Idealism versus Realism: Social Utopia and the Politics of Style

Oct. 23 – Nov. 11

What is “Realism”? Discussion of terminology (idealism, realism, naturalism) and its use in nineteenth-century writing; the complex interaction between idealism and realism; the politics of style: idealism, naturalism, realism, and the question of defining their meaning(s): the French Revolutions of 1830 and 1848, the coup d’etat of 1851; city versus countryside; painting the juste milieu; development of printing technology (illustrated books, popular prints, political caricature).

Section I: The Deceptive Smoothness of Biedermeier Realism and the Rise of the Düsseldorf School of Painting;

Section II: Art as Social Critique in France

Section III: Liberty on the Barricades or a Dance of Death? The Revolutions of 1830 and 1848 and the Politics of Allegory.

Section IV: Naturalism and Realism in Germany

Idealism versus Realism (Section IV): Naturalism and Realism in Germany

Nov. 13

Leibl, the Munich School, and the reception of Courbet in Germany; naturalism in the early work of Liebermann; Adolph Menzel.

Readings:


Idealism – Naturalism – Realism

(Marie-) Rosa [Rosalie] Bonheur (b Bordeaux, 16 March 1822; d Thomery, nr Fontainebleau, 25 May 1899).

• Barbizon school
**PLEIN AIR painting**

(Pierre-Etienne-)Théodore Rousseau (b Paris, 15 April 1812; d Barbizon, 22 Dec 1867).

(Jean-Baptiste-)Camille Corot (b Paris, 17 July 1796; d Paris, 22 Feb 1875).
  - Corot, Bell Tower St. Paterne, Orleans, 1840-45
  - Souvenir de Montefontaine, 1864

**Biedermeier:**

Carl Christian Vogel von Vogelstein (b Wildenfels, 26 June 1788; d Munich, 4 March 1868).
  - Carl Christian Vogel von Vogelstein, *Ludwig Tieck, portrayed by David d’Angers*, 1834

David d’Angers [David, Pierre-Jean] (b Angers, 12 March 1788; d Paris, 6 Jan 1856).

Ludwig Tieck (b May 31, 1773, Berlin, Prussia [Germany] d April 28, 1853, Berlin)

Gaertner, Eduard (b Berlin, 2 June 1801; d Zechlin, Brandenburg, 22 Feb 1877).
  - Eduard Gärtner, Unter den Linden (main boulevard in Berlin), 1853

Spitzweg, Carl (b Munich, 5 Feb 1808; d Munich, 23 Sept 1885).

**(Social) Realism in Germany**

Leibl, Wilhelm (Maria Hubertus) (b Cologne, 23 Oct 1844; d Würzburg, 4 Dec 1900).

  - Portrait of Frau Gedon (1869; Munich, Neue Pin.). exhibited at the *Grossen Internationale Kunstausstellung* in Munich in 1869 _ singled out by Gustave Courbet as the best oil painting of the exhibition
  - Three Women in Church 1878–82; Hamburg, Kunsthalle
  - develops interest in German Renaissance painter Hans Holbein the younger.
  - Carl Schuch (b Vienna, 30 Sept 1846; d Vienna, 13 Sept 1903).

Adolph von Menzel (b December 8, 1815, Breslau, Prussia [now Wroclaw, Poland] d February 9, 1905, Berlin)

  - The Berlin-Potsdam Railway, 1847
• Horse study, 1848
• Studio Wall, 1852
• Studio Wall, 1872
• Frederick the Great's concerts at his palace, Sanssouci
• The Ball Supper, 1878
• Room with a Balcony, 1845
• The Artist's Sister in the Sitting Room, 1847
• The Iron-rolling Mill, 1875

Liebermann, Max (b Berlin, 20 July 1847; d Berlin, 8 Feb 1935).

• Goose Pluckers 1871–2
• Women Preparing Conserves 1872
• Turnip Field 1876
• Sewing School in the Amsterdam
• Eva, 1873
• Dutch Village Street (1885; Hannover, Niedersächs. Landesmus.),
• Net Weavers (1889; Hamburg, Ksthalle)
• Woman with Goats, 1890; Munich, Neue Pin.