, Jeanne d'Arc (Godiva)
  - B. Woman as Allegory
    - 1. Naked truth
    - 2. Virginal power (Marie de' Medici)
- III. Eugéne Delacroix, Liberty at the Barricades, July 28 1830: a close reading
  - A. *Imagining* Liberty: Delacroix' formal and psychological image repertoire
  - B. July 28? Or 29<sup>th</sup>? Bonapartist? Or Republican? Fearful? Or Celebratory?
  - C. The power of ambiguity and ambivalence

### Slide List for **2:1** (selected)

#### Early "liberty"

David Oath of the Horatii, 1784

David Oath in the Tennis Court, (unfinished) 1790-92

David Death of Marat 1793

### Allegorical and Iconic Woman

Venus and Aphrodite (Roman and Greek)

Athena and Nike

Madonna vs Eve (Guido Reni, Lucas Cranach)

Lucretia and Cleopatra (Guido Reni, Lucas Cranach)

Judith beheading Holofernes (by 19<sup>th</sup> c. artist Gustave Dore and Renaissance painter Artemesia Gentileschi)

Jeanne d'Arc vs. Pygmalion's Galatea (by 19<sup>th</sup> c artists J.D.Ingres and Edward Burne-Jones)

Rubens Life of Marie de' Medici cycle, 1622-26

Millet Charity, Fraternity, both ca. 1848

Daumier La Republique 1848

#### **Delacroix's image repertoire** (images with no author are Delacroix's)

La Vierge du Sacré Coeur or Triomphe de la Religion, 1821

Barq of Dante 1822

Massacre at Chios\_1824 (first Salon picture)

Greece on the Ruins of Missolonghi, 1826

and of course Liberty on the Barricades, a.k.a., Liberty Leading the People, 1830

see Webmuseum for excellent images: <a href="http://www.ibiblio.org/wm/paint/auth/delacroix/">http://www.ibiblio.org/wm/paint/auth/delacroix/</a>

Influenced by

Gericault Raft of the Medusa 1817-19