## APOCALYPSE NOW: AN INTERVIEW WITH JOY GARNETT<sup>1</sup>

## **IOHN ARMITAGE**

JOHN ARMITAGE IS
ASSOCIATE DEAN
AND HEAD OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF MEDIA
AT NORTHUMBRIA
UNIVERSITY, UK. HE
IS EDITOR OF, MOST
RECENTLY, VIRILIO NOW:
CURRENT PERSPECTIVES
IN VIRILIO STUDIES,
PUBLISHED BY POLITY.

with what she calls the "apocalyptic sublime," a metaphysical condition of combined astonishment and terror in the presence of huge natural or often uncanny human and technological forces. Influenced by contemporary painters that include Peter Doig and Luc Tuymans, Garnett's work is often based on techno-scientific or photo-journalistic images she collects from the Internet. Garnett can usefully be situated alongside other contemporary artists who examine themes relating to the apocalyptic and the sublime at the junctions of cultural and media politics, dating from the paintings of the late Jack Goldstein, to more recent works by Robert Longo, Thomas Ruff, An-My Lê, and Marc Handelman. Represented by the Winkleman Gallery in New York City, Garnett's works have been shown at MoMA P.S.1 and The Whitney Museum of American Art. Exhibition catalogs include Atomic Afterimage (Boston University Art Gallery, 2008); Strange Weather, Lucy Lippard (National Academy of Sciences, Washington, DC, 2007); and Image War: Contesting Images of Political Conflict

(Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, 2006). In light

Joy Garnett is an American painter who lives and

works in New York City. Garnett's work is associated

of her recent solo exhibition at Winkleman Gallery in October 2010, Garnett discusses her paintings and her methods for *Cultural Politics* with its coeditor John Armitage, who teaches new media and the arts in the Department of Media, Northumbria University, United Kingdom. Garnett has served as Arts Editor at *Cultural Politics* since 2005.

**John Armitage:** Since your parents were intensely engaged with photography, each in their own way, what was it that made you choose painting as your primary medium?

Joy Garnett: I wanted to make pictures directly with my hands. Autonomy has always been important to me. This probably kept me from seriously pursuing filmmaking, which I flirted with in high school and in college. While drawing, photography, and online media are important and, in some ways, integral to my process, painting remains the more profoundly compelling of these experiences for me. I don't think I'm unusual among painters to feel this way – even the most theoretical and methodically driven painters seem to revel in painting on some tactile level like a guilty pleasure.

**JA:** But how does your affection for the directness of image-making, for the immediacy and freedom you associate with painting, accord with your use of "distance-enhancing" vision technologies and photojournalistic source images that you collect from the Internet?

**JG:** The connections between painting and the source images I gather from the Internet and elsewhere took some time to reveal themselves to me, and even longer for me to articulate. I am still articulating them. My interest in the mechanisms of visual mediation dates from when I was a kid helping my dad in his biochemistry lab. My father is an independent research scientist, and for many years he ran a second laboratory in the basement of our house where I was growing up – a scientist's art studio if you will, where we would conduct experiments. And it's interesting that you should identify vision technologies, photojournalism, and related practices as "distance-enhancing": most people assume the purpose of science photography and photojournalism is to close gaps in experience that exist due to distance or invisibility. What such technologies offer, of course, is a very convincing illusion of directness or proximity, which we all buy into in one way or another.

So the construction of some portion of the myth of proximity was something that I became aware of whenever my father and I documented an experiment, which generally occurred on microscopic, cellular levels, or else on a molecular level. What was thrilling was the challenge to visually record as well as interpret these new, invisible events, through photomicroscopy, colorimetry, or spectroscopy, where the identifying spectra of different chemical compounds was established. This taught me about mediation and interpretation, and how these processes come into play at very basic levels of perception.

I suppose that my engagement in such interpretations in the lab, of participating in the creation of what were, at times, aesthetically amazing visual documents, fed into my proclivities as a painter: a similar process goes on in the studio, which involves a gathering of (visual) data, a tweaking and reworking of this information to reveal or emphasize certain aspects over others (through painting). Since there are obvious differences in how visual "data' is handled on the Internet — consider how photographs are couched in the news, for example —and how it gets handled in a painting, in the process of reworking source images into paintings there is always the potential for strange and interesting things to occur.

