

week 11/12

Minimalism

- origins
- practitioners
- influences

Minimalists and 'stasis': La Monte Young, Terry Riley, Steve Reich, Philip Glass and John Adams – process triumphant: “I start the Machine and let it run..”



This lecture will deal with one of the most influential recent compositional 'schools': minimalism. These composers turned their backs on their contemporary 'academic' composers, who were primarily serialists, as well as the aleatoric school, and were instead inspired by the 'Minimalist' painters of New York who preceded them by almost 10 years.

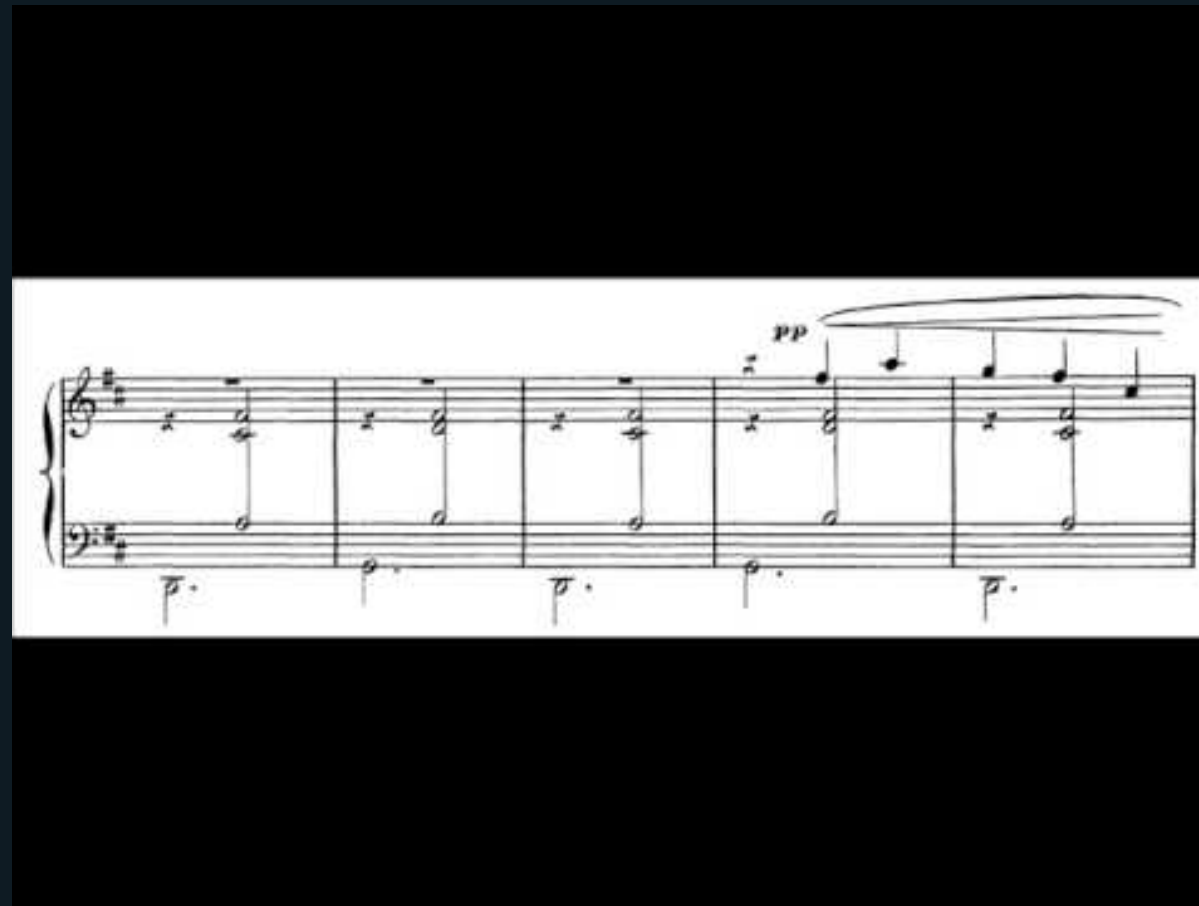
Reading

- Potter, K., 2000. *Four Musical Minimalists*, Cambridge & New York: Cambridge University Press, pp. 96-115
- Reich, S., 2002. *Writings on Music*, Oxford & New York: OUP, pp. 139-154

Points to consider:

- This is a group of musicians reacting to what they viewed as the establishment (which had recently viewed itself as the Avant Garde); have we seen this process occurring before?
- Why do artists look outside their own traditions for ideas?
- What is the difference between aleatoric music and process music? What do they have in common?

