

## **Lecture 1:**

# **What is and When was MODERNITY ?**

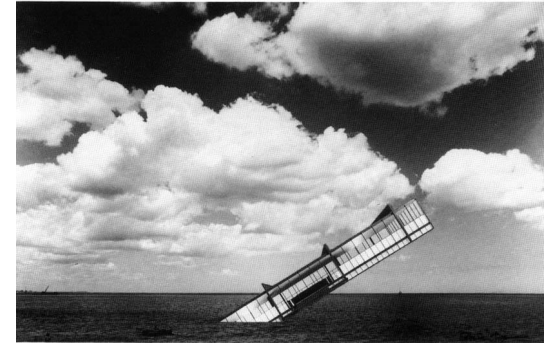
**Andrea Peach**

# From Here to Modernity

## CCS Mini-programme 1



Chicago Crown Hall, Illinois Institute of Technology, 1950-51, Mies van der Rohe



The Titanic - Photomontage, Stanley Tigerman, 1978, USA



# **Modernity and Modernism**

# **Modernity** and **Modernism**

**surrealism**

**expressionism**

**cubism**

**futurism**

**serialism**

**dadaism**

**etc...**

# **Modernism**

Dominant ideology throughout western industrialised world in art, design and architecture for most of the twentieth century

# Modernity

The **social conditions** and **experiences** that are the effects of **modernisation**.

**Technological, economic** and **political** processes associated with the **industrial revolution** and its aftermath.



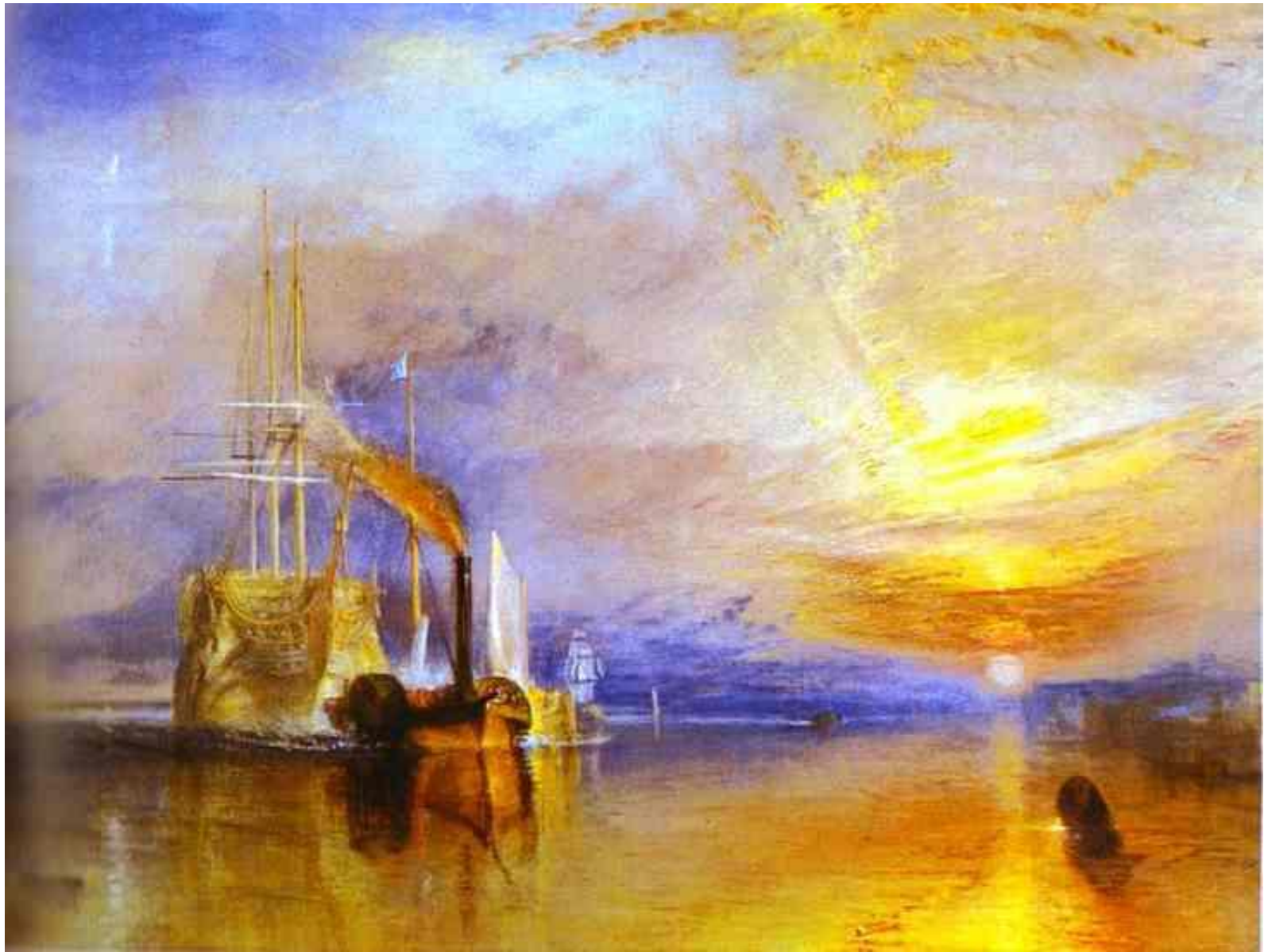
Forth Bridge under  
construction c 1888