**JA:** Is it accurate to suggest that it is the "gaps" between the visual data of the Internet, photography, the news, and the medium of painting that characterize what you call the "apocalyptic sublime"?

**JG:** There are certainly "gaps" or disconnects between our first-hand experiences and the pre-packaged kind of visual data we consume 24/7 on our computers, gadgets, and TVs. Increasingly, we blur the distinctions between the two, and it all flows together. While news media narratives inculcate in us a false sense of proximity to events we haven't experienced, I think painting can inhabit and activate those gaps between ourselves and distant events. So, I think of art not as a bridger of gaps, but as a gap enhancer – rather than attempt to fill the vacuum, art puts you squarely in it.

Likewise, I'd like to articulate the "apocalyptic sublime" condition as something that occurs wherever there is a sharp discontinuity between what is expected and what is perceived; it describes what may arise in that vacuum: a metaphysical state of awe combined with horror in face of immense natural or supernatural forces and, particularly in terms of my work, man-made or human-influenced events where technology goes terribly awry. Incidentally, "apocalyptic sublime" is an expression I borrowed from art historian and critic Christopher Phillips. who is a curator at the International Center of Photography in New York City. He so characterized a series of landscapes I'd completed in the late 1990s, writing that in them "the Luminist celebration of the transcendental landscape gives way to the 20th-century encounter with the apocalyptic sublime" (Phillips 1999). The paintings to which he was referring are based on then recently declassified United States (US) government photographs and film stills of Cold War era nuclear tests carried out in the Southwest of the US and the Pacific. Between 1995 and 1999, under President Clinton, the Freedom of Information Act was amended to allow the release of previously classified national security documents, which initiated the digitization of tens of thousands of hours of historical film footage of atomic testing. Many previously publicly unknown details and images pertaining to the Cold War came to light. This material was then laboriously uploaded by the military to its publicly accessible online archives throughout the late 1990s, which is how I became aware of them.

That was the first time I engaged the problem of technologized information as a subject and subtext of painting, as in *Christmas Island* (Figure 1), and it was a breakout series for me.

As the project moved beyond purely optical concerns, I grew interested in the culturally and socially significant implications of mediation. One striking aspect of the US government's nuclear experiment was the fact that these monumentally lethal radioactive events had to be mediated in order to be enacted and observed. The extreme nature of these experiments, their obvious technopolitical significance as well as their aesthetically extreme appearance, gives us an extraordinary instance where the very real prospect of total annihilation and the immense wonder of the physical universe are intertwined and encapsulated in single images or clips.

Of course, picturing the enactment of beauty and horror in the vastness of the desert and on remote atolls resonates with the Romantic tradition of landscape painting. Phillips identified this "encounter" in my work even before I'd fully realized it. He also saw in it the conflicts of a rapidly developing cultural moment where much was felt to be at stake, including the re-absorption of new technologies in terms of the desires and predilections of earlier paradigms and media. It wasn't just modes of image production and distribution that were changing; the parameters of visual art and cultural production in all mediums were shifting in response to the radical shift in how we process information.

The sublime apocalypse inherent in both nineteenth-century landscape painting and the nuclear experiment was therefore a potent metaphor for what was happening socio-culturally in terms of technology and media, as well as an apt description for what had been occurring, quite literally, on (and under) the ground.

Perhaps, once these declassified atomic-era documents were released into the public domain, the apocalyptic sublime could operate through representation itself, obliterating the very events depicted by superseding and replacing them, first in the public imagination and later in the writing and rewriting of official histories.

**JA:** How has your pursuit of the apocalyptic sublime developed beyond your early nuclear landscapes?

**JG:** Since the late 1990s, I've continued to forage for other kinds of images online. For instance, the painting *Noon* (Figure 2) is from a recent series of landscapes based on news photographs found on the Internet that depict a number of incidents occurring more or less simultaneously around the world.

