

**Creating under De Gaulle's Regime: Fun, games and revolt The Arts in Paris
1958-1968**

FINA 540

Instructor: Serge Guilbaut
Fall 2002

Description

This seminar will investigate the radical transformation of the cultural and artistic spheres in France during the 1960's when the French minister of culture André Malraux launched an ambitious cultural program of decentralization. The seminar will study the construction of a new French cultural identity in relation (not to say in opposition) to the new international recognition of the United States. We will not only discuss French art production (the canonization of abstractionists like Hartung, Mathieux and Soulages) but also the importance of a "new figuration" and the arrival and visibility of many international artists (from the U.S, Latin America and Spain). The art production will be analyzed in relation to politics and other art forms like B.D. (comics) and films (in particular the New Wave). Finally, the art of the period will be discussed in conjunction with the crucial development of the field of social sciences in France: Barthes, Foucault, Bourdieu, Levy-Strauss, Tel Quel, all under the pressure of the Algerian war.

A knowledge of French is required in order to take this seminar.

Suggested Reading:

Jean Philippe Mathy: Extrême Occident: French Intellectuals and America. Chicago University Press, 1993.

Mark Poster: Existential Marxism in Postwar France: From Sartre to Althusser. Princeton University Press, 1975.