



## POSTMODERNISM AND AESTHETICS

What is the postmodern scene? Baudrillard's vision of excremental culture *par excellence*? or a final homecoming to a technoscape which even as a "body without organs" (Deleuze and Guattari), a "negative space" (Rosalind Krauss), a "pure implosion" (Lyotard) or an "aleatory mechanism" (Serres) is now first nature, and thus the terrain of a new political refusal?

And what, then, is the place of art and theory in the postmodern scene? Signs of detritus, wreckage and refuse which, moving at the edge of fascination and despair, signify that this is now the age of the death of the social and the triumph of an (excremental) culture? or the first glimmerings of that fateful "no" which, as Jaspers said, marks the furthest frontier of seduction and power?

Is this, in fact, the age of the "anti-aesthetic"? or is the anti-aesthetic already on its way towards the nomination of a new aesthetic moment? Art or anti-art? Postmodernism and the Anti-Aesthetic or Ultramodernism and Hyper-Aesthetics? Have we already passed through to that silent region where the only sound is Bataille's whisper that now even desire has lost its sovereignty as the sign of a privileged transgression yet to come? or are we still trapped in that twilight time first nominated by Nietzsche: Dionysus or Christ?

The reviews and essays in this section are only the first "mark" in a continuing series on key ruptures and continuities in contemporary negotiations of the postmodern condition. We invite contributors from *all* artistic and theoretical encounters with the *refusals* of the anti-aesthetic and the *hyper-nihilism* of ultramodernism '80s style.