Glasgow c 1880s





JWM Turner, *The Fighting Temeraire Tugged to her Last Berth to be Broken Up*, 1838



JWM Turner, *Steamer in a Snowstorm*, 1842

**Modernity** was a term first used by 19th century French poet and critic **Charles Baudelaire** to denote the experience of living in the new modern world



**Baudelaire** talked  
about the **ephemeral**,  
the **fugitive** and  
**contingent** aspects of  
living in the new  
modern world.

Put simply:

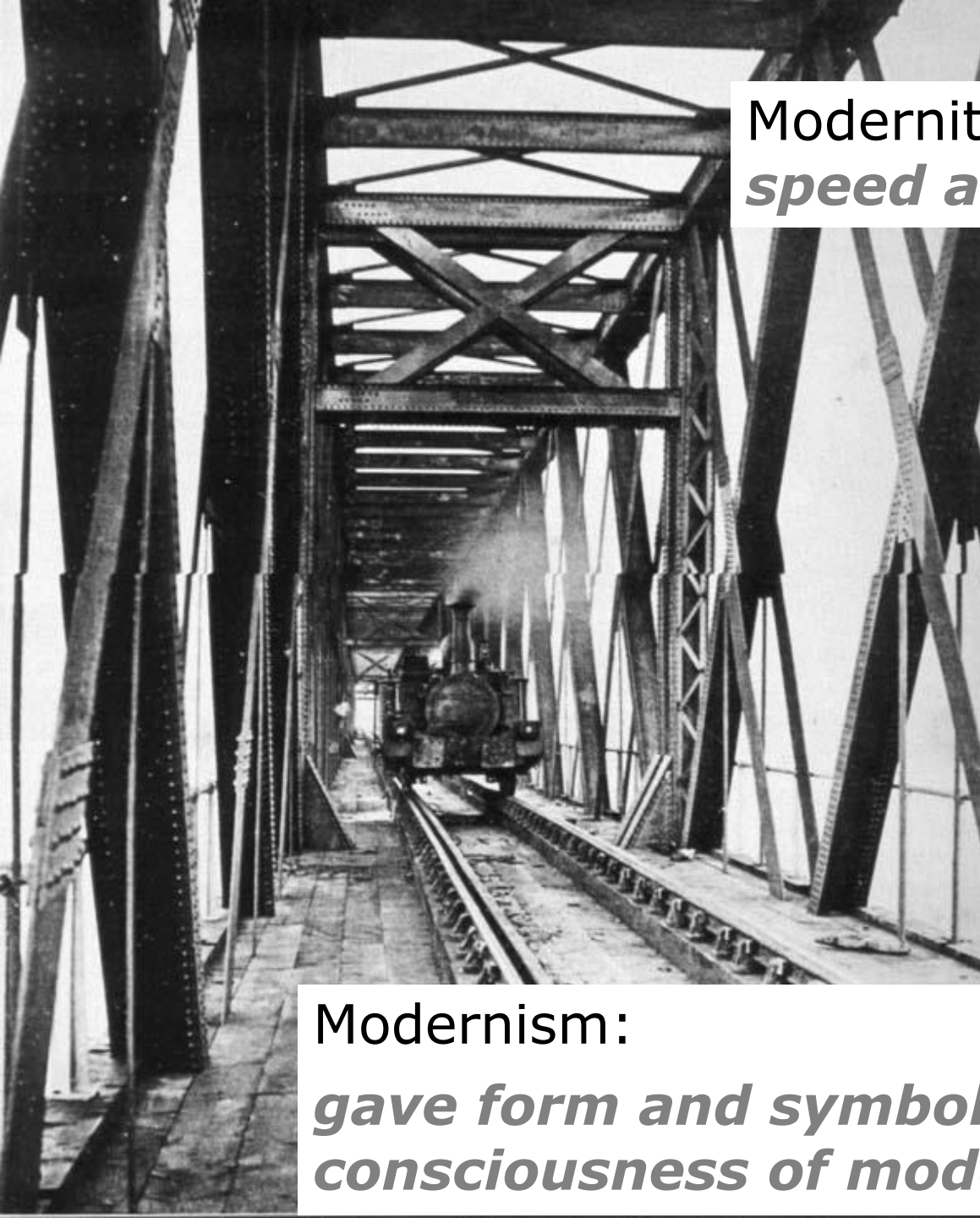
*life seemed to have speeded up*



All fixed, fast-frozen relations,  
with their train of ancient and  
venerable prejudices and  
opinions are swept away

