

ABSTRACTS

Margaret Cohen, Underwater Optics as Symbolic Form

At the beginning of the twentieth century, due to the spread of helmet diving beyond engineering communities, people started to attend to the remarkable qualities of underwater optics, differing radically from seeing through air. With the revelation of this unfamiliar planetary environment to a broader public, creators across the arts took inspiration from underwater optics to structure fantasy spaces of dream, hallucination, and marvel. To show the properties of underwater optics inspiring these fantasy spaces, this article analyzes undersea paintings by Walter “Zarh” Pritchard, reputedly the first artist to have painted *en pleine mer*. It then turns to aquatically-inspired works of surrealism, the movement offering the most famous appropriation of underwater optics for the arts, focusing notably on André Breton’s *L’Amour fou* and Jean Vigo’s *L’Atalante*.

Keywords: André Breton, history of technology, modernism, surrealism, underwater optics, Zarh Pritchard

Vanessa R. Schwartz, Dimanche à Orly: The Jet-Age Airport and the Spectacle of Technology between Sky and Earth

This article examines the second most visited site in Paris during the 1960s, behind only the Eiffel Tower, which stood outside the city’s walls in Orly. The airport there, re-built in 1961 to welcome the new era of high-speed air travel in the form of jet service, featured a prominent “terrace” where visitors paid admission to watch the jets come and go. This article examines the jet-age renovation of the airport and the wild popularity of visits there in order to consider the role of visual spectacle in advancing the culture of technological optimism of 1960s France.

Keywords: airports, jet age, Orly, spectacle, technology



Nicole C. Rudolph, “Plunging the Soul into Contemplation”: On MoMA’s *Le Corbusier: An Atlas of Modern Landscapes*

This article reviews the New York Museum of Modern Art’s recent Le Corbusier retrospective and its accompanying catalogue. The author critically evaluates the curators’ reassessment of Le Corbusier’s legacy via the lens of landscape. A key insight gleaned from the show pertains to technologies of mobility: inspired by the views from the automobile, the steamer, and the air-plane, Le Corbusier deployed modern materials and techniques of mass construction in order to maximize an inhabitant’s contemplation of the natural world. What we learn from *Le Corbusier: An Atlas of Modern Landscapes*, the author argues, is that the architect valorized and designed to prioritize “3 Cs”: circulation, composition, and contemplation. The notion of contemplation may be more useful to understanding Le Corbusier’s architecture than the concept of landscape.

Keywords: architecture, environment, Le Corbusier, landscape, modernism

Nicholas Toloudis, The Carnot Commission and the Teacher Insurgency of Second Republic France

Most studies of the social and political upheavals of the Second Republic treat violence as the main way people resisted the military coup and repression of 1851 and view political dissent through the lens of class. But the suppression of unorthodox political voices in the academy brings another form of resistance to light. Close personal networks and the organizational culture of the French academy distinguished the *universitaires*’ animosity toward Louis Napoleon. To map the patterns of teachers’ dissent, I use the proceedings of the Carnot Commission, an organ created by the emergency government of 1870 to gather information about the *universitaires* who had suffered political persecution around the time of the 1851 coup and offer them restitution. The Commission’s work reveals a pattern of personal connections and distaste for authoritarianism that reflected the republican consensus as it emerged in the 1870s.

Keywords: Carnot, Louis Napoleon, Second Republic, Jules Simon, teachers

Sarah Shurts, Continental Collaboration: The Transition from Ultrationalism to Pan-Europeanism by the Interwar French Fascist Right

This article considers the emergence of pan-European discourse and the creation of transnational networks by the intellectual extreme Right during the interwar and occupation years. Through a close reading of the essays, speeches, and texts of French fascist intellectuals Abel Bonnard, Alphonse de Châteaubriant, and Pierre Drieu la Rochelle, the author contends that it was during the interwar and wartime decades that the French extreme Right transitioned from its traditional ultrationalism to a new concept of French

national identity as European identity. More importantly, these three leading fascist intellectuals worked to distinguish their concept of European federation and transnational cultural exchange as anterior to and independent of submission to Nazi Germany. It was, therefore, in the discourse and the transnational socio-professional networks of the interwar period that we can find the foundation for the new language of Europeanism that became ubiquitous among the postwar Eurofascists and the Nouvelle Droite today.

Keywords: Abel Bonnard, Alphonse de Châteaubriant, Eurofascism, Pan-Europeanism, Pierre Drieu la Rochelle

Joseph Bohling, The Mendès France Milk Regime: Alcoholism as a Problem of Agricultural Subsidies, 1954–1955

In 1954, Pierre Mendès France committed the state to curbing alcoholism as part of an effort to reorient important agricultural sectors and improve French economic performance, using milk as a symbol of his government's new direction. While Mendès France's milk drinking was often portrayed as the whim of a maverick politician, this article shows instead that it was the expression of a broadly based movement to modernize the economy. Challenging the view of an insular state that exclusively served the powerful alcohol lobbies, this article contends that the success of alcohol reform hinged on Mendès France's ability to overcome parliament and pit other economic sectors and a public health movement against those lobbies. Although it would require the more centralized authority of the Fifth Republic to implement lasting reforms to the alcohol sector, the Mendès France government helped raise public awareness about the purported link between alcoholism and agricultural subsidies that kept uncompetitive producers on the land at the taxpayer's expense.

Keywords: alcohol, alcoholism, agriculture, dirigisme, economic modernization

Sarah Waters, A Capitalism That Kills: Workplace Suicides at France Télécom

France Télécom has been at the center of intense public scrutiny since 2008, following a sharp rise in workplace suicides at the company. This macabre reputation now stood in sharp contrast with the company's image during the 1980s and 1990s as a showpiece for successful liberalization and as a former state-owned enterprise that was blazing a trail toward a new globalized economy. Drawing on Emile Durkheim's seminal work, *Suicide* (1897), the article examines the social conditions that precipitated workplace suicides at France Télécom. It situates the suicides within the context of the rise of a new model of finance capitalism that profoundly transformed the status and perceived value of the individual worker in the production process. Far from representing a tragic accident or an aberration in an otherwise smooth-functioning economic order, the France Télécom suicides were the outcome of a management strategy that set out to fulfill the imperatives of finance capitalism by elimi-

nating what was seen as an unacceptable obstacle to its economic goals: the company's own employees.

Keywords: Durkheim, finance capitalism, France Télécom, suicides, workplace