



INTERNATIONAL CULTURAL STUDIES GRADUATE CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

Fall 2019 Faculty Speaker Series

The Queer Politics of Eclecticism: *View* Magazine (1940-1947)

by

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(No recording or videotaping permitted)

Thumbing through an issue of the mid-twentieth-century arts journal *View*, no editorial position or organizing logic is immediately apparent. The contents do not appear to cohere around style, genre, medium, discipline, region, national origin, cultural demographics—the taxonomical frameworks, in short, structuring the modern art-world during the magazine’s heyday. The era’s foremost critic, Clement Greenberg, hammered out his doctrine of modernism—keywords “purity,” “autonomy,” “abstraction”—against the counter-example of all that *View* represented. Within this critical crucible, *View* magazine formed a divergent theory of modernism. Its editorial eclecticism dramatized modernism’s capacious potential and celebrated its generative diversity. Looking back at *View* from this historical distance reveals both the existence and the precarity of alternative cultural discourses, alternative artistic values, and alternative creative practices at a moment when the words “modern” and “art” were coming together and being institutionalized in the United States for the first time.



Tirza True Latimer is Professor in Visual Studies at California College of the Arts, where she served as Chair of the graduate program in Visual and Critical Studies from 2007-2017 and Interim Chair of the undergraduate program in Visual Studies from 2018-2019. Her teaching, publications, and curatorial projects reflect on visual culture and visual politics from queer feminist perspectives. She has written extensively on lesbian artists and writers practicing in France between the two World Wars. She has focused in particular depth on the creative partnerships of the Paris surrealists Claude Cahun and Marcel Moore; the American heiresses Romaine Brooks and Natalie Barney; and American expat duo Gertrude Stein and Alice B. Toklas. Her book-length publications include *The Modern Woman Revisited: Paris Between the Wars*, a collective

volume co-edited with Whitney Chadwick (Rutgers University Press, 2003); *Women Together/Women Apart: Portraits of Lesbian Paris* (Rutgers University Press, 2005); *Seeing Gertrude Stein: Five Stories*, co-authored with Wanda M. Corn (University of California Press, 2011); and, most recently, *Eccentric Modernisms: Making Differences in the History of American Art* (University of California Press, 2016). These efforts have been rewarded by the Andrew Wyeth Foundation for American Art, College Art Association; American Library Association, Stonewall Book Award; and Lambda Literary Award.

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Friday, 12 – 1.15 pm

Burns Hall, Room 2118, East-West Center

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