For these works, I generally suppress the contextualizing details that surround the source images. Sometimes, as with the nuclear landscapes, it's important to retain the story line throughout the process and in the final work; but for me, in most instances, as with this project,

it is essential to discard specifics so as not to close down the multiple meanings and readings of the work. You could say that I've spent the past decade playing between these two poles: the topical narrative versus the decontextualized incident. I am moving increasingly toward the latter, which I find to be the more fruitful direction. Once left with an ambiguous, pared-down entity to work from, a rich tension develops between what remains of the source image and what occurs on the canvas. Later, most importantly, this tension and ambiguity functions for the viewer as well: in the resulting painting, pictorial aspects of the source image are still present, but the anecdotal power of that content to determine or guide interpretation has been stemmed, leaving it to the viewer to project onto it.

So to me, the primary distinction between *Noon* the painting and its source image has to do with how we engage and experience different types of images through the radically different delivery mechanisms at our disposal, which are generated by (and in turn generate) a variety of contrasting physical and metaphysical circumstances. Generally speaking, traditional painting functions as a one-of-a-kind object meant to be experienced one-on-one in physical space – an intimate document. By contrast, the source images I use are endlessly reproducible immaterial entities that are easily decontextualized, reducible to electronic bits, and treated as units of information with maximum distribution potential and high-gloss attraction. Calculated to catch the eye, the source image, even when initially produced to evoke empathy or reflection, is transformed by its mode of transmission into fodder for a narrative with endless turnover and few inducements to contemplation.

And so I believe that while media images may provide an ever-present narrative or subtext to our culture, artists have the ability through a number of options, painting among them, to manipulate the routinely occurring discrepancies or gaps in this narrative vis-à-vis the viewer. A tension is created, is fed by the freshly enhanced gap that remains between the two different kinds of experience, engendered respectively by media image and artwork. In contemplating the painting, the viewer's input – and at times their discomfort – is put in play.

**JA:** Perhaps one of the most significant things to mark your generation's work, and what distinguishes it from previous and later generations' work, is that you not only straddle two radically different media paradigms, television and the Internet, but are also conversant in each of them?

**JG:** I grew up in the television age of course, where TV was the predominant form of information distribution and entertainment, and its content became a kind of lingua franca for so many of us who watched it. But our relationship to content was passive; TV culture was all about top-down production – pure consumption. One of the difficulties was the feeling of futility in face of what was going on in the world, and the sense

that one had no say whatsoever in anything; there were invisible hands calling the shots, and we could only sit back and observe and absorb.

The Internet has reconfigured the way we watch and engage the world to some extent; it has even affected how television programming is implemented. We may still be passive consumers for the most part, but we are no longer *purely* passive, as we strive for social interaction – "networking" – and actually exert a kind of influence on a variety of fronts. When the Internet first became popularized in the 1990s, those of us working with it began responding to world news and polemic as we received it, discussing and even creating web-based artworks, which viewers halfway around the world could watch or interact with. This phenomenon has grown and upped the ante for producers of high-gloss top-down media spectacle – there's no going back to the old couch potato model. The implication is that everyone can have a direct hand in changing things – at the very least, in making and distributing their own work – and that this direct contribution can be achieved in real time.

Los Angeles artist Mike Kelley put it beautifully in an interview he did with Glenn O'Brien in 2008 (O'Brien 2008). He says we're inundated with media sludge and white noise, but we can't see it or distinguish it; "we're surrounded by invisibility," but art is there to make things visible. He says everybody should have a chance to whack away at the white noise, and this should be taught in the public school system. Of course, a typical problem faced by art students and experienced more or less by artists everywhere is how to intervene in the cultural narrative at large: how to "be relevant," how to make one's work matter, how to insert it into the larger picture. It took me years to see that this approach is completely backwards; it's not about finding a way to insert yourself into the world, but rather about doing something like what Kelley is describing: addressing the white noise by engaging and transforming it, appropriating and mashing it. My way of attacking the problem is to re-mediate world events by painting them. In the process, the world itself becomes more relevant to me.

**JA:** Yet making things visible or whacking away at the white noise can also make things visible that one perhaps never intended to make visible or relevant, as in the case of the controversy surrounding your 2003 painting *Molotov*, which was originally sourced from the Internet. How did your later discovery that this image was part of a larger photograph taken by the Magnum photographer Susan Meiselas impact you and your work, especially after Meiselas's lawyer sent a "cease and desist letter," claiming copyright infringement of Meiselas's photograph?

