

The Museum of Modern Art

125
For Immediate Release
April 1993

KIRK VARNEDOE DELIVERS LECTURE SERIES ON POSTMODERNISM AT THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

In May 1993 The Museum of Modern Art presents a special series of lectures on the topic of *The Poverties of Postmodernism*, by Kirk Varnedoe, director of the Museum's Department of Painting and Sculpture. Supported in part by a generous grant from Mrs. Victor W. Ganz, this lecture series inaugurates an ongoing program of lectures at the Museum by distinguished scholars, critics, and artists.

The Poverties of Postmodernism lecture series comprises four lectures drawn from the original eight lectures delivered by Mr. Varnedoe as the visiting Slade Professor of Fine Art 1992-93 at the University of Oxford in the autumn of 1992. The titles and topics are as follows:

Wednesday, May 5

The Look of Postmodernism

This introductory talk examines contemporary works -- in architecture, paintings, sculpture, and photography -- that are commonly classified as postmodern.

Wednesday, May 12

The Ideas of Postmodernism

The diverse intellectual roots of postmodernism are discussed, with special emphasis on modern European thinking about the determining forces of language, culture, and history.

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Wednesday, May 19

The Politics of Postmodernism

This talk analyzes questions of populism versus elitism, and of individualism versus social context, in relation to postmodernism's involvement with new forms of both conservative and leftist thought.

Wednesday, May 26

Alternatives to Postmodern Despair

The negative views of the modern tradition held by self-styled postmodernists are examined. An alternative pantheon of writers in science, law, and philosophy are proposed, as well as alternative readings of the modern tradition.

All lectures begin at 7:00 p.m. in The Roy and Niuta Titus Theater 1. Individual tickets for the series are \$7.50, members \$6.00, students and senior citizens \$3.50. For the entire series, tickets are \$26.00, members \$20.00, students and senior citizens \$10.00. Tickets are available in advance at the Museum's lobby information desk or by sending a check with a self-addressed, stamped envelope to Education/Public Programs, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York, NY 10019; or by calling 212-708-9864.

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No. 24

For further information, contact the Department of Public Information, 212/708-9750.