

Welcome to Week 3

- only one try for test
- overview of paper 1

Postmodernism, Pop Art, and You

- Postmodernism is more attitude than practice
 - less about skill and representation
 - Pollock deemphasizes skills, paint is splashed on canvas
 - **medium is message**
 - **minimal music** - audience shouldn't know less than composer and performers
 - there is a focus on immediate environment and popular culture

- Meaning of music is tied up in our relationship to it.
 - characterized by use of well-known music (e.g. rock music), remixed music
- John Oswald - Dab
- Remix of "Bad" by Michael Jackson
 - Frequent repeats of short segments from song
 - ends with minimal amount of sound (percussion sounds are slowly made more and more simple)
 - Copyright infringement, sense of rebelliousness

Andy Warhol

- Warhol made idea of **celebrity** the object of his art
 - Didn't matter why they were famous
 - The fact they were famous was object of interpretation (similar to landscape or dogs playing poker)
 - moves the idea into performance sphere
 - had big parties w/ lots of celebrities, viewed as performance art
- Bowie saw Warhol's "Pork" play
 - impressed w/ glitter (rare in 70s)

- wanted to incorporate glitter in Ziggy shows
- Interested in androgynous characters
 - Cast member said when Bowie first met them, he was hippie, but a week later he was Ziggy Stardust
- Bowie played Warhol in 1996 film "Basquiat"

Vince Taylor and Aleister Crowley

- Bowie enamored w/ idea of "outsider"
- Bowie wants to create archetypal rock character, thinks of rock as symbol unto itself

- Taylor was stuck in '60s throughout life (like ziggy!)
- Taylor told Bowie he (Taylor) was alien and that aliens would come to London to take him (Taylor) away
- Bowie was also interested in idea of spiritual man elevated above humanity (Crowley)

Hunky Dory 2

- RCA is interested in piano songs, signs Bowie on to 3-album contract.
- Brought Mick Ronson back to create rock band inspired by

Taylor, Warhol, and Crowley
↑ ↗ ↘
based on influenced by
(permanent '60's rock character)

- It would be rock "concept" band w/ Ziggy Stardust as stage persona
- Bowie wants Ronson to produce Hunky Dory so he can be there for Ziggy Stardust (Ronson fits role)
- Hunky Dory didn't sell well because Bowie didn't promote it
 - First 3 mos. only sold 5,000 copies (very poor sales)
- After Ziggy became big, H. D. sold way better.

Ziggy Stardust

- "I packaged a totally credible plastic Rock star, much better than any sort of Monkees fabrication. My plastic rocker was more plastic than anybody's."
- Ziggy and band were aliens
- They would save world
- Per Warhol, important thing is rock itself, what we see on outside rather than structural/philosophical underpinnings

- Also based on super spiritual savior / übermensch (Crowley / Nietzsche)
- celebrity is extension of oneself, can be relocated
 - Because Ziggy is androgynous and alien, Ziggy is blank slate for us to create rocker we can relate to (i.e. "relocate" idea of Ziggy onto something we can relate to)
- Fashion inspired by New York Dolls??

Rise and Fall of Z.S. and S.F.M.

- Released in June 1972
- One of the first **glam rock** bands
- Guitar heros of 70/80's hair
bands are based on Ronson,
who was Bowie creation
(makeup, androgynous, facial
expressions, movements)
- world will be destroyed
in 5 years, Ziggy and
band will save humanity
by elevating them w/ rock
(no, not by stopping war, etc)

- Fandom makes him more powerful
- ziggy killed by fans so body parts can create more incoming alien rock stars
- Important thing is rock, and then rock harder
 - (not to assess gravity of situation)
 - By rocking, Ziggy's celebrity grows and empowers him to save humanity and make them rock more

e Music is (purposefully)
basic form of rock

So people can relate to it,
focus is surface-level
(unlike Floyd album)

- album sells modestly
- As word spreads, shows
get bigger and bigger,
more fancy lighting,
costume changes
- Tour lasts over a year,
spanning 170 shows,
ends in summer '73

The Producer

- Bowie finds \$\$ for Iggy Pop and Lou Reed (of Velvet Underground) to make records. Bowie produces them himself.
 - Iggy Pop / Stooges: Raw Power
 - influenced hard core in SoCal
 - Lou Reed: Transformer
 - influenced NY punk scene
- Raw, stark recording quality

Aladdin Sane / Pinups

- Record Aladdin Sane album while touring Ziggy Stardust
- Band felt that they weren't getting paid enough

- Mike Garson joined as pianist, paid 10 times as much as other band members
- Band would refuse to play
- ziggy movie filmed in June '73 at time when band was upset about pay and Bowie was losing interest in "ziggy" concept
- At end of concert, Bowie announced that it was their last show and ziggy was dead (Bowie's band wasn't expecting this! Band was shocked and mad).
- Bowie had to make 3rd album for RCA, they did covers, weren't that invested in album (Sept 1973). Album was "Pinups".

- All of Bowie's albums from "Man Who Sold World" to "Pinups" were now **high on charts** in UK at same time.
 - Man Who Sold World
 - Hunky Dory
 - Z.S. and S.F.M.
 - Aladdin Sane
 - Pinups
- **Bowie hysteria**
- Aladdin Sane was reference to early rock
- Pinups had more of a clean rock vibe, polite and restrained

William S. Burroughs

- Burroughs was brilliant American writer, used "cut-up" technique in writing (cut up writing and placed words in different locations)
- Bowie used cut-up technique in music writing
- with Ziggy, audience could put themselves in role of Ziggy; with cut-up technique, audience could put themselves in text because meaning was so subjective, perspectives (1st vs. 3rd person) are constantly changing .

- Bowie used technique up until Blackstar
- Bowie wanted to make musical stage version of Orwell's 1984, denied rights, used his songs in TV special instead called "1980 Flor show"
- Bowie met Burroughs when Burroughs interviewed Bowie for Rolling Stone in 1974.
- They talked about making musical version of William Burroughs' cut-up novel "The Wild Boys".
 - Never came to fruition, but further pushed Bowie into exploring cut-up technique and dystopian themes

- Influenced Bowie's next album "Diamond Dogs"

Diamond Dogs

- Bowie records album by himself, band is gone
- Learns to play guitar better, tries to imitate Mick Ronson's playing.
- This begs the question, Is what Ronson did on previous albums Ronson's or Bowie's idea?
- Vision of "Diamond Dogs" is this fantasy William S. Burroughs "1984" world.

- Bowie inhabits character named "Halloween Jack", who is basically toned-down Ziggy with eye patch
- Bowie (along w/ band KISS) was first to create modern idea of the big spectacle of a rock show, with massive entourage surrounding him. Influenced how people would later understand idea of the rock concert.
- While Bowie is touring album, he gets interested in R&B music from Philadelphia, starts calling tour the "Philly Dogs" tour, becomes a new character named the Thin White Duke.

Changes

- Three different versions of song "Changes"
 - Hunky Dory original
 - Ziggy Stardust version
 - Thin White Duke version
- Compare / contrast the way Bowie sings, the instrumentation etc. what do differences mean?
 - Hunky Dory version has violin backing, smooth sax solo
 - Ziggy version is infused w/ distorted guitar; Bowie seems really relaxed, jovial; sax and violin are gone

- Thin White Duke version has sax backing and solo, no violin, electric piano ; Bowie assumes soulful African American way of singing .

Z.S. and S.F.M. Movie

- Last Ziggy Stardust concert
- At end of concert (before singing Rock 'n' Roll Suicide), Bowie announces that the show will be the band's last .