

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

Spring 2012

Professor Caroline A. Jones

History, Theory and Criticism Section, Department of Architecture

Paper Assignment 5 – Take-home Essay Percentage of overall course grade: 10%

Write a brief (5 page) but thoughtful essay on the take-home topic below. Focus your discussion on *specific artists, events, and/or works of art* to keep your prose from drifting into generalities; locate these specifics in their historical moment. Because this is a take-home, you are expected to cite sources; you are not expected to conduct any research beyond the course lectures, recitation discussions, and shared readings. The best essays will craft a thesis reflected in the essay's title, and return to that thesis in a conclusion.

Essay Prompt

How have developments in particular media affected the production of art over the period covered by our lectures? Discuss at least three different media and discuss when each emerged in the 19th and 20th centuries. Address how specific artists have dealt with new possibilities for production and distribution to a mass audience (if appropriate), and how critics have theorized these changes.

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