Satie Gymnopedie No 1



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eW33wN2EufY>

http://rheadley.net/presentations/mic2b_w11.pdf

Satie Vexations



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mnsLtd7SvmY>

http://rheadley.net/presentations/mic2b_w11.pdf

Satie Furniture Music



[link](#)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CU2mDkZoYsc>

http://rheadley.net/presentations/mic2b_w11.pdf

La Monte Young Composition 1960 No. 7



...lots of versions

Terry Riley in C 1964



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yNi0bukYRnA>

http://rheadley.net/presentations/mic2b_w11.pdf

Tate Modern and Africa Express Present Terry Riley's In C Mali



Michael Nyman

Nyman Minimal Music Spectator

<http://archive.spectator.co.uk/article/11th-october-1968/22/minimal-music>

Michael Nyman

Henry Purcell **King Arthur** 'What Power Art Thou'



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=05lRq0lcDzw>

Nyman Memorial



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ECGViL4VqfE>

http://rheadley.net/presentations/mic2b_w11.pdf

Nyman _The Cook the Thief his Wife and her Lover (1989) Peter Greenaway

- go to series of videos...

CTWL01 from 0:30:00

CTWL02 boy singing

CTWL03 walk through the restaurant

CTWL04 Gambon talking

CTWL06 Friday

Nyman String Quartet No 1 (1985)

String Quartet No 1 Fig F (romantic legacy)

