



PUBLIC LECTURE

The Fine Arts Network

invites you to a public lecture, followed by member's drinks

Anthony White

School of Art History, Cinema, Classics and Archaeology

Gustave Courbet's 'Incongruity' and the Spectacle of Landscape

on

Wednesday 18 May 2005, 6.30 PM

Gustave Courbet's oil painting 'The Painters Studio: A Real Allegory, Summing up a Period of Seven Years of my Artistic and Moral Life' was exhibited at the 1855 Universal Exposition in Paris. On seeing the work, Eugene Delacroix noted that "the canvas that he is painting creates an incongruity: it has the character of a real sky in the middle of the painting." Taking Delacroix's comment as a starting point, I will demonstrate that several of Courbet's landscape paintings of the 1850s and 1860s contain such incongruities. From this I argue that Courbet's landscape paintings, by subverting a 19th-century perception of the landscape as a pleasing antidote to the turmoil of metropolitan life, opposed any reduction of the French countryside to a visual spectacle for the consumption of the urban viewer.

Drinks following the lecture are available to FAN members only. Membership is \$50, (\$40 students with photocopy of student card) and includes a copy of the 2005 issue of Melbourne Art Journal, as well as numerous other benefits.