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

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Spring 2004
Lecture Notes
Week 10. Lecture 2

#### **POSTWAR PRIMITIVES:**

### The Jackson Pollock Case

- I. Existentialism and Surrealism in Paris and New York
  - A. Recall, Surrealism in NY exile in the '40s:
    - 1) Masson, Ernst, Matta; Peggy Guggenheim "Art of This Century" Gallery
    - 2) Influence on New York School/ Abstract Expressionism (Adolph Gottlieb as exemplar)
  - B. Wols (1947), Giacometti (1950s), and Dubuffet (1950) crucial exhibitions in NY
  - C. American primitivism and the Jungian archetype
- II. Jackson Pollock
  - A. Fortunes of Public Art: from Mexican muralists to <u>Mural</u> (portable; no longer part of the wall)
  - B. Pollock's modernism per Greenberg (via Jones): industrial body disciplines
  - B. Pollock and publicity: how to read "Action Painting..."
- III. "Jackson broke the ice" an *abstract* public art?
  - A. De Kooning's gesture and the body
  - B. Newman's bodies and the sublimity of the field

### Slide List (selected) for 10:2

all works are o/c unless noted

Max Ernst Europe After the Rain, 1949-52

Matta (Echaurren), Inscape: Psychological Morphology 1934

Andre Masson, Elk Attacked by Dogs, 1945

Masson, Meditation on an Oak Leaf, 1942

Rene Magritte, The Key of Dreams, 1936

Adolph Gottlieb, Pictograph, 1946

Tlingit speaking peoples, House Screen, 1840, carved, assembled, and painted wood

Gottlieb, Evil Omen, 1946

George Walkus (Kwakiutl people), Dance Mask 1938, carved, assembled, and painted wood

Jackson Pollock, Birth, 1938-41

David Alfaro Siqueiros, Echo of a Scream, 1937

Pollock, Untitled (Naked Man with Knife) 1938-41

## slides continue on verso

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José Clemente Orozco, Catharsis (detail), Palace of Fine Arts, Mexico City, 1934 - plaster fresco

Pollock, She-Wolf, 1938-41

Pollock, Guardians of the Secret, 1943

Pollock, Mural, 1943

Pollock, Gothic, 1944

Pollock, No. 1, 1948 (and detail with handprints)

Hans Namuth, Pollock Painting, 1950, photograph; Paul Falkenberg, film stills

Pollock, Cut-Out, 1948-50

Willem de Kooning, Woman 1, 1950-52

de Kooning, Excavation, 1950

Newman, Vir Heroicus Sublimis, 1950-51

Alberto Giacometti, Tall Figure, 1949, bronze (first one was in 1945, plaster, 1" high)