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## Vision's Immanence

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To anyone in the habit of thinking with his ears, the words “cultural criticism” (Kulturkritik) must have an offensive ring, not merely because, like “automobile,” they are pieced together from Latin and Greek. The words recall a flagrant contradiction. The cultural critic is not happy with civilization, to which alone he owes his discontent. He speaks as if he represented either unadulterated nature or a higher historical stage. Yet he is necessarily of the same essence as that to which he feels superior.

—THEODOR ADORNO, “CULTURAL CRITICISM AND SOCIETY”

“So maybe you will enter the literary profession as so many Southern gentlemen and gentlewomen too are doing now and maybe some day you will remember this and write about it. You will be married then I expect and perhaps your wife will want a new gown or a new chair for the house and you can write this and submit it to the magazines.”

—ROSA COLDFIELD IN *ABSALOM, ABSALOM!*

My task which I am trying to achieve is, by the power of the written word, to make you hear, to make you feel—it is, before all, to make you see!

—JOSEPH CONRAD, “PREFACE” TO *THE NIGGER OF THE “NARCISSUS”*

The visual is *essentially* pornographic.

—FREDERIC JAMESON, *SIGNATURES OF THE VISIBLE*

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