

4th year part introduction 1962 - 1963. 6/63  
**ORGANISATION OF SHIFTS + TIMING**

what is the philosophy of this course of 4th year part

Let us come to one basic understanding : I am not paid to keep you happy , but to teach you something according to my convictions . I may ~~force~~<sup>talk</sup> you into some ways of working you don't like . Do not let that hinder you , instead of doing harm to you it ~~will~~<sup>might</sup> prove to enrich your experience .

You may have noticed how easily we create our own academism, consisting of specialized tricks , successful gimmicks , automatic repetitions of certain forms , a constant colorscheme , in one word , a whole set of mechanisms , which we are only too ready to consider the marks of our personality , but which are in fact signs of sclerosis . *A labyrinth, a spiderweb you caught yourself in, and of which the way out may need more than an Ariadne's thread.* It is very healthy to get out of it , to surrender to something that is not you to surrender consciously and constructively. I consider it part of my task to kick you out of any pernicious habit , to fight any stifling tendency , any precocious specialization . I want to open the fields for you wide , for you sure have not as yet discovered all the richness. *As a matter of fact, we will do everything over again, and you may consider this first year.* Art is thought , pure thought , as a matter of fact it is the only field of human activity where thought is paramount . By the artifice of artistic illusion we make a dream real . That is the uniqueness of art . It is an instrument to discovery an instrument to freedom , it is one of our ways to salvation.

Discovery : it opens up the unknown , the unseen. There are certain complexes of feeling and thought we can not communicate in any other way than by images. \* There is still a lot that we feel , that we guess , that we are halfconscious aware of Through fiction and by giving this fiction form in a picture we approach this field of the still unknown . "There are two ways of looking at fiction , we can consider it as a deviation from fact , or as an approximation to fact , fact is always the criterion. " (Harry Levin in Daedalus ) " Myths are the instruments by which we continually struggle to make our experience intelligible to ourselves . A myth is a large controlling image , that gives philosophical meaning to the facts of ordinary life : that is , which has organizing value for experience " . (Mark Schorer in Daedalus ) . A work of art is a form with crystalizing effect : from ~~the~~<sup>the</sup> chaos of clear and obscure thoughts and feelings it becomes the manifestation , the taking shape , of what we have been able to see . At least that is what I understand it should be . Most of the time it is as Nietzsche very sharply said :

\* What about the movies ? paraphrasing Pabst's favourite : "the least you can ask of a sculpture is that it doesn't move " I would like to say " the trouble with a movie is that it moves " We do not actually see images , but we see movement . if a movie wants to be a sculpture it has to use slow-motion & close-ups

much things

Picasso

Text

photo  
film  
competition



*De Picasso = " I couldn't wait everyday to get  
back to work to find out what  
was going to happen " . 2*

" the painter does not paint what he sees ,he paints only what he is able to paint"

A painting has only interest if it can show me something I have previously not known ,and cannot by words or any other means be expressed better than by the image I have given to it . \* Only then also will it keep it's mystery and fascination

(The bottles of Morandi.)

Freedom : art is also the expression of our constant battle against enslavement. Therefor I tell you to fight the frustration of your own mechanisms ,we should strive for a constant spirit of renovation. □

" Art too is an attempt to revert from the desintegration induced by civilization to organic modes of being." (Herbert Read) . *What is this*

*Conforming*  
The form of society civilizations creates ,tends to force us into a pattern , the discipline of social life ,necessary for a civilized existence . But at the same time this goes against many of our desires ,much of our natural behavior. When civilization gets stuck ,becomes immutable ,we revolt ,till the machinery is running again ,till the mystery is open again . We need problems ahead of us to solve ,problems we half guess ,for that is our feeling of progress ,keep going.

*" Civilization and its discontents " Freud .*

In our urge for freedom we stumble around in many ways ,and we make strange and erroneous uses of it . (passage of Jarry " 3 free men and the corporal" ).