**JG:** *Molotov* (Figure 3) was the centerpiece of a project called "Riot," which explored the apocalyptic sublime not through landscape, but through the locus of the figure in an extreme state. In that sense it was a departure, and it was an adventure; it served to further develop some of the rudimentary ideas I had about re-mediation and painting that incorporates found images.

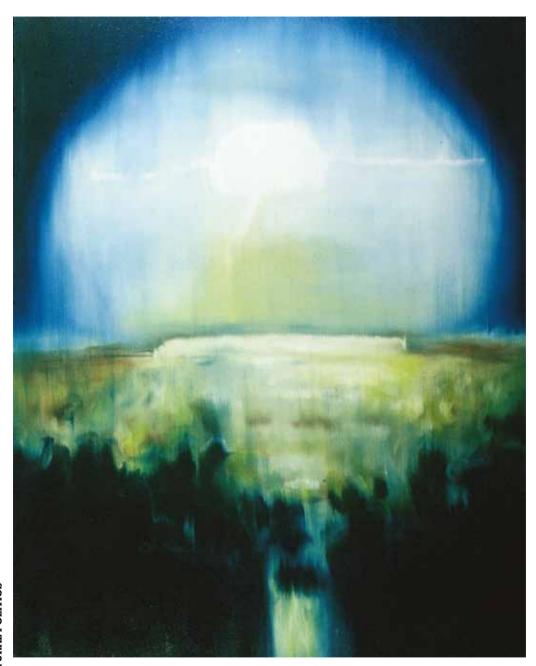
I came across the source image for *Molotov*, a ponytailed, Molotov cocktail-wielding youth, on an anarchist blog, and saved it to a desktop folder with other images that I would later sort through for making paintings. I eventually painted 15 contorted, emotionally fraught figures that suggest scenes ranging from "emo" rock performances and lovers embracing, to religious celebrants and bloody uprisings. As with my technological landscapes, I wanted to allow paint – the way I paint – to function as the *de facto* agent of transformation. I pared everything down to the figure, leaving it intact but simplified, its contortions amplified. I had just begun to explore the idea of the figure and the sublime, and it was clear that there were a number of factors that made these works different from the landscapes, particularly when choosing to render more-or-less accurate likenesses, which makes pictorial baggage and contextualizing details that much trickier to negotiate or discard.

In early 2004 I had a solo exhibition of a selection of these works in a New York gallery. As it turns out, the figure in *Molotov* was recognizable to some people; he is the central figure of a rather famous photograph of the Sandinista revolution, shot in 1979 by Susan Meiselas. Uncannily, my found jpeg was a fragment of *the* emblematic image of Susan's work in Nicaragua, and I was made aware of its provenance in an email message sent by another photographer who expressed no uncertain amount of umbrage. The email was followed some weeks later by a cease and desist letter sent by Susan's lawyer accusing me of "piracy," and demanding, among other things, that I sign over the rights to the painting.

**JA:** Unwittingly, then, you had inserted yourself into the contemporary debate over digital technology and intellectual property?

**JG:** Yes, and before long I found myself being cast as an "appropriation artist," though I had never been particularly invested in the idea of appropriation as a provocation. Obviously, the practice of repurposing found imagery is not new, and while the label "appropriation artist" may serve as convenient shorthand, it is also misleading, since all artists reference and borrow – we all appropriate on some level – which is largely how visual language functions. Art is "open source," it always has been!

But the *Molotov* incident was full of unexpected surprises; an exchange of legalistic letters was followed by the threat of an injunction, after which a group of artists launched an explosive viral online protest on my behalf. The experience increased my appreciation for the resilience and plasticity of Internet culture, as well as my awareness of another mediating factor: the potential censorship born of authorial control. Eventually the excitement died down, and then two years later Susan and I were invited to speak together at a symposium at New York University (NYU), "Comedies of Fair U\$e," organized by writer Lawrence Weschler and Harvard law professor and founder of the Creative Commons, Laurence Lessig. Susan and I met for the first



 $\begin{tabular}{l} Figure 1 \\ Joy Garnett: Christmas Island, 1998, 50 $\times$ 42 inches, oil on canvas. Private Collection, New York. \\ \end{tabular}$ 