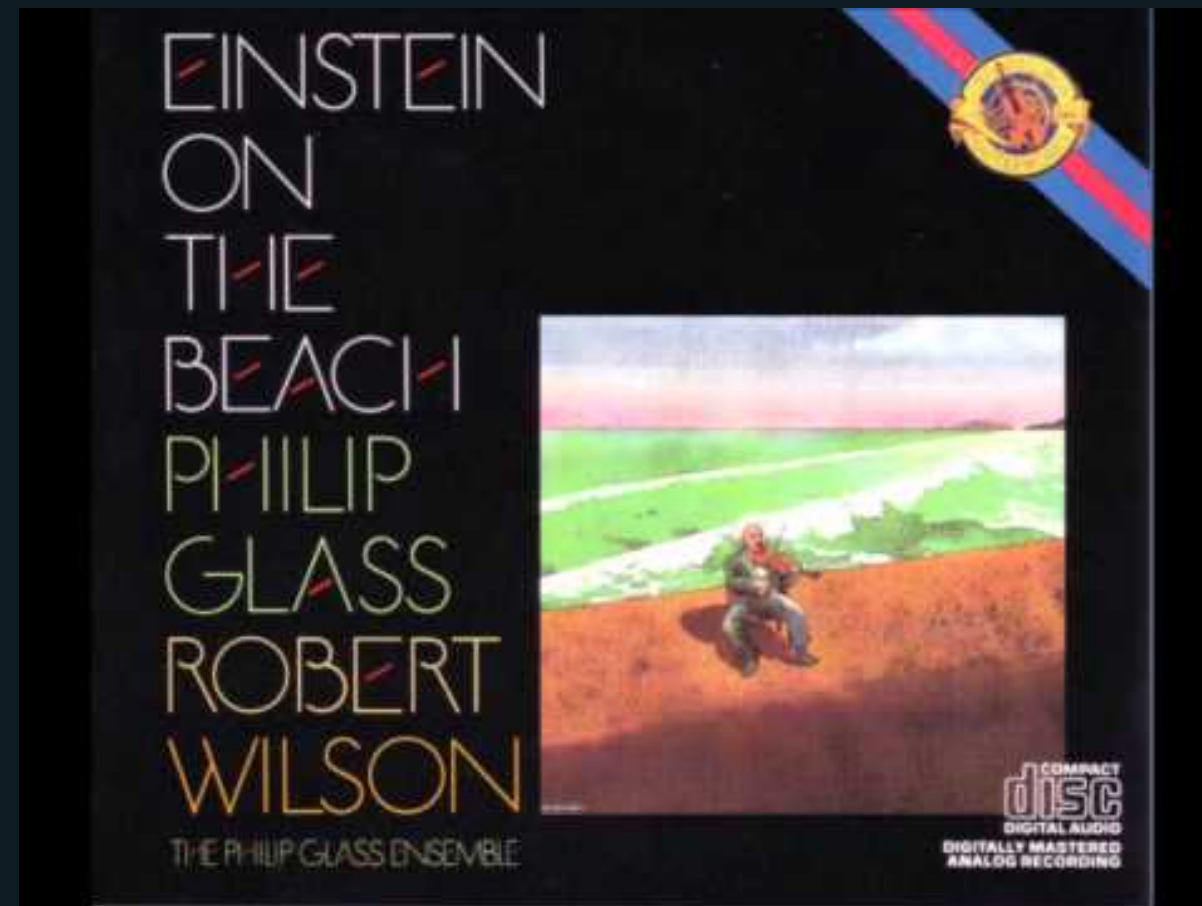
String Quartet No 1 Fig G

String Quartet No 1 Fig H (from 0:34)

Nyman The Piano (1993)

See offline movie (e.g. 24:00)

Philip Glass Einstein on the Beach (1976)



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MIDuZq7RVAM>

Philip Glass (Ensemble) Glassworks (1982)



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gK46EKVYfNU>

Philip Glass Koyaanisqatsi (1982)

See local video

e.g. 11:25 waves and clouds

17:30 machines

22:00 cities

45:00 traffic

13:28 rocket

The final sequence shows footage of a rocket lifting off, only to end up exploding after a few seconds. Editing suggest that there is only one rocket, while in fact two

Steve Reich Come Out (1966)



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ouYiTiiY3vg>

http://rheadley.net/presentations/mic2b_w11.pdf

Steve Reich Piano Phase (1967)



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i0345c6zNfM>

Steve Reich Pendulum Music (1968)



