Watching the West from Afar: A French Perspective

Thursday, October 7th, 2010

DML, Intellectual Commons, 12:00 – 1:30 pm
(A light lunch served)

A conversation with Bruce Bégout, Brighde Mullins & D.J. Waldie
 moderated by Colin Keaveney.

French philosopher and author Bruce Bégout is currently maître de conférences at the University of Bordeaux. He has published many essays, including La Découverte du quotidien. Éléments pour une phénoménologie du monde de la vie and De la décence ordinaire, as well as several novels. After Zéropolis, The experience of Las Vegas, Common Place: The American Motel (translated by Colin Keaveney, and published by Otis Books/Seismicity Edition) is the second volume of a trilogy on the American West, a broad archeological inquiry into the meanings of the quotidian, where the American motel poetically reveals new forms of urban life, in which mobility, wandering, and poverty play a dominant role.

Born in Dublin, Colin Keaveney has a B.A. in French and English literatures from Trinity College, and a PhD in French literature from UC Santa Barbara. He has been a faculty member in the Department of French & Italian at USC since 1999.

A playwright and a poet, Brighde Mullins graduated from the Yale School of Drama and the Iowa Writers’ Workshop. She is now the director of USC’s Master of Professional Writing Program.

D. J. Waldie lives in Lakewood, California and for many years worked as a city planner. A contributing editor of the Los Angeles Times and a contributing writer at Los Angeles magazine, he is the author of the acclaimed essay collection Holy Land. He wrote an afterward for the just published translation of Common Place. The American Motel.

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