The Corcoran Women’s Committee Tuesday, March 13th, 2018

Four-Part Lecture Series Dr. Nancy G. Heller

**UNDERSTANDING AND ENJOYING MODERN ART**

**Session #3:**

**RADICAL DEVELOPMENTS in the 1930s and the 1940s/50s--**

**SURREALISM & ABSTRACT EXPRESSIONISM**

**BASIC BIBLIOGRAPHY**

RELEVANT SURVEYS/ANTHOLOGIES:

Tom Armstrong, et al, *200 Years of American Sculpture* (Whitney Museum of

American Art, 1976)

Alan Bowness, *Modern European Art: From Impressionism to Abstraction* (Thames &

Hudson, 2003)

Lisa Phillips, *The American Century: Art & Culture, 1950-2000* (Whitney Museum of

American Art, 1999)

Nikos Stangos (ed.), *Concept of Modern Art: From Fauvism to Postmodernism*

(Thames & Hudson, 1994)

USEFUL, BUT DIFFICULT TO CATEGORIZE:

Robert Atkins, *Artspeak: A Guide to Contemporary Ideas, Movements, and Buzzwords*

*1945 to the Present* (Abbeville Press, 1997)

“ : , *Artspoke: A Guide to Modern Ideas, Movements, and Buzzwords, 1848-*

*1944* (Abbeville Press, 1993)

Nancy G. Heller, *Why a Painting is Like a Pizza: A Guide to Understanding and*

*Enjoying Modern Art* (Princeton University Press, 2002)

PARTICULAR MOVEMENTS & ARTISTS:

[SURREALISM]

Alfred H. Barr (ed.), *Fantastic Art, Dada, Surrealism* (Museum of Modern Art, 1936)

Whitney Chadwick, *Women Artists and the Surrealist Movement* (Little, Brown, 1985)

Hayden Herrera, *Frida* (Harper & Row, 1983)

David Hopkins, *Dada and Surrealism: A Very Short Introduction* (Oxford University

Press, 2004)

Didier Ottinger (ed.), *Magritte: The Treachery of Images* (Prestel Verlag, 2017)

Eric Shanes, *Salvador Dalí* (Parkstone International, 2014--eBook)

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*Un Chien andalou* (An Andalusian Dog), short Surrealist film by Salvador Dalí & Luis

Buñuel, 1929

Dream sequence fpor Alfred Hitchcock’s film, *Spellbound*, 1945  
*Destino*, short animated film by Dalí & Walt Disney (1945, 2003)

*The Definitive Dalí: A Lifetime Retrospective* (documentary film), directed by Adam

Low, 1988

*Frida* (feature film), directed by Julie Taymor, 2003

[ABSTRACT EXPRESSIONISM]

William C. Agee, *Herbert Ferber: Sculpture, Painting, Drawing, 1945-1980* (Museum

of Fine Arts, Boston, 1983)

David Anfam, *Abstract Expressionism* (Thames & Hudson, 2015)

Joan Marter (ed.), *Women of Abstract Expressionism* (Yale University Press, 2016)

Irving Sandler, *Abstract Expressionism and the American Experience: A Re-Evaluation*

(Hudson Hills Press, 2009)

Deborah Solomon, *Jackson Pollock: A Biography* (Simon & Schuster, 1987)

Mark Stevens and Annalyn Swan, *DeKooning: An American Master* (Knopf, 2004)

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*Pollock Painting* (short documentary film) by Hans Namuth, 1951

*Pollock* (feature film) directed by Ed Harris, 2001

*Red* (Tony Award-winning play about Mark Rothko), written by John Logan (2010)

**BASIC TERMS/CONCEPTS:**

Dada (started 1916 in Zurich; WWI-inspired nihilism: question everything)

Surrealism (1920s & 30s, initially in France; influenced all art forms)

André Breton (*1st Manifesto of Surrealism*, 1924; automatism)

Traits: random, dreamlike, illogical juxtapositions, irrational scale, obsessive

repetition, violence + eroticism, visual/verbal puns

Dalí’s “paranoiac-critical” method; his wife, Gala

Abstract Expressionism (late 1940s and 1950s; mainly in NYC)

Traits: large, abstract & expressive, alloverness, gestural, introspective, process (over

finished product), automatism.

Peggy Guggenheim’s Art of this Century Gallery (NYC)

Jackson Pollock’s dripped/poured paintings: 1947-1956

Elaine de Kooning (Willem’s wife, and a painter in her own right)

**PRINCIPAL ARTWORKS DISCUSSED:**

DADA--

Marcel Duchamp (1887-1963)

*Fountain*, 1917

SURREALISM--

Salvador Dalí (1904-1989)

*The Persistence of Memory*, 1931

*The Last Supper*, 1955

*Lobster Phone*, 1936

*Salvador* *Dalí Theatre-Museum* (Figueres, Spain)

*Dalí Museum* (St. Petersburg, Florida)

René Magritte (1898-1967)

*The Son of Man*, 1964

*The Wind and the Song* (a.k.a. *The Treachery of Images*), 1929

Remedios Varo (1913-1963)

*The Creation of Birds*, 1958

Frida Kahlo (1910-1954)

*The Broken Column*, 1944

Meret Oppenheim (1913-1985)

*Object* (a.k.a. *Breakfast in Fur*), 1936

Jackson Pollock (1912-1956)

*The She-Wolf*, 1943

*Number 3, 1949* (a.k.a. *Tiger*), 1949

Willem de Kooning (1904-1997)

*Woman I*, 1952

Lee Krasner (1908-1984)

*Noon*, 1946

Mark Rothko (1903-1970)

*Orange and Yellow*, 1956

*The Rothko Chapel* (Houston, TX), 1967

Herbert Ferber (1906-1991)

*Homage to Piranesi I*, 1963 [sculpture]

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