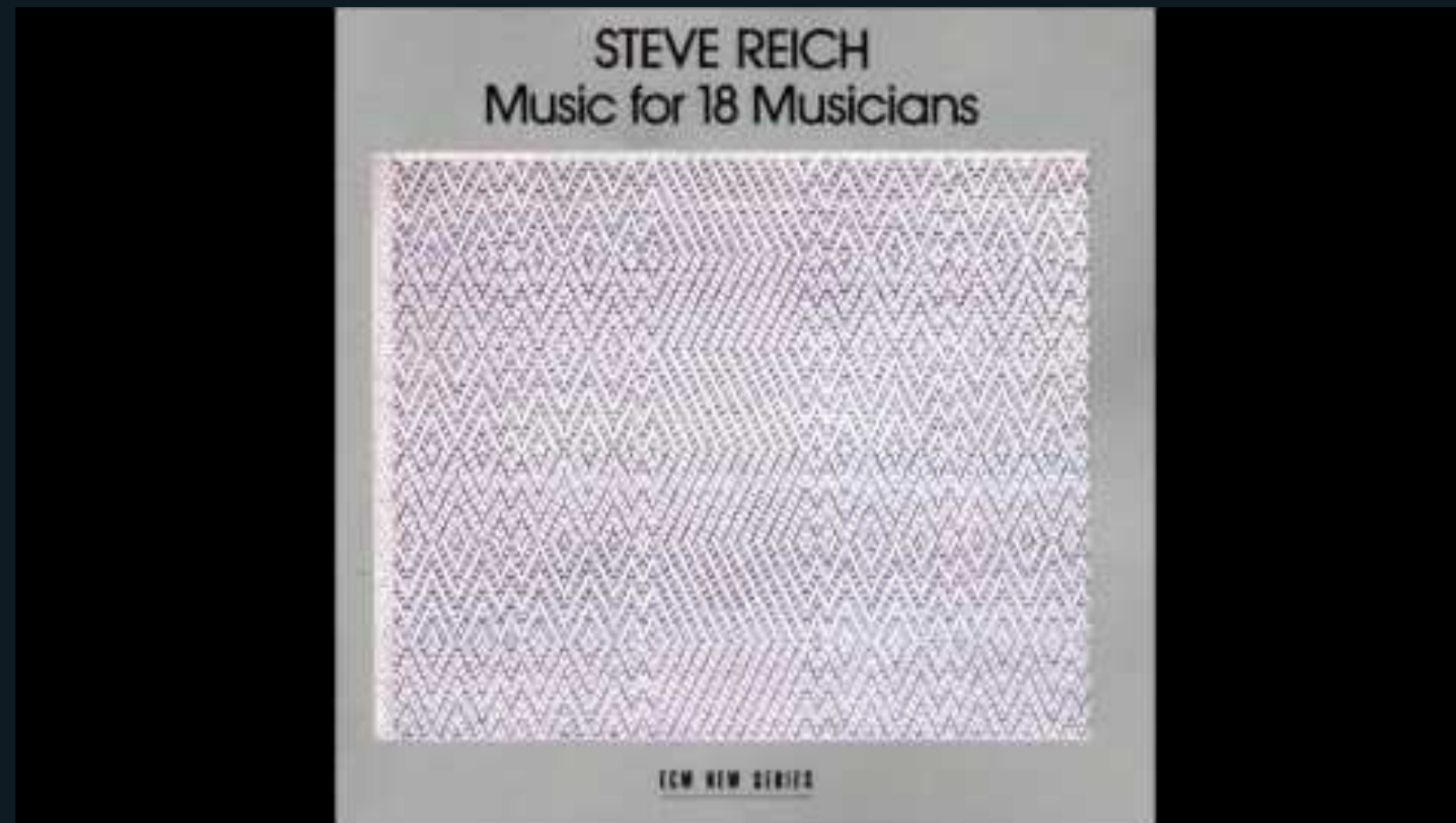
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fU6qDeJPT-w>

Steve Reich Drumming (1974)



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RB-woRXwY-Q>

Steve Reich Music for 18 Musicians (1978)



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3ou9J844io0>

http://rheadley.net/presentations/mic2b_w11.pdf

Steve Reich Desert Music (1983)



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=05q0tXql-ol>

Steve Reich Different Trains (1988)



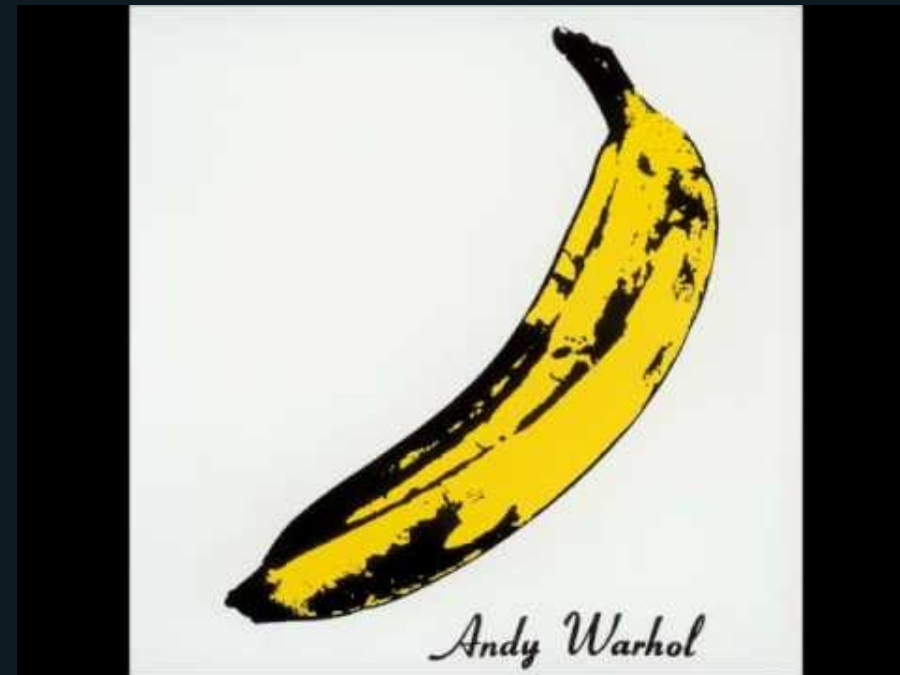
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1E4Bjt_zVJc

Velvet Underground - Heroin, All Tomorrow's Parties, Venus in Furs, etc.

