

MASS CULTURE AND REVOLUTION:

Lecture 3: Delacroix, or, how to imagine Liberty

- I. The first efforts at imagining Liberty:
 - A. Jacques-Louis David, creating the body language of the "citoyen" 1784-85
 - B. The legislated Liberty seal of the First Republic – 1792
- II. Allegorical Woman
 - A. Woman as icon
 1. Nike, Athena, Venus (victory or love)
 2. Mary, Judith, Jeanne d'Arc (mother or warrior)
 - B. Woman as Allegory
 1. Naked truth
 2. Virginal power (Marie de' Medici)
- III. Eugene Delacroix, Liberty at the Barricades, July 28 1830: a close reading
 - A. *Imagining* Liberty: Delacroix' formal and psychological image repertoire
 - B. July 28? Or 29th? Bonapartist? Or Republican? Fearful? Or Celebratory?
 - C. The power of ambiguity and ambivalence (the Phrygian cap)
 - D. Psychological complexities of the artist

Images for Lecture 3 (selected)

Early "liberty"

David Oath of the Horatii, 1784
Liberty seal, 1789 (legislative decree 1792)
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 19th c. artist Gustave Dore and Renaissance painter Artemesia Gentileschi)
Jeanne d'Arc vs. Pygmalion's Galatea (by 19th 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 understood to be Delacroix's)

La Vierge du Sacre Coeur or Triomphe de la Religion. 1821
Barq of Dante 1822
Massacre at Chios 1824 (first successful 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: <http://www.ibiblio.org/wm/paint/auth/delacroix/>
Influenced by
Gericault Raft of the Medusa 1817-19

Lecture 3, appendix

Insofar as I refer to cultural history and art history, it is to demonstrate how the complex and contradictory relationship between allegory, actuality, politics and sexuality is never confronted but always negotiated or side-stepped. - Pointon, "Liberty on the Barricades"

Symbol: an image, object, or word that "by virtue of association" represents something more, or other than what it is. It is distinct from a metaphor or simile because it need not be a comparison (or need not "resemble" that to which it refers). "This candy heart is a symbol of my undying love." "This circle symbolizes reincarnation."

Allegory: a narrative that is complete as a story in its own right, but is "disguised" (sometimes for political reasons). Allegory often uses symbolic or *allegorical* figures ("Truth" or "Justice"), or may form an extended metaphor in which objects, persons, or actions inside the visible narrative are equated to parallel meanings that lie outside the narrative. Thus an allegory has two meanings, one of which must be translated to discover the parallel "moral, social, religious, or political significance" in the real world.

Emblem: Middle English 15th c, from Latin *emblema* inlaid work, from Greek *emblemata*-. *emblema*, from *emballein* to insert, from *en-* + *ballein* to throw, linked to *dia-ballein* (diabolic) "Devil," to throw across. 1: a picture with a motto or set of verses intended as a moral lesson; 2: an object or the figure of an object symbolizing and suggesting another object or an idea; 3a: a symbolic object used as a heraldic device; 3b: a device, symbol, or figure adopted and used as an identifying mark.

Icon: an image (usually pictorial) that distills into a single coherent form a powerful representation of a very powerful entity (often devotional or heroic). In Christological terms, the icon is nothing in itself, but only accrues power by "pointing" outside itself and directing the viewer to the eternal deity it merely signifies. This is, of course, to avoid charges of idolatry, which brings up other terms we will tackle later on: **idol**, **fetish**, and **totem**.

with help from Merriam-Webster Dictionary and the "Symbols, Allegory, Archetype" page on *The Literary Apprentice* website at <http://www.cod.edu/people/faculty/fitchf/readlit/symbol1.htm>

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