 $\begin{tabular}{ll} Figure~2\\ Joy~Garnett:~Noon,~2007,~56~\times~60~inches,~oil~on~canvas.~Courtesy~of~Winkleman~Gallery,~New~York.\\ \end{tabular}$ 



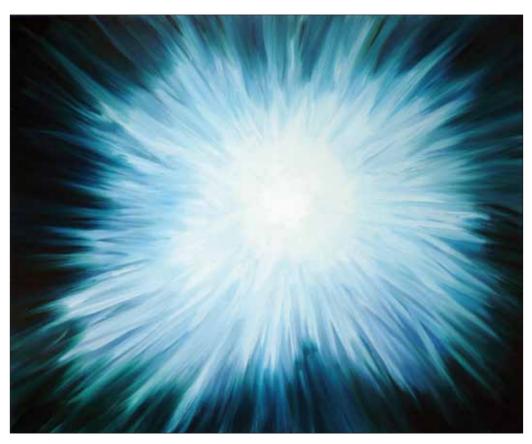
Figure 3 Joy Garnett: Molotov, 2003, 70  $\times$  60 inches, oil on canvas. Private collection, New York.



 $\begin{tabular}{ll} \textbf{Figure 4} \\ \textbf{Joy Garnett: } \textit{Lost, 2010, 60} \times \textbf{70} \ inches, oil on canvas. Courtesy of Winkleman Gallery, New York. \\ \end{tabular}$ 



 $\begin{tabular}{ll} Figure 5 \\ Joy Garnett: {\it Burst}, 2010, 60 \times 70 inches, oil on canvas. Courtesy of Winkleman Gallery, New York. \\ \end{tabular}$ 



 $\begin{tabular}{ll} Figure~6\\ Joy~Garnett:~Poof,~2010,~48\times60~inches,~oil~on~canvas.~Courtesy~of~Winkleman~Gallery,~New~York.\\ \end{tabular}$ 



 $\begin{tabular}{ll} Figure 7 \\ Joy Garnett: {\it Pot of Gold, 2010, 38} \times 44 \ inches, oil on canvas. Courtesy of Winkleman Gallery, New York. \\ \end{tabular}$ 



Figure 8 Joy Garnett: O.P.P., 2010, 60  $\times$  70 inches, oil on canvas. Courtesy of Winkleman Gallery, New York.

time, and then spoke publicly about our conflict, each from our own perspective.<sup>2</sup>

One very important thing to emerge from all of this was a real sense of the rifts that exist within the global visual arts community, which is actually several communities, each holding starkly contrasting attitudes toward copyright and concepts like "originality." These attitudes have everything to do with the different economic models by which artists may earn a living, and with the current erosion of some of those models due to the cataclysmic shift towards digital paradigms; some have traditionally relied upon copyright (commercial artists, photojournalists, illustrators), while others' success has had little if anything to do with it (artists who work through the gallery system). With the advance of digital technologies and the ease they have brought to the formerly cumbersome activities of copying and distribution of content, these rifts have grown as people become increasingly panicky about how to control the uses of their work, earn licensing fees, or whatever else copyright formerly adequately functioned to protect. This panic, of course, is the result of fear-mongering, and has fueled the steadily rising number of high profile lawsuits and political posturing by proponents of change on either side of the "copyright wars." And, of course, by opportunistic lawyers who see the visual arts as fresh, as yet unregulated or loosely regulated territory, just ripe for staking out.

**JA:** To what extent do you think that the concept of copyright is now paramount in interpreting the differences between the respective practices and contributions of photojournalists and painters to contemporary art?

JG: Well, I actually think the current discussion of copyright sidesteps or obscures some really interesting ideas, while over-emphasizing the importance of property and control. We've become caught up in this problem at the expense of other, more fruitful and interesting conversations. One thing to keep in mind, despite our obsession with property, is the fact that visual art functions according to the principles of open source, and it always has been open source - art can't be made otherwise. In other words, borrowing and direct referencing - various forms of "copying" - are the basis of creativity. You would think we might understand that by now, that our understanding of art history would take us well beyond the cliché of artist as lone inspired genius conduit. In truth, all creativity is collaboration, whether one is conscious of it or not. What we call "influence" is nothing if not quotation and allusion. Our culture is generated and driven collectively, and the whole point is to dip in and take parts and change them, to make them "new." To make art is to copy on some profound level, and to copy is of course to communicate: to act as receiver, transformer, and transmitter. Here's where Mike Kelley comes in again, and his call for us to parse the noise. Of course we reinterpret and misremember what we've seen, and that is part of the process - misremembering is an art!