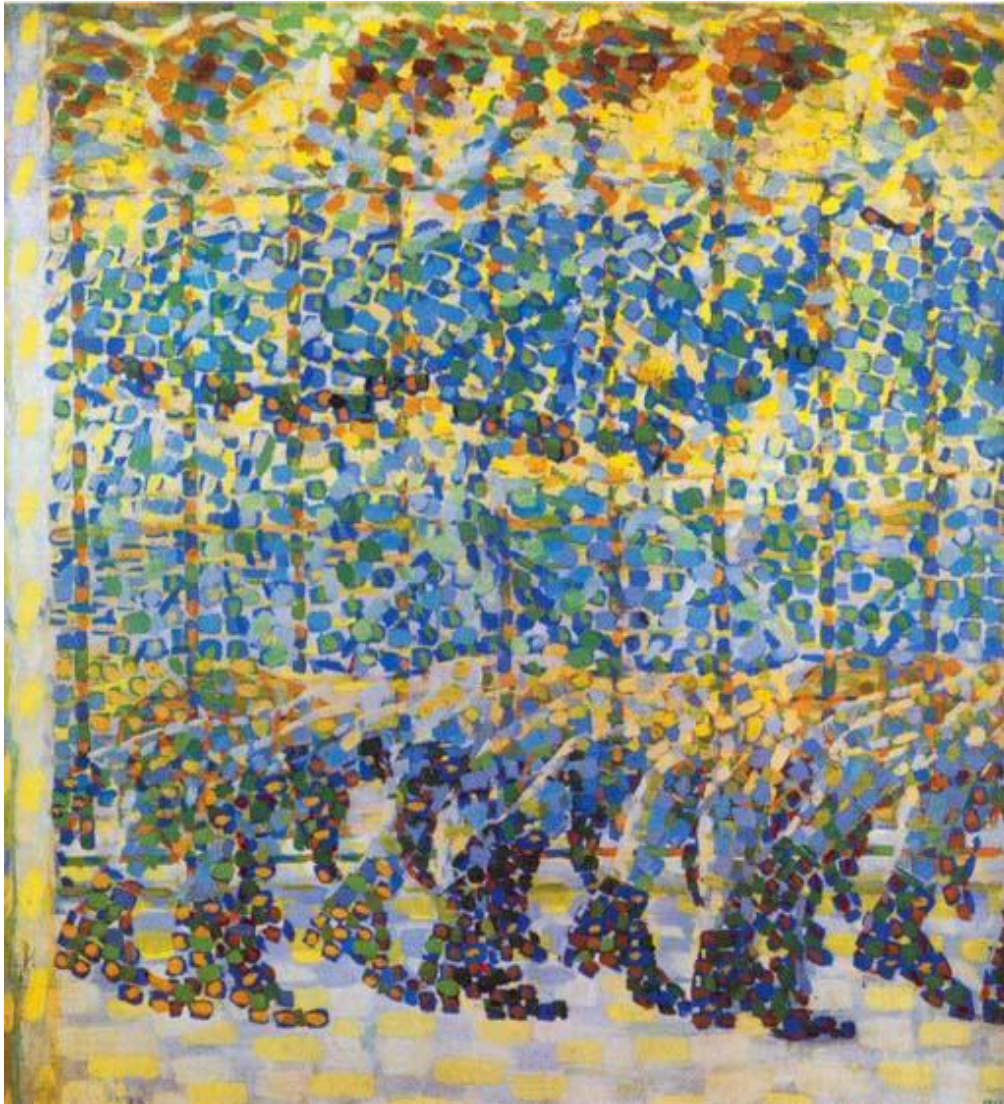
**All that is solid melts into air**

*Karl Marx 1848*

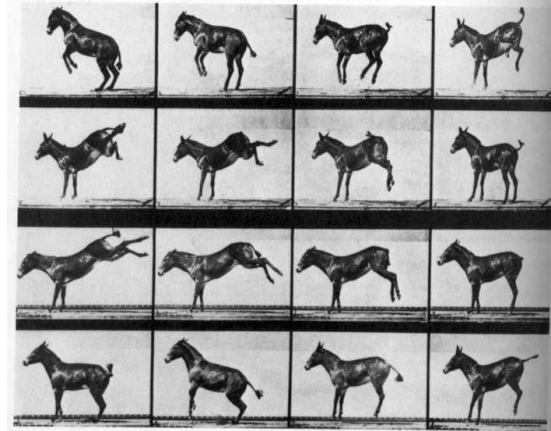


Modernity:  
*speed and change*

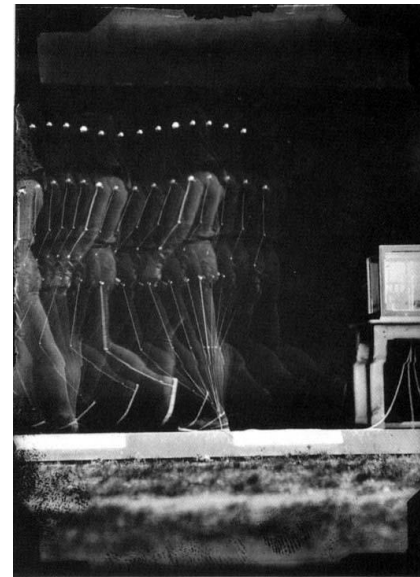
Modernism:  
***gave form and symbolic expression to the  
consciousness of modernity***



Giacomo Balla  
*Girl Running on a Balcony*, 1912



Eadweard Muybridge, 1882



Etienne-Jules Marey, 1878





Boulevard Richard-Lenoir, Paris, 1861-3



*The Boulevard Montmartre 1870/79*

Camille Pissarro, *The Boulevard Montmartre at Night*, 1897

***The law of progress is immortal, just as progress itself is infinite***



Else Thalemann, Eiffel Tower 1930





André Kertész, Shadows of the Eiffel Tower 1929



Robert Delaunay  
Eiffel Tower 1910



Robert Delaunay  
*Sun, Tower, Airplane*, 1913





Fernand Léger  
***The City***, 1919

**A modern man registers a hundred times more sensory impressions than an eighteenth century artist**  
*Fernand Léger 1914*





Georges Braque

***Clarinet and Bottle of  
Rum on a Mantelpiece***

1911

# **Clement Greenberg**

art critic (1909-1994)