*the abundance of organized freedom.*

This is a very good example of our state of mind when we find ourselves before a dilemma we can not solve . (When anxiety takes over our minds panic ,and our only defense at that point we find in this sort of "black humor " ,~~whichxxxxxx~~ not to confuse with "sick humor",which is a perverted form of "black humor " . *(cynicism)*)

Salvation : Our task as artists is a tremendous one . The challenge is to keep poetry alive ,as a hygienic devise to keep our mind and soul healthy.

(passage of Eluard ) .

*ELUARD*  
It must be obvious that to be prepared for this kind of work we need an iron discipline . Do not misunderstand me ,I am not talking about the army discipline , which aims at making cogwheels in a machinery of human beings . No I mean a discipline which will allow <sup>you</sup> to be in command . ⊙

\* anyone at this point claims that he knows what he is doing in art , must be a fraud .

⊙ we are lazy by nature . Time planning of daily work.



There is a tendency we can find in the behavior of the younger generations and expressed in most of their literature, a tendency to allow life to live us instead of we living our lives. Many behave as the victims of some unknown force that is leading them around by their noses as helpless sheep. Life is just happening to them. *This is different from the above mentioned research kind of Picasso*  
 This should not be. Our future is in our hands. You have to give it shape, you have to give it a face. If it is going to be a chaotic and formless one, you will be still the makers of it. Of course this demands a lot of work, a great engagement and a great responsibility, but it makes no sense to hide, for we can't "the drive for security, perfection and certitude is biologically necessary, but it becomes biologically destructive if the risk of insecurity, imperfection and uncertainty is avoided." (from "the courage to be" by Tillich).

That is why I said before, that your engagement with art is a matter of life and death. It is a gamble with your life, you win or you lose, but you can not play safe. The BFA and The MFA *(as common as a driver's license)* and any other degrees are means to play a little safer but don't be misled by it, for if your engagement is not "à fond" you will find no satisfaction.

Art for the creative professional artists is a craft, it is a profession.

If we want to keep our dignity we have to know what we are doing in as far this is humanly possible, *I mean at the present time being what it is.*

Art does not ~~give~~ <sup>give</sup> us presents;

Inspiration is a vague and useless something if we are not prepared.

Whenever the unconscious "must" threatens, imposes itself, this should not be like a foreign power possessing us and making us do something in spite of ourselves, it should be welcomed as a helping power, enabling us to trespass on our limitations, to outdo ourselves. We have to be prepared to receive this state of grace for if it takes us unawares, we face the frustration of being urged to say something, but to be unable to speak. *and it should not be as Nietzsche said.*

To provide you with the tools to fashion your mind, which in its turn will fashion your artistic production, that is the work to be done in this class.

I hope I find you willing to follow in this adventure.

*to jump on the bandwagon of money making artists without knowing it. - pop - do - stop -*

**STILL-LIFE**

*we should never feel in competition, competition breeds imitation.*



Alfred Jarry

The parade field .

3 free men and the corporal.

We are free men and here comes the corporal. Hail liberty, liberty ,liberty. ! We are free .Let's not forget that our duty is to be free. Slow down ,we might be in time .Freedom means to be never in time . \_ never ,never?for our exercises in liberty. Let's disobey all together , no ,not all together : one two three 'the first one at one ,the second at ~~two~~ and the third at three. You see that's all the difference . Let's each have our own step ,though this is quite <sup>exhausting</sup> ~~tiring~~. Let's disobey individually

Corporal : Fall in (they break up )

You free man number three punished for being in line with number two ,the theory says be free. Individual exercises of disobedience ...blind indiscipline will be the main force at all times for the free men. Present arms .

The three men : Talk all together . Let's disobey ,the first one at one ,the second one at two ,the third one at three. One ,two, three.

The corporal : at ease . Number one ,you should have thrown your rifle over your head .number two you should have put your rifle upside down ,number three you should have put it right and then shown an air of <sup>the hell with it</sup> ~~libertinism~~. Break the rows ,one two one two.... (they all go together but avoid marching in step.)



The animals are domesticated ,the children reach the age of reason  
the savages become civilized ,the lunatics are cured ,and the  
poets get lost ,only some poets can transform the hearts of men  
by showing them a poetical reason of being .

Paul Eluard