Venus in Furs

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iLQzaLr1enE>

Velvet Underground - Heroin, All Tomorrow's Parties, Venus in Furs, etc.



Heroin

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WZseqKBMq4c>

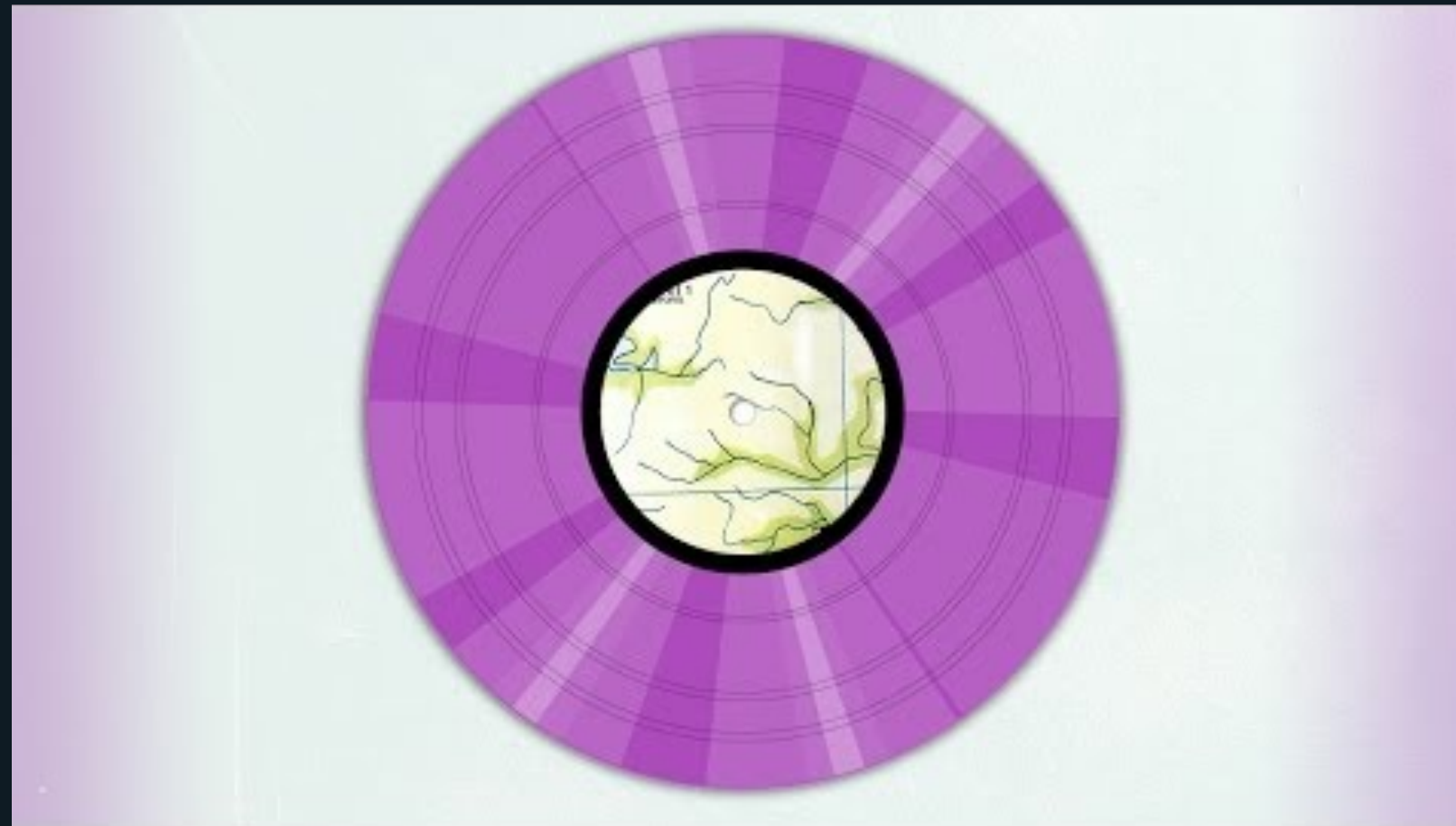
Velvet Underground - All Tomorrow's Parties



