

Instructor: **Jolene Mathieson**

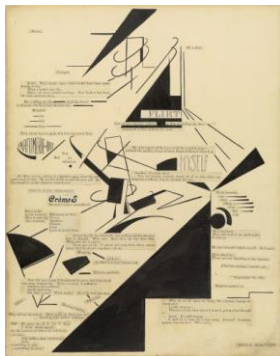
Title: **"A thought is a proposition with a sense": Anglo-American Modernist Poetry as Philosophy**

Course: **53-546: Seminar II; Blockseminar**

Dates: **04.11.2016 from 12-17h; 20.01.17 from 12-17h; 21.01.17 from 12-17h; 27.01.17 from 12-17h;
28.01.17 from 12-17h**

Room: **1263**

Course description:



Agnes Ernst Meyer &
Marius De Zayas
Menatl Reactions 291 no. 2, 1915



René Magritte
The Treachery of Images, 1929



Edgar Rubin
Rubin's Vase, 1921

In tandem with the radical reconceptualization of the nature of reality in fields as diverse as painting, linguistics, psychology, music and quantum mechanics, the modernist revolution in poetry sought to forge a poetics of experiment with a poetics of premise. Producing manifestos and defences, founding magazines and collectives, and manoeuvring among both princes and paupers, the agents of this revolution recalibrated the role of poetry as that of purpose and the role of poets as that of philosopher kings.

It will hence be our task to examine both the philosophical and historical context of the modernist period whilst primarily engaging in intense, close readings of individual poems. Ranging far and wide, from the sensualist seductions of the French Symbolists (such as Charles Baudelaire & Arthur Rimbaud) to the isolated iterations of the 'protomodernists' (e.g., Emily Dickinson & Gerard Manley Hopkins) to the neurotic aesthetics of the avant-garde (say, T.S. Eliot & Gertrude Stein) to the vanguard formalisms of the feminist movement (for instance, Mina Loy & Marianne Moore) and on to the epistemological topologies of later modernists (think Charles Olson & J.H. Prynne), we will approach each text with the same governing question: What is the philosophy of this poem?

Requirements: The *Studienleistung* will consist of thorough preparation of all reading material for the seminar, immersive participation, completion of short homework assignments, in addition to writing one 30-minute, formal academic paper (with a thesis!) which will be presented in class. The *Prüfungsleistung* consists of a 16-to-20-page research paper. As this is a block seminar, attendance in the first session is mandatory. Anyone absent on the first day of class will have to be dropped from the course. ***As this course will largely be organised through Agora, you will need to write an email to jolene.mathieson@uni-hamburg.de in order to register (but you will also need to sign up via STiNE).***

Texts: Each of you will have to purchase the 'Seminar 53-546' Reader at Cobra Copy (Von-Melle-Park 5, 20146 HH) and bring it to every session.