As for the difference between what painters and photojournalists do, the intriguing thing is how intensely their priorities differ. This became clear after my discussion with Susan Meiselas. Generally, the photojournalist feels responsible for and ethically bound to their subject, prioritizing the melding of context and image, regardless of how futile such an endeavor may be in face of media manipulation and other a-historical processes of omission and perversion of meaning. The painter, by contrast, rightly avoids prescriptives that might close down or prevent multiple interpretations and readings, resisting internal and external pressures to dictate meaning. Susan and I elaborated and must continuously reassert - the conditions we each feel to be essential to the production and integrity of our respective processes. At the conference, our approaches were well-received, accepted as valid, each on their own terms, and I felt that by the end of our talk most of the audience in attendance understood that we - both painters and photojournalists - must be allowed to adhere to the standards and traditions of our respective practices without the imposition of inappropriate or obstructive conditions. I speak of conditions imposed by the blunt instrument of current copyright law, of course. By the end of our talks, it seemed clear that the realms of photojournalism and painting indeed exist in parallel universes, and that we must allow them to continue to coexist, contradictions intact.

Susan and I knew we'd cleared some kind of hurdle. We were later invited to edit our talks and publish them together in Harper's: "On the Rights of Molotov Man: appropriation and the art of context" (Garnett and Meiselas 2007) alongside Jonathan Lethem's ingenious pastiche "The Ecstasy of Influence," which lampoons some widely held assumptions about originality. The story of Molotov Man has since been taught in undergraduate and graduate curricula across various disciplines in media studies and art law, and has been reprinted in a textbook for NYU's expository writing program (Morgan, Mischkot, and Bennett 2008). And yet, the story's usefulness as well as its true point, to demonstrate the intrinsic value of both approaches, seems to have gotten lost in the morass of the "copyright wars." While the Harper's article does not argue in favor of either position, students and teachers alike seem to want to take sides. Perhaps this polarization is a reflection of the combative nature of the classroom, or of the current impasse in the copyright conflict, but it makes me think that we have to struggle to get beyond our preoccupation with copyright - and with property - which tends to dumb everything down at the expense of more intellectually compelling questions about how we perceive and engage the world.

**JA:** Even so, any critical evaluation made of your contemporary artworks on the apocalyptic sublime might suggest that the larger, more intellectually compelling questions that you raise are really those introduced by early nineteenth-century Romantics?

**JG:** If you're suggesting that I'm a latter-day Romantic, there's no denying it! But, my inquiry reaches beyond nineteenth-century preoccupations with nature and the sublime, into the contemporary conflict with technology and technoscience, and the way the media landscape has infiltrated our experience. This feeds into a whole set of developments in late twentieth and early twenty-first century painting.

For instance, there was a moment in the 1960s when a number of painters, notably Gerhard Richter and Vija Celmins, dealt with the then-dominant media - the photographic image - in a way that explicitly depicted the "look" of the photograph (Schwabsky 2006). Later, this look found a new feedback loop reaching back to photography through mass media, and then back again to painting. I'm thinking of photography that explicitly exploits history painting, but depicts scenes that usually blink fleetingly across our TV screens or browsers. My favorite example would be Thomas Ruff's recent series called "Jpeg." based on low-resolution images (Ruff and Simpson 2009) found on the web. His source images range from the Twin Towers burning on 9/11 to some of the same declassified images I used for my nuclear landscapes, all blown up to monumental proportions. Their "look" is no longer that of a photograph, bitmapped or otherwise, but has come full circle back to "painting"; or, it's about as close as you get without actually using paint. I feel more of a connection to this work of Ruff's than I do to a lot of contemporary painting.

Ruff's series especially makes sense, I feel, when taken in relation to certain painters working since the photographic "look" of Richter, Celmins, et al. I'm thinking of painters like Marlene Dumas and Peter Doig, who source their work through the media and through photographs. Yet the "photographicness" of their source imagery has been superseded, reconfigured by a sensual, more explicitly painterly trope (Schwabsky 2009), where photography – or its "look" – is transfigured and literally reclaimed by the hand and by the human scale.

