

17th Annual Tufts University English Graduate Conference

WHAT STYLE KNOWS

Keynote Address by Professor D.A. Miller, U.C. Berkeley

Call for Papers:

Style seduces. By asserting itself in literary criticism, philosophical discourse, and political inquiry, style destabilizes the structures of knowledge production on which these disciplines rely. Uneasily mediating between language and meaning, the spectacle of style fascinates even as it constitutes the very material of the text itself. Always a textual performance, style also performs *us*. This conference, then, will flirt with the subversive potential that interrogations of style—cultural, racial, generic, sexual, gendered, and historical—might produce. What can style tell us about the social? Does style differ from the aesthetic, or the formal? Might its very playfulness offer radical possibilities unafforded by the systematized discourse of aesthetics? Can style ever be coherent? Does style impose limits or boundaries? How do we know **What Style Knows?**



About the keynote speaker:

D.A. Miller is the John F. Hotchkis Professor of English at the U.C., Berkeley. One of the most influential critics in literary and cultural studies, Professor Miller has contributed significantly to the fields of queer theory, nineteenth-century fiction, and film studies.

His most recent book is *Jane Austen, or the Secret of Style*.

At our conference, he will speak about his current work,

"The Social Logic of Style: Federico Fellini's *8 1/2*."

Friday, October 14, 2005

Topics may include:

(Re)framing film
The rhetoricity of sexuality and/or gender
Queer style(s)
Fashion and fiction
"The Stylothete"
Racial, ethnic, and/or historical performativities
Sophistication and vulgarity
Rhetorics of resistance
Pleasure, power, and style
Pastiche, collage, and genre crossing
Ironizing identity
Authorial style
Imitation and citation
Performativity
Sprezzatura: the art of seeming artless
A politics of panache
The passé

We encourage abstracts that explore and problematize the phrase "What Style Knows" from a wide range of fields and disciplines.

Please send a 1-2 page, double-spaced abstract, including your name and e-mail address, by **July 1, 2005** to:

Ashley Shelden
210 East Hall, Department of English
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Medford, MA 02155

To send abstracts electronically or for further information:

Ashley Shelden (Ashley.Shelden@tufts.edu) or
Amy Woodbury (Amy.Woodbury@tufts.edu)

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