All Tomorrow's Parties

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M88Ca91hTWs>

Brian Eno Ambient 1 Music for Airports (1978)



inline

KLF Chill Out (1990)



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5S_lktstwrs

Aphex Twin Selected Ambient Works Volume II 1994



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xw5AiRVqfqk>

http://rheadley.net/presentations/mic2b_w11.pdf

Marsen Jules The Empire of Silence 2015

<http://oktaf.bandcamp.com/album/the-empire-of-silence-bonus-track-version>

John Adams Grand Pianola Music (1982)



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UHyb45r-sKk>

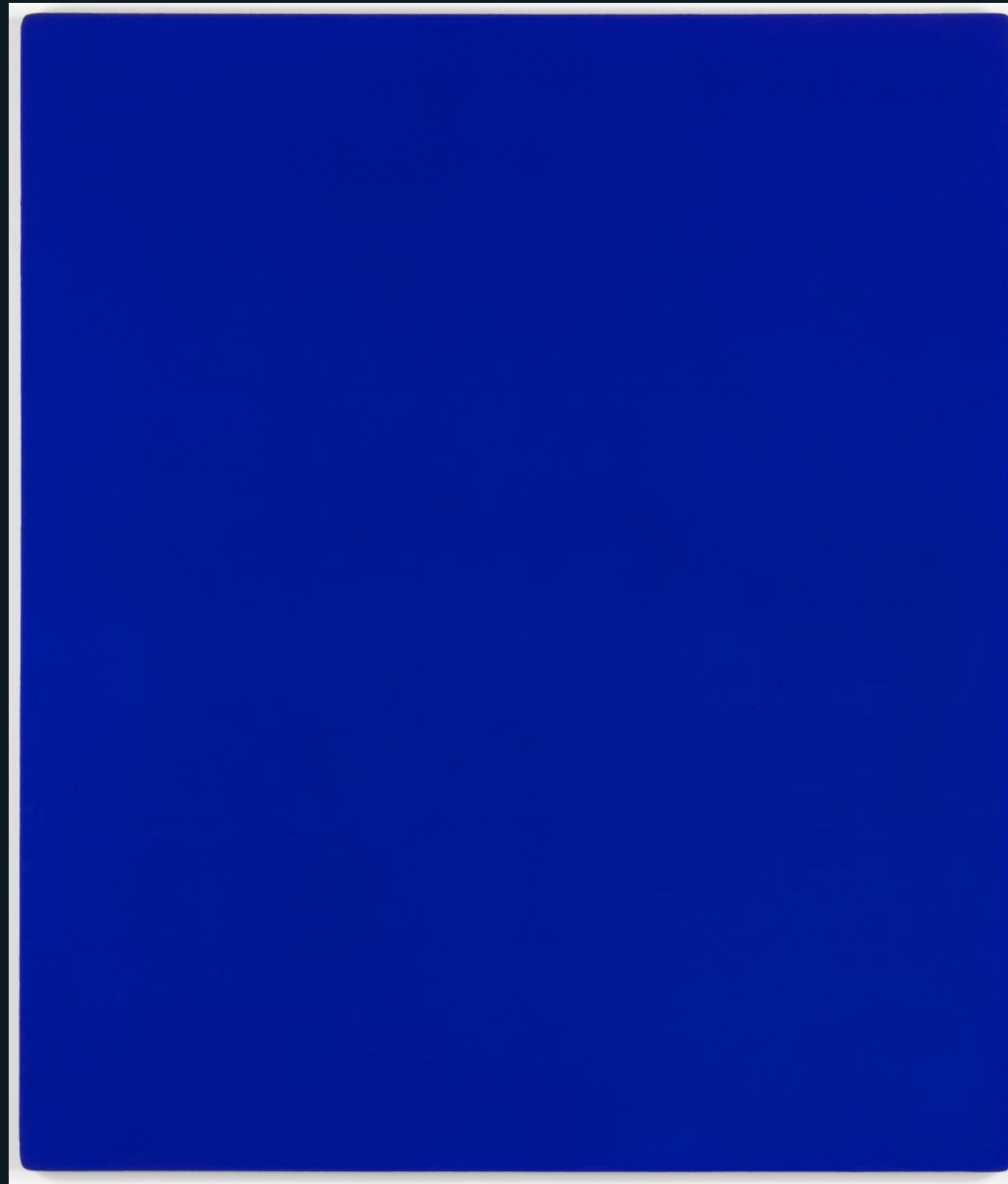
[John Adams' comments on the piece](#)

Minimalist Art

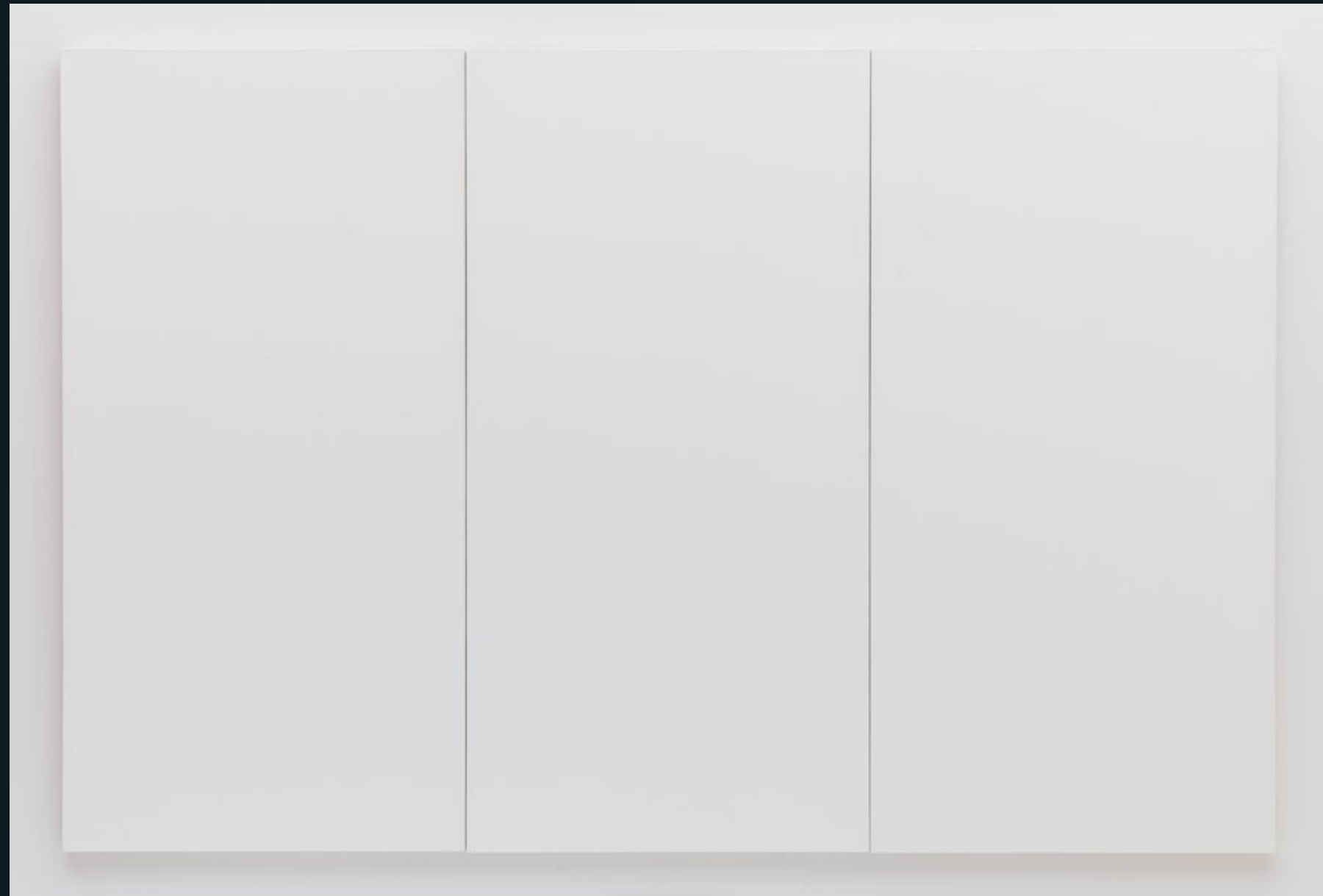
Malevich

'proto minimalism'?

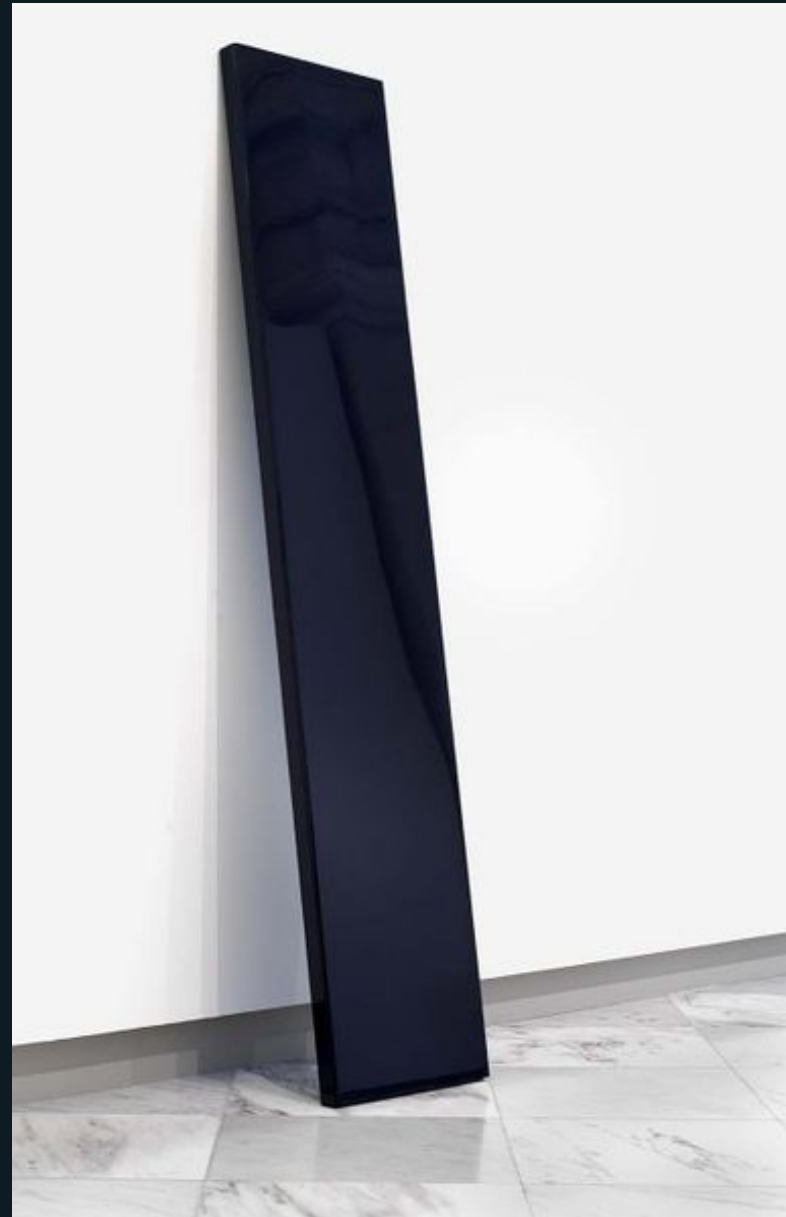
Yves Klein Monochrome Painting 1962



Robert Rauschenberg



John McCracken Slab 1981



Barnett Newman Voice of Fire 1967



Mark Rothko and Colour Field Painting

"A painting is not a picture of an experience; it is an experience."



Rothko Chapel



Morton Feldman The Rothko Chapel



Thank you. Any questions or comments?