But let's get back to the problem of "the sublime" for a moment. In his recent study on the end of representation (Elkins 2008), art historian and critic James Elkins discusses the classical origin and various uses of the concept of "the sublime" up through Kant's example of a vast and stormy sea, where one overcomes the abject fear of drowning by conceptualizing one's distinctness from that sea. Then in the nineteenth century, the notion of the sublime gave rise to the image of the lone figure, separate and closed-off from nature, thwarted, drowned by longing. We now face Kant's stormy sea in the form of mass media. It is man-made, technological, and cultural, and through it, ironically, we strive to close the gaps in our daily experience of nature. We live in awe of the media itself, which is manifold, vast, and unknowable; it is an abyss over which we have no real control, but which feeds and controls our lives. We have encircled the earth with it. The media is Kant's stormy sea, but unlike nature, it can't sustain us.

CULTURAL POLITICS

**JA:** Finally, if the media spectacle cannot sustain us, what can? How can artists continue to participate in and contribute to contemporary culture?

**JG:** Sometimes I feel lost in the media – the news and entertainment spectacle – as though I'm drowning in it; there is a vertiginous aspect to dealing with media, as though one were scaling something very large, really too large to grasp. This feeling seems to have carried over into the paintings I've been working on lately (Figures 4–8), where the horizon line and other points of reference have disappeared.

Engaging a work of art requires the effort of participation, and certainly that effort is part of a process of becoming human - more human. I think what will sustain us, culturally, spiritually and so on, may be that very act of participation - creating as opposed to being passive recipients of information and art. We have seen a growing trend of participatory technologies, and it's potentially very fruitful if terrifying, a moment where traditional approaches, including the way mass media is generated, are eroding. It's not just that our technology has changed; it's that the way forward must include embracing collaborative models and their creative potential. By this I don't mean that individual authorship is dead or anything like that. I mean that as we engage the nuts and bolts of creating and building culture, it seems to me that we become more responsive and hence, by necessity, increasingly more responsible. We begin to understand that omission and neglect are themselves actions, choices. Being an artist entails responsiveness and participation, even in those solitary processes such as painting, and for non-artists and amateurs, these new possibilities of engagement are relatively new and exciting. Just because a person isn't an artist doesn't mean that they can't be creative. And a creative life is profoundly sustaining.

## **NOTES**

- 1. This interview was conducted by email during the Fall of 2009 through the Winter of 2010. Joy Garnett and John Armitage would like to thank Bill Jones, Joanne Roberts, and the editors of *Cultural Politics* for their constructive comments on earlier drafts.
- 2. "Comedies of Fair U\$e: A Search for Comity in the Intellectual Property Wars," was a conference organized by the New York Institute for the Humanities at New York University, Friday, April 28 through Sunday, April 30, 2006.

## REFERENCES

Elkins, James. 2008. Six Stories from the End of Representation: Images in Painting, Photography, Astronomy, Microscopy, Particle Physics, and Quantum Mechanics, 1980–2000. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press.

Garnett, Joy and Meiselas, Susan. 2007. "Portfolio – ON THE RIGHTS OF MOLOTOV MAN – Appropriation and the art of context." *Harper's Magazine*, 313(1881) (February): 53–8.

- Morgan, William M., Mischkot, Jono, and Bennett, Nat. 2008. *The Advanced College Essay: Education and the Professions*. New York University, Expository Writing Program. Boston: Pearson Custom Publishing.
- O'Brien, Glenn. 2008. "Mike Kelley." *Interview*, 38(10) (December/ January): 174–9, 201–3.
- Phillips, Christopher. 1999. "Joy Garnett At Debs & Co." Art in America, 87(11) (November): 135.
- Ruff, Thomas and Simpson, Bennett. 2009. *Jpegs*. New York: Aperture. Schwabsky, Barry. 2005. *The Triumph of Painting*. London: Jonathan Cape.
- Schwabsky, Barry. 2009. "The Human Metaphor: Marlene Dumas and Barkley Hendricks." *The Nation*, 288(8) (March 2): 34–5.