**Modern art can be related to the  
changing forms of modern life,  
even when it does not depict  
modernity**





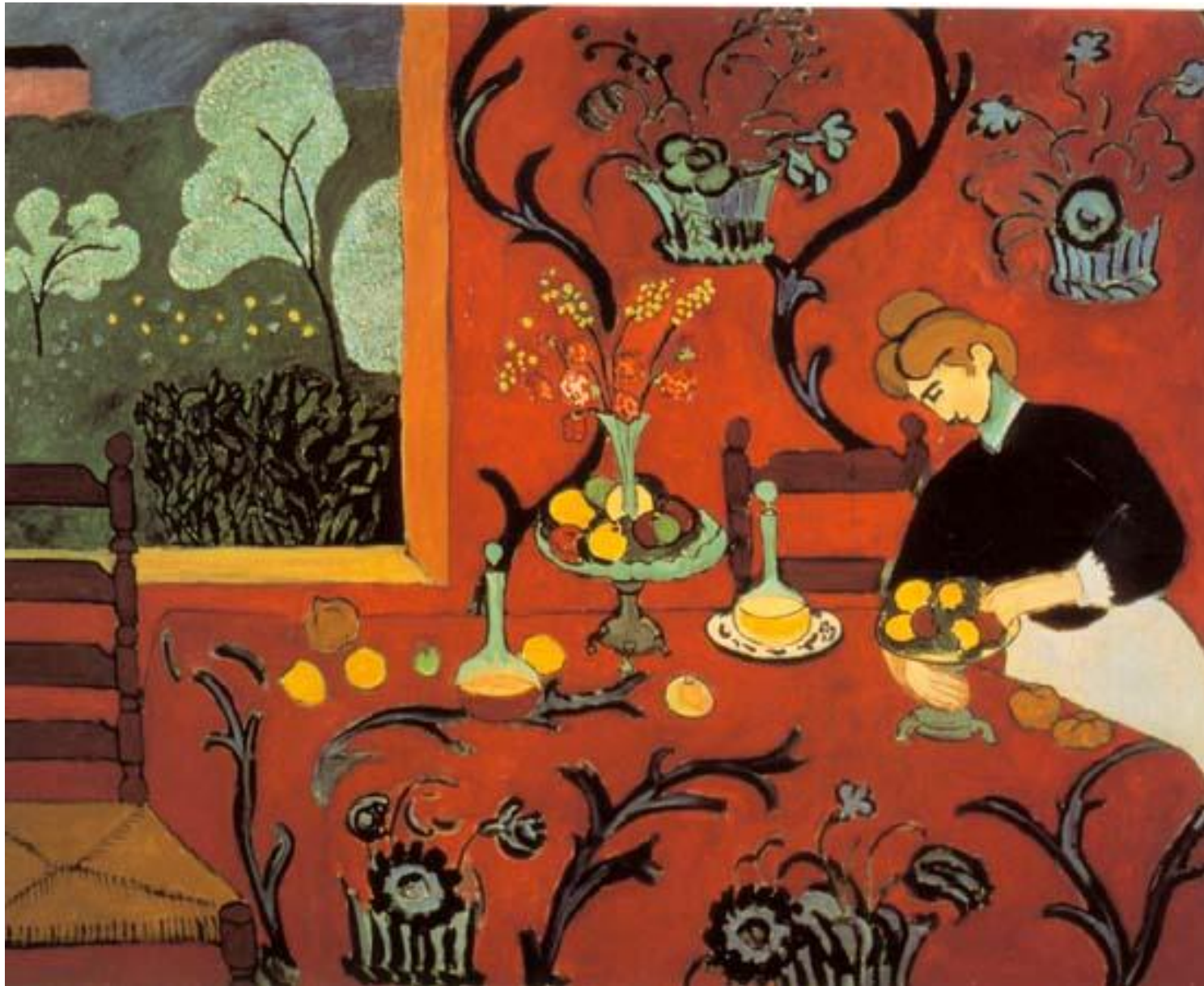
Paul Cézanne, *Montagne Sainte Victoire*, c 1887

**The whole arrangement of my  
pictures is expressive ...**

**Composition is the art of arranging  
in a decorative manner the various  
elements at a painter's disposal for  
the expression of his feelings.**

Henri Matisse





Henri Matisse, *Harmony in Red*, 1908

**Clement Greenberg**

**Essay: Modernist Painting 1960**

**Formalism:** based on approach which emphasises line, colour, tone, and mass at the expense of the significance of the subject matter

Based on theories of **Clive Bell** and **Roger Fry**

**Modern art to me is nothing more than the expression of contemporary aims of the age that we're living in ... It seems to me that the modern painter cannot express this age, the airplane, the atom bomb, the radio, in the old forms of the Renaissance or of any other past culture.**

**Each age finds its own technique.**

Jackson Pollock 1950

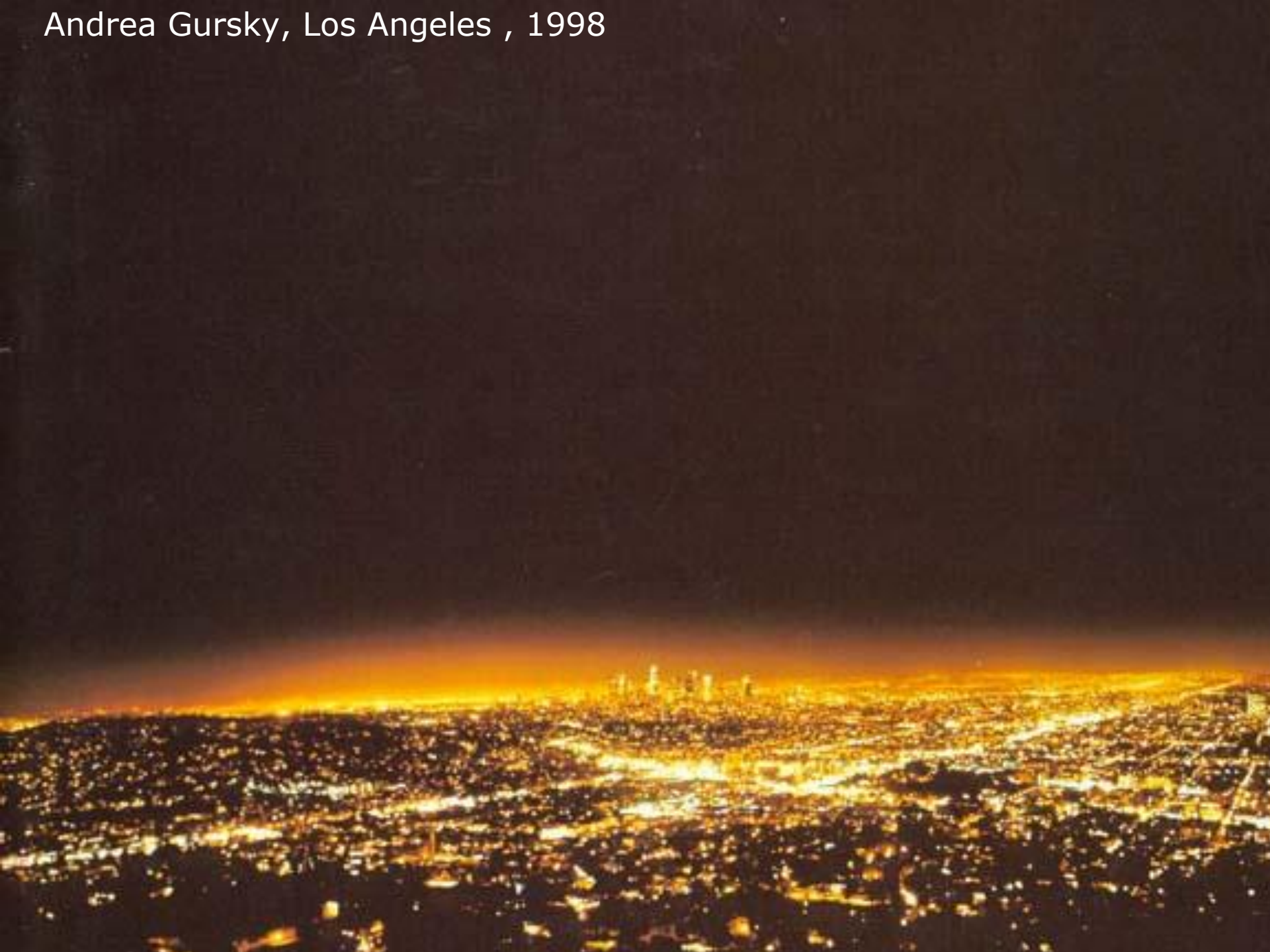




Jackson Pollock, *Number 1A* 1948, 1948



Andrea Gursky, Los Angeles , 1998



Reading:

**Frameworks for Modern Art** - Jason Gaiger (ed)

Chapter 1 'Art of the Twentieth Century'

Modernity and Modernism - Paul Wood (pp. 16-27)

