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A6859 Winter 2018

On Viollet-le-Duc's Unthought Theory of Restoration

(Rm. 655 Schermerhorn, March 23, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30 at 6:00pm. *Please note that on Thursday, March 29, there is my public lecture instead of class. This lecture starts at 6:30 and takes place in Ware Lounge on the 6th floor in Avery Hall)

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Course Description:

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“Both the word and the thing are modern. To restore an edifice means neither to maintain it, nor to repair it, nor to rebuild it; it means to reestablish it in a finished state, which many in fact never have actually existed at any given time.”

--Viollet-le-Duc, “Restoration,” *Dictionnaire Raisonne*

This seminar is simultaneously an advanced introduction and trenchant rethinking of one of the primal figures in architectural history and theories of preservation: Eugene Viollet-le-Duc (1814-1879). Recently, we have seen a reinvention of the possibilities of John Ruskin, often seen as the intellectual counterpart to Viollet-le-Duc in the 19th century, but we have yet to grapple with the truly strange and unruly nature of the latter's corpus of work, which ranges across many disciplines and manifests itself in voluminous writings, renderings, and material restorations. In this spirit, the seminar will explore Viollet-le-Duc's *unthought*; that is to say, the very ambitions and possibilities of his thought that we have yet to come to terms with. In doing so, we will explore Viollet-le-Duc as a contemporary thinker, and thus by definition, untimely, which will allow us to see his continuing import not only for speculative theories and practices of preservation, but also for the history and theory of architecture as such. In the seminar we will address important issues such as community, darkness and death, force and form, temporality

and historicity, ethology, geo-aesthetics, onto-cartography, fabulation, graphic practice, monuments, machines, and what I will call the anticipatory subject of architecture.

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Required Readings and Electronic Access:

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Articles: Assigned weekly readings will be posted on Courseworks or sent directly to your email address. I reserve the right to change readings if needed and with sufficient notice. This will never increase the amount or difficulty of the readings, but rather is a matter of choosing a more appropriate text for the class.

Every student is expected to do all the readings prior to discussion in class. Please bring a hard copy of the readings to class or have it available on your computer. Since this course will be conducted primarily as a seminar, it is very important to participate in discussions.

Grading and Examination:

A semester essay of 2000 words (not including illustrations, notes and reference) with a due date two weeks after the last day of class (Friday, April 13). Please send the final essays in word format to the following address: aron.vinegar@gmail.com. *You need to discuss the paper topic with me before the end of the course.* Please choose something that is important to you, and that is related to your interests and concerns.

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Use of sources and citation

You should familiarize yourself with the rules that apply to university policy on plagiarism. Please use Chicago Manual of Style for sources and citations for your final essay. Make sure to look up how to title and number images. Your final essay must include images.

Lecture Schedule

Day 1 (March 23): **Beyond Structural Rationalism**

Readings: Viollet-le-Duc, "Restoration," *Dictionnaire Raisonne*; Aron Vinegar, "Viollet-le-Duc and Restoration in the Future Anterior"; Giorgio Agamben, "What is the Contemporary?"

Day 2 (March 26): **Sur la Breche: Warfare, Chaos, Melee, and Passive/Active Forces**

Readings: Viollet-le-Duc, *An Essay on the Military Architecture of the Middle Ages* (ebook); section on siege warfare in Vinegar, "Chatography," pp. 371-376. *please consult the footnotes in my essay so you know which pages to consult in *An Essay on the Military Architecture of the Middle Ages*.

Day 3 (March 27): **On Excess, Deformation and Plasticity**

Readings: Viollet-le-Duc, "Aron Vinegar, "Gorgons to Centaurs: Viollet-le-Duc's Imaginary Transformism at Pierrefonds"; Viollet-le-Duc, *Lectures on Architecture* (ebook), Lecture 1, p.24 and 25-7, Lecture III, pp. 85-86, Lecture VI, pp.177-78; Catherine Malabou, excerpt from *What Should we do with our Brain*, 5-6 and 15-17.

Day 4 (March 28): **What a Monument Can Do: Ethology, Art, and Architecture**

Readings: Gilles Deleuze, "Spinoza and Us," *Spinoza Practical Philosophy*, p.122-130; Gilles Deleuze, *What is Philosophy*, pp. 163-189; Elizabeth Grosz, "Milieu and Territory, in *Chaos, Territory, Art; Deleuze and the Framing of the Earth*, 45-51; Vinegar, "Chatography," *Journal of Society of Architectural Historians*

Day 5 (March 29): **In Flagrate Delicto: On Some Burning Questions for Restoration**

* 6:30pm Ware Lounge, Avery Hall (Preservation Lecture Series)

Day 6 (March 30): **Nulles dies Sine Linea: Techniques for Drawing Forth**

Readings: Viollet-le-Duc, *Learning How to Draw*, Chapters, 1,2, 8 9. Look at a range of drawings and engravings by Viollet-le-Duc from the *Dictionnaire Raisonne*, *Entretiens sur L'Architecture*, *History of Habitation*, *Mont Blanc*, *Annals of a Fortress*, etc.