Lecture 22:

(Part I) → context of the work: what does that mean? (def. on slide)
As a historian, you produce it. It's your jsmt to determine the context. You need to say what is there. It's a thing you create as a historian and your task is to make it plausible & complete.
(ex) Many artists in AbEx receive their training in WPA
Greenberg positions Kitsch in opposition to abstract
Postwar moment: aspiration to universalism + human rights
Leija (Masculinity to fallen male anti-hero in film noir)
Rosenberg act° painting to existentialism of Sartre, connected to Giacometti and to Marlon Brando & method acting
AbEx in a fraught relationship to fashion & commodity
Formalism: Leo Steinberg & Krauss: culture of corporate R&D dpartmts spacerace, Nasa
Lewis & Witten to civil rights mvt.

(Part II) The cold war: after WW2, conditions of a new conflict emerge. Competition to extend influence, collect allies, extend partnerships
Churchill declares that the USSR is drawing an iron curtain. Guilbaut situates AbEx: he argues that the recourse to myth was a response to the political situation in the USA was unclear
Connect Mythmaker to political maneuver: take one step back from politics. Cultural effect of atom bomb: progress leads up to so much destruct° (always ambivalent); Pollock "each age finds its own technique"
Guilbaut: allow political content to disappear into myth. Artists have assumed a silence, their work can now be used by liberalism in a war for minds between the USA and the USSR
Marshall Plan: prop Europe up against communist influence. Expanding the reach of American culture in opposit° to that of the USSR
⇒ AbEx could be pitted against socialist naturalism: freedom of the individual

How does abstract become a vessel for ideology? Look at Mona!

... Testing the vibration that arises // abstraction as representationalism

Part V, Jack Whitten (see @ met sept 2018)

→ Born in Alabama, NY first in 1960 (civil rights mvt, seeking out Klein & de Kooning, Bearden, Lewis)
We can see a tens° between abstract° & content, played out in relat° w/ materials & techniques
(see Garden in Bessemer II, Martin Luth. King' Garden) // here oil painting
⇒ utilize acrylic (different from oil painting), in the 70's

→ He experiments with other techniques: photos from magazines @ the base, then whited over it, the blacks are a reference to Jean Genet plays (directly representat°nal w/ the plays), yet covering over the faces
Birmingham: breaks the continuity of the picture plane (inside: a police dog attacking a protestor)
// same imagery as warhol's Red Race Riot
Tens° of riot merged w/ the lgge of abstract°

→ Works called "head", matte, made with acrylic (excess acrylic paint, then shaped trough mesh) - seemingly mass produced / plasticky
remember Fautrier's mangled heads (more racialized violence)
Bearden | abstraction vs obstruct°

→ 1970: engagement w/ acrylic disappears. (Untitled) ribbed surface, not flat like Ed Clarke making 3 large strokes, W builds a whole apparatus to create a composit° with <u>one</u> stroke
He creaks stutters, breaks in the composit° (1973-1974)
[Warhol's best works comes from the same sort of glitches]
Technological series, emphasized with Greek-seemed series (no more myth, just techniques of painting)

→ Show's reception: people reviews, think about the Marshall show in 2014 (scenes of black lives; object° to representationalism)

Part III → The CIA funded a lot of art exhibits. The Rockerfellers were the governors of New York state. Direct connects between Moma & the state
The leftist politics are left aside, positioning modern art as freedom.
Moma sends AbEx around the world; even the Venice biennale (they selected the pavillion themselves)
[Connection between art & nationalism is still alive to that day]
Jackson Pollock went around the world
even in Africa using prints (easier to ship)
to Japan, Sidney, Bali, and Clement Greenberg himself giving talks

Internationalism mechanism by which abex becomes known around the world & presented as an apogy of American achievement & freedom.

Guibaut effaces the different other kinds of political affiliations; but there are other